

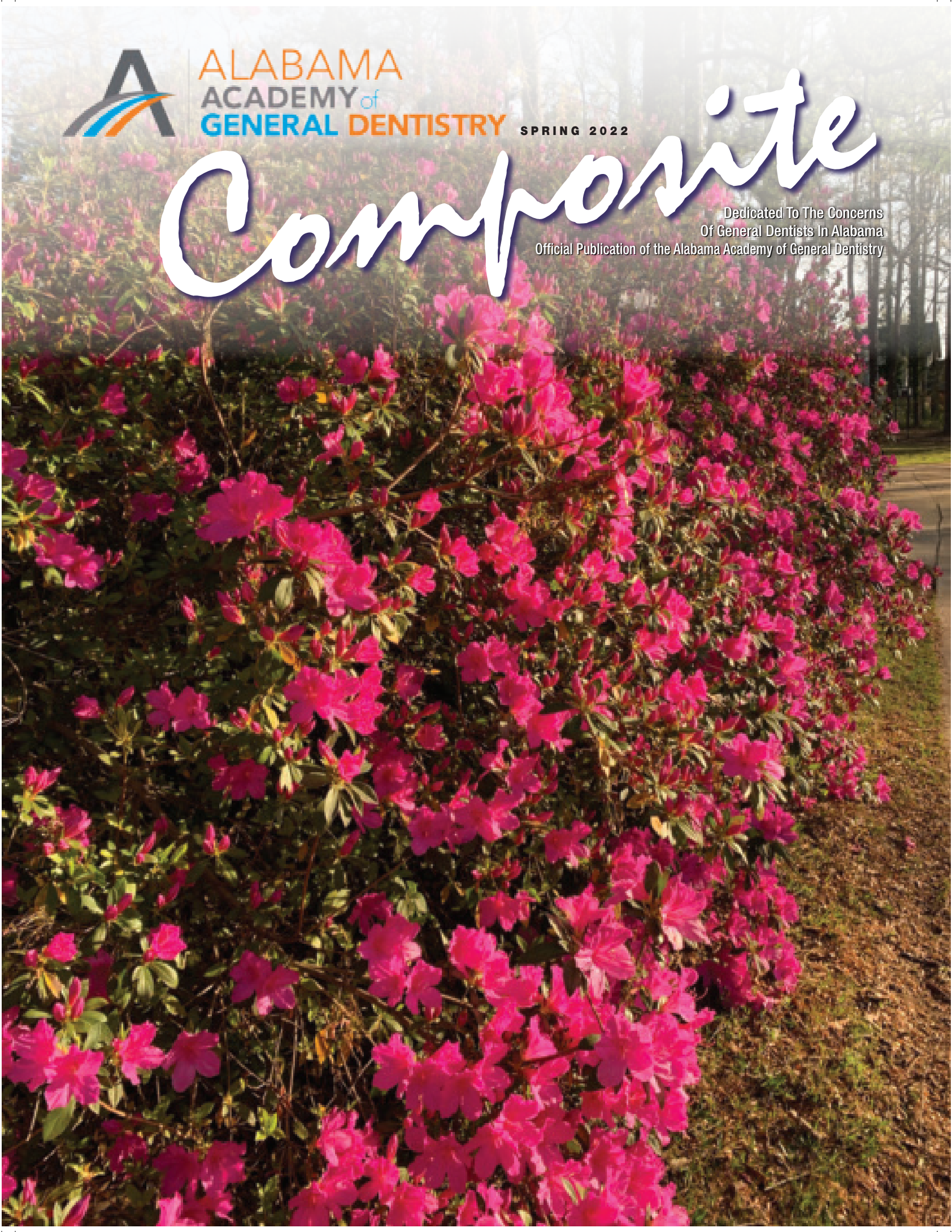


ALABAMA  
ACADEMY of  
GENERAL DENTISTRY

SPRING 2022

# Composite

Dedicated To The Concerns  
Of General Dentists In Alabama  
Official Publication of the Alabama Academy of General Dentistry





**2020-2021 Officers:**

Charles F. Betts, Jr., D.M.D.

*President*

Michael Robinson, D.M.D.

*Vice President*

Steve Gardner

*Treasurer*

Kim Steigler, D.M.D.

