AAWD Installs Its 2012 Board of Directors During the ADA Annual Session

It was a fun and festive evening in Las Vegas on Sunday, October 9, as AAWD celebrated the New Year a bit early. Dr. Jennifer Cornell, of Clarksville, TN, was installed as the 91st president of the American Association of Women Dentists during the ADA’s Annual Session at the MGM Grand.

“I look forward to leading AAWD in 2012 and supporting our mission to become the recognized resource for connecting and enriching the lives of women dentists. As women we wear multiple hats, juggling multiple priorities both at home and at work. AAWD has given me that little extra something other dental organizations cannot. I look forward to giving back to an organization that gives me so much,” said Dr. Cornell.

Dr. Cornell will succeed Judith Belitz, DDS of Omaha, NE. Dr. Belitz remains on the 2012 Board of Directors as the Immediate Past President.
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As we near the end of 2011, I encourage you to take time to be thankful for all of the blessings that each of us has. I thank you for allowing me to be your President this year. I have truly enjoyed this honor. AAWD continues to grow and prosper. We are continually striving to be the recognized resource for connecting and enriching the lives of women dentists.

I would like to once again thank and congratulate Dr. Jennifer Cornell and the women of the Oklahoma Chapter for a wonderful program at our annual meeting. We kicked off our new leadership program “Empower You” with a financial seminar in Oklahoma City. In September, the first webinar continuing this leadership program was presented. The next webinar, hosted by PNC Bank is coming up soon. Watch your e-mail boxes for details. “Empower You” has been designed to help develop leadership skills that are useful in family, practice, and community.

We have added new local chapters including Cincinnati-Dayton and Southern Florida as well as new student chapters at Western University and the University of San Francisco.

Smiles for Success has expanded into the University of Maryland’s Dental School as a pilot program which will soon be broadened to other dental schools. Smiles for Success has helped enable many women to improve themselves to make the transition from welfare into the workforce. We are looking for more volunteers in all areas of the country.

The June Warren Lee Leadership Memorial has been established through the Gilette Hayden Foundation. This memorial fund will be used for education and leadership opportunities.

We are so fortunate to be involved in dentistry. Women dentists are emerging from dental school with many opportunities ahead of them. To all of the dental students, I encourage you to interact with other AAWD members as each has a wealth of knowledge and experience that will help you along your dental journey. It always amazes me how giving of time and talent our members are!!! Each one of us has trials and tribulations but it is definitely easier when you have a friend who will listen and be there for you. I have experienced this countless times with AAWD, my mentors, my friends!

There are so many new products and procedures that allow us to be the best dentists that we can be. Our corporate sponsors have partnered with us to help expand our knowledge and continue with our goals. Thank you very much!

Once again, thank you for giving me this opportunity. I want to congratulate Dr. Jennifer Cornell who will be your President next year. I wish each of you a very healthy, safe, and blessed holiday season.

Judith Belitz, DDS
2011 AAWD President
Female dental workers have been found to have musculoskeletal disorders 1.4 times more often than males. Musculoskeletal disorders in females usually increase with age, but this was not found in males.

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Dr. Tamara Berg and her staff were very friendly. They treated me as though I were a long time patient from the very first visit. They made me feel at home and Dr. Berg was very informative during the consultation visit and let me know what would be done throughout the course of my treatment. Her staff never made me feel like some ‘Charity Case.’ I am so grateful to them for giving me back my smile. I probably didn’t have to have as much work as some patients do, but the stains on my front teeth really made me self-conscious about my smile.

Dr. Berg explained that it was from too much fluoride in the water where I grew up and that there was a solution to the problem. I didn’t realize how good my smile looked until she gave me the mirror during my last appointment. I looked at my teeth under that bright dentist light. Wow! It’s amazing what a great smile will do for your self-esteem and it makes people smile back at you and that feels good too! Thanks Dr. Berg, Jennifer, Mallory and Nina for giving me back a great smile!

