



September 2011

## A Fond Farewell to Dr. Larry Shire

As many of you know, our fearless leader of many years is finally heading off into the sunset... the sunset of sunny Arizona, that is. After 17 years here "in the Valley," Dr. Larry Shire and his wife Leslie have decided to move closer to family.

Larry has been instrumental in the direction and execution of many activities in the LCDS. We will be forever grateful to him for his tireless work and contagious enthusiasm. Not only has he severed our district well, but has also provided leadership to the Third District (as its current president) and the PDA.

We had time to ask Larry a few, parting questions:

**So, Larry, what will you be doing in Arizona?**

Playing racquetball and wood turning, mostly open vessels (bowls). Also hiking, watching our grandson grow up, and traveling.

**Will you be doing any dentistry there?**

If there is a need for what I do, I might consider it.

**What was your involvement in the past with the PDA?**

I was on the Council for Government Relations, served at Third District President, and was an



*The whole group poses for a photo.*

alternate delegate for the LCDS to the PDA.

**Anything else you'd like the membership to know?**

I really enjoyed getting involved in organized dentistry. I feel this is a great group of caring dentists.

**How about a few words of wisdom for the newer doctors.**

I encourage the younger dentists to "step up" when the society, the PDA, or the ADA needs them, and take some responsibility for keeping the profession at the high level of respect we have from our patients and other medical professionals.

We wish you the absolute best, Larry. You will be sorely missed.



*Dr. John Andrews and Ann O'Brien enjoy the evening.*



*Dr. Larry Shire and his wife, Leslie.*

# PA Dentists May Be Required to Purchase Malpractice Insurance

**Reprinted from The Patriot-News. Published: Monday, August 01, 2011**

Most dentists in Pennsylvania carry malpractice insurance, but currently, they aren't required to do so. Senator Pat Vance, R-Cumberland County, has sponsored a bill requiring dentists to purchase malpractice insurance. The state Senate unanimously approved the bill in June, and it is now in the state House of Representatives. The Legislature is in recess for the summer.

Vance introduced the bill after hearing reports of patient abuse in Reading, Berks County, and other areas of the state. Dentists who didn't buy insurance could lose their license under the bill.

"Most responsible and group dentists already carry this kind of insurance anyway," Vance said. "But unfortunately, the rogue dentists we really need to have this kind of coverage, to protect the consumer, are the ones who don't."

Dentists would be required to purchase liability insurance of \$3 million annually. That amount of malpractice coverage would cost the average Pennsylvania dentist about \$2,400 annually, according to Gil Davis, CEO of Pennsylvania Dental Association Insurance Services.

That average is driven up by rates in the southeastern part of the state. The average in Delaware and Montgomery counties is about \$2,700. Philadelphia's rate is closer to \$4,500.

Local dentist Dr. Michael Verber called the bill "a good example of

good government." "I already have that amount of coverage, and most dentists in the state do as well," Verber said. "With this measure, the government will be able to increase the quality of health care without dramatically increasing the burden on doctors or patients."

Dr. Craig Mathias, a Harrisburg orthodontist, said new malpractice insurance requirements would be "another unnecessary expense." "As an orthodontist, I've got a different level of liability, so we do already carry an adequate amount of insurance in my office," Mathias said. "I've got about half of that right now." Mathias said picking up the rest "wouldn't be a nail in the coffin. More like a tack to have to sit on."

Davis said the average malpractice claim against dentists is only about \$20,000. Davis didn't have a number of claims typically filed in a year, but said there "is not a significant number."

Dr. Dennis Charlton, president of the Pennsylvania Dental Association and a dentist in Mercer County, said his organization supports the legislation. "Nearly all dentists in the commonwealth already have this level of malpractice

insurance and this law will bring our malpractice requirements to the same level as other professionals in the state," Charlton said.

Ronald Ruman, press secretary for the Department of State, said the agency "supports the general concept to require dentists to carry professional liability insurance." The state department oversees the licensing of dentists. Ruman added that, because some details of the measure are likely to be debated and changed in the House, the department "will wait to see the final version before taking a position on the legislation in its final form."



