President’s Message

I hope everyone had a wonderful and prosperous 2014. If not, the smell of spring and slowly warming temperatures signal the fresh start to a new year.

I would like to congratulate all the members who are will be receiving their Fellowship and Mastership’s this year, following convocation this year in San Francisco. Being recognized for all of your hard work and dedication will be truly amazing.

Since we are on the topic of CE, I would like to remind everyone about our annual meeting in June with guest speaker, Dr. Margaes. The meeting dates are June 5-7, but if you need more information please feel free to contact us. If you have not been to one of his course it is JAM PACKED full of Pearls. It is especially nice to be able to put the lecture to good use via the hands-on weekend and I encourage you to sign up soon as spaces are limited and will fill up quickly in the next month. The fall meeting will have Dr. Mounce covering various endodontic topics along with a hands-on weekend. The dates are October 2-4th. (For more information, call the NAGD Office at 402.438.2321 or visit our website at www.NebraskaAGD.org).

In closing I would like to thank all of our members for making the NAGD the organization what it is today…Your outpouring of support is what keeps us going. We couldn’t do it without you.

If you will be at the NDA meeting please stop by our booth and say hello.

Best Wishes,
R. Burke Noel, DDS, MAGD
Nebraska AGD President
Board President Burke Noel highlighted some key events coming for the Nebraska AGD in the next 6 months. Another great place to get some CE this coming month is the Nebraska Dental Association meeting being held in La Vista this year. In case you are out of the loop, the keynote speaker this year is going to be Dr. Gordon Christensen who will give his “State of Dentistry” address. If you are an NDA member, admission is free, so take advantage. When you are at the conference, stop by the AGD booth (we are located between Patterson and AFTCO). We are always looking for input from members on how we can better serve your CE needs.
Congratulations to NAGD members Drs. Kevin Low of Chappell and John Thomas of LaVista.

• Dr. Low was recently appointed as the Dentist Member to the State Board of Health.
• Dr. Thomas was recently appointed to serve as Dentist Member on the Board of Dentistry.

Congratulations To You Both!

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FUTURE NAGD CE/MASTERTRACK DATES

October 2-4, 2015 • Fall NAGD Mastertrack
Dr. Richard Mounce — “State of the Art Endodontics for the General Practitioners: Materials, Methods & Guiding Principles”
Embassy Suites Downtown/UNMC College of Dentistry, Lincoln

June 3-5, 2016 • NAGD Annual Meeting
Speaker — TBA
Discipline — Fixed Prosthodontics

October 28-30, 2016 (tentative) • NAGD Fall Mastertrack
Dr. James Gerner — Occlusion
Lincoln

June 2-4, 2017 • NAGD Annual Meeting
Dr. Maurice Salama — Periodontics
Cornhusker Hotel/UNMC College of Dentistry, Lincoln

Visit our NAGD website at www.NebraskaAGD.org for more information on future courses. Or contact the NAGD Office at 402.438.2321 or at info@NebraskaAGD.org
FDA Workshop on E-Cigarettes

On March 9-10, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) held the second in a series of three public workshops to gather scientific information about electronic cigarettes and their impact on public health. The focus of the March workshop was on the impact of e-cigarettes on a person’s individual health. Specifically, the FDA invited comments on (1) topography; (2) exposure to nicotine and toxicological considerations; (3) pharmacokinetics (the movement of drugs within the body) and pharmacodynamics (the effects of drugs) regarding nicotine exposure in users; (4) abuse and dependence; (5) short- and long-term health effects in users; (6) considerations for high-risk or vulnerable populations; and (7) human factors.

Representing the AGD was LGA Council member, Gigi Meinecke, DMD, FAGD, who attended the conference and provided comments. As part of her remarks, Dr. Meinecke emphasized the need for further research and urged the FDA to partner with the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research as it works to assess the impact of these new emerging tobacco products on public health.

