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A Presidential History of the SDDS

"Look forward, not backwards."

President Barack Obama (2009)

From the first time I walked into the Second District Dental Society headquarters at 111 Fort Greene Place, (which was built in 1951 and happens to be the first component dental society building constructed solely for society purposes), I couldn't help but notice the pictures on the wall of all the former presidents of the society. They are displayed in framed 8x10 photos around the entrance hall leading into our society's home. When I saw this gallery of photographs, I was quite curious, and spent some time studying the oldest photos of presidents from the late 1800s. I was intrigued by their ancient outfits and hairstyles. As I moved down the line to the nearer past, I was surprised at how closely these former presidents, despite the years gone by, resembled their living counterparts. As we enter the 144th year of the Second District Dental Society, it amazed me to learn that most of my colleagues, like me, had no idea when and how the SDDS was formed, who these past presidents were and what they accomplished. However, I reasoned that by forgetting our past, both good and bad, we are bound to repeat it in the future. As the famous philosopher George Santayana said, "those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it" (1905). I'm not sure if this history of the SDDS presidents will have any mind-boggling impact on our lives, but I did find it quite interesting

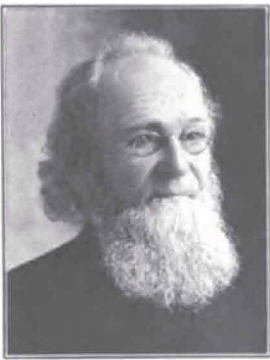


DR. WILLIAM B. HURD
BROOKLYN, N. Y.

and would like to share our history with you. The first President of the SDDS, Dr. William B. Hurd, was elected on June 2, 1868, the day that the SDDS was first organized. This was accomplished through the direction of the legislature of New York State which on April 7th, 1868, authorized the creation of the Dental Society of the State of New York and its districts. This happened to be eight components at the time following the judicial districts of the state. Also in an amendment to the legislative act, the degree of Master of Dental Surgery (MDS), not DDS or DMD, was created. Dr. Hurd was born on July 5, 1820 and lived to the age of 91, practicing dentistry until he was 81 years old. He was actually born in Connecticut, but moved to Brooklyn, in 1857. He was one of eight delegates chosen to represent the SDDS on June 30, 1868 at the first organization meeting of the Dental Society of the State of New York (now

called NYSDA), and was elected its first Vice President.

Dr. Hurd was a civil war veteran and went on to become the fourth president of the Dental Society of the State of New York in 1871. He was a scholar reading his paper entitled "filling teeth" at the 2nd annual session of DSNY. His peers said that he resembled Ben Franklin, who had lived 30 years before Dr. Hurd was born. However, a New York Times article on October 26, 1902 described the then 82-year-old Dr. Hurd as resembling the famous preacher Henry Ward Beecher in not only his hair style, but also in his movement and speech.



DR. L. S. STRAW
NEWBURGH, N. Y.
1825-1899

The second President of the SDDS was Lendone S. Straw, born in 1825. He was introduced to dentistry when he assisted in his father, Dr. Samuel Straw's, dental prac-

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SECOND DISTRICT DENTAL SOCIETY

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The Bulletin reserves the right to alter or reject any copy.

Advertising Policy

The SDDS Bulletin and Website welcome advertising as an important means of keeping the dentist informed about new and better products and services for the practice of dentistry. Such advertising must be factual, dignified, tasteful, and intended to provide useful product and service information.

The publication of an advertisement is not to be construed as an endorsement or approval by the SDDS Bulletin and Website and/or its publisher, the Second District Dental Society, of the product or service being offered in the advertisement unless the advertisement specifically includes an authorized statement that such approval or endorsement has been granted.

As a matter of policy, the SDDS Bulletin and Website will sell advertising space when the inclusion of advertising material does not interfere with the purpose of their publication. The SDDS Bulletin and Website reserve the right to accept or reject advertising, at its sole discretion, for any product or service submitted for publication.