Karla Casey
Twenty years ago, when Gloria Steinem first addressed a dental meeting, the only women in the audience were hygienists. “It is a very important distance from that day to this, when you have enough women (dentists) to have an organization and enough pride in yourselves to have a network; to make a psychic territory—a turf, where you can encourage each other, and encourage other women to come into this profession. “As keynote speaker at the first National Conference on the Women Dentist, Steinem spoke to approximately 260 women dentists and about 25 of their male peers on August 4, 1986, at the ADA headquarters in Chicago.

The well-known feminist author and lecturer noted that obstacles for women in dentistry can be psychological and economic and are typical of those faced by women in other professions and by all women working outside the home. The world still has a double standard, and that places a double burden on working women. “I look forward greatly to the first professional male organization that has seminars about how to integrate family and children into their professional life.”

Steinem stated her goals for the conference: “If all goes well this morning, I hope that we will, all of us, me included, leave here with one new fact, one new outrageous idea, a new bit of rebellious advice, to help each of us make our world better and more equitable.”

Tracing the women’s movement in the United States from the first wave of feminism, the abolitionist and suffragist, Steinem pointed out that it took 150 years for women to achieve a legal identity as human beings.

Only 15 years into the second wave, women now seek legal equality. Although the majority of people in our country support basic issues of equality, institutional changes must occur “that will make these new ideas real practical choices.” These include: equal pay, women in high political office, reproductive freedom, and shared parenthood. “There is no reason on earth why women professionals should be asking themselves questions that men are not; we cannot solve them until we both begin to ask them.”

When she said “we are becoming the men we wanted to marry,” Steinem was pleased at the laughing response and noted that when she speaks to a primarily male audience, they become alarmed and think she means that women want to be men. She examined the sinister nature of “superwomen”—“you cook, you will have three perfect children, you dress for success and you’re multiorgasmic ‘till dawn.” In the past, a woman couldn’t venture outside the traditional role of homemaker; now it’s acceptable, but only if she: does it all,” which involves two full time jobs—outside and inside the home.

Positive change is occurring. Women “have discovered that they that eats can also cook.” Women are slowly realizing that they “do not need a man standing there on Saturday night or throughout life” to be whole people. “If only men had ever realized how little it meant which man was standing there.” Politics is becoming a unifying factor among women, and “thanks to computers, we can now measure our suffering internationally. The United Nations can tell us that women are about ½ the population of the world, 1/3 of the paid labor force doing 2/3 of the world’s labor, but only 10% of the world’s salaries and 1% of its property.”

Steinem listed four basic concerns that women today face. The first involves trying to establish reproductive freedom as a fundamental right. “Unless we can control our bodies from the skin in, we can’t control our lives form the skin out.” The second involves redefinition and revaluing of work. “Much of our work is not defined as work-hence, women who work and women who don’t- a kind of semantic slavery… as long as one of our jobs is not called a real job, we’ll always have two.” She recommends valuing work in terms of worth to the community and not in terms of the social value of the worker. When the one-third of a group, such as a profession, becomes “the wrong group,” it gets devalued, she stated. “It is the history of change; either we fight for each other or we are lonely tokens.” The third concern is trying to establish democratic families: “Not just for the sake of the women, do we want men to become equal parents, but for the sake of the men and the children… Men can be loving and nurturing, and women can be honored by an authority outside the home…. We don’t want to divide up the natures of our children for the sake of their wholeness and humanity.” The final concern, depoliticized culture, involves all areas of our everyday lives which we are trying to change: women’s roles on TV, especially as objects of violence; the politics of religion which does not allow us to form a group, such as a profession, becomes “the wrong group,” it gets devalued, she stated. “It is the history of change; either we fight for each other or we are lonely tokens.” The third concern is trying to establish democratic families: “Not just for the sake of the women, do we want men to become equal parents, but for the sake of the men and the children… Men can be loving and nurturing, and women can be honored by an authority outside the home…. We don’t want to divide up the natures of our children for the sake of their wholeness and humanity.” The final concern, depoliticized culture, involves all areas of our everyday lives which we are trying to change: women’s roles on TV, especially as objects of violence; the politics of religion which does not allow full participation of women; and the idea that violence is acceptable in men, an expression of their maleness.

