

THE ALABAMA COMPOSITE



ALABAMA
ACADEMY of
GENERAL DENTISTRY

The Newsletter of the Alabama AGD

Editor: Bill Chesser, DMD, MAGD

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Windy City Hosts 2022 AGD Annual Meeting

written by: Dr. Bill Chesser

The AGD Annual Meeting convened at the Hyatt McCormick Place in Chicago, November 10-13, 2022. At this gathering, the governing body of the AGD, the House of Delegates, assembles to consider resolutions which will affect our organization.

Each constituent sends delegates (as well as alternates) to vote on the various issues, and to elect officers. Alabama's delegates included **Drs. Charles Betts, Mike Robinson, Ross Isbell, Bill Ingram, Bill Chesser, and Gary Myers.** In addition, a senior dental student, **Crystal Hanson,** attended as an AGD Alternate Delegate.



Alabama receives the ACE award and an Honorable Mention Award for Public Information, joined by national AGD President Gerald Botko (far right)

Preparation for this pivotal meeting for our constituent begins in October, with our Region 19 Pre-Caucus. This tradition was begun several years ago by Dr. Gordon Isbell. He rightly believed that our regional delegates need to prepare for this national meeting by being familiar with resolutions to be addressed by the HOD.

(Not all regions choose to do this, but your Editor thinks it is very helpful, resulting in our delegates being better informed on decisions which must be decided involving the future of dentistry. Sadly, some attendees are not as well prepared.)

By the way, Dr. Derrick Mendez was supposed to be serving as delegate for our state, but was unable to attend, due to illness.

FYI, the first session of the HOD involves mostly speeches. This year, speakers were Gerald Botko, President of AGD, and George Shepley, ADA President. Officer candidates also gave brief addresses.

AGD National awards were presented during this assembly. Alabama is pleased to receive the William W. Howard ACE Award for our Composite Newsletter in Category Two (201-799 members). In addition, our state is proud to receive Honorable Mention for our work in Public Information.

Your Editor is disappointed in the way awards are now presented. In the past, the President would greet each recipient on stage to make the announcements. Now, announcements are made from the podium, and honorees gather in line for official photographs later. Sort of



Alabama delegates on the HOD floor: Mike Robinson, Ross Isbell, Bill Ingram (left to right)



Gary Myers consults with student Alternate Delegate, Crystal Hanson from UAB School of Dentistry

anticlimactic, considering the work involved to win these honors. Perhaps it is a time problem.

Regional caucuses are held the second day. At this time, each region analyzes the many resolutions, decides the options available, and share opinions on voting choices. This year, these choices involved

mostly "Housekeeping", consisting of rules and regulations which are no longer relevant to the organization.

Sunday is the Third Session. At this time, the following officers were elected: Chethan Chetty, of California, Vice President; Joseph Picone, from Connecticut, Treasurer. Our 2022 President-Elect, Hans Gunter, automatically moves up into the Presidency.

The only resolution this year which exhibited conflicting opinions was that which involved the number of dental students a constituent could submit for selection of the required two alternate student delegates and two student delegates. 45 minutes of debate, editorial corrections, and substitutions later, the final decision was to leave the number at four, as before. A Noon Adjournment was much appreciated. Next year, we do it all over again.



Ross Isbell makes comments to the assembly

AGD Annual Meeting

2022 House of Delegates - McCormick Place, Chicago, IL



Jennifer Bell, Region 19 from North Carolina, voices her opinion to the Reference Committee



Dr. Chethan Chetty, from California was elected AGD Vice President



Dr. Hans Gunther is installed as 2023 AGD President



Dr. Joseph Picone speaks to Region 19 caucus; he was elected AGD Treasurer



The Resolution that took 45 minutes to resolve!