The public comments regarding e-cigarettes were heavily one-sided, with many public presenters arguing that the benefits gained from using e-cigarettes as a smoking alternative or cessation tool largely outweigh any potential, negative impacts on health. Further, public opinion at this forum rallied around the idea that any increased regulation of e-cigarette products would only stymie current and future health gains. Taking this consensus into account, it was critical that the AGD be there to provide balance and weight to the argument for more research.

Medicare Enrollment FAQ

In May 2014, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) published a final rule requiring all qualified health care professionals — including dentists — to either enroll in Medicare or opt out in order to prescribe medication to their qualifying patients with Part D drug plans. The deadline for compliance is Dec. 1, 2015, but all required documents need to be submitted by June 1, 2015. To help AGD members better understand the rule and what action is needed, the AGD has compiled a list of frequently asked questions (FAQ) that will be made available to members and printed in AGD Impact.

Comprehensive Dental Reform Act of 2015

On Feb. 25, Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-VT) and Rep. Elijah Cummings (D-MD), re-introduced the Comprehensive Dental Reform Act, companion legislation aimed at addressing the oral health crisis in the U.S. by expanding access to dental care. Earlier versions of this legislation were introduced in 2012 and 2013. The bill is divided into five compartments: expanding coverage, creating new access points, enhancing the workforce, improving education, and funding new research. The AGD has drafted a series of comments on the legislation, which it will officially send upon approval. The comments thank the sponsors for their ongoing efforts to address the nation’s oral health challenges, while also outlining concerns over problematic sections in the bill, including one promoting the role of dental therapists.

Indian Health Service Health Professions Tax Fairness Act

The AGD signed onto an Organized Dentistry Coalition (ODC) letter in support of S. 536, the Indian Health Service Health Professions Tax Fairness Act. Sponsored by Sens. Mark Udall (D-CO) and Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), this legislation seeks to amend the tax code to provide health care professionals who receive student loan repayments from the Indian Health Service the same tax-free status enjoyed by those who receive National Health Service Corps loan repayments. S. 536 would provide needed parity amongst health professionals, including dentists, who provide much needed care in underserved and underserved communities.

National Health Service Corps Funding

The AGD signed onto a National Health Service Corps (NHSC) Stakeholders Group letter in support of a discretionary appropriation of $287.4 million for FY 2016 to keep the program operating at current levels. The program is currently supported solely by the Affordable Care Act, with funding set to expire on Sept. 30, 2015.

HRSA Report on Projected Dentist Shortage

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) has released a report projecting a shortage of more than 15,000 dentists in the U.S. by 2025. Conversely, the report also projected that the supply of dental hygienists will supersede demand in the same time period. Specifically, the HRSA report projects that the national demand for dentists will increase by 20,400 full-time equivalent dentists by 2025, while the number of dentists practicing will number just over 202,000.

The ADA’s Health Policy Institute sent comments to HRSA challenging the report’s findings. In its commentary, the ADA states, “HRSA has developed a very useful empirical model. However, a critical assumption is that dental care utilization patterns will remain constant through 2025…and this is inconsistent with the best available evidence.”

The AGD will further analyze the workforce study with the goal of developing talking points refuting its conclusions for use during Hill Day visits.
Are you interested in taking the Fellowship Review Course?

In December of 2014, the Nebraska & Iowa AGD held a joint Fellowship Review Course in Omaha. We had a great turnout for the 2 day course and also offered the exam on the following day. We are pleased to report that we had a 96% pass rate! The pass rate is a testament to the level of preparation of the doctors attending the review course and also the speakers.

We’ve been told by the instructors that the Fellowship Review Course can be used two ways: 1. Use the review course as a “wrap up” to your studying in preparation for the exam. Candidates wishing to take the exam following the review course should study and review weeks before the review course is held and the exam is taken. Or 2. Use the review course as your starting point; find out what you still need to review and study. Then use that information to study on your own and take the test several months down the road.

