

## **SBOD NEWSLETTER**

**APRIL-MAY 2017**

### **Election of Officers**

John F. Erhard, DDS, was unanimously elected to a second term as Chairperson of the SBOD at the December 2016 meeting of the Board. Mariellen Brickley-Raab, RHD, was also unanimously elected to a second term as Secretary of the Board. Elections are held annually, and each term in office is for one year.

### **New Board Member Bio**

In June 2016, Shawn M. Casey, DMD, was elected to a six-year term as a member of the SBOD. Dr. Casey is a lifelong resident of northeast Pennsylvania, graduating from Wyoming Area High School in 1987, and from Wilkes University in 1990. He then fulfilled his dream of becoming a dentist at the University of Pittsburgh, School of Dental Medicine, and returned home in 1994 to establish a dental practice.

After 10 years of solo practice, Dr. Casey hired another general dentist and established Casey Dental. In 2009, Casey Dental became a broad-based practice with the addition of multiple general dentists and specialists working together in one location. Services included Pediatric Dentistry, Orthodontics, Implants, and a Special Needs Department, dedicated to Dr. Casey's Aunt Mary Casey. Casey Dental was further expanded in 2010, with the hiring of additional dentists and specialists, and now covers all aspects of dental care in one facility.

Dr. Casey has been a member of the Pennsylvania Academy of General Dentistry since 1994, serving as Advocacy Chairman (2011-2016) and as a board member (2012-2016).

In addition to his practice responsibilities, Dr. Casey has been extensively involved in local charities and public service organizations, including the Pittston Township Lions Club, the Greater Pittston Sons of St. Patrick, and the Greater Pittston Knights of Columbus. Since 2012 he has been a board member for the Luzerne County ARC Association, which is devoted to improving the quality of life for children and adults with intellectual and physical disabilities.

When not working, Dr. Casey enjoys spending time with his wife of 24 years, Michele, and their three children, George, Shawna, and Samantha.

**The Expanded Function Dental Assistant (EFDA):  
Certification, Education, and Regulation in Pennsylvania**

**Theresa A. Groody, M.Ed., EFDA, CDA**

**Director of Continuing and Professional Studies, Harcum College**

**Member, State Board of Dentistry**

**Chair, SBOD EFDA Committee**

With the amendment of Pennsylvania's Dental Law in 1994, the Expanded Function Dental Assistant (EFDA) was designated a Board-regulated practitioner. For nearly 2 decades before that, several EFDA training programs had existed in ADA Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA)-accredited secondary education institutions in Pennsylvania, and dentists had regularly delegated reversible restorative procedures to dental assistants and EFDAs. But neither EFDA education programs nor EFDA practitioners were subject to State certification and regulation.

**CERTIFICATION:** The new legislation required that all dental assistants practicing expanded functions pass a written, Board-approved EFDA Certification Examination. Prerequisites for the examination were initially designed to recognize on-the-job training and skills acquired through full-time performance of expanded dental assistant functions for a 5-year period (1990-1994), as verified by a dentist employer. Dental assistants who provided proof of completing an EFDA education program at a CODA-accredited institution were also eligible for the Certification Examination.

- All candidates for the Certification Examination are NOW required to show compliance with Section 3(d.1) of the Dental Act by submitting verification of one of the following:
  - graduation from a Board-approved EFDA program at a 2-year college or other institution accredited or provisionally accredited by an accrediting agency approved by the US Department of Education Council on Postsecondary Accreditation which offers an Associate Degree.
  - graduation from a dental hygiene school which required the successful completion of at least 75 hours of clinical and didactic instruction in restorative functions accredited or provisionally accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) of the American Dental Association.

- Completion of a Board-approved EFDA program, which offers a certificate or diploma, consisting of at least 200 hours of clinical and didactic instruction from a dental assisting program accredited by one of the following:
  - The Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) of the American Dental Association.
  - An accrediting agency approved by the US Department of Education Council on Postsecondary Accreditation whose expanded function educational standards are approved by the Board.
- The EFDA Certification Examination consists of 100 multiple choice questions.
- Candidates for EFDA Certification must achieve a minimum grade of 80% on the EFDA Certification Examination.

**EDUCATION:** In an effort to standardize EFDA education throughout the Commonwealth, the SBOD has promulgated regulations to govern approval of EFDA Education Programs including, but not limited to, specific requirements for the following:

- program application contents
- institutional accreditation
- program planning and assessment
- faculty qualifications
- facilities and equipment
- Program approval requires that curricula include courses in dental sciences specific to practice as an EFDA, including:
  - dental anatomy, occlusion, rubber dams, matrix and wedge, cavity classification and preparation design, bases and liners, amalgam restoration, composite restoration, sealants, crown and bridge provisional fabrication, coronal polishing, fluoride treatments, including fluoride varnish, taking impressions of teeth for study models, diagnostic casts and athletic appliances. EFDA programs must also provide education on dental law and ethics, and a minimum of 120 hours of clinical experience performing expanded function dental assisting procedures.

The EFDA Committee of the SBOD has been charged with responsibility for the EFDA Education Program approval process. Members of the Committee review Program applications to assure

that all required documents are submitted and that they comply with regulations governing EFDA Education Programs in the Commonwealth.

The Committee then conducts an objective evaluation of the Program application, *based on the written materials submitted*, and presents a recommendation for the Board's consideration (in Executive Session). Program approval requires a vote of the full Board in open session.

- As with all other Board-regulated practitioners, EFDAs must complete and document continuing education credits bi-annually to maintain certification. Current regulations require 10 hours in subjects that contribute directly to the maintenance of clinical competence.

SBOD certification of EFDAs, approval of EFDA Education Programs, and the development and implementation of regulations governing EFDA practice has resulted in increasing numbers of public and private dental practices incorporating EFDAs into their approach to delivering high quality, efficient oral health care services.

At its Workforce Innovation Summit in November 2016, the Pennsylvania Coalition for Oral Health included the utilization of EFDAs as part of the overarching goal of creating a future with a sufficient and effective oral health workforce. SBOD Board members, Theresa Groody, M.Ed., EFDA, CDA and Shawn Casey, D.M.D., presented a session on PA's Dental Law as it relates to the EFDA and the best utilization of the EFDA in dental practice, and suggested those in attendance become more involved in existing EFDA Education Programs in their area.

As formal and informal assessment of EFDA practice takes place over time, refinements may be made to curricula, examination procedures, and patient interaction, furthering the goals of the SBOD to protect the public and to assure the highest level of professional standards for all Board-regulated dental health practitioners.