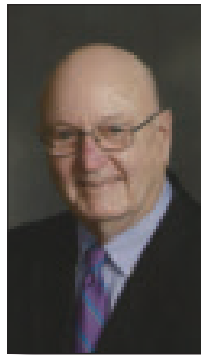
*Immediate Past President*

William E. Chesser, D.M.D.

*Editor*

Gary Myers, D.M.D.

*Executive Director*



# Editor's Notes

Bill Chesser, DMD, MAGD

## TWO YEARS AND COUNTING...

March marked the two-year anniversary of the COVID-19 pandemic, as worldwide, communities were transformed by the virus. Businesses across our planet were ordered closed. This included our profession, for dentistry offers high risk of contracting and transmitting this heinous disease, owing to the nature of dental procedures, as well as face-to-face contact with patients.

COVID-19 has greatly affected the practice of dentistry. We practitioners have suffered high levels of stress, and there have been long-term effects on our profession.

We as dentists were ordered to stop all treatment, save emergency procedures, although our overhead expenses were not reduced at all. Rent, Utilities, Payroll, and Supplies continued to demand payment, and—surprise, surprise—emergencies did not pay the bills!

We have all witnessed favorite businesses failing after being closed for months, unable to recover financially. Everywhere we look, even now, desperate signage of “Now Hiring” is displayed in many windows.

Whatley Health Clinic, where I worked for several years part-time, after leaving private practice, had the same problem as every other business: long-term assistants did not want to return to work after the initial shutdown.

We were fortunate that the Alabama Board of Dental Examiners promptly outlined regulations to protect dentists, staff, and patients, when we were finally allowed to practice again. However, new PPE requirements brought added financial anxiety, especially when shortages of these supplies popped up.

Our heartfelt sympathy and concern goes out to those who have suffered with COVID-19. Symptoms have ranged from little or no effects to severe illness, hospitalization, or even death!

There is the terrifying possibility of having to close one’s office because of devastating loss of one’s health. There are those who, once contracting the disease, seem unable to shake the long-term effects. Awful possibilities are endless.

We can only continue to do our best. We have all been carefully schooled in proper use of PPE to protect our patients & staff, ourselves, and our families. We will do what we have always done: prevent the spread of disease, both dental and otherwise!

Hopefully, scientists are learning more about fighting this. But it is not over, not by a long shot.

Sure masking mandates have been dropped almost everywhere, but keep them handy.

New variants will continue to appear. More than 600 cases of the XE Variant have been reported in the UK alone. This is a “recombinant”, meaning that it is comprised of genetic material from two other strains! The World Health Organization claims that it is 10% more transmissible than Omicron!

Dental practice will survive. We have dealt with pandemics before, and we will continue to take the precautions necessary to guard against spread of disease in our offices and clinics. Stay safe and keep up with the science.

# President's Message

Charles F. Betts, Jr., DMD, FAGD

*Timothy Smith,  
DMD, FAGD, MBA  
President*



Alabama AGD!  
You are members of one of the BEST AGD constituents in the country! Of that you can be proud.

We are:

- National award-winning
- Colleague network-building
- Excellence-valuing
- Professional development-building
- Mastership-encouraging
- Best annual meeting-sponsoring
- Fun-loving

What's not to like?

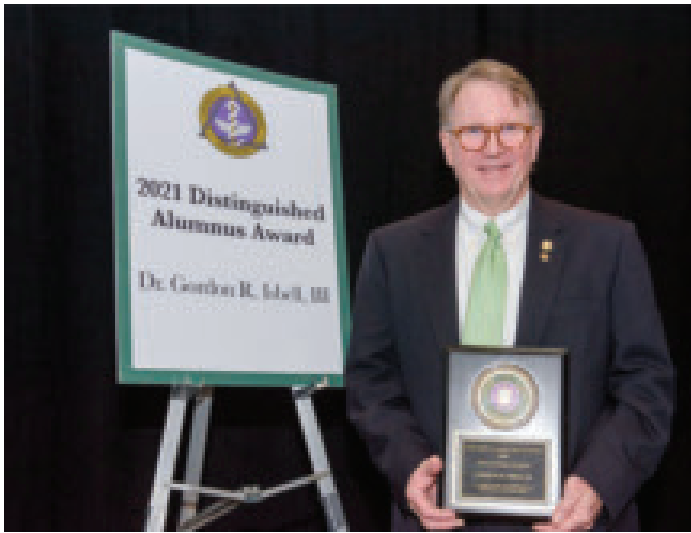
Last year, we held a shorter “back-from-COVID” annual meeting, and it was a success. This year, we are going back to a full three days of excellent CE, fellowship, and fun on the beach at our Emerald Coast AGD Annual Review of Dentistry 2022, September 8-10. Don't miss it!