Since the course, we’ve had numerous phone calls asking if we will hold another one this year. We are trying to determine the amount of interest in holding another review course this year. If you have an interested in taking the course this year, please contact Julie at the NAGD Office at 402.438.2321 or info@NebraskaAGD.org.

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Dr. Margeas graduated from the University of Iowa College of Dentistry in 1986 and completed his AEGD residency the following year. He is currently an adjunct professor in the department of Operative Dentistry at the University of Iowa. He is Board Certified by the American Board of Operative Dentistry. He is a Diplomate of the American Board of Aesthetic Dentistry, a Fellow of the Academy of General Dentistry and International Team of Oral implantologists (ITI). He has written numerous articles on esthetic and implant dentistry, and lectures and presents hands-on courses nationally and internationally on those subjects. He serves on the Editorial Advisory board of Inside Dentistry, Compendium and is a contributing editor to Dentistry Today and Oral Health in Canada. Dr. Margeas maintains a full-time private practice focusing on comprehensive restorative and implant dentistry in Des Moines, Iowa.

"Everyday Dentistry — More than Everyday Esthetic Results"

Friday, June 5, 2015
8 hours CE/AGD Operative Lecture Credit

This lecture is designed for today's esthetically minded, real world dentist and staff. Dr. Margeas will review dozens of direct and indirect clinical cases, step-by-step. These include: porcelain veneers from preparation to cementation. Direct composite resin veneers, class IV restorations, diastema closure, and porcelain repair. Creating perfect ovate pontic sites following extraction. Simplified implant techniques with immediate extraction, placement, and provisionalization. Treating the worn dentition. The techniques learned can be incorporated into your practice immediately.

Learning Objectives
- You will learn how to properly layer and finish composite resins that mimic nature
- Provisionalize immediately following implant placement
- Porcelain veneers — from preparation to cementation
- Learn how to diagnose and treat the worn dentition

Creating natural looking teeth with composite resins

This hands-on course is designed for today's esthetically minded, real world dentist and staff who need to be efficient to be profitable. Numerous cases utilizing direct composite resin will be shown step by step. These include class IV restorations, diastema closure, and direct veneers. You will gain an understanding of resins that can offer an alternative procedure to porcelain. The techniques are minimally invasive, yet highly esthetic and long lasting. The hands on portion will consist of creating a direct composite veneer that can rival a porcelain veneer, creating an invisible class IV restoration, and performing a diastema closure. This interactive course is done in a step by step manner utilizing a visualizer, so that the participants can watch every aspect of the procedure and then create their own composite masterpiece.

Learning Objectives
- Learn a free hand technique for direct composites.
- Layering of composites for natural esthetics will be shown live.
- Finishing and polishing techniques that can mimic nature.

Predictable Porcelain Veneers

Porcelain veneers can be the strongest restoration in dentistry or the weakest. The treatment planning and preparation design makes all the difference. Bonding to enamel is the most predictable and best way to creating longevity when dealing with porcelain veneers. This hands-on course will allow you to create beautiful restorations without destroying tooth structure. Preparation design will be shown in detail step by step. Adhesive protocols for optimum results will be discussed. With over 25 years of experience dealing with porcelain veneers, Dr. Margeas will give you insight on how to prevent failures.

Learning Objectives
- Participants will prepare 6 anterior teeth for porcelain veneers
- Bonding of a veneer will be demonstrated
- Understand how to treat the surface of the restoration for optimum results
- Clinical Cases will be shown step by step
Posterior Composite Restoration

This hands-on portion will allow participants to create a class 2 composite restoration using a sectional matrix system that will insure a tight posterior contact virtually 100% of the time. Sensitivity issues will be addressed and different composite systems will be discussed.

