It is a privilege to serve as your 2013-2014 President of the Alliance of the Texas Dental Association. I have been uplifted, inspired, and treated royally by the ATDA members while visiting across our beautiful state. Thank you to Amarillo, Abilene, El Paso, Fort Worth and San Antonio for your gracious hospitality, encouraging words and your cherished friendships through the years. I look forward to my visits to Houston, Dallas, Waxahachie, Austin and beyond. We are truly one, big dental family!

As spouses of dentists we have inherited unique opportunities to enrich people’s lives through dentistry that are found in very few other professions’ supportive roles. Whether it be through advocating for dentistry in the political arena, presenting educational programs, helping with “Give Kids a Smile,” supplying toothbrushes to shelters, volunteering in a charitable dental clinic or TMOM event, or assisting your dentist spouse in treating orphans on another continent, you are making a difference. You are “Coloring Your World.”

As President of the ATDA I challenge Alliance districts and members at large to reach out and involve younger spouses in your oral health projects and advocacy for dentistry.

In this colorful newsletter is living proof of ATDA members taking advantage of opportunities to “Color their World.” I hope you will be amazed and inspired to go and do likewise. It will give you chances to build relationships with people who share your same missions and goals. Remember “A Mission Forms Alliances!”

I look forward to seeing and visiting with you at the Annual Session in San Antonio, May 1-2. Please join other Alliance members for fun, fellowship and a productive meeting at the Grand Hyatt on the Riverwalk.

**Color Your World**
Karen Cox, ATDA President 2013-2014

Greetings to the Alliance of the Texas Dental Association (ATDA). It is my honor and privilege to address you and to say thank you for being partners with the dentists for so many years.

As dentists we work alongside valued team members to care and provide for the citizens of Texas, and often times that team is what makes us successful. At the risk of preaching to the choir, I would like to say that I believe the team at home plays just as important a role as the team at the office when it comes to our success. Without the support of wives and husbands we as dentists would find ourselves at a huge disadvantage.

My time at TDA seems to have been spent mostly in the board room and on the Council on Legislative and Regulatory Affairs (CLRA). During those years my role was to orchestrate Legislative Day when Congress was in session. Without the help and involvement of the Alliance, Legislative Day would not be successful. From helping the TDA staff prepare for the day, to making the trek to the offices of our legislators, the alliance has always been there. We as dentists always have more credibility when our spouses are side by side with us.

In addition, an ATDA liaison sits on the TDA Smiles Foundation (TDASF) Board. The TDASF’s mission is to educate the public and profession about oral health and improving access to dental care for the citizens of Texas. I commend the caring and giving ATDA members who work tirelessly at Texas Mission of Mercy events throughout the state of Texas, helping to improve the smiles of Texans.

Thank you, ATDA. TDA values you and needs you.
EAT THIS - NOT THAT: Tooth Wear, Hypersensitivity, and Nutrition

Learning Objectives
- Develop new diagnostic/management skills for tooth wear and hypersensitivity.
- Feel confident talking about the latest in nutrition & supplements with your patients.
- Learn new motivational strategies to create positive lifestyle change in your patients.

Educational funding provided by The Alliance of the TDA Memorial Fund.

Please go to texasmeeting.com for more information about this course.

Dr Uche Odiatu
Saturday, May 3, 2014 / 8:30 AM - 11:30 AM
Course Code: S19 / Fee: $25

This year, join us for our annual ATDA Cooking Class Tasting at the TDA annual convention in May. We have a beautiful new venue at the Grand Hyatt San Antonio, as well as the expertise of Hyatt Executive Chef David Wirebaugh demonstrating our State President’s theme “Color Your World” with an Asian inspired menu. It promises to be a colorful, delicious event with Sushi, Pad Thai and a surprise dish Chef David is developing for our discriminating tatesbuds!

Thursday, May 1
Grand Hyatt San Antonio
2:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Course Code: T85
Course Fee: $20

(L-R) Ann Kuehler, District 10 and Alicia Woodburn, District 18 stirring up a dish.

Texas Attends AADA 2013 Convention NEW ORLEANS

Taking time out for some midday fun, ATDA members enjoyed a cooking demonstration of tasty local dishes and lunch at the New Orleans School of Cooking.

ATDA Representatives serving on the 2014 AADA Board are: Sharon Bryant, Leadership Council; Diane Bogan and April Cobb, Foundation for Dental Health Education.