Happy New Year 2023!

written by: Bill Chesser, DMD, MAGD

As we assemble the final "Alabama Composite" edition for 2022, (online, this time) we look forward to a clean slate calendar for 2023. This number sounds rather futuristic to an old guy like your Editor! 'Brings to mind the adage, "If I'd known I would live this long, I'd have taken better care of myself." Nevertheless, let's count our blessings.

2022 for most families encompassed joyous occasions as well as sad times. "It is what it is," as our handyman often tells us. That's life, and we can certainly expect 2023 to have its ups and downs, as well.

For some, New Year's Resolutions are an annual tradition. Pounds to be shed; gym memberships to secure; closets to be reorganized; online shopping to be cut down!

Hey, here's a great idea for all you active dentists: learn a new skill which will serve your patients. Or, how about working toward that AGD Fellowship or Mastership you have been intending to earn? Commit to something positive for yourself, as well as for your family and your practice.

Our **2022 Alabama AGD President, Charles Betts**, guided his team to a stellar Emerald Coast meeting this past summer. We all enjoyed seeing our fellow dentists and friends.

Covid has isolated us for too long, and we need to get back together. So many of us only see each other at our professional meetings, both local and national.

This turns out to be one of the major "perks" of being active in organized dentistry. Sharing one-on-one time with colleagues on a regular basis keeps us alert and challenged.

When I became a member of AGD in 1971 (I know: I'm a codger!) I had no idea what lay ahead for me and my family. My main need was to accumulate sufficient CE hours to remain legal!

However, I have learned over the years the tremendous value of constant advocacy for dentistry through involvement in professional organizations. I have made friends and acquaintances all over the U.S. who share the same goals and ideals for general dentistry which I believe in.

Alabama AGD membership is currently down to approximately 450 members in all categories



Editor, Dr. Bill Chesser

IMPORTANT DATES IN 2023

July 19-22

National AGD Scientific Meeting
Las Vegas, NV

September 7-9

Emerald Coast AGD Annual Review of Dentistry
Hilton Sandestin – Destin, FL

(Emeritus, Students, Active Members). We need to improve our numbers. Encourage your colleagues to become active in AGD. For most people, this will be well worth the money and effort.

As **2023** works its way into our psyche, let us give our best wishes for a great New Year to **Dr. Mike Robinson**, who will be installed as **Alabama AGD President** at our February Board meeting. He is

already hard at work insuring that our Emerald Coast meeting **September 6-8, 2023**, will be a huge success. He can use your help in so many ways. Reach out to him, and volunteer. You will have a much better time, I assure you!

For each of you, your Editor wishes you a Blessed and Happy New Year!

September 7-9, 2023 Emerald Coast AGD Annual Review of Dentistry

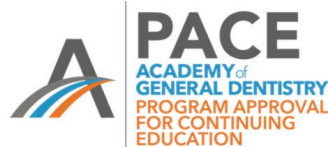
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REGISTRATION OPENS THIS SPRING

Visit our website in the spring to see the full course and speaker lineup. We hope to see you in Destin!

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Closing Remarks From the President

written by: Charles Betts, DMD, FAGD

Happy New Year to everyone!

In this, my last message to ALAGD members, I am reflecting on the past year, but also looking forward to the future.

For all the leadership in ALAGD that made this year successful, I offer my humble thanks. Many heads and hands worked hard to put together the 2022 Emerald Coast AGD Annual Review of Dentistry; hosted and participated in the 2022 AGD Region 19 Pre-Caucus meeting in Huntsville; and served in the AGD House of Delegates in Chicago. When you see them, give these your thanks for their service: Dr. Gary Myers, Angie Gilliver, Dr. Steve Gardner, Dr. Bob DeShazer, Dr. Mike Robinson, Dr. Kevin Alexander, Dr. Wendy Holder, Dr. Ross Isbell, Dr. Bill Chesser, Dr. Derrick Mendez, Crystal Hanson, and Dr. Bill Ingram.