Learning Objectives
- Learn how to use sectional matrices
- Learn how to prevent post-op sensitivity
- Which adhesive systems work best

General Information
Friday, June 5, 2015
Lecture will be held at the Cornhusker Hotel, 333 S. 13th Street, 402.474.7474
7:15 a.m. ........................ Registration
7:45 a.m. ........................ Course Begins
11:45 – 1:15 p.m. ................. Extended Lunch Hour
(A Chance to visit the exhibitors)
1:15 p.m. ........................ Course resumes
4 p.m. ............................ Exhibits close
5:15 p.m. ........................ Course adjourns
*Coffee breaks and lunch will be provided
6:30 – 9 p.m. ..................... Hands-on Course
Limited Space Available
Saturday, June 6, 2015
8 a.m. – 5 p.m. ................... Hands-on Course
Sunday, June 7, 2015
8 a.m. – 1 p.m. ................... Hands-on Course
Hands-on Courses held at UNMC College of Dentistry,
Lincoln, NE. Limited Space Available

COURSE FEES
AGD Dentists: Friday Lecture Only ....................................... $ 350
(Registered by 2-27-15 and receive a $75 member only discount: $275)
Non-AGD Dentists: Friday Lecture Only .................................... $ 600
AGD Dentists: Entire 3 day Event ........................................ $1,850
(Registered by 2-27-15 and receive a $200 member only discount: $1,650)
Includes materials, meals and handouts. Lodging not included
Non-AGD Dentist: Entire 3 day Event ..................................... $2,600
Includes materials, meals and handouts. Lodging not included
Staff Member/Assistants/Hygienists (Friday only lecture) ............ $ 100
Dental Students (Friday only lecture) .................................... $ 35
Lab Techs (Friday only lecture). ........................................... $ 175

Registration Form
Please mail registration form and payment to: NAGD, 3622 McLaughlin Drive, Lincoln, NE 68516. Or you can fax your registration with credit card to 402-438-2321. Registration can be taken over the phone with a credit card.

Name __________________________________________________________
Staff __________________________________________________________
Address _____________________________________________ City ___________________ State ___ Zip ______
Phone __________________________________ Fax ______________________
Email (required) _____________________________________________
AGD# ____________ Non-member □ Yes

PAYMENT METHOD
Check (made payable to the NAGD)
□ Amount: ____________________________ □ Credit card: Credit card type: ____________________________
Credit card # __________________________ exp. Date __________ code on back
Credit Card Address (If different from above) ____________________________
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Signature __________________________________________ Date __________

PLEASE NOTE: A $25 processing fee will be applied to all persons requesting a refund. No refunds will be issued after May 11th.
You will receive an email confirmation when your registration is processed.
Questions? Contact the NAGD Office at 402.438.2321 or info@NebraskaAGD.org

Due to the popularity of the lecture and hands-on course, we encourage you to register early and take advantage of the member discounts. Space is limited!!! Register by May 10th to avoid a $45 late fee!

A block of sleeping rooms have been reserved at the Cornhusker Marriott Hotel for $103 until May 14, 2015. Ask for the “Nebraska AGD” rate. To make reservations, call 1-866-706-7706.

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A block of sleeping rooms have been reserved at the Cornhusker Marriott Hotel for $103 until May 14, 2015. Ask for the “Nebraska AGD” rate. To make reservations, call 1-866-706-7706.
Sugar Not Having a Sweet Year

This month, the World Health Organization (WHO) released “Guideline: Sugars Intake for Adults and Children”. In the document, two issues were given priority for key outcomes, reduction in obesity rates and dental caries.

Reduction in the daily intake of free sugars has been a major focus due to a high correlation with “poor dietary quality, obesity, and high risk of non-communicable disease (NCD)’s. A free sugar has been generally defined as “monosaccharides and disaccharides added to foods by the manufacturer, cook or consumer, and sugars naturally present in honey, syrups, fruit juices and fruit concentrates.” Free sugars differ from intrinsic sugars such as those found in intact fruits and vegetables or sugars from milk.

The WHO reasons that caries effects on health is cumulative from childhood to adulthood and that the best way to decrease risk is to lower sugar consumption to a total of 10% of energy intake. The WHO maintains that limiting sugar this percentage is the main goal, but a 5% goal is generally considered ideal to limit risk of obesity and dental caries.