(T-L) Marthiel Russell, Conni Durbin, Karen Cox, and Diane Bogan.

VOTE TEXAS.GOV
MAKE YOUR MARK ON TEXAS

The Elections Division of the Secretary of State’s Office is responsible for administering the Texas Election Code, which governs all elections in Texas, as well as, voting systems, candidates, and political parties.

Check out the new VOTETEXAS.GOV - a one stop shop on voting in Texas! For a list of all candidates on each county’s ballot, go to https://webservices.sos.state.tx.us/candidate-filing/cf-report.aspx

UPCOMING ELECTION DATES
February 18-28, 2014
Early voting period for the primary election

March 4, 2014
Primary election

May 19-23, 2014
Early voting period for the primary runoff election

May 27, 2014
Primary run-off election
The Alliance of the TDA met for the annual Fall Board Meeting September 12-13, 2013 at the Marriott South Hotel in Austin, Texas. Over 30 ATDA Executive members attended the 2-day affair. Hosting the meeting was Capitol Area District Alliance members. To carry out the President’s theme “Color Your World” the hostesses, donned with French berets, decorated the meeting rooms in splashes of color, paintbrushes, and fresh flowers.

Beth Voorhees, State Dental Health Chair invited Dr Juli Powell, local Austin dentist, and Dr Tom Richardson, Dental Director of Manos de Cristo of Austin to speak to the group on dental care for the underserved. Dr Powell gave a powerpoint presentation of her dental ministry in Zambia and Dr Richardson spoke on the history and work done in the clinic and its relocation. As a collaborative effort, Alliance members collected eyeglasses for future dental/optical mission work in Africa.

Thursday night Alliance members painted the town Orange & Black at Pinot’s Palette on South Lamar. Joining us for the evening were TDA office staff Donna Musselman and Sandy Blum. A local Austin artist guided attendees step-by-step on canvas through the featured painting “Congress Bridge with Bats.”

The Future Focus Committee, which meets twice each year in addition to Fall Board and the State Convention, is charged with researching and presenting, when appropriate, future plans for the State Alliance. Specific state officers and at least one representative from each active alliance make up the committee. Current Chair is Conni Durbin. Future Focus works closely with the ATDA staff liaison, Donna Musselman, with regard to membership dues collection, newsletter production and other activities and Sandy Blum, Director of Annual Session, who is responsible for securing hotel venues and meeting rooms for annual ATDA meetings. The ATDA is appreciative of their support and availability through the years. Future Focus is also continuing to investigate ways to assist the Silver Lining committee in advertising the availability of grants to dental families in need. For further information contact Conni at c_durbin@swbell.net.

A website for the Alliance is connected to the new TDA website at http://www.tda.org/AboutTDA/Contacts/TDAAlliance.aspx. The Alliance can update information and control content through the TDA staff liaison Donna Musselman. The site can be accessed on both the public and private side of tda.org.

Instructions for finding the website are as follows: tda.org > About TDA > Contacts > TDA Alliance

The Alliance discussed options to develop a stand alone website as an alternative to the current site. The Alliance will discuss in future meetings the cost and time required to maintain a stand alone website.

LOCAL DISTRICTS IN ACTION

DISTRICT 5/NE - Dallas

The Alliance of the Dallas County Dental Society President, Janell Dunsworth and Dallas Dental Hygienists’ Society President, LeeAnn Winkler, participated in the Children’s Medical Center “Deck the Halls” Children’s Program.

As participants in the program, each organization decorated a four foot wreath to be displayed throughout the Children’s Medical Center at Legacy in Plano, TX. After being displayed for a year, a certain number of the wreaths are auctioned off as a fundraiser at the luncheon following the Adolphus Children’s Christmas Parade.

Vicki McPherson with the Women’s Auxiliary to Children’s Medical Center, a patient at Miller and Miller, DDS, provided the wreaths. The Alliance of DCDS decorated their wreath with a beanie baby theme and Dallas Dental Hygienists’ Society decorated their wreath with a princess theme. The wreaths were delivered to the hospital where they graced the halls during the holiday season. The wreaths will bring joy to children and their families spending time at the hospital during the holiday season each year.

Hopefully this is a project that the Alliance of the DCDS, the Dallas Dental Hygienists’ Society, and the Dallas County Dental Society can come together on and do again in the future.

