

Vermont State Board of Dental Examiners

Members of the Board

Richard A. Dickinson, D.D.S., Chair
Linda Retchin, R.D.H.
Rena Chernick, R.D.H.
Raymond McCandless, Public Member
Gertrude Hodge, Public Member

Wesley Baker, D.M.D.
John C. Langfeldt, D.D.S.
John Lavoie, D.D.S.
Edward Pantzar, D.D.S.

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Diane Lafaille, Administrative Assistant
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Larry Novins, Board Counsel
Christopher D. Winters, Esq., Director

Newsletter August 2007

Greetings from the Chair!

The Vermont State Board of Dental Examiner's primary responsibility is to protect the health, safety, and welfare of all Vermonters by protecting the integrity and high level of professionalism of dentistry in Vermont. The Board works to achieve this by updating dental laws and rules, licensing dentists wishing to practice in Vermont, as well as licensing dental hygienists, and registering dental assistants. We also investigate complaints received by the Office made by the general public.

It is my pleasure to inform you that, thanks to the hard work and dedication of the Board and the staff, we have dramatically reduced the number of pending investigative cases from 37 in 2004, to 15 in 2007. It is our hope to continue to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the review process.

The board is also reviewing proposals to clarify the nature of supervision necessary, and the extent of permissible practice for hygienists practicing in public and private schools and institutions. 26 V.S.A. § 854 allows hygienists to practice under general supervision "of a licensed dentist or other dentist approved for this purpose by the board of dental examiners." Before a hygienist can be supervised, both the

dentist and hygienist must be sure that the dentist has received the Board's approval. We will keep you informed as we move forward on this important issue.

The Board would also like to thank Larry Novins, our Legal Counsel, for his expertise and support in keeping us informed about legal and policy issues affecting our profession.

Respectfully,
Richard A. Dickinson D. D. S., Chair

Board Member Biographies

Richard A. Dickinson, DDS, Chair, received his undergraduate degree from Marist College in Poughkeepsie, NY and graduated from Georgetown University School of Dentistry in Washington, DC in 1973. He and his wife and infant daughter moved to Vermont to set up his own general practice in St. Albans. Dr. Dickinson was the President of the Vermont State Dental Society in 1995. He has three children, Lindsey, an attorney; Grace Dickinson Branon, DMD who joined him in his general practice in 2002, and Richard Dickinson, Jr, a third year student at Tufts University School of Dental Medicine in Boston. He has been a member of the Board of Dental Examiners since 2003.

Linda Retchin, RDH received her Dental Hygiene degree from Howard University in Washington, DC in 1985. She first practiced in Berne, Switzerland from 1985 to 1987. Since then, she has been practicing in South Burlington, Vermont.

She has been an active Board member since she was appointed to the Board by Governor Howard Dean in 2000. She has been a member of NERB since 2000 and also has taught Smoking Cessation Classes for the Vermont State Dental Society since 2000. She was re-appointed by Governor Jim Douglas in 2005. She is the first Dental Hygienist to serve two consecutive terms on BDE. Linda resides in Shelburne with her wonderful husband and two teenage children.

Rena Chernick, RDH, dental hygiene member resides in Montpelier. Born in Springfield, MA., she received her BS from Guilford College in 1948 & her dental hygiene education from Forsyth School for Dental Hygienists in 1949. NERB, Member & Examiner from 1976 to present; dental hygiene member, NERB Executive Committee & Steering Committee. Rhode Island Board of Dental Examiners from 1975-1994. Serving as Chair of the Dental Hygienist Licensing Committee & Chairperson of the Dental Hygienist Disciplinary Committee. AADE Membership Committee from 1993-1994, Life Member. Rhode Island Dental Hygienist Association (RIDHA), she was President, Vice President, Treasurer & Chairman, Liaison Committee. VDHA Co-Chair of the Legislation Committee. ADHA- Trustee District II from 1961-1966. Private practice in Vermont from 1992 to present. RI School for the Deaf, Founder & Director of Dental Hygiene Clinic & Program - 1956-1993. Lawton Dental Clinic from 1951-1954. VDHA Outstanding Dental Hygienist - 2000. RIDHA Outstanding Dental Hygienist - 1993. Proclamation from State of Rhode Island, Rena Chernick Day, July 17, 1993. RIDA Award, 1990. ADHA Award of Merit, 1969. Forsyth School for Dental Hygienist Outstanding Alumnus, 2006. Board, Central Vermont Hospital Auxiliary; Board, Miriam Hospital (Providence, RI) Hospital Auxiliary; Board, Central Vermont Red Cross; Award Chair, Vermont Federation of Garden Clubs; President, Garden Club; Vice President,

Valley Rotary Club (Warren-Waitsfield, VT); Board, Valley Rotary Club; Life Member, Vermont Federation of Garden Clubs; Life Member, National Garden Club; Board, Central Vermont Medical Center; Chair, Project Committee, Central Vermont Medical Center; Central Vermont Medical Center Auxiliary, Auxiliary of the year, 2006; Life Member, Chair, Federation Garden Club of Vermont 2005-Present; Trustee, Central Vermont Medical Center; President, Auxiliary, Central Vermont Medical Center.

