

# Raleigh - Wake County Dental Society NEWSLETTER

[www.RWCDS.org](http://www.RWCDS.org)

Volume 24 | Number 2 | September 2023

## 2023 EXECUTIVE BOARD

Chauncy Nelson, DDS, MS, **President**  
 Catie Cunningham, DDS, **President-Elect**  
 Anthony Gragg, DMD, MS, **Secretary**  
 Paresh Naran, DDS, **Treasurer**  
 Cameron Cavola, DMD, MD, **Webmaster**  
 Chris Vo, DDS, **Editor**  
 Olivia Smith, DDS **Member at Large**  
 Virginia Mayo, DDS **Member at Large**  
 Matt Holman, DMD, **Past President**  
 Kimberly Lee, **Administrative Assistant**

## 2023 Fall Lineup

- Sept 19th General Members Meeting  
 Dr. Martha Ann Keels  
**"Pediatric Dentistry Since COVID"**
- Oct 24th General Members Meeting  
 Dr. Joseph Hummel  
**"Opioid education - meets NC licensure requirement"**
- Nov 14th General Members Meeting  
 Case Study & Panel  
**Drs. Hobbs, Reebye, De Kok**
- Dec 14th Holiday Party  
**Caffe Luna (downtown Raleigh)  
 6:30-9:30p**

Unless otherwise noted: General Members Meetings are held 6:15 p.m. at North Ridge Country Club, 6612 Falls of Neuse Rd., Raleigh, the 3rd Tuesday of each month. There are no meetings in June, July, August and December. Social time begins 6:15 p.m. with the buffet line opening at 6:45 p.m. The business meeting commences at 7:00 p.m. followed by a CE lecture.

## President's Message

Hello RWCD members. Welcome back to the Fall session of 2023. We have very exciting and different styled meetings scheduled for you this fall. We will be introducing a new format for our November meeting. It will be a panel discussion with a moderator. We will also have our annually scheduled Opioid course at the October meeting. We are adapting RWCDS to the changing landscape of continuing education in our field.



We will also ask for your help and support to increase the membership of our society. As the population of dentists has grown in Wake county, our membership numbers have stagnated and declined. This will become a critical issue in the viability of the society in the future if not rectified. Please ask your friends and colleagues to join and participate in the society.

Another topic that we will be discussing this fall is whether to allow corporate sponsorship of our general meetings. Historically we have not had outside sponsorships. The consensus on the executive board is that it is time to address this topic, so that we can continue to support our dental foundation partners in Wake county.

We need the support of all of our members to continue the great work that we have been providing.

With regards,

Chauncy Nelson, DDS, MS  
 President, RWCDS  
[president@rwcds.com](mailto:president@rwcds.com)



## A FEW WORDS FROM OUR ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

We're proud to have 193 or more professionals in our membership. We hope that you will continue to spread the word to your colleagues about the RWCDS

We hope that you will each be able to join us for our fall lectures and dinners. Be on the lookout for monthly emails that will include more details on each of the lectures. In December, we'll host the RWCDS annual Christmas party, more details coming soon. I look forward to seeing you all at the meetings this fall. Please don't hesitate to reach out to me with any questions you may have.

- Kimberly Lee  
[adminassistant@rwcdds.org](mailto:adminassistant@rwcdds.org)

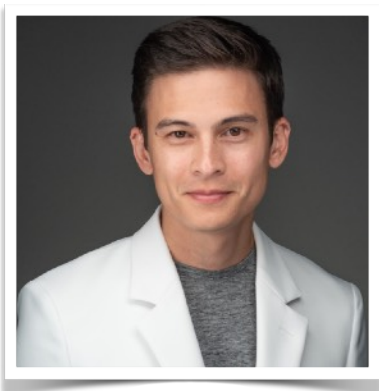


## WELCOME to our NEWEST RWCDS MEMBERS

Dr. Renata Camino  
 Dr. Julia Khatibzadeh  
 Dr. Mark Beavers  
 Dr. Leah Beavers  
 Dr. Jonathan Beavers  
 Dr. Matt Ricke  
 Dr. Emily Pope  
 Dr. Matthew Bright

