



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Jennifer Bone, DDS, MAGD

"Our chief want is someone who will inspire us to be what we know we could be."

-Ralph Waldo Emerson

Six of us were at dinner that evening--three dentists (all AGD members) and three non-dentists. The conversation eventually turned to AGD, and one of the non-dentists mentioned that he had never joined his professional association. He wondered why we all were members of AGD.

Of course, if you're reading this, chances are you're fairly engaged in AGD. As AGD members—and especially as Texas AGD members—we can all pull out an impressive list of member benefits including (among others):

- Great CE opportunities at the [local](#), [state](#) and [national](#) levels.
- A professional pathway from [Fellowship](#) to [Mastership](#) and beyond.
- Political and regulatory advocacy dedicated to the specific needs of the general dentist—both in [Washington, DC](#), and in [Austin](#).
- Practice management help, including a library of consent forms and templates, as well as assistance with insurance coding and reimbursement issues.
- An online career center for posting jobs or resumes—check it out here: [AGD Career Center](#) or [Texas AGD Career Center](#).

AGD, Texas AGD—they look good on paper! There are a lot of fantastic face-value reasons to sign up. But I mentioned to this non-dentist friend that for me, the primary value in AGD, Texas AGD, and the local component membership is intangible. You don't fully appreciate it until you're part of it, until you're involved and hanging around other dentists who share the same commitment to excellence and lifelong learning that you have. I was speaking with Tim Campagna recently; he was just recognized as one of the 2018 Dentist of the Year nominees and he currently serves on Texas AGD's membership committee. I think he summed it up best. He said, "AGD is rooted in CE, but you can get CE anywhere. **Really, AGD is about inspiration.**"

It's so true! American poet Ralph Waldo Emerson wrote, "Our chief want is someone who will inspire us to be what we know we could be." At the local, state and national levels, AGD does just that. It is an organization full of programs and people who inspire us—nudge or even push us—to be what we know we can be within our profession and beyond. And it works both ways. As we each seek inspiration, we can each also be a source of inspiration to someone else along their journey.

As Texas AGD kicks off the 2018-2019 year, we have so much to look forward to! For example:

- We just celebrated a fantastic success with the 2018 Lone Star Dental Conference, and the planning committee has great things in store for us with the 2019 conference.
- The Advocacy Council continues to be active at the State Board of Dental Examiners and is also gearing up for the state legislative session which will be in full swing soon.
- In November, your representatives to the national AGD House of Delegates will propose two resolutions that, if passed, will provide additional national support to FellowTrack programs (AGD student chapters) in Texas and across the nation.
- Your Education Committee is in the midst of revamping our online CE offerings.
- Keep an eye out for a new track program - BusinessTrack - coming in 2019.
- MasterTrack is in such high demand that we continue to maintain a waiting list for it.
- The New Dentists are buzzing with study clubs in Houston, Austin, Dallas and San Antonio and the New Dentist Conference promises a phenomenal program for next June.
- The local AGD components throughout the state are always in motion, too.

Again, on paper, Texas AGD looks incredible! But the real Texas AGD difference is **you**. **You** make our programs incredible. **You** bring the fire, the fellowship and friendship. *When you engage with Texas AGD to seek inspiration, you give it.* So my challenge to all of us over the coming year is to keep up the good work, and share the inspiration. It's inspiration to become what you know you can be--a better dentist, a better volunteer or leader, a better you!

Do you have just a moment? If so, take a moment to share why you're a Texas AGD member on our Facebook page. In ten words or less, what is it about Texas AGD that inspires you? [Click here](#) to share your thoughts—we'd love to hear from you!