A NOTE TO ALL SDDS MEMBERS

Each year at this time the President-Elect begins the process of formulating appointments to the SDDS standing committees for the following year. If you have any interest in serving on any of these committees in 2013, **now is the time to notify SDDS headquarters**. If you require further information or wish to be considered for appointment, please complete the form below and forward to SDDS headquarters to the attention of Dr. Amrish Parikh, President-Elect.

NAME: _____

OFFICE ADDRESS: _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP: _____

OFFICE PHONE: _____

E-MAIL: _____

____ YES, I am interested in serving the Second District and the dental profession. Please contact me with information about the following committees:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Board of Trustees | <input type="checkbox"/> Richmond County Dental Society |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chemical Dependency | <input type="checkbox"/> Dental Benefits |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dental Health Planning/Hospital | <input type="checkbox"/> Dental Practice |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Education and Licensure | <input type="checkbox"/> Ethics |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Governmental Affairs | <input type="checkbox"/> Membership and Communication |
| <input type="checkbox"/> New Dentist | <input type="checkbox"/> Peer Review and Quality Assurance |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Publications | <input type="checkbox"/> District Claims |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Oral Health | <input type="checkbox"/> Finance |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Greater New York Dental Meeting | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please list): _____ | |

A complete list of all SDDS standing committees can be found on our website, www.sddsny.org, or in your 2012 CE Program and Activity Guide. Send completed forms to SDDS no later than May 4, 2012. Mail to Second District Dental Society: 111 Fort Greene Place, Brooklyn, NY 11217-1490; fax to (718) 797-4335 or e-mail bulletin@sddsny.org.

Children’s Dental Health Month Events February 2012

- **Give Kids a Smile Day: Friday, February 3, 2012** - Colgate's Bright Smiles Bright Futures Van will be scheduled for screening at Community Partnership Charter School and P.S. 270 both located at 241 Emerson Place, Brooklyn, NY 11205.
- **Dental Health Day at Aviator Sports and Recreation Center Arena – Sunday, February 5, 2012** -The Colgate Van will be scheduled for screening along with the Child Identification Program (CHIP) and giveaways such as toothbrushes, toothpaste and oral health literature from 10am – 2pm.
- **Sugarless Wednesday: February 29, 2012** - A school-wide event will be held at P.S. 361, 3109 Newkirk Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11226, focusing on identification of the non-essential dietary sugars consumed by the general population.
- **CDHM Poster Contest** - In celebration of Children's Dental Health Month in February, SDDS is sponsoring its annual creative contest for children in preschool through 12th grade in Brooklyn and Staten Island.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!!

Volunteers are desperately needed for all of our local CDHM events in Brooklyn and Staten Island. Interested volunteers should contact Second District at (718) 522-3939.



SECOND DISTRICT DENTAL SOCIETY OF NEW YORK & RICHMOND COUNTY DENTAL SOCIETY

CHILDREN’S DENTAL HEALTH MONTH POSTER CONTEST

CONTEST RULES

- Create a T-Shirt design with a theme related to oral health such as brushing, flossing, dental visits, tooth anatomy, nutrition and dental health, etc.
- All entries must be on paper or poster board no larger than 11” x 17.” Depth is restricted to half an inch.
- Students may use media such as paint, marker, crayon, colored pencil, collage, etc. Computer generated art is also acceptable.
- Posters created by students must be their own original artwork. Entries with copyrighted characters, clip art or product brand names will not be accepted.
- **LABEL YOUR ENTRY.** Student’s name, age, grade, teacher name, school address and school phone number **MUST** be included somewhere on the back of the entry to qualify. Failure to provide any of this information will result in disqualification.



All entries become the property of SDDS and will not be returned unless a self-addressed, stamped envelope is provided with the entry. Winners will be chosen by members of the SDDS Oral Health Committee based on the educational value and creativity of the project. SDDS will contact the winners’ schools directly about their awards. This contest is open to students in Brooklyn and Staten Island schools only.

