

ADA Washington Leadership Conference Report

The ADA Washington Leadership Conference was held May 11-13, 2009 in Washington, DC at the JW Marriott Hotel. The Alliance officers in attendance were President, Anne Morrison – President Elect, Carol Reitz – CGA Representative, Sue Ryser – and I, your ADPAC Representative. I am also pleased to say that there were another 44 Alliance members in attendance.

This year the Alliance worked in cooperation with ADPAC to provide a special conference breakout session, *“For All Spouses – Your Involvement Makes a Difference”*, created specifically for Alliance members and spouses. Personal invitations were sent to the 94 spouses who were registered for the conference. The breakout session was held Monday, May 11th from 1:30 – 2:15 pm, which was the same time as the 2 dental breakout sessions. 35 spouses and a few dentists attended the session. President Anne Morrison brought greetings from the AADA, President-Elect Carol Reitz addressed the group on the importance of being an Alliance member, and ADA Senior Lobbyist Mike Graham spoke to the group on the importance of being involved and the different avenues of involvement. Many of the attendees participated in a very lively and productive conversation during the question and answer segment of the session.

During the Opening Ceremony, ADA President Dr John Finley announced that the Alliance was one of the many groups in attendance. However, the real kudos goes to Michael Dunn of Michael Dunn & Associates. During his grassroots advocacy presentation, he acknowledged the Alliance more than 4 times, telling the dentists that the Alliance is an important member of their advocacy team, and that our involvement can make a big difference. Of all the years I have attended the conference, this is by far the most glowing and supportive remarks the Alliance has ever received!

When conference attendees went on their Capitol Hill visits they were asked to take the following 4 issues to their legislators:

Dentists: Doctors of Oral Health – Its purpose was to educate legislators about the intensive education and training that dentists receive, the complexity of the care they deliver, and the importance of patients receiving care provided by or supervised by a dentist.

Exclude Dental Practices from Red Flags Regulation

Health Care Reform: Improving Oral Health in America – Requesting that Congress pass the “Essential Oral Health Care Act of 2009” (H.R. 2220)

Real the McCarran-Ferguson Act Exemption for Insurance Companies (H.R. 1583) – Passage could help interject more competition into the insurance marketplace by potentially fostering greater antitrust enforcement against the insurance industry.

Dr. Paul Gosar from Flagstaff, AZ and the current Vice Chair of the ADA Council on Government Affairs announced that he is running for Congress. Having another dentist in Congress will definitely increase dentistry’s legislative voice. The ADA and many of the attendees voiced their support for Dr Gosar by making contributions to his campaign. To learn more about Dr Paul Gosar and/or to make a contribution to his campaign go to his website:

Paul@GosarForCongress.com

Respectfully submitted by
Connie Karlowicz
AADA ADPAC Representative
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