Pictured Left: (L-R) Alliance of the DCDS President, Janell Dunsworth, Vicki McPherson, DDHS President Elect Laurie Inglis, RDH, BSDH and DDHS President LeeAnn Winkler, RDH, BSDH.

DISTRICT 6/NE

Contribution to Waxahachie Hope Clinic

Located in Waxahachie, Texas, Hope Clinic was originally established in 1999 as a faith-based, nonprofit corporation, providing comprehensive health care services for the entire family. It offers a sliding fee discount to the uninsured and under served in and around Ellis County. Dental care is provided by a full time dentist, hygienist, and auxiliary staff in a modern, 3 operatory facility, focusing on basic restorative, removable prosthetics, extractions, and nonsurgical periodontal care. Dental Director is Dr Jeff Kosoris of Waxahachie. Members of the Alliance of District 6 will present a financial donation to the clinic April 15 when they host ATDA President, Karen Cox, and tour the facility. Some of the Alliance members will include Dee Cox, Carolyn Price, Susan Kosoris, and Conni Durbin.

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LOCAL DISTRICTS IN ACTION

DISTRICT 8/SE - Greater Houston
Six District 8 members are serving on ATDA Executive Board: Diane Bogan, Janet Crow, Kim Sauer, Terry Newkirk, Terri Shepherd, and Heide Heath.

Heide Heath, GHDA President reports that activities for the alliance are coordinated through the GHDS with a committee of health related professionals. Lana Armstrong continues to serve on this active committee. The alliance continues to help sponsor “Give Kids a smile Day” and the HISD dental health poster contest.

As affiliate members of the ATDA, district 8 continues to provide volunteers and financial assistance to the TDA Smiles Foundation. District 8 donated $1,200 to the 2013 Healthy Smiles Golf Classic. The Alliance also contributed $1,000 to the 2014 Texas Mission of Mercy (TMOM) event held in conjunction with Give Kids a Smile Day (GKAS) at the UT School of Dentistry in Houston. Many members contribute to DENPAC.

District 8 will honor ATDA President, Karen Cox and past Presidents of District 8 at a Luncheon in March at the beautiful Junior League of Houston.

Congratulations are to Dr Doug Bogan for receiving the Academy of General Dentistry Dentist of the Year award and Dr Rita Cammarata for receiving the prestigious Jack H. Harris award.

DISTRICT 10/SW - Capital Area

"Painting the Way" for 2013 Fall Board Meeting

While other districts had time off the Capitol Area Dental Alliance spent their summer months planning and preparing for 2013 Fall Board Meeting.

On February 18, 2014, the CADA will host ATDA President Karen Cox at a Spring Fashion Preview at the Garden Room in Austin followed by lunch at Russells.

(L-R) Ruth Ault, Janet Hooten, Karen Cox, Beth Voorhees, Carolyn Schilthuis, Linda Radwanski.

DISTRICT 11/NE - Waco

At-Large Member of the Alliance of the American Dental Association (AADA) April Cobb, dental spouse of Dr. Nick Cobb of Waco, Texas Recipient of 2013 Beulah K. Spencer New Member Service Award

April Cobb, Publicity Secretary of the ATDA Executive Board, was awarded at the annual AADA Leadership Conference in Branson, Missouri last April, 2013.

The Beulah K. Spencer Service Award is a Distinguished Service Award that recognizes members who make significant contributions in the areas of leadership, dental health education, legislative advocacy and well being of the dental family on the component (local) level, constituent (state) level and/or national level. Congratulations April!

DISTRICT 12/NW - Fort Worth

SILVER LINING FUND

ATDA’s Answer for Dental Families in Need

The Silver Lining Fund has helped many dentists and their families in time of need. In the last twenty years the Alliance has granted over $155,000. Over $10,000 in emergency relief was granted in 2013.

District 12 hosted and treated ATDA President Karen Cox during her State visit with a delicious catered dinner and arts ‘n crafts night at Pepe Le Potter’s in Arlington. To carry out Karen’s “Color Your World” theme attendees created their own work of art by painting hand-picked greenware. Pottery-makers above: (L-R) Paula Owens, Debbie Moore, Julia Martin, Karen Cox, Jill Kralicke and Barbara Coats.
LOCAL DISTRICTS IN ACTION

DISTRICT 16/SW - El Paso

ATDA President, Karen Cox, and her husband, Dr. David Cox were treated to a delightful time in El Paso during the 51st El Paso Dental conference. Chairman of EPDC, Dr Yvonne Maldonado, hosted the President’s Dinner at Zin Valle Vineyards in El Paso’s Mesilla Valley Apellation.

