



SADS President's Message

John A. Dehnert, DDS

As summer rapidly approaches, I thought I would give everybody a quick review of the first SADS meeting of my presidency. The Board was happy to welcome several new members, as well as thank those who are continuing to give back to their community through renewed service in organized dentistry. A special thank you should also go to our Trustees, Dr. Robert Howard and Dr. Ed Carlson.

First off, Dr. Robert Oro and his wife, Dr. Debbie Oro, made a presentation to the Board. Dr. Oro first came to the Board in 2008 and presented an idea to help promote dentistry through public advocacy. He suggested helping to provide education to the public on the expanding obesity epidemic in the United States and the related health consequences of diabetes and heart disease. He was encouraged by the Board to create a pilot effort in the Northwest Oro Valley area. Dr. Oro successfully created a very large annual event involving many local dentists, the city council, and even Olympic athletes. Dr. Oro's successful endeavor has managed to highlight dentistry in a positive light for the community and the participating dentists have managed to create a large amount of goodwill. These efforts have brought into focus the role of the dentist as a healthcare provider and patient advocate, not confined solely to addressing dental decay. The Board enthusiastically received Dr. Oro's report, and the Committee on Dental Health has agreed to look into using his model in conjunction with some of the other activities that SADS promotes.

Upper Left Photo: Founders of Healthiest Town in America – L to R – Dr. Bob Oro, Daughter Anna, Dr. Deb Oro, Son Phillip.

Secondly, SADS is continuing to work to provide exciting continuing education opportunities, and has just finished hosting a revealing medical emergencies lecture by Dr. Anthony Caputo and Dr. Kenneth Reed. The new Chair on the Committee for Continuing Education, Dr. Tung Bui, will be working to create more opportunities in the coming year; any requests or input are always happily received.

SADS is working with a goal of 100% participation on AzDA's "Adopt a Legislator" project. The Membership Committee is working on planning the annual mixer, which has previously been held at Hacienda del Sol. The Dental Health Committee is working on many projects, including contributing to Hope Fest. My goal as SADS President is to convene a committee to review our bylaws, make sure everything is in order, and suggest revisions as needed. SADS has welcomed many new and renewing members in the recent months. We are excited about the upcoming year and look forward to all we can accomplish.

SADS

Dr. John Dehnert practices General Dentistry in Tucson. He is President of the Southern Arizona Dental Society.