On March 10th, 2015, a research article was published with strong implications that the sugar industry deliberately has attempted to steer national programs for caries control away from dietary avoidance of sugar-based products. The article titled “Sugar Industry Influence on the Scientific Agenda of the National Institute of Dental Research’s 1971 National Caries Program: A Historical Analysis of Internal Documents” was published in the PLOS (Public Library of Science) by several authors working primarily at the University of California, San Francisco. Among the documents uncovered are the “Roger Adams Papers”, a collection of 319 documents found at the University of Illinois. Adams’s files contained correspondence with sugar industry executives, meeting minutes, and other relevant reports that the authors maintain implicate sugar industry influence over national caries prevention research programs.

The article uncovers documents that state that as early as 1950 that “the Sugar Research Foundation knew it’s product damaged teeth and appreciated that both the scientific evidence and dental community favored restricting sugar intake as key way to control caries.” but that the ultimate aim of the foundation was to discover effective means to control tooth decay other than by restricting carbohydrate intake. Such methods investigated included including the enzyme dextranase in
sugar products to break the sticky dextrans in dental plaque and developing a vaccine against caries.

The article continues to describe the aggressive nature of the International Sugar Research Foundation which included developing close relationships with the National Institute of Dental Research (NIDR) leadership and influencing the first National Caries Program research priorities to favor the profit goals of the sugar industry.

In reviewing the PLOS paper reader comments, “Cottrell” makes some interesting points regarding the paper and its significance. In addition to pointing out that previous industry actions are not indicative of current policy steering, he states that the scientific community really does focus on all fermentable carbohydrates as contributing to dental decay and that singling out sugar only addresses part of the problem. To illustrate his point, he claims that Norway has a sugar intake goal of less than 10%, similar to the WHO goal, but “the success of this policy may, perhaps, best be judged by the observation that Norway has a tooth decay rate that is among the worst in Europe.”

Even though it makes life interesting when conspiracy theories abound, painting the sugar industry as a supervillain would be denying the role that each person takes in determining individual and family diets. My sense is that the average American knows foods high in sugar translate to a poor dietary choice.

As a dentist, I have conversations with each patient about the dangers of both a sugary and starchy diet. I caution against enriched white flour products including breads, crackers, and pastas as much as a do against soda and fruit snacks. I talk about the importance of strong and consistent hygiene efforts, but that reliance on processed foods and drinks can still have a serious negative effect. I am glad to see the media attention that these stories have brought, but I really doubt anybody will pay any attention because it is too easy to ignore the truth when your whole diet is full of added sugars. I encourage you to examine the WHO policy, the Roger Adams papers, and other sugar related resources and make sugar reduction awareness a priority in your office.
“State of the Art Endodontics for the General Practitioners: Materials, Methods and Guiding Principles”

Richard E. Mounce, DDS

Dr. Richard E. Mounce has lectured globally on root canal treatment and is widely published. He has been in full-time endodontic (root canal) specialty practice since 1991 in Rapid City, SD.

“State of the Art Endodontics for the General Practitioners: Materials, Methods and Guiding Principles”

Friday, October 2, 2015
(8 hrs CE/AGD Endo Credit)

The Friday lecture is designed for the general practitioner to improve their daily endodontic skills. Areas covered will include the latest concepts in diagnosis, case selection, and cleansing, shaping and packing of the root canal system in three dimensions. The course will also include an introduction to the surgical operating microscope, cone beam technology, local anesthesia delivery for endodontic treatment, and will discuss the importance of coronal seal and the role of endodontics in treatment planning versus extraction and implants.