Durham  
 Cary  
 Apex  
 Apex  
 Holly Springs  
 Raleigh  
 Raleigh  
 Carrboro

[renat@yoursmileteam.com](mailto:renat@yoursmileteam.com)  
[juliakhatibzadeh@gmail.com](mailto:juliakhatibzadeh@gmail.com)  
[markbeaversdds@yahoo.com](mailto:markbeaversdds@yahoo.com)  
[doctor@beaversfamilydentistry.com](mailto:doctor@beaversfamilydentistry.com)  
[staff@beaversfamilydentistry.com](mailto:staff@beaversfamilydentistry.com)  
[rickedds@gmail.com](mailto:rickedds@gmail.com)  
[pope@northraleighdentist.com](mailto:pope@northraleighdentist.com)  
[southbrightdds@gmail.com](mailto:southbrightdds@gmail.com)



**EDITOR'S NOTE** || I hope that everyone's had a great summer. I would like to encourage each one of you to submit articles, opinions and photographs to the RWCDS related to dental and dental service issues that are important to our profession.

Starting in 2024, I will be passing the editor baton to talented friend, Dr. Harold Frazier, as I double down on a deep interest of mine that I have previously written about in this newsletter: Artificial Intelligence. My aim is to build some useful AI tools for our profession that will reduce some of the repetitive tasks that we and our teams perform daily. If you're interested in specifics, please contact me, as I hope to begin my pilot testing soon!

Dr. Chris Vo  
[chrisevods@gmail.com](mailto:chrisevods@gmail.com)

## GENERAL UPDATES



# Wake Smiles

Ms. Sommer Wisher, RDH, BS  
Executive Director, Wake Smiles



### **Making Smiles Bright**

Wake Smiles is so proud to be the philanthropic extension of the Raleigh-Wake County Dental Society. Many of your members contribute financially and with their time to ensure that the thousands of under-resourced adults in Wake County get the care they deserve and can be active members of our community-pain, and shame free. Thank you!

We continue to build momentum and growth, already treating over 600 individuals in 2023, providing nearly \$700K in care. We have added enhanced treatment options like partial dentures and endodontics on site. This has been an invaluable option for our patients who otherwise would lose teeth. We can say with confidence that we are offering evidence-based comprehensive dental care to those in need.

Our largest need is financial, and this is the easiest way to give back to Wake Smiles! We have opportunities for you to become a monthly sustainer, sponsor our Gala, or become a Private Practice Partner. You can also reach out to [sommer@wakesmiles.org](mailto:sommer@wakesmiles.org) for details!

You can help contribute toward our cause by scanning the QR code below.

With Gratitude,

Sommer Wisher, RDH, BS  
Executive Director, Wake Smiles





Wake Smiles

STEP INTO ACTION

# SNEAKER BALL

Marbles Kids Museum

September 23, 2023

7:00-11:00 pm



**Scan now to buy tickets  
to the Gala fundraiser!**

## GENERAL UPDATES

PEARLS FROM DR. GARY OYSTER:

### UPDATE ON ALL LEVELS OF ORGANIZED DENTISTRY

As usual, the state legislature has not met the July deadline for approving the state budget for 2024/2025. This delay has resulted in issues related to Medicaid expansion, medical marijuana, state employee salary increases, and several other issues, including our Senate Bill 382, being held up from passing.

Senate Bill 382, also known as Dental Practice Act Changes, passed the Senate in May and went to the House. The House added an exemption for dentistry from the Health Information Exchange (HIE) mandate as well as minor language changes regarding student education in long-term care facilities and public health settings. When the bill came back to the Senate with these revisions, it was sent to a conference committee, composed of three senators and three representatives. We expect the bill to be taken up once the budget is approved.



