

ADA 2017: A Big Peach

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ADA2017 is one for the history books, with members of the Eighth District (Illinois) delegation reflecting upon their enjoyment of southern hospitality in the Big Peach—Atlanta—on October 19-23. “The swift adoption of the revised Bylaws was a great accomplishment. This was a testament to the hard work of Council on Ethics, Bylaws and Judicial Affairs (CEBJA), and its task force, for the past three years,” said Dr. Vishruti Patel. “One of the other very important resolutions considered by the House was delegating the power to oversee the budget to the Board of Trustees. This was a bit polarizing and, in the end, the House of Delegates maintained the authority to approve the budget.”

Dr. Patel was appointed to the Reference Committee on Constitution and Bylaws. In addition, she chaired the Eighth District’s work group on Dental Benefits and Practice. “We were happy to see the adoption of a policy sponsored by the Council on Dental Practice regarding Dentistry’s Role in Sleep Related Breathing Disorders,” Dr. Patel added. “A tremendous member value was the adoption of our own Eighth District resolution to evaluate the feasibility of offering an ADA-sponsored Health Benefit Plan for our members. This was a great win for our caucus.”

“The Eighth District was very well represented at the ADA House of Delegates,” said Dr. Brad Barnes, who chaired the Reference Committee on Legislative, Health, Governance and Related Matters. “We have an abundance of great leaders in our State, who take the duties of being a Delegate or Alternate in the House very seriously. Their wide-ranging involvement in our profession, and concern for the direction that dentistry moves are reflected in their engagement in the organized dentistry and their giving back, both financially and with their time.”

For Dr. Alice Boghosian, serving on the Budget, Business, Membership and Administrative Matters Reference Committee was a first-time experience. “My experience on the reference committee was invaluable. While I was in the minority with regard to (the Eighth District’s) Resolution #2, we still rallied in the end. The flow of the House ran so smoothly (when our resolution was debated) that one would think that it was scripted. Kudos to our delegates Randall Markarian and Phil Schefke for their ‘spot on’ comments!”

“The House of Delegates was very effective for the 8th District. There was no tilting at windmills this year,” remarked Dr. Joseph Unger, who chaired the Reference Committee on Dental Benefits, Practice and Related Matters. “The Eighth District’s Resolution #2 which proposed a study on an ADA-Sponsored Members Association Health Plan, was a success in its initial try despite strong opposition by the ADA Board of Trustees and the Reference Committee.”

“It was a huge win,” Dr. Unger continued. “Over the years, the Eighth District has always been proactive in bringing issues to the House before they are even on the radar screen of the ADA or other districts.”

Luckily, there was a little time for fun and games amongst all the business. “Now, if it sounds like it is all business at the ADA Annual meetings, it is quite the contrary. Yes, we mean business when considering these important topics affecting our profession, but we also squeeze in a little fun,” said Dr. Patel. “And by little I mean, listening to Peyton Manning speak about leadership, a block party for all the attendees on a beautiful Georgia evening, networking with other dentists at one of the several receptions hosted by our partner associations, and celebrating the 15th anniversary of the ADA Institute of Diversity in Leadership.”

“I would like to commend our president, Dr. Barbara Mousel, on the Eighth District dinner at the world class Georgia Aquarium,” she added. “It literally took our breath away. This was the most memorable part of the fun.”

“It was truly one of the best Eighth District events that I can remember,” added Dr. Boghosian.

Other newsworthy business was the installation of Dr. Joseph Crowley, a general dentist from Cincinnati, OH, as the new president of the ADA, and the election of Dr. Jeffrey Cole, a dentist in Wilmington, Delaware, as the new president-elect of the association.

At ADA2017, the Eighth ADA Trustee District was represented by delegates Brad Barnes, Sue Bishop, Bryan Blew, Alice Boghosian, Susan Becker Doroshov, Jim Frett, Denise Hale, Lou Imburgia, Doug Kay, Chris Larsen, Randall Markarian, Barbara Mousel, Kevin Nelson, Dean Nicholas, Ron Riggins, Phil Schefke, Terri Tiersky, Joe Unger, Stacey Van Scoyoc and Cheryl Watson-Lowry, and alternate delegates Jim Benz, Brian Caraba, Frank Maggio, John Moore, Kirk Noraian, Mistie Norten, Rich Osanski, Paul Palliser, Renee Pappas, Vishruti Patel, Ilie Pavel, Peggy Richardson, Cynthia Satko, Tom Schneider, Jr., Timm Schwartz, Mary Starsiak, Sal Storniolo, Vicki Ursitti and George Zehak. Five members from our delegation were chosen to serve on the 2017 House of Delegates Standing and Reference Committees, with two being appointed as chairs: Dr. Bradley Barnes, Chair, Legislative, Health Governance, and Related Matters; Dr. Alice Boghosian, Budget, Business, Membership, and Administrative Matters; Dr. Vishruti Patel, Constitution and Bylaws; Dr. Joseph Unger, Chair, Dental Benefits, Practice, and Related Matters; and Dr. Cheryl Watson-Lowry, Credentials, Rules, and Order.