Let's do even better: let's share the opportunity. All of us like to help people, and in fact inviting a colleague to join us is a service to them. Our strength is in our people. Joining or renewing is easy online at [agd.org/membership](http://agd.org/membership). Note that there is a choice of two membership plans to choose from this year. Membership benefits include discounted registration at our annual meeting.

Friends, the Alabama AGD embodies the best that dentistry has to offer. Thank you for your commitment to our profession.

Sincerely,  
Charles F. Betts, Jr., DMD, FAGD  
President, ALAGD

# HISTORIC FATHER-SON ALUMNI AWARDS PRESENTED



What a privilege it is for me to write this report about **Dr. Gordon and Ross Isbell!** Gordon has been my personal friend for over 40 years, and I was first introduced to Ross when he was a baby, as he crawled about on the floor with my baby granddaughter, Kristian Chesser, at a dental meeting.

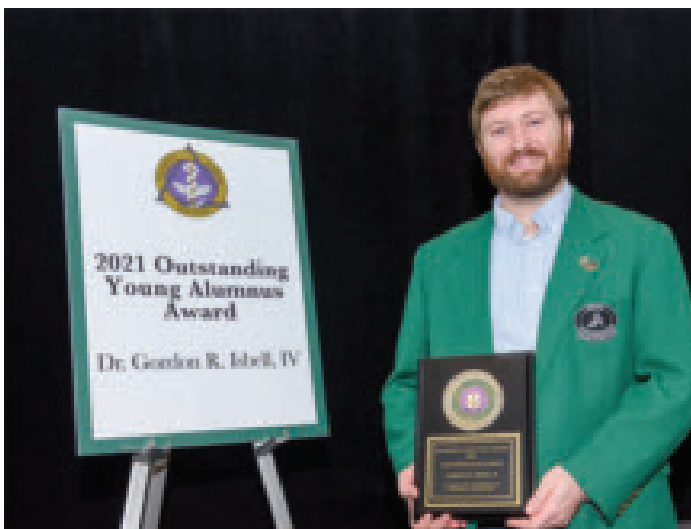
At the UAB School of Dentistry Alumni meeting in February, **Dean Russell Taichman** made presentations for Distinguished Alumni and Young Distinguished Alumni awards. For the first time ever, the awardees were a Father and his son, Dr. Gordon Isbell and Dr. Ross Isbell.

Your Editor has known Gordon since the mid-Eighties, when he was just beginning his service with the Alabama AGD. He became President in 1990, when he presided over one of the most financially successful years we ever had.

Gordon went on to work with AGD on many national councils and committees, eventually serving terms as a Regional Director, as well as a Trustee.

He grew up in Gadsden, attended Auburn University, then graduated from the University of Alabama School of Dentistry. In 1981, he set up a dental practice in his hometown.

In 2015, Gordon was selected for the Distinguished Service Award for AGD. He has worked hard for our organization and ALADA. He was elected President of the Alabama Dental Association in 2017.



Gordon enjoys skiing, and loves time with family, which includes wife Cindy, sons Ross and Timothy, and daughter Frances. Of course, we must not forget his strong allegiance to AU, where he serves on the Dean's Leadership Council.

**Dr. Ross Isbell** is distinguishing himself in the profession of dentistry at a young age, just like Dad! We have all watched as he attended many of our dental meetings as an interested observer.

Ross graduated from Gadsden



High School, then received a degree in Biology from Washington and Lee University. In the family tradition, he graduated from UAB School of Dentistry in 2014, then completed a GPR residency at UAB Hospital. He has also obtained an MBA degree from UAB.