If the bill passes, here's how it impacts you:

- It eliminates the Health Information Exchange mandate for dentists.
- Foreign-trained dentists could practice only if they have been approved under credentialing standards of an accredited dental school and have been affiliated with that school for at least three years.
- Students would be allowed to use either manikins or human subjects during dental clinical examinations.
- Any investigations by The NC State Board of Dental Examiners to determine fitness to practice would be conducted confidentially. Today, the NCSBDE can order a mental or physical evaluation of a practitioner, but the process involves the court system and notifying the National Provider Data Bank. This bill would allow investigations to remain private.
- If you practice in multiple locations, you can display your license in one office and renewal certificates in other locations.

## GENERAL UPDATES

PEARLS FROM DR. GARY OYSTER:

### UPDATE ON ALL LEVELS OF ORGANIZED DENTISTRY

(Continued)

Beyond the bill, your Dental Society leaders are working to ease the workforce shortage by pushing to increase state funding for dental hygiene and assisting programs at community colleges across North Carolina. Member dentists are also meeting with NC high school students to encourage careers in dental hygiene and assisting.

Leaders from the N.C. Dental Society have been meeting with the N.C. Department of Health and Human services to push for increases in Medicaid reimbursement rates. The decision makers seem to understand that adding 600,000 more adults and not increasing reimbursements puts at risk access to care for those people.

The ADA has begun streamlining operations to help states use the Salesforce/Fonteva system to reduce ADA operating expenses; streamlining data sharing will also help lower membership dues. There has also been a proposal of tiered membership based on utilization of benefits, which would, again, reduce the fees required of members. The ADA wants to be the place to go for purchasing and using benefits. CMS has also asked the ADA to come up with a plan to adequately reimburse dentists for Medicare, and a task force is looking at how to bring the dreaded ERISA plans under some kind of control.

I hope that those of you who are not members of organized dentistry, will consider joining and becoming an involved member. **As a reminder, RWCDs membership is not a constituent of organized dentistry. You must join the NCDS.** We are stronger together as a district, state, and national organization. The tripartite system works. As a reminder, the ADA meeting “SmileCon” is in Orlando, October 5-7. Consider taking your family and attending.



**NORTH CAROLINA**  
DENTAL SOCIETY®

# MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

**We need YOUR help.** Like many other dental organizations, our membership has been slowly declining over the past few years. At a point closer than we'd like to consider, our society will no longer be viable.

If you find value in our society and would like to see our society continue to be a venue for dental education and a place where we can all catch up from time to time, **PLEASE join us in recruiting new members or urge former members to renew.**

An important note: membership is FREE during a new grad's graduation year.

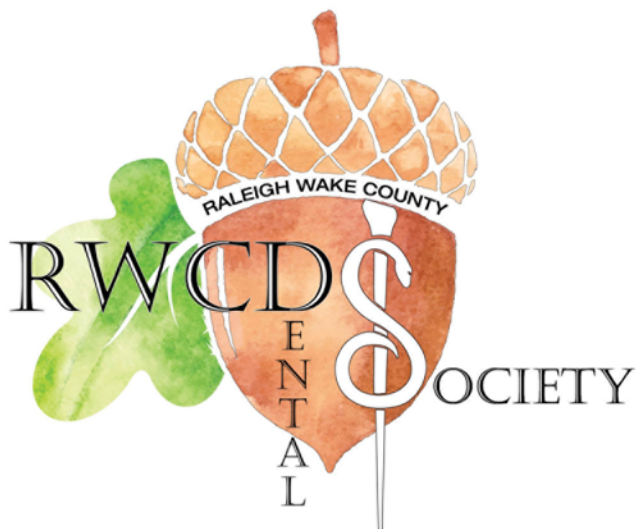
Please feel free to use the flyer on the next page when recruiting.