Course objectives for lecture:
• the biologic objectives of root canal treatment
• endodontics in comprehensive treatment planning
• when to extract, when to treat, when to refer
• operatory layout and ergonomics in endodontics
• the surgical operating microscope
• use of cone beam technology
• endodontic diagnosis
• general concepts and goals of endodontic instrumentation including working length, working taper and working diameter
• instrumentation for endodontic cleansing and shaping including stainless steel hand files, rotary nickel titanium files, reciprocating nickel titanium files
• general concepts and goals of endodontic obturation including materials, devices and techniques
• coronal seal including indications and contraindications for posts
• endodontic irrigation
• possibilities for endodontic retreatment, including materials, methods, concepts and indications and contraindications.

HANDS-ON TRAINING
Friday, October 2, Saturday, October 3 & Sunday, October 4, 2015
(16 hrs. CE/AGD Endo Credit)

The weekend hands on course will review instrumentation and obturation to achieve the biologic objectives of root canal therapy. Techniques discussed in the lecture will be demonstrated in both plastic blocks and extracted teeth. Participants will have ample time to practice instrumentation and obturation of canals utilizing the methods and equipment demonstrated.

• intro lecture on the materials and methods for instrumentation the participants will use
• hands on demo for instrumentation and obturation using plastic blocks and extracted teeth using multiple techniques.
• instrumentation and obturation hands on for the participants using plastic blocks and extracted teeth (participants will need to bring multiple accessed extracted teeth, 8 teeth, 4 molars. 2 bicuspids and 2 anteriors. All must be fully mature teeth with closed apices. No third molars. Participants should not mount their teeth in stone. Participants will instrument and obturate all 8 teeth.

• Gutta percha removal demo
• Gutta percha removal by participants of the previously obturated canals
• Discussion on: evidence based endodontic success and failure expectations, treatment planning for endodontics, when to extract, when to retreat, when to refer (case selection), case studies
• concepts in endodontic retreatment (achievement of patency, gutta percha removal, canal irrigation)
• possibilities for endodontic retreatment, including materials, methods, concepts and indications and contraindications.
• instruments required for endodontic retreatment
• diagnosis and management of iatrogenic events
• obturation and coronal seal after endodontic retreatment
General Information
Friday, October 2, 2015
Lecture will be held at the Embassy Suites Downtown, 1040 “P” Street, Lincoln, (402) 474-1111
7:30 a.m. ......................... Registration
8 a.m. ......................... Course begins
Noon – 1 p.m. .................. Lunch hour
1 p.m. ......................... Course resumes
5 p.m. ......................... Course adjourns
*Coffee breaks and lunch will be provided

HANDS-ON COURSE
Friday, October 2, 2015 • 6:30 – 9 p.m.
Saturday, October 3, 2015 • 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Sunday, October 4, 2015 • 8 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Limited Space Available — Held at UNMC College of Dentistry, 40th & Holdrege Streets, Lincoln, NE

COURSE FEES
AGD Dentists: Lecture Only .......................................................... $ 350
(Register by July 1, 2015 and receive a $75 member only discount: $275)
Non-AGD Dentists: Lecture Only .................................................. $ 600
AGD Dentists: Entire 3 day Event .................................................. $1,850
(Register by July 1, 2015 and receive a $200 member only discount: $1,650)
(Includes materials, meals and books. Lodging not included)
Non-AGD Dentist: Entire 3 day Event ............................... $2,600
(Includes materials, meals and books. Lodging not included)
Staff Member/Assistants/Hygienists (Friday only lecture) ........................................... $ 100
Dental Students (Friday only lecture) ........................................ $ 35
Lab Techs (Friday only lecture) ................................................. $ 175
Register by September 4th to avoid a $45 late fee!

Registration Form
A block of sleeping rooms have been reserved at the Embassy Suites Downtown for $134 until September 4, 2015. Ask for the Nebraska AGD rate. To make reservations, call 402-474-1111.

Please mail registration form and payment to: NAGD, 3622 McLaughlin Drive, Lincoln, NE 68516. Or you can fax your registration with credit card to 402-438-2321. Registration can be taken over the phone with a credit card.