Even while attending dental school, “ Dr. Ross” was personally involved in organized dentistry. He served as President of the America Dental Student Association. In 2019, he was elected as one of the youngest Presidents of our Alabama AGD ever to serve. Although this was prior to the pandemic, he still had to deal with last-minute hang-ups. When a clinician/lecturer canceled at the last minute, Ross stepped in and presented his own lecture, with glowing reviews.

Ross is married to Stephanie, and they have one handsome son, Wells (Gordon Roswell

Isbell, V). He also practices in Gadsden, with his father.



*Dr. Ross Isbell receives recognition for ALAGD Presidency 2019*



*Dr Gordon Isbell accepts Distinguished Dentist award AGD San Francisco*



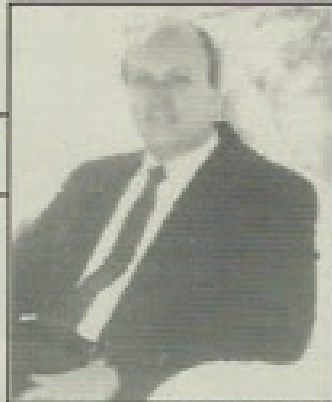
*L-R Cindy, Timothy, Ross, and Gordon as he received the AGD Distinguished Dentist Award 2015, in San Francisco*

# a bit of history from 1990

Alabama Academy of General Dentistry Newsletter • Page 2

## Editorial

by William E. Chesser  
D.M.D., F.A.G.D.



This is my "maiden voyage" at this position for the Alabama Academy. I know I can count on our constituent members for support and constructive criticism.

Many have already told me taking this job after being president, was a perfect example of "jumping out of the frying pan into the fire!"

I want to thank John Barnes for his outstanding service as Editor last year. John has always worked hard for AGD. He has also been membership chairman in the past and was the general chairman for this past meeting at Sandestin. WE APPRECIATE YOU JOHN!

The continuing education requirement delegated by the Alabama Legislature to the Board of Examiners will become effective October, 1991. Whether we agree or disagree with this is not relevant. The decision has been made. What is significant is the role the AGD can play here. We offer an excellent method of record-keeping for C.E. hours. The average AGD member satisfies 55 hours annually, well above the mandatory requirement.

Do yourself a favor! Promote AGD. You will be associated with an organization that is known for fostering continuing education, and representing the interests of general dentists to government, third party programs and academia.

If you are interested in submitting brief viewpoints for printing in this Newsletter, please contact this writer at: P.O. Box 1501, Ozark, AL 36361

## 1991 Annual Review Of Dentistry

The Sandestin Hilton will be the site for the 18th Annual Review of Dentistry. The date has been set for September 26-28, 1991. Dr. Howard Gamble has been working hard to plan an outstanding seminar.

Dr. Matthias Hourigan is a well known speaker on Oral Surgery and Photography.

Dr. Dick Barnes, a nationally recognized lecturer on practice management, will be the speaker all day Saturday. There will also be an opportunity to get CPR Certification and a course on infection control.

MAKE PLANS TO BE THERE!

### Winners Of 1990 Tennis Tournament

First Place: Paul Eberhard

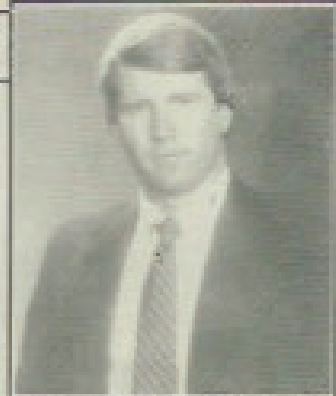
Second Place: Carson Taylor

Third Place: John Elliott

Door Prize: Bob Elam

## President's Message

by Gordon R. Isbell, III  
D.M.D., F.A.G.D.



This being the first opportunity to do so I want to say that I am very honored to serve as your President for 1990-1991. I have big shoes to fill following Dr. William Chesser and the many other fine presidents we have had in the Alabama Chapter of the AGD. Each one has helped to mold the finest constituent in the national organization.

I feel that the decade of the 90's is a time of prosperity for the Academy of General Dentistry. The Academy stands for strong continuing education, documentation of this education, and the quest for excellence in dentistry. With mandatory continuing education coming, members of the AGD are aligned with a system for proper documentation with our yearly print-outs. Urge your non AGD friends, generalists and specialists alike, to be a part of our quest for excellence in dentistry.