## A few GREAT reasons to join one of North Carolina's most active regional dental societies

- 8 CE credits per year, including the required Opioid CE
- In person meetings that foster a sense of community
- Great networking opportunities with fellow dentists and dental industry leaders
- Dinner and open bar at North Ridge Country Club
- 1-2 socials each year, including winter holiday party
- Members receive regular updates on important dental legislation, hot dental topics, dental charity and more

*New dental grads (including residencies) get remaining of graduation year for FREE*



**JOIN NOW**



# CLASSIFIEDS

*Details online - <https://www.rwcds.org/classifieds/>*

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**Hygiene Checks |** Dr. Thom Buttler, DDS, PA - Experienced senior dentist available for supervising dental hygienists in a private practice setting, licensed, insured and updated CPR. Please contact at tkbuttler@gmail.com and/or 919-801-1167.

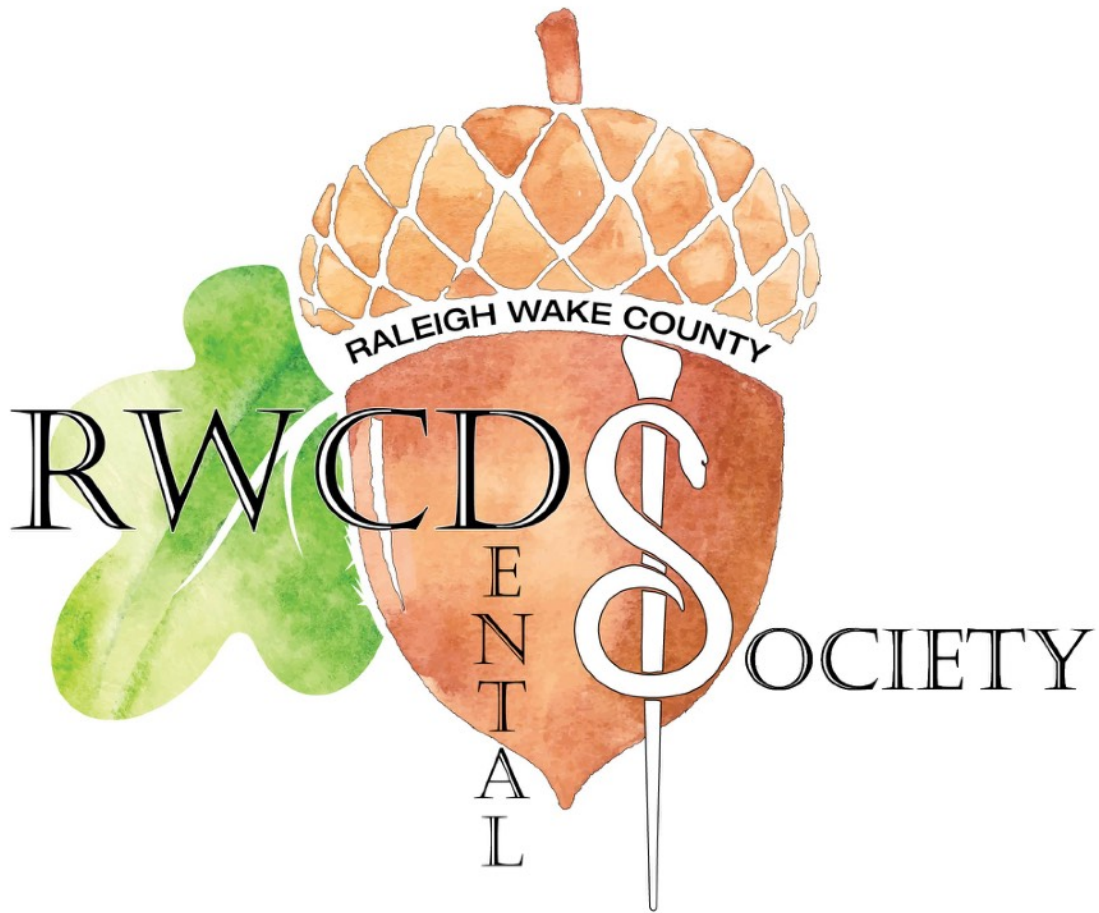
\*\*If you would like to submit a classifieds or miscellaneous ad, please post at [www.rwcds.org/classifieds/](https://www.rwcds.org/classifieds/)

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## RWCDS PHOTOS







**- With special thanks to our 2023 holiday party sponsors -**