JUDGING CATEGORIES

- Preschool—Kindergarten
- 1st—2nd Grade
- 3rd—4th Grade
- 5th—6th Grade
- 7th—8th Grade
- 9th—10th Grade
- 11th—12th

AWARDS

Winners in each category will receive savings bonds:

- **FIRST PLACE** \$100 US Savings Bond
- **SECOND PLACE** \$75 US Savings Bond
- **THIRD PLACE** \$50 US Savings Bond

ENTRIES ARE DUE BY MARCH 16, 2012

Mailing address for Brooklyn school entries:
Attn: Poster Contest
Second District Dental Society
111 Fort Greene Pl
Brooklyn, NY 11217

Mailing address for Staten Island school entries:
Attn: Poster Contest
Dr. Scott Brustein
3767 Hylan Blvd
Staten Island, NY 10308

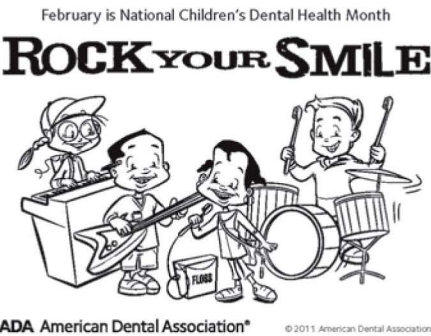
CONTACT FOR QUESTIONS:

Veronica Molina
(718) 522-3939
vmolina@sddsny.org

↓ Teachers: You may duplicate this form and affix to back of each entry. ↓

Student Name: _____
Age: _____ Grade: _____
Teacher Name: _____
School Name: _____
School Address: _____

School Phone: _____
Teacher Email: _____



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STATEN ISLAND – SOUTH SHORE – Established GP looking to rent dental office 2 ½ to 3 days per week. Call (718) 356-3339.

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DENTIST WANTED – P/T General dentist, experience preferred. Midwood, Brooklyn. (718) 376-1090 or (917) 400-5300.

Presidential History

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tice. He became the President of the SDDS in 1870. This was the same year the SDDS received its first Charter from New York. He also served as the 19th President in 1891, 21 years later! So if any former presidents want to return, it is never too late. Dr. Straw was the Dental Society of the State of New York’s president in 1882, 1883 and 1884. So NYSDA’s more recent former president Dr. Michael Breault’s transitional term of 18 months doesn’t come close to the record. Dr. Straw was also one of the first eight delegates chosen to represent the SDDS when the Dental Society of the State of New York was first organized on June 30, 1868. Dr. Straw was an outdoorsman who loved to fish, and was an ardent bicyclist. He scouted the Catskills for the material he used to make his patients’ porcelain teeth. By the way, he was from Newburgh, which today is part of the Ninth District Dental Society but back then was part of the SDDS, which also included Kings, Queens, Richmond and Suffolk County (Nassau County was added later to the SDDS).

In 1906, the N.Y. state legislature split five counties off of the 2nd Judicial District; Westchester, Orange, Rockland, Dutchess and Putnam counties to form the Ninth Judicial District and in 1909 the dentists from these counties formed the Ninth District Dental society. We can see how respected Dr. Straw

was with these dentists of the newly formed Ninth District as seen in the first issue of the Bulletin of the Dental Society of the State of New York, published in 1914. In this issue, each dental component gave a summary of events of what was happening at the time in their respected districts, and Dr. Straw’s photo is seen next to the 9th district dental society’s column, and the photo next to the SDDS column was Dr. Hurd. Dr. Straw was also a Free Mason; he was Master of the Newburgh Lodge for three years and District Deputy Grand Master for two years. He was also Director of the Newburgh City Club which was the leading social club of that time. A little known fact about Dr. Straw is his considerable skill at baseball. He was a baseball player with the first Newburgh baseball club known as the Newburghs founded in 1856. He then played on the Hudson River Club organized in 1859 as one of its first players. Dr. L. S. Straw was also Vice President of the Newburgh Hudson River Club from 1861-1862. He may well have been the first dentist to play baseball!

I hope to continue this column of former SDDS presidents and on the history of the SDDS. If any members have any other interesting historical data, please send me an e-mail at eperiodr@aol.com.

*Stuart L. Segelnick, DDS, MS
131st President of the SDDS*



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