Due to Dr. Mike Robinson's diligent documentation and reporting, our constituent received the William W. Howard ACE Award for our category, and honorable mention for the Public Information Award for our category. Both were presented to us at the House of Delegates meeting in Chicago. A big THANK YOU is in order for our Editor, Dr. Bill Chesser!



2022 Alabama AGD President, Dr. Charles Betts

Looking forward: I hope to see all of you at the 2023 Alumni Weekend in February. This is another opportunity to renew or make connections. While there, don't forget the importance of meeting and encouraging dental students to participate in AGD. They are our future leaders.

Sunday morning, February 5th, there will be an ALAGD General Assembly. All members are welcome and encouraged to attend. 2023 officers will be installed, including your new president, Dr. Mike Robinson.

Let's together make 2023 a great year for ALAGD!

Charles F. Betts, Jr., DMD, FAGD
President, Alabama AGD

ADA Distinguished Service Award

2022 Recipient: Zack Studstill, DMD

Dr. Zack Studstill has been named the recipient of the American Dental Association's 2022 Distinguished Service Award.

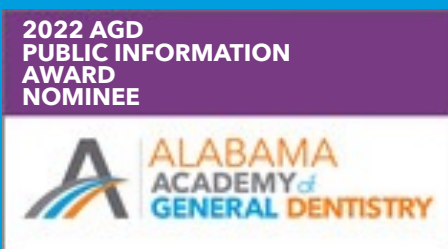
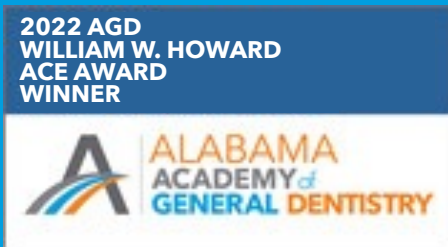
The award is the highest honor given by the ADA's Board of Trustees, according to a June 21 news release.

The Alabama dentist is the executive director and past president of the Alabama Dental Association. He is also a trustee and second vice president of the ADA. Under his leadership, the Alabama Dental Association developed a four-year, forgivable loan



Dr. Zack Studstill, ADA Distinguished Service Award recipient, with his wife Lady Claire Studstill

program for dental school students and other scholarship programs. He also helped develop an annual ethics seminar at the University of Alabama School of Dentistry in Birmingham for third- and fourth-year students that has been in place for the last 20 years.



Each year, the constituents of the AGD are expected to submit an extensive report on the previous year's activities. At the annual House of Delegates session, awards are given out in 4 categories, as well as an overall Constituent of the Year award.

The vice-president is typically responsible for compiling the report and submitting it to AGD headquarters each year. For 2022, Alabama was recognized with the two honors listed here.

Photo Review of the 2022 Emerald Coast AGD Annual Review of Dentistry

Hilton Sandestin Golf & Beach Resort, Destin Florida



Dr. Bobby Babb (far left) supplied roses for our meeting and Dr. Toni Neumeier (center right) made the arrangements. Shown here with Peggy Babb (center left) and Harold Neumeier (far right).



Dr. Derrick Mendez with his family



EMERALD COAST
AGD ANNUAL REVIEW OF DENTISTRY



Master Track program participants learning to place implants using pig jaws

Photo Review of the 2022 Emerald Coast AGD Annual Review of Dentistry

Hilton Sandestin Golf & Beach Resort, Destin Florida



Burdette Dental Lab has supported our meetings for many years—Thank you!



Gordon Isbell (Alabama AGD Past President), Zack Studstill (ALDA executive Director), and Jim Philips (ALDA Past President), pictured left to right



Scott Herndon instructs attendees in CPR course



Alabama AGD President Dr. Charles Betts enjoying lunch between CE courses with his wife Sylvia



After many years, Dr. Bill Chesser (right) finally won a door prize at the Exhibit Hall Party—he's shown here enjoying his TV with Drs. Bill Ingram and Bob DeShazer



EMERALD COAST
AGD ANNUAL REVIEW OF DENTISTRY

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