Raymond N. McCandless, public member, Berlin, Vermont. Retired from the Vermont Health Department. BS and MPH degrees from Johns Hopkins University. 10 years Director of Radiation Safety, Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions. 30+ years Director of Occupational and Radiological Health Division, Vermont Health Department. (The following activities during this period were directly related to the profession of dentistry: 1) Administration of inspections of all x-ray producing equipment in Vermont; 2) Administration of VOSHA's Bloodborne Pathogens Regulation). Former member, and chair of the Vermont (Licensing) Board of Radiologic Technologists. Former member, and chair of both the Berlin Town Planning/Zoning Boards and the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission.

John F. Lavoie, DDS is a native of Burlington, Vermont. He received his Bachelor's of Science degree from the University of Notre Dame in 1987 and received his D.D.S. degree from the University of Illinois in 1996. After completing a General Practice Residency at Fletcher Allen Health Care in 1997, he joined his brother, Philip A. Lavoie Jr. (D.D.S. Creighton '87), in general family practice in Burlington. They continue the dental practice started by their Father, Philip A. Lavoie, Sr. (D.D.S. Creighton), in 1960. Dr. Lavoie joined the Board of Dental Examiners in 2006. He lives with his wife and two children in Shelburne, Vermont.

Edward Pantzar, DDS received his DDS from Temple University in 1982. He served in the U.S. Naval Reserve Dental Corps from 1982-1985. He came to Vermont in the summer of 1985 and has practiced in Essex Junction since.

Prior to his appointment to the Board of Dental Examiners in 2007, he served as a mediator for the Vermont State Dental Society Peer Review Committee. Dr. Pantzar resides in Essex Junction with his wife Kathy and his two children.

John Langfeldt, DDS graduated from the University of Nebraska Dental School in 1969. After two years in the Navy and one year in Boston, his wife (Ursula) and he opened his practice in December of 1972. He has 3 adult children. He is past president of VSDS (1985-1986) and has been on the Board of Dental Examiners for two plus years. He has found it to be a unique, rewarding and pleasant experience to be on the Board of Dental Examiners. He especially enjoys the friendship and professionalism of his fellow Board members past and present.

Wesley Baker, DMD was raised in New Hampshire and received his undergraduate education at the University of New Hampshire. Upon graduation he enrolled in Tufts University School of Dental Medicine and graduated in 1975. He then entered the Air Force and served 2 ½ years at Ellsworth Air Force Base in South Dakota practicing general dentistry. After being discharged he took a position with Vermont Dental Care in their Bennington Office treating the needs of low income Vermonters. In 1979 he opened his own office in Bennington and has practiced there since.

Gertrude Hodge, public member for the Dental Board, having served 2 terms on the board. Previous to this she served on the Funeral Board. Mother of five children all involved in public service jobs. Her home base in Topsham. Since 1958 she has been in and out of the state house representing farming, education and the elderly. For each of these areas, the major concern was the “wellness” of the people of Vermont. At present her business is known as Hodge Podge Antiques and Collectables. For 20 years she was a state employee: as Training and Information Officer in civil defense. She retired in 1980 to work for three years under a contract with the Federal Government in all the New England states in emergency management planning for schools.

Continuing Education

The upcoming dental licensure renewal cycle will mark the first time that continuing education hours will be required for renewal. Since this requirement was established during the current renewal period (October 2005 through September 2007), the hours required have been prorated and only 18 hours will be required for the renewal covering the period 10/1/07 through 9/30/09. Future renewals (starting with the September 2009 renewal) will require the completion of the full 30 hours of continuing education.

Rule 4.12 outlines the continuing education requirements. The Board has further clarified this rule by defining what constitutes a “formal course of learning” and by giving examples of what courses would and would not be considered “practice or financial management courses.”

Rule 4.12 Approval of Continuing Education Programs

(a) Standards - A program meets Board qualifications if it is a formal course of learning which contributes to the growth of professional knowledge and competence in providing patient care.

(b) Case-by-case approval - Individual courses may be approved upon submitting to the Board a course outline, instructor qualifications, sponsoring organization, and dates of presentation. Advance approval is not required. The Board will not approve a course or program for continuing education credit if, in its discretion, the Board determines that the program does not contain sufficient educational content.

(c) Approved sponsors may include the ADA, ADHA, ADA and their constituent and component dental societies and associations, CODA accredited schools or programs, home study programs sponsored by any of the above groups.

(d) Courses in practice management and financial management will not be accepted.