In her closing remarks, Steinem said: “This room is what this country could be and what the world could be- we need this kind of network and support to strengthen ourselves and make this happen…. This room is the birthplace of new hopes and new values and a support for each other that I hope will continue to be strengthened. I hope that all of us who are so hungry to see women honored in authority will find, here with you, this kind of courage and authority and be grateful.”

This article was originally published in the September/October 1986 Chronicle Newsletter.
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On June 15-17, 2011 A-dec hosted Dr. Mary Cain of Chicago (AAWD member). She bid and won the VIP trip to A-dec at AAWD’s 2010 Annual Meeting silent auction. Dr. Cain brought her assistant Maria Pozo and both of their sons Daniel Ornelas and Adalberto Reyes. In addition to a hike in the Columbia Gorge, all toured A-dec and even had some hands on maintenance and trouble-shooting tips from A-dec’s Chicago Territory Rep Stan Holsen. Photo of Portland, Oregon A-dec facility.

Dr. Michelle Stafford, dentist owner of World of Smiles, Pediatric Dentistry was recently elected to be the Washington County Dental Society Editor. Dr. Stafford also holds the chair of the Oregon Dental Association’s Access to Care Committee which works to increase dental education to the surrounding communities and provide equitable access to care for all families. She recently spoke to dentists and dental staff at Virginia Garcia Memorial Clinic in Hillsboro, OR and has been invited to speak to the Oregon Oral Healthcare Coalition and the 2012 Oregon Dental Association’s Annual Dental Conference on pediatric dental concerns.

Dr. Elizabeth Lee was elected treasurer of the Memphis Dental Society in Memphis, TN.

Dr. Carole Pratt had been selected to receive a Robert Wood Johnson Health Policy Fellow.

AAWD Past President Dr. Lilia Larin became HDA President November 2011.

Dr. Linda Edgar was recently elected AGD Vice President and will be AGD president 2013-2014.

Dr. Jill Doan recently became an Evidence-Based Dentistry Champion, as selected by the American Dental Association. She, along with approximately 100 other dentists from all fields of dentistry, gathered in Chicago for the ADA’s 4th Annual Conference on Evidence-Based Dentistry held July 28-30, 2011. The aim of the conference was to spark a grassroots effort to disseminate information about and gather tools for using EBD to practicing dentists around the world.

Share your news with us! Send your Members in the News items to info@aawd.org, and be sure to include your photo.

Happy Holidays!

This is a great time to join Smiles. Volunteer with your time and care for a patient or support the foundation by including a donation with your next annual AAWD membership renewal form.

www.smilesforsuccess.org
Most of you know that the first woman in the United States to earn her dental degree was **Lucy Hobbs Taylor**. A role model for all women dentists, Dr. Taylor had a successful career, a family, and was a supporter of the Women’s Rights Movement. More than 100 years after her death in 1910, she would be proud of the strides women dentists continue to make on behalf of the profession she loved so well.

For more than 90 years, AAWD has served women dentists by providing a nurturing and open environment where women dentists can share experiences and mentor one another. AAWD strives to help women dentists by creating networking, mentoring, and educational opportunities, leadership skills training, help with local chapter start-up, and scholarships and loans for student members. Distinguished women leaders have passed through the membership rosters of AAWD, women such as:

- **AAWD’s first President**, **Dr. Evangeline Jordan**, was one of the first practitioners to limit her practice to children. A founder of pedodontics, she was devoted to organized dentistry and dental education.

- **Dr. Gillette Hayden** and **Dr. Grace Spaulding**. AAWD Past Presidents were co-founders of the American Academy of Periodontology.

- **Dr. Geraldine Morrow**, AAWD Past President, who in 1992 became the first female President of the American Dental Association. In 2007, **Dr. Kathy Roth** became the 2nd female to hold this office.

- In 1975, **Dr. Jeanne Sinkford** became the first woman Dean of the Dental School, Howard University College of Dentistry. **Dr. Connie Drisko** became Dean of the Medical College of Georgia’s School of Dentistry in 2003 and **Dr. Denise Kassebaum** became Dean of the University of Colorado’s School of Dentistry.

- **Dr. Paula Jones**, in 2008, became the first woman to hold the office of President of the Academy of General Dentistry.

- In 2008 **Dr. Susan Bordenave-Bishop** served as the first female president of the Academy of Dentistry International.

