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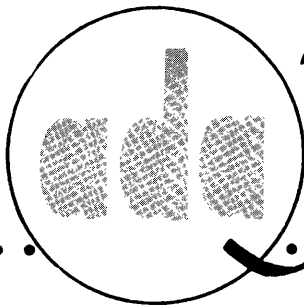


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News Letter

Vol. 7, No. 1 - Jan. 4, 1954

NEW ENROLLMENT PERIOD FOR A.D.A. GROUP PLAN FOR ACCIDENT AND HEALTH INSURANCE WILL OPEN THROUGHOUT NATION ON FEB. 1

A new enrollment campaign for the A.D.A.'s Group Plan for Accident and Health Insurance will open throughout the nation on Feb. 1, it is announced by Dr. Paul W. Zillmann, of Buffalo, A.D.A. insurance trustee. The insurance will be provided through the National Casualty Co. of Detroit. Protection of from \$ 100 to \$ 400 a month in the event of disability will be available to A.D.A. members with the exception of those in California, Nevada, New Jersey, New York and Utah where the company already provides group health and accident insurance coverage for members of the constituent dental societies. A.D.A. members will be eligible for coverage up to \$ 200 a month regardless of previous medical history provided a goal of 50 per cent of the A.D.A. membership files application. Only about 10,000 more applications are required to meet the quota necessary to provide policies for the so-called impaired risks, Dr. Zillmann said. At the request of the A.D.A. Board of Trustees, the age limit for applying for insurance has been increased from 65 years to 70 years. While applications cannot be accepted from men over 70 years of age, the insurance will be effective beyond age 70 for A.D.A. members who remain in active practice. All A.D.A. members whose applications were returned during the previous enrollment period are being urged by Dr. Zillmann to reapply. Dr. Zillmann said these applications would be held by him and not turned into the insurance company until the required number of applications is received to assure these individuals that they would be covered by disability insurance. Because of the A.D.A.'s group buying power, the policies will be available at rates considerably lower than comparable insurance could be purchased individually.

ANNOUNCE NEW INTERPRETATION OF RULES FOR DENTISTS ON HOSPITAL STAFFS

Following conferences with the A.D.A. Special Committee on Problems in the Field of Oral Surgery and the Council on Hospital Dental Service, the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospitals has agreed that hospital bylaws concerning the dental staff be interpreted to give dentists the privilege to admit and discharge patients and that the hospital staff be known as a "medical and dental staff." This action was described by A.D.A. officials as a major step in clarifying the status of dentists on hospital staffs throughout the nation.

DR. JOHN KNUTSON SERIOUSLY INJURED IN AUTO ACCIDENT

Dr. John W. Knutson, assistant surgeon general and chief of dental services for the U.S. Public Health Service, and his son, Paul, 9, were seriously injured in a Christmas Eve automobile accident near Ashton, Md. At the time of the accident, Dr. Knutson and his four children were returning to their home in Bethesda, Md., from a hospital in Baltimore where they had been visiting Mrs. Knutson, who a few days earlier had undergone major surgery. Dr. Knutson suffered a fractured pelvis and his son, a ruptured kidney in the crash. The three other Knutson children suffered multiple cuts and bruises. All were taken to Montgomery County General Hospital near Ashton where the son is still a patient. On Wednesday following Christmas, Dr. Knutson was transferred to the National Naval Medical Center at Bethesda where his condition is reported as favorable. Attending physicians also reported as favorable the condition of his son. Two occupants in the other car, which crashed head-on into the Knutson car on a curve, were also seriously injured.

HEALTH MATTERS, OASI, ARE AMONG MAJOR LEGISLATIVE ITEMS SCHEDULED FOR CONSIDERATION DURING NEW SESSION OF CONGRESS

A number of legislative proposals dealing with federal health programs and other items of direct concern to members of the dental profession, such as action on President Eisenhower's recommendation that Old Age and Survivors Insurance be extended to self-employed dentists, are slated for consideration in the new session of Congress opening this week. Major items relating to dentistry which are expected to be on the legislative calendar follow:

OASI. President Eisenhower's recommendation that OASI be extended to all self-employed will be opposed by the A.D.A. as well as the American Medical Association and the American Bar Association. The best guess of Washington observers as to the outcome is that Congress will probably extend OASI to groups that want it and will probably omit groups opposed. It is expected that the present limit of \$ 75 per month on outside earnings will probably be raised and some changes made in the formula for determining benefits.