The Alliance of the El Paso District hosted a lovely luncheon for out of town guests at Magic Bistro. Connie Eads coordinated the affair.

DISTRICT 17/NW - Abilene

Every July for many years Dr. Johnny Estes and spouse, Angela, of Abilene, TX (District 17) have been making the trip to Zambia, Africa. They visit their Zambian friends and conduct dental clinics in various remote villages of the southern providences of the country. Eye and medical clinics are held too, along with spiritual teaching and counseling, children’s programs, physical therapy and laboratory testing.

DISTRICT 20/SW - San Antonio

Alliance of SADDS Reached out to Spouses of Freshman Dental Students

Last July, members of the ASADDS reached out to spouses of freshman dental students. It was held in conjunction with the “Great Expectations” Mentoring Event for over 100 freshman dental students and dentist mentors. The BBQ was held in the home of Dr & Mrs Warren Branch. Dr Rise’ Martin of the SADDS included the Alliance as a co-sponsor for spouses who would like to attend.

After dinner the spouses met with the Alliance in a round-table discussion. Alliance facilitator, Kathy Gureckis, UTHSCSA dental school liaison, and nine spouses interacted on topics ranging from financial matters to what to expect the first year of dental school as a spouse.

As Kathy said later “we feel it was money and efforts well spent and we look forward to future times with these spouses. They asked great questions and seemed to thoroughly enjoy our different stories and perspectives of the journey through dental school.”

Performing the "Sesame Street Puppet Show" to area elementary schools. Teaching students on how to brush and floss properly.

Miss Smile Contest

The “Miss Smile” Scholarship Essay Contest is a yearly civic essay project of the ASADDS. First place winner receives $1000 scholarship, second place $600 and third place $600. They participate in the various community projects of ASADDS and SADDS such as TMOM and the “Smiles of Hope” free dental clinic held at the San Antonio Christian Dental Clinic each October.

Miss Smile 2014, Melissa Mitchell, was presented with her crown by her orthodontist, Dr. Dan C. Peavy. Her written essay for which she won Miss Smile was entitled “You’re Never Fully Dressed Without a Smile.”
ATDA members are coloring their world across the state of Texas as they volunteer for TMOM events. Several have volunteered for years. Some experienced their first event this past year. Whatever the case may be, none who go and volunteer ever wish they had not. Be a part of the next TMOM! Visit www.tdasf.org for future TMOM events.

**AMARILLO**

ATDA members posing for a picture at a barn party after a long day of work at the Abilene TMOM: (L-R) Julia Martin, Paula Owens, Jimmie Ruth Smith, Alicia Woodburn, Patsy Walton, Angela Estes, Patty Taylor, Linda May, Karen Cox, Diane Bogan and Carolyn Schellhammer.

ATDA President Karen Cox doing balloon sculpture activities with families at the Amarillo TMOM.

ATDA members volunteering in the dental patient in-take data area: (L-R) Paula Owens, Pam Ivy and Paula Loveless.

District 12 ATDA member Julia Martin in children’s area pulling her hair out.

**ABILENE**

**HOUSTON**

The Houston TMOM on February 7-8, 2014 was the first time a TMOM event was held at a dental school venue and also in conjunction with the Give Kids a Smile Day. Unlike the TMOM’s held before in civic centers and gymnasiums, this one was held on the campus of UT School of Dentistry in Houston. Patients were treated in UTSD’s well-equipped operatories and had access to Pediatric Dentistry, Endodontics and Oral Surgery.

Over 1200 volunteers worked the 2-day event. Houston TMOM volunteers were dentists, hygienists, dental & hygiene school students, faculty and staff, as well as community volunteers, including ATDA members: Karen Cox, Janet Crow, Diane Bogan, Tricia Fullerton, Claudia Oelfke, Paula Owens, Patty Taylor, Terri Shepherd, and Alicia Woodburn.

Pictured in the middle is ATDA Liaison to TDASF Diane Bogan, with volunteers at the Houston TMOM.

(L-R) Dr Ben Taylor, his wife Patty Taylor and Mary Coleman of San Antonio.