

# Component NEWS

## EIGHTH DISTRICT

### Golf Outing

Chester J. Gary, D.D.S., J.D.

The annual William C. Knauf Jr. Memorial Golf Tournament will be held Monday, June 11, at the prestigious Park Country Club. The tournament offers an unforgettable golf experience for all skill levels.

The continuing education program in the morning will feature John Archibald, CDT, Mike Archibald, CDT, and Jed Archibald, CDT. Their course, “Techniques Your Lab Should Offer to Better Your Practice,” is being generously funded by Ivoclar Vivadent. The Archibalds have worked in house with Gordon and William Christensen.

Stan Zak and Paul DiBenedetto, co-chairs, announced that the afternoon golf competition will again feature divisions for both the championship and scramble flights.

### Rick’s Riders Ride Again

Five years ago, members of the Eighth District formed a team called Rick’s Riders to participate in the Ride for Roswell in memory of Dr. Richard Fink. On Saturday, June 23, Rick’s Riders will ride again. They will repair to their tent for refreshments at the conclusion of the ride. All are invited to join.

### Recognition Dinner and CE

The Buffalo Dental Assistant’s Society held its annual recognition dinner March 8 at Classics V Banquet Center. The continuing education program featured pediatric dentist Mary Beth Dunn. Her presentation was entitled “The ABCs of Pediatric Dentistry—Easy as 1,2,3.”

## SECOND DISTRICT

### Historic Journey through the SDDS Lobby

Stuart Segelnick, D.D.S.;  
Jeffrey Galler, D.D.S.

It is always interesting to observe the initial reaction of a first-time visitor to the Second District Dental Society headquarters building. Invariably, the individual will stare at the many 8 x 10 framed photos lining the walls of the lobby entrance. Constructed in 1951, the building is in the picturesque Fort Greene neighborhood of Brooklyn. The Second District was the first component in New York State to construct a building solely for dental society purposes, and the walls of its entrance hall are decorated with photographs of the individuals who served as its president over the past 144 years.

The oldest photos, depicting the society’s earliest presidents, are especially memorable, showing their subjects in antiquated attire and hairstyles. The newer photographs of more recent presidents afford a glimpse of what these still active, very much alive dignitaries looked like in past years.

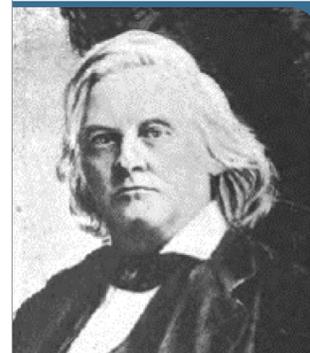
After almost a century and a half, it is interesting to learn how the SDDS was established, who its original presidents were and what they accomplished.

The New York State Legislature, on April 7, 1868, authorized creation of the Dental Society of the State of New York, forerunner of NYSDA, and its original eight components. These components mirrored the eight judicial districts then in existence in New York State. Shortly thereafter, on June 2, 1868, Dr. William B. Hurd was elected the first president of the SDDS.

### First President

Dr. Hurd had a long, distinguished and colorful career. Born in Connecticut on July 5, 1820, he moved to Brooklyn in 1857, and served in the Civil War. He lived to the age of 91, and maintained his dental practice until he was 81. One of the eight delegates chosen to represent the SDDS at the first organizational meeting of the Dental Society of the State of New York, on June 30, 1868, he was also elected the first vice president of the new state organization. In 1871, he became the fourth president of DSSNY.

Dr. Hurd was regarded as an intellectual. He delivered a scholarly paper entitled “Filling Teeth” at DSSNY’s Second Annual Session. His fellow dentists thought he looked like Benjamin Franklin, who had lived 30 years before Dr. Hurd’s birth. But a New York Times article, that appeared on Oct. 26, 1902, described the then-82-year-old Dr. Hurd as resembling the famous contemporary preacher Henry Ward Beecher because of his hair style and how he moved and spoke. The article actually was written about a party his daughter had given for her recently retired father. The party was called the “Three-Score-and-Ten Reception”; a requirement of attendance was one had to be over 70 years old. The Times reported that the total age of the assembled partygoers was over 6,000 years.



