



The Trustee's Voice By Dr. Manuel Cordero, AGD Trustee, Region 4 So, what is new at the AGD? Plenty!



I was elected to the position of AGD trustee last year during our Annual Meeting in Washington DC. At that time I was serving as New Jersey's regional Director and as campaign manager for AGD President-elect Dr. Vincent Mayher. When I assumed the position of AGD Trustee, my focus turned from leadership and development at the component level to fiduciary and managerial responsibilities at a national level. My duties are management of the AGD while acting as a mentor and support to our new Regional Director, Dr. Elizabeth Clemente.

Beth has been a consistent and contributing member of NJAGD since I have been on this board and it is refreshing to see someone recognized for the hard work that they have performed. I have no doubt that we will see NJ continue to develop its leadership base under her direction.

New leadership, new direction

During this past year we have made meaningful changes at the national level that will affect our AGD for years to come. To bring our organization to a model in tune with today's reality, we needed to evaluate and refine our goals, objectives and strategies..

Jay Donohue replaced our old Executive Director, and we benefited greatly from his updated managerial perspective. We were placed on a positive and constructive path, while self evaluating our roles as leaders. Mr. Donohue served as an agent of change who implemented numerous new strategies, with AGD 2010 identifying a new core purpose and goals, with a revamped financial process. AGD became more of a positive resource for general dentistry and its team members. Over the last 24 months AGD has become more strategic, efficient and fluid, with increasing benefit, value, and services for all members.

For a number of reasons, the decision was made to replace Jay Donohue, and Ms. Christie Tarantino was named Executive Director at the April Board of Trustees meeting. It was obvious to us that Ms. Tarantino had the skills, qualifications and commitment to best serve our organization and its members, and the atmosphere in Chicago is one of camaraderie and cooperation. Ms. Tarantino named Kelly Fox as associate executive Director, and she has been performing the functions necessary to make our AGD more nimble and responsive.

AGD.org: resource and member benefit

Please visit our web site and experience the unprecedented wealth of information and resources available to our members. There is an incredible amount of material readily customizable for our patients, such as the Dental Facts sheets and others. You may also develop your own website with the outline provided to our members. Visit our website, you will not regret it!

AGD Membership Directory

The new AGD members directory was previewed in Denver this August. Members can order a CD or printed copy of the directory, and it will also be available in downloadable form at the AGD website. Contact the Director of membership services at ext. 4085 for more information.

CE Processing

In June, the decision was made to use all staff—over fifty people—to ensure that the AGD catch up on the backlog of CE entry. It is a staggering job, with the AGD receiving as much as 15,000 CE entries from the membership each month via the AGD web site, e-mail, regular mail, and fax!

The primary goal of this initiative is to provide AGD members with more valuable benefits that not only report their continuing education, but also to identify, record and report CE in a format acceptable by their state or province for verification of mandatory continuing education requirements.

All members should have received their 2006 AGD Membership Card. In conjunction with the new membership cards, we have launched a new Electronic Roster Submission initiative which will allow some PACE-approved providers to scan the card for CE recording. The providers will in turn submit their electronic rosters to the AGD, and those credits will be applied in a more timely fashion.