Name ___________________________________________________________ __________________________
Staff
Address _______________________________________________ City __________________________ State Zip
Phone __________________________________________ Fax __________________________
Email (required) ________________________________________________
AGD# ____________________________ Non-member □ Yes

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Phone (If different from above) __________________________ Date __________________________
Signature __________________________________________ Date __________________________

PLEASE NOTE: A $25 processing fee will be applied to all persons requesting a refund before September 4th. No refunds will be issued after September 4th.
You will receive an email confirmation when your registration is processed.
Questions? Contact the NAGD Office at 402.438.2321 or email info@NebraskaAGD.org
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PROVIDER BULLETIN

Date: April 3, 2015

To: Nebraska Medicaid Providers

From: Calder A. Lynch, Director
Division of Medicaid and Long-Term Care

Re: Suspension of Dental Carve In

Please share this information with administrative, clinical and billing staff.

This bulletin is intended to provide information relating to the Medicaid Dental and Physical Health Managed Care Programs. The Division had previously announced its intentions to carve dental services into the Physical Health Managed Care Program effective July 1, 2015. After careful consideration and consultation with our stakeholders, that decision has been suspended.

We will continue to review the dental program for continuous improvement, and explore opportunities that represent the best model for dental managed care in Nebraska.

Dental providers who have been contacted by a Medicaid Managed Care Organization (MCO) or their contracted dental benefit manager regarding participation in their network for purposes of serving Medicaid recipients may disregard those communications at this time. Those MCOs include Aetna Better Health of Nebraska (DentaQuest), UnitedHealthcare Community Plan (UnitedHealthcare Dental), and Arbor Health Plan (Scion).

Other services and populations scheduled to be integrated into the Physical Health Managed Care Program will still move forward on July 1, 2015. This includes hospice and non-emergency ambulance transportation services, as well as clients participating in the Every Woman Matters Program and the Subsidized Adoption Program. Details regarding that transition are noted in Provider Bulletin 15-12, dated April 3, 2015.

Additional information on Nebraska’s Medicaid Managed Care Program can be found on the DHHS Medicaid and Long-Term Care web site at: http://dhhs.ne.gov/medicaid/Pages/med_medcontracts.aspx

If you have questions regarding this bulletin, please contact Patty Pierson at 402-471-4547 or Patty.Pierson@nebraska.gov or Dannie Elwood at 402-471-4684 or Dannie.Elwood@nebraska.gov.
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Contact us at Dental Designs in Omaha at 402-496-1400, or Lincoln at 402-476-1331. Or, visit us on our website at www.dentaldesignsinc.com
Next June, I will be attending my third AGD Annual Session as a Regional Director. It has been an interesting and an educational tenure. However, I can’t say that I am completely and totally “into” the position, at least not yet.

It’s not the people on the board. The majority of the other Regional Directors are exceptional individuals, dedicated to their role relative to the AGD governing and administrative bodies. Sure, there are a few noise-makers and know-it-alls, but generally speaking, it’s a good group.

It’s not the travelling that I have to do on behalf of Region X. I love going to meetings in exotic cities…like Detroit. Okay, let me take my tongue out of my cheek for a moment.

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Yes, the decision to hold an official AGD event in Detroit was not just the result of poor judgement. It was also an indication of a much more deeply-ingrained problem within our organization…a problem that could be easily addressed and eventually solved. But…more on that at a later date.

It’s not the expense account that I have as a Regional Director. It’s not about missing work, not about playing catch-up on Monday after being gone the majority of the previous week. So why am I just "okay" about being a Regional Director?

It pretty much boils down to one thing. As a Regional Director, you start to know too much about the organization. You see more than just the success of the AGD. You see the flaws, the warts, and the scars…and you want help. You want to make it better, but you also realize that change occurs slowly in large organizations, even when there is an agenda to push for that change.

I wanted to get involved, and I’d like to see this organization thrive. I think there is a HUGE potential for bigger and better things in the AGD.

So hey, I’m planning to stick around for a while if that is what the members of Region X want. This job could get…fun…any time now.