Many exciting things have happened since our year began in June. We have 15 new members already this summer. Welcome to each and every one of you! We had a very exciting meeting in Destin this August with our 17th Annual Review of dentistry. 193 dentists, 30 exhibitors and a total of 571 attendees were there to participate in one of the most successful meetings we have ever had. We had 3 outstanding speakers and 2 CPR courses. We were honored by having, for the first time ever, a national President come and speak to us about what AGD means to us as members and dentistry as a whole. Our President, Dr. Henry Finger from New Jersey spoke to over 500 people at our Thursday evening extravaganza.

We have an exciting year ahead in AGD. Alabama AGD will again be sponsoring the STEP (Smokeless Tobacco Education Program) for 5th graders throughout Alabama this year. Your AGD received national recognition for this excellent program. Please support it and participate in it. It will save lives through education of the dangers of tobacco. Also this year AGD will again put on a CPR course in conjunction with the University of Alabama Dental School Alumni weekend.

This spring our Alabama Chapter will join the Fifth District Dental Society with our Annual Around-the-State meeting given at the beautiful new Cultural Arts Building in Gadsden. Our featured speaker for dentists and auxiliary alike is the nationally known practice management consultant, Jennifer De St. Georges, from California. Plan to come and bring your whole staff to Gadsden for a motivating weekend April 19, 1991.

Closing out the programs for the year, AGD will again sponsor in conjunction with our state association a fine clinical program on June 12, 1991 with the enthusiastic Panky-associated Dr. Sam Low, who will speak on Periodontics for the General Practitioner.

We have a great year ahead in AGD in Alabama. I challenge you to be a part of this great year and the quest for excellence in dentistry. Only by participation can our profession continue to fine tune and to better itself in the decade of the 90's. Truly with each of us striving for this quality and excellence, the 1990's will be a time of prosperity for the AGD and for profession the of Dentistry.

# FEBRUARY ALAGD BOARD MEETING

The ALAGD General Assembly and Board meeting were both held during the 2022 UAB SOD Alumni meeting. Installation of our 2022 officers was conducted by Dr. Ross Isbell.

Much of the Board discussion involved our planning for the 2022 Emerald Coast meeting scheduled for September 8-12. Some speakers already engaged include Dr. Martin Berlin, Digital Photography; Dr. Gordon Fraser, Implants; and Dr. Gigi Meinecke, Botox and Fillers. Once again, this promises to be a stellar CE event.

Two visitors joined us at the Board meeting. Dr. Chijoke Ulasi, Supervisor for Whatley Health Dental Clinic in Tuscaloosa, attended. We were also visited by Crystal Smith, representing the student AGD at the UAB SOD.

The Board plans their next meeting in June, at the Gulf Coast Dental Conference.



*Dr Lew Mitchell asks for volunteers to work at the Mission of mercy free dental clinic in Gadsden*



*Dr. Gary Myers gives the Executive Directors report to the Board*



*Dr. Timothy Smith conducts his last meeting as ALAGD President*

*Dr. Betts presents the past president's plaque to Dr. Timothy Smith for service as the 2021 ALAGD President*



*Dr. Ross Isbell installs the 2022 ALAGD Officers. L-R Timothy Smith, Immediate Past President, Steve Gardner, Treasurer, Wendy Holder, Vice President, Mike Robinson, President Elect, and Charles Betts, President*





Your voice for excellence through education and advocacy  
P.O. Box 956  
Sheffield, AL 35660  
1-888-AGD-BAMA

Presorted Std.  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Montgomery, AL  
Permit # 456

**THE ALABAMA ACADEMY OF GENERAL DENTISTRY WOULD LIKE TO GIVE SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR 2020 CORPORATE SPONSORS:**

**GOLD LEVEL SPONSORS**



DENTSPLY SIRONA



**SILVER LEVEL SPONSORS**

BIOHORIZONS  
CARECREDIT  
TIME TRAVELER BACKUPS

**BRONZE LEVEL SPONSORS**

Air Techniques  
Alysyn  
Blackburn Dental Lab  
Garfield Refining CoÜany  
Keep IT SiÜle  
ProAssurance  
Sprint