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# Letter from the President

Fellow members,

Hope everyone had a fruitful summer and the earthquake or the widespread power outage from hurricane Irene did not hamper anyone's plans much. Though the long sunny days and kids summer break may be over, let's not forget the upcoming beauty of fall.

All board members look forward to welcoming you all to our first fall LCDS meeting on Monday, September 19th, 2011. Please consider joining us at Theo's Metro in Kingston at 6:30 PM.

On a sad note, after a long time we bid farewell to one of the cornerstones of the dental society. Dr. Larry Shire and his wife Leslie were honored at a small dinner reception at Theo's Metro Restaurant in Kingston. Thanks, Larry, for all the years of service to the community and the LCDS. You have left some big shoes to fill. Also, our LCDS Vice President, Dr. Preeti Sahasi, has relocated to Kentucky and will surely be missed. We wish them both the very best for their future.

The summer also led to interesting developments from the PDA. The most important being that the Radiology certification course required by all dentists and support staff that take radiographs is now available through the PDA website in conjunction with the

DEP. The link to the course is: [www.padental.org/radiology](http://www.padental.org/radiology).

The course, in addition to fulfilling the radiology requirement, offers two CE

credits. Please note that after the on-line presentation, you must take the required quiz and upon its successful completion, the certificate will be mailed to you. You, as an employer, are required to maintain a copy of certificate for yourself and all your staff that take x-rays.

Lastly, I appeal to all members, especially the members who have joined us in the last few years, to please support your local dental society and try to make the meetings. It's a great way to stay in touch with the current trends in dentistry and also to meet and greet your fellow members over a few drinks and an appetizing meal. On that note, I hope to see you all at Theo's Metro on September 19th.

Sincerely,  
Pranav Vohra, D.M.D.



*Dr. Pranav Vohra,  
President*

# Third District November Meeting

Mark your calendars for the Third District Continuing Education Course on November 11, 2011 at the Woodlands. The speaker will be Dr. Gary Jones, Oral surgeon from Temple University's Maurice H. Kornberg School of Dentistry. He will discuss emergencies that often occur in the dental office. Come and support the Third District.

## 2011 Officers

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Dr. David Bergey

Dr. Thomas Donahue

Dr. Richard Grossman

### Alternate Delegates

Dr. Larry Shire

## Calling All Doctors!

We are looking for LCDS members interested in doing a case presentation at October meeting. The board would like to have three or four, 15-20 min presentations on various topics. Power Point presentations can be accommodated. If you're interested, please e-mail Dr Elizabeth Joseph as soon as possible at [lizjdm05@yahoo.com](mailto:lizjdm05@yahoo.com).

## September's Meeting

Don't miss our fall kick-off meeting at Theo's Metro on Monday, September 19th at 6:30 PM. If you are planning on attending, please contact Dr. Laura Holena, Program Chair, at either [holenal@hotmail.com](mailto:holenal@hotmail.com) or 570-654-4141.

## Upcoming Events

<b>Board/General Meeting</b>	Theo's Metro	Sept. 19, 2011	6:00 PM
<b>Board/General Meeting</b>	TBA	Oct. 17, 2011	6:00 PM
<b>Third District CE Course</b>	East Mountain Inn	Nov 11, 2011	8:00 AM
<b>CE Course</b> <i>"Medical Emergencies in the Dental Office"</i>	Inn @ Nichols Village	Feb 15, 2012	8:00 AM
<b>CE Course</b> <i>"Achieving Excellence in Treating &amp; Counseling the Oncology Patient"</i>	Inn @ Nichols Village	March 28, 2012	8:00 AM
<b>CE Course</b> <i>"Update on Caries, vital pulp therapy, picking a ceramic, cements: sorting through the boxes"</i>	Inn @ Nichols Village	April 18, 2012	8:00 AM

Please note: The Board meetings begin at 6:00 PM, while the general meetings start at 6:30 PM.

[www.luzernecountydental.org](http://www.luzernecountydental.org)

Dr. Pranav Vohra  
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