Reed-Keogh bills. The proposal to permit self-employed persons to establish their own pension funds by setting aside prior to federal taxation a portion of their annual earnings will probably receive some attention in the House Ways and Means Committee. The A.D.A. is on record in support of the principle expressed in these bills.

Dentist draft law. With the present draft bill extending to 1955, no action is expected on this measure.

Universal Military Training. It is anticipated that the National Security Training Commission may present another recommendation for UMT to Congress. On previous bills, the A.D.A. recommended that dental care for trainees be limited to emergency care and that no veteran benefits for dental care accrue from this type of training.

Veterans Administration dental program. It is expected that the V.A. dental program will receive attention from congressional committees. The A.D.A. is on record urging Congress to provide earmarked funds for the dental program in sufficient amount to meet anticipated costs. The A.D.A. also will probably urge that no action be taken by Congress until the recently revised program has been in operation long enough to permit a reasonable evaluation.

Military scholarships for dental students. Congress is almost certain to consider a proposal that federal scholarships be granted to medical and dental students who agree to serve in armed forces for a period equal to the years covered by each scholarship. The A.D.A. is on record favoring the principle of federal aid to dental students. Official comment, however, will depend upon the final text of the proposal.

Care for military dependents. Some congressional action is expected on this subject. President Eisenhower recently said he was in favor of health care for dependents of military personnel. The new bill is expected to follow recommendations of the Moulton Commission that the Army and Air Force conform to the course followed by the Navy which provides care for dependents of Navy personnel only in isolated areas, foreign stations and in cases of emergency. The A.D.A. is on record against dependent military care as now provided by the Army and Air Force and agrees with the Navy program.

Dental research funds. The A.D.A. will ask Congress to provide an additional \$ 500,000 for the National Institute of Dental Research in fiscal 1955 and will also seek funds for construction of the NIDR building authorized by Congress in 1948. It is expected that the Bureau of the Budget will recommend a new annual appropriation of \$1,740,000 for dental programs of the Public Health Service, an amount identical to that appropriated last year.

Local public health units bill. This bill, which proposed a system of federal grants-in-aid to establish new and strengthen existing local public health units, has been pending in Congress for several years. It probably will be brought up for consideration but final action is expected to be delayed until an overall report on the federal grants-in-aid system is received from the Manion Commission. The A.D.A. is on record favoring enactment of this bill with slight changes.

School health services bill. This is another bill which has been pending for several years. It proposes that the federal government match grants to states to provide for examination and some rehabilitation services to school children. The A.D.A. is on record favoring the general principle of the proposed measure.

National health bill. Congress will undoubtedly give some attention to a number of other bills relating to the overall health programs of the federal government. Compulsory health insurance is not expected to be a major issue during the 1954 session.

Increased income tax deduction for dental expenses. The House Ways and Means Committee is expected to propose that the present tax laws be changed to permit individuals to deduct dental and medical expenses in excess of three per cent of annual gross income. At present, only those expenses above five per cent of gross income may be deducted in computing federal income taxes.

RELIEF FUND CONTRIBUTIONS REACH \$70,595.02

Contributions to the A.D.A. Relief Fund reached \$70,595.02 on Dec. 15, or well over the two-thirds point toward the \$100,000 goal for the 1953-54 campaign. Smaller societies increased their percentage lead over the larger societies during the first half of December. By mid-month, the smaller societies, those with quotas of \$900 or less, had contributed 76.2 per cent of their total quota, while the large societies, with quotas over \$900 each, had contributed 69 per cent of their total quota. A reminder to those who have not yet contributed will be mailed later this month. While expressing confidence that the current campaign will exceed the \$100,000 goal, Dr. Leo W. Kremer, chairman of the Council on Relief, again asked the assistance of dental society officers and editors in urging all members to support the current fund drive. Contributions by individual dental societies are listed on the enclosed mimeographed sheet.

NATIONAL CHILDREN'S DENTAL HEALTH DAY WILL BE OBSERVED IN SPECIAL PROGRAMS IN HUNDREDS OF COMMUNITIES ON FEB. 1

The sixth annual observance of National Children's Dental Health Day, scheduled for Monday, Feb. 1, under A.D.A. sponsorship will be the most widespread in the history of the event, according to reports received from constituent and component dental societies throughout the nation. Approximately 200,000 posters and nearly 3,000 portfolios of publicity and promotional materials have been distributed by the A.D.A. to state and local committees in charge. Additional posters and portfolios are available and may be obtained without charge upon request to the A.D.A. Bureau of Public Information, 222 E. Superior St., Chicago 11, Ill. Additionally, the Bureau last week distributed copies of a television script prepared for local use together with matrices of the official poster. Additional copies of the TV script and the mats are also available without charge upon request.