This is a sampling of the kind of women - leaders, role models and supporters - you will meet as a member of AAWD. Now over 1,400 members strong, AAWD is a dynamic, growing organization whose mission is “to be the recognized resource for connecting and enriching the lives of women dentists.” AAWD welcomes into the organization those from all walks of dentistry who support that mission. AAWD gives back to the community through its **Smiles For Success Foundation**, which was established in 1995 by **Drs. Judith McFadden** and **Donna Rumberger**. This volunteer program offers free dental care to women graduates of accredited job readiness and placement programs or other community based agencies. Learn more at [www.smilesforsuccess.org](http://www.smilesforsuccess.org).

Membership is now open for the 2012 calendar year, enclosed is a member application for you to complete. Not a member? Fill out an application and become one today. Are you a current AAWD member? Give this application to a women dentist to know – she’ll be glad you did.

AAWD – building future leaders now.
Evaluating the Manufacturers that Serve Your Office

by Mary Cain, DDS

Depending on whether you’ve purchased an existing dental practice, built your own, or remodeled, you may not have given much thought to the manufacturers you work with. Of course, with dental materials that are consumed and reordered on a regular basis, you have probably carefully evaluated the companies you purchase from. But what about bigger items like equipment and office furnishings? These kinds of products are often overlooked in the day-to-day workings of the practice, but it is still important to determine the quality and reliability of the manufacturers whose goods fill your office.

I recently had an opportunity to tour the factory of A-dec in Newberg, Ore., and what I saw there helped open my eyes to the importance of learning as much as possible about a manufacturer’s operations. On the tour, I was able to observe A-dec’s manufacturing process from start to finish, and to see its sophisticated technologies in use. I was also able to learn more about the company’s philosophy of helping its employees grow, and its commitment to outstanding customer service. The company’s emphasis on quality, innovation and education was palpable in both its products and its people.

Having had this experience, I now feel much more informed about the kinds of characteristics I should look for in other manufacturers. In fact, I wish I had had this opportunity when I was fresh out of dental school. This would have helped me make more deliberate and informed choices about companies I worked with from the beginning of my career.

While it’s not possible for us to visit the manufacturing facility of every company we work with, there are many practical ways to carefully evaluate a company. Taking more time to talk with company reps when they visit the office is one simple way to learn more. Additionally, trade shows also provide a great opportunity to speak with company representatives to learn more about the organization’s manufacturing process and overall values. I encourage others to seek out companies with integrity and a commitment to being a truly valuable resource—they are out there if you look.

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Practical Solutions
by Dr. Sheri Doniger

The opinions expressed in this column are those of Dr. Sheri Doniger, a practicing general dentist in Lincolnwood, IL, and do not necessarily reflect those of the AAWD.

Several companies generously donate to a variety of breast cancer programs. Here are three products. Please support these manufacturers for a good cause:

Acid Etch by Bosworth

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For more information, please visit: www.bosworth.com.

“Pink with a Purpose” by Crosstex

Crosstex is always thinking about two great things: infection control and breast cancer awareness. Our friends at Crosstex have a “Pink with a Purpose” line that includes a wide variety of masks:procedural earloop, Isofluid® earloop, Isofluid® earloop SecureFit® technology earloop (my personal favorite), Isolite® earloop, as well as Surgical Molded Earloop with Elastic Headband masks, all available in pink. In addition, they are offering: pink SaniClenz, Aloe-Care3, Sparkle prophy paste, topical anesthetic, as well as pink Zap fluoride gel. To round off their line of products, neck napkins with the breast cancer logo, cups and autoclave bags are also in pink.

For more information, please visit: www.crosstex.com.

Pink line by Pac-Dent

Pac-Dent is introducing a line of Pink products, which, through your purchase, will support breast cancer research and awareness. The Pink line includes our popular ProAngle® Plus disposable prophy angles, NeoTip™ disposable air/water syringe tips, iVisor™ face shields, and Universal X-Ray Film Mounts.

For more information, please visit: www.pac-dent.com.

“Give Hope Pink Pack” by P&G

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For more information or to register for any of these events, log on to www.aawd.org.