Dr. Hurd

SECOND DISTRICT

### Second President

After Dr. Hurd’s tenure, the second president of the SDDS was Lendone S. Straw, born in 1825. He received his first introduction to dentistry by assisting in the

## Second District *cont.*

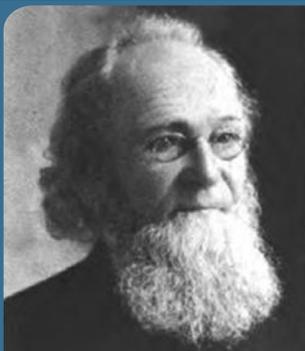
dental office of his father, Dr. Samuel Straw. Interestingly, many years after serving as the second SDDS president, he was again elected president, in 1891, making him the 19th president of the society, 21 years later.

Mirroring his multiple terms of office as SDDS President, Dr. Straw also served as president of DSSNY, in 1882, 1883 and 1884. Whether his numerous terms of office in SDDS and DSSNY reflect a dearth of other qualified candidates or his own need to accomplish an unfinished agenda is unknown.

Along with Dr. Hurd, Dr. Straw was also one of the first eight delegates chosen to represent the SDDS when DSSNY was organized in 1868.

Dr. Straw was a Freemason. He was master of the Newburgh lodge for three years and served as district deputy grand master for two years. He was also director of the Newburgh City Club, the pre-eminent social club of the time. And he was a baseball player, a member of Newburgh's first club, the Newburghs, which was founded in 1856. He went on to play for the first Hudson River team, organized in 1859 and as vice president of the Newburgh Hudson River Baseball Club, from 1861-1862. He may well have been the first dentist to play professional baseball.

### SECOND DISTRICT



Dr. Straw

Dr. Straw was an avid outdoorsman who loved fishing and bicycling. He scouted the Catskill Mountains for materials that he would then use in fabricating porcelain teeth for his patients.

It is interesting to note that Dr. Straw lived and worked in Newburgh, which, at the time, was part of the SDDS, along with Brooklyn, Staten Island, Queens and Richmond County. For a while Nassau County had also been part of the Second District. When, in 1906, the State Legislature split five counties off the Second Judicial District to form the Ninth Judicial District, the dental society did the same. Consequently, Westchester, Orange, Rockland, Dutchess and Putnam counties comprised the Ninth Judicial District and, in 1909, the dentists from these counties formed the Ninth District Dental Association.

It is interesting to note that even in the earliest years of the society, the state publication contained news from DSSNY's individual components. In the first issue of the 1914 Bulletin of the Dental Society of the State of New York, Dr. Straw's photo was featured prominently in the Ninth District Dental Society's column, and Dr. Hurd's photo was featured in the Second District Dental Society column.

### Did You Know?

In May 1891, the United States Patent Office reversed its earlier ruling and granted a patent to Charles Freeman for a machine-processed, round toothpick. The Patent Office had initially rejected Mr. Freeman's application, asserting that "a toothpick made of naturally hard wood would be the full equivalent" to what Freeman's machine produced from soft wood. Mr. Freeman's lawyer was able to convince the patent office that "no known ordinary wooden toothpick had its longitudinal fibers compressed all the way to the point," and that "in a knife-sharpened pick, innumerable fiber ends, each of which is free to catch in and leave in the teeth, small woody threads or bits, more troublesome than the remains of food."

## SEVENTH DISTRICT Only in New York

Frederick J. Halik, D.D.S.

There is no question that New York State has it all, from the most incredible and second largest city in the world, to wonderful hills and beautiful fields. The latter describes the Seventh District, where, out in the gorgeous countryside, there exist small cities with ingenious folks and enthusiastic dental societies promoting great programs.

One outstanding example is found in Steuben County, whose dental society joined others on Feb. 27 to observe Give Kids A Smile (GKAS) Day. In Steuben County, however, a brilliant variation was created by member Melissa Brown. She called it "Rock Your Smile with Rock and Bowl." It was held in a cooperative bowling hall with all the bells and whistles of bowling, mixed with dental health information galore, a short film, banners and even a Jumbotron. The event received extensive radio coverage, featuring live interviews with kids and docs and parents. What a great promotion!

### Future Forecast

The only thing lacking at the Feb. 29th General Membership Meeting of the Monroe County Dental Society was an operative crystal ball. High-powered clinicians gathered at Mario's Place to provide the scoop on "Our Profession in the Future...A Look through the Lens of a Dental Leader." The "leader" pontificating on this profundity turned out to be three: our own ADA President Bill Calnon, Daniel Meyer and Marko Vujicic. They described the challenges confronting the profession and, at the same time, assured us of a great future if we cooperate with and support our chosen leaders.

### Hot Topic

It appears that implants are the big topic of the day. And rightly so, with many programs and information designed to inform about that significant treatment procedure. The newest district presentation occurred on Feb. 17 at the RIT Conference Center. It featured Peter Larson and Edwin