A.D.A. MEMBERSHIP EXCEEDS 80,000

For the first time in history, the total membership of the A.D.A. passed the 80,000 mark in mid-December. Final figures will not be available until membership records for 1953 are completed later this week. Present membership, however, includes approximately 70,000 practicing dentists and about 9,500 dental students.

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF DENTAL MEDICINE WILL MEET IN MAY

The 8th annual meeting of the American Academy of Dental Medicine will be at the Penn Sheraton Hotel in Philadelphia, May 14-16. Programs and reservations are available from Dr. William M. Greenhut, secretary, 124 E. 84th St., New York 28, N.Y.

A.D.A. MEMBERS URGED TO PARTICIPATE IN SECURING SIGNATURES FOR "FREEDOM SCROLL" BEING SPONSORED BY CRUSADE FOR FREEDOM

Dr. Leslie M. FitzGerald, A.D.A. president, urges that all members support the Crusade for Freedom campaign on behalf of Radio Free Europe which will be conducted throughout the nation during January and February by the American Heritage Foundation. In the campaign, efforts will be made to enlist the support of 25 million Americans "in a bold and practical effort to carry the truth behind the Iron Curtain and to give new hope to enslaved people." As part of the campaign, the Crusade for Freedom is asking leading citizens throughout the nation to circulate a "Freedom Scroll" to obtain the signatures of millions of Americans who are supporting the objectives of the Crusade. A blank "Freedom Scroll" is enclosed with this issue of the A.D.A. News Letter. Dental society officials and others who receive the News Letter are requested to ask their colleagues, their patients and other interested persons to sign the "Freedom Scroll" and return it to the headquarters of the American Heritage Foundation 345 E. 46th Street, New York 17, N.Y. The signed scrolls will be presented to President Eisenhower in special White House ceremonies during Freedom Week, Feb. 12 to 22. Additional copies may be obtained upon request to the American Heritage Foundation.

DENVER MIDWINTER MEETING TO BE HELD NEXT WEEK

The 47th annual Midwinter Meeting of the Denver Dental Association will be held Jan. 10 through 13 at the Shirley-Savoy Hotel. More than 700 dentists from Colorado, Nebraska, New Mexico, Kansas, Utah, Wyoming, and other nearby states are expected to participate in the meeting which will feature several leading essayists, general clinics, table clinics, and a special program of scientific motion pictures.

COLORADO SPRINGS MEDICAL SOCIETY ATTESTS TO SAFETY OF FLUORIDATION

Additional evidence of the safety of the fluoridation of community water supplies was provided last month by the El Paso County (Colorado Springs, Colo.) Medical Society. In a resolution noting that the water supply of Colorado Springs has for 75 years contained more than two and one-half times the recommended amount of fluoride ions for the prevention of dental caries, the society went on record stating that its members have not observed any clinical symptoms among their patients which could be attributed to the use of fluoridated water. The resolution was adopted without opposition on Dec. 9. Dr. Frederick S. McKay, a resident of Colorado Springs and a pioneer researcher in water fluoridation, hailed the resolution as of "great significance." The resolution follows:

WHEREAS, there is substantial evidence that the water supply of Colorado Springs has contained a surplus amount (2.6 parts per million) of fluoride for a period of about 75 years;

BE IT RESOLVED that during the long practice of medicine in Colorado Springs, it is the considered opinion of the members of El Paso County Medical Society that we have not experienced any clinical symptoms which can be attributed to the use of such water. It is known, however, that a condition known as "mottled enamel" can be produced by the use of water containing an excess of fluoride.

BRIEFS IN THE NEWS

The Public Health Service recently announced the approval of grants totalling \$20,342 for five dental research projects out of 11 applications for a total of \$74,390. The grants for dental projects represented about 1.2 per cent of the total research grants of \$6,428,435 announced in December by Surgeon General Leonard A. Scheele....A new catalogue of dental health educational materials available through the Division of Dental Health Education of the A.D.A. Council on Dental Health will be mailed to all members in mid-January....Dr. H. W. Heinz has assumed the position of director of the Division of Dental Health of the Nebraska Department of Health....Dr. C. L. Howell, newly appointed Indiana state dental director, is taking a year's leave for service with the U.S. Public Health Service in Cleveland. Dr. Roy D. Smiley will serve as the acting director.