Clarification of Rule 4.12

† formal course of learning

The board will consider a continuing education course to be a “**formal course of learning**” if it meets the following criteria:

The course is conducted by a qualified instructor who will be able to instruct and interact in any of the following formats:

- **Classroom Instruction** - Traditional in-classroom, with instructor and student interaction and written materials;
- **Interactive Television** which permits continuous mutual communication between the instructor and all students, continuous observation of the instructor by all students, and continuous observation of all students by the instructor;
- **Distance Courses /Online Delivery** - Distance education courses are defined as programs whereby instruction does not take place in a traditional classroom setting but rather through other media where teacher and student are apart but exchange between instructor and student by electronic means.

Or, is a **self-study course** which concludes with an examination.

† practice management or financial management

To clarify what is or is not a course in “**practice management or financial management**,” the Board adopts the following policy:

The Board considers that the following subjects **do contribute** to the growth of professional knowledge and competence in providing patient care, and therefore does not consider them to be “practice and financial management:”

- courses that promote communication among members of the dental team and between members of the dental team and patients.

- ethics
- insurance billing and coding
- proper patient record keeping

The Board considers that the following “practice management or financial management” subjects **do not contribute** to the growth of professional knowledge and competence in providing patient care, and therefore will not be approved by the Board for continuing education credit:

- accounting and similar topics
- business administration or management
- cultural matters
- general office and computer skills
- memory training
- personal business and financial planning matters
- personal development
- personal health and recreation
- personal money management
- politics
- software for office use
- speed reading
- success training
- time management
- web site development

These are meant to guide you in determining which continuing education courses you can include in your required hours and will undoubtedly be more helpful in future cycles than the current one. Simply stated, continuing education courses should contribute to the growth of professional knowledge and competence in providing patient care. Along with your license renewal application form you will receive a continuing education hours record form. This is to be completed, signed and returned with your completed renewal application, and fee.

Do not send copies of your certificates with the renewal. The Board reserves the right to perform random audits to verify the information submitted.

Adopting mandatory continuing education for renewal was a controversial decision. No matter which side of the argument you were on let your completion of this task be in the spirit for which it was intended.

Conscious Sedation: Special Endorsement Required

Those practitioners wishing to use Conscious Sedation in their practice are required to abide by Rules 5.8 through 5.23 in the Board Rules. You must obtain either a special endorsement to practice this or have a general anesthesia endorsement from the Board. Documentation of appropriate training in pediatric sedation is required if treatment of a child under twelve years of age is planned.

Please remember to Document! Document!
Document!

License Fees

The Board of Dental Examiners is part of the Office of Professional Regulation (OPR), a division of the Secretary of State's office. Our license fees must cover the expenses the board incurs carrying out its duties. For fiscal year 2007 this is estimated to be \$137,804.

The expenses are divided into five categories:

1. Direct expenses such as printing, postage and per diem (11.6%)
2. Support received from the Secretary of State's Office (6.4%)
3. Allocated costs to support the OPR (42%)
4. Cost of investigating complaints (27%)
5. Cost to prosecute cases against members of the profession (13%)

Two years ago we had to increase licensing fees to cover a deficit that had been building over the past several years. The deficit at the

end of fiscal year was \$87,470. Since then the deficit is projected to be down to \$36,347 by the end of this fiscal year and hopefully eliminated by the end of the next licensing cycle.

Fees for licensure will remain the same as before:

Dentists	\$355.00
Hygienists	\$125.00
Assistants	\$75.00

Today's Top Tip for Avoiding A Complaint

Document, Document, Document...

The Board continually sees cases in which the documentation in patient records is below the acceptable standard. When making notations in records, more is always better.

Licensees as of July 1, 2007

License Type	Resident	Non-Resident	Total
Dentist	368	157	525
Dental Hygienist	594	106	700
Assistant - Traditional	668	67	735
Assistant - Certified	118	5	123

Complaint Activity Fiscal Year 2007 (July 2006 - June 2007)

New cases opened	13
Cases investigated	14
Cases concluded without action	6
Formal charges filed	6
Disciplinary Actions Taken	6

The complete text of the disciplinary actions taken can be found on the web at:

<http://vtprofessionals.org/opr1/searchdiscipline.htm>

WE'VE MOVED
New Office Location

Office of Professional Regulation
National Life Bldg., North, FL2
Montpelier, VT 05620-3402

Office Hours:

Monday - Friday / 7:45 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Meeting Dates:

Dental Board meetings are held the second Wednesday of each month (the Board does not meet in May) and are open to the public. All meetings are posted on the Office's web site at: <http://www.vtprofessionals.org/meetings/meetinglist.htm>

Contact Information:

Diane Lafaille
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Fax: 802 828-2465

Web Page:

The Board's Web Page can be found at:
<http://vtprofessionals.org/opr1/dentists/>