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ASDA *Advisor*

Issue 1 Volume 2 January 2008

Addressing the needs of Dentist in the State of Arkansas

The ASDA 2008 Annual Session is just around the corner



(501) 624-9200
Breakfast included
Room block expires March 3, 2008

We have a great slate of speakers this year.

Friday April 4 Dr. Anthony Feck will speak on the subject “Beyond Valium®” and Katie Warren, RHD will present “OSHA Infection Control.”

Saturday April 5 Annette Linder, RHD will present “Team Approach to Reduce Cancellations and Failures”, Jill Baskin, DDS will present a “Risk Management” seminar and ADA President Dr. Mark Feldman will round out the day as our President’s Luncheon speaker. Make your reservations now. We look forward to seeing you there!

Frank Grammer continued from page 3

With this background, Dr. Grammer understands the diverse views of our profession and can promote consensus among divergent viewpoints. He feels that our legacy should not be about what we have accomplished as individuals, but rather our focus should be what we should leave for future generations. He brings Integrity, Experience and Leadership to the table.

Even though he is very respected within the dental community throughout the United States, he has two opponents that will make this election very interesting. I am asking for encouragement and support from the Arkansas Dental Community. If you want to help Frank in his campaign, please contact our ASDA office for information.

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE ARKANSAS NATIONAL GUARD STATE SURGEON:



The Arkansas dental community will have several dentists serving overseas during this year. Dr. Bob Gardner of Walnut Ridge is currently deployed and Dr. Sean McDougal of Greenwood will deploy later this year. You can email Dr. Gardner at bob.gardner@us.army.mil. Both are members of the Arkansas State Dental Association. Additionally, Dr. Tom Turpin and Dr. Hal Vineyard will deploy this year.

The Arkansas Army National Guard completed a busy 2007. As we begin 2008, the State prepares for a mobilization of approximately 3,200 citizen soldiers. Many of these soldiers required dental treatment in the civilian community to become dentally healthy for deployment. To all of those offices who assisted in this endeavor, I want to pass along a “thank you” to the dentists and office staffs. Completing this treatment will afford soldiers more training time at the mobilization station and less time in the dental clinic. Please remember these dentists and their families during this year.

Thank you for your support of the Arkansas National Guard.

COL Bob Mason



Presidential Candidates - Positions on Health Care

Provided by ADPAC - Washington D.C.

Clinton, Hilary (D) – (voted for SCHIP)

- Require everyone to obtain health insurance; aim for universal health care coverage by end of second term.
- Require large employers to provide insurance or contribute to the cost of public program.
- Provide tax credits to small businesses and subsidies for low-income people.
- Create a pool of private plans similar to the program for federal workers and one public plan similar to Medicare; plans are portable from job to job.
- Expand Medicaid and State Children’s Health Insurance Program to help “plug gaps,” such as childless adults.
- Ensure better preventative care, modernize record-keeping.
- Start a “Best Practices Institute” to finance research.
- Revise medical malpractice system.

Edwards, John (D)

- Require everyone to obtain health insurance; achieve universal coverage within 4 years.
- Require employers to provide insurance or contribute to cost of public program, with subsidies for low-income people.



Presidential Candidates - Position on Health Care Continued on Page 2

Presidential Candidates - Position on Health Care Continued from Page 1

- Create regional nonprofit pools that offer competition between private plans and at least one public plan like Medicare.
- Expand Medicaid and State Children’s Health Insurance Program to serve adults below the poverty line and children and parents below 250 percent of the line.
- Require health insurance companies to spend at least 85 percent of the premiums they collect on patient care.
- Adjust payments to health plans and providers based on performance.

Kucinich, Dennis (D) – (voted against SCHIP, voted to override Bush’s veto of SCHIP)

- Establish a single payer system, Medicare for All, to be phased in over ten years, as described in HR 676.
- Publicly financed, privately delivered health care system with a prescription drug benefit.
- Eliminate the role of private insurers and put doctors and patients in control of the system.
- Plan to cover everyone in United States, not just citizens.
- People pick doctor and dentist of their choice.
- Plan includes prescription drugs, dental care, mental health care, long-term care & alternative and complementary medicine.

Obama, Barack (D) – (voted for SCHIP)

- Require that all children have health insurance.
- Require employers to provide insurance or contribute to the cost of public program (exempt small businesses).
- Reimburse employers for catastrophic health costs.
- Provide subsidies for low-income people.
- Create purchasing pool with choice of competing private plans and one public plan like Medicare.
- Expand Medicaid, State Children’s Health Insurance Program; young adults up to age 25 could continue family coverage.
- Require health plans to disclose the percentage of their premium that go directly to paying for patient care.

Richardson, Bill (D)

- Require everyone to obtain health insurance.
- Subsidized by employers and the government, pay for it by forming partnership with the health care community.
- Make the federal employees’ health plan available to small businesses and the public.
- Provide income-based tax credits to those needing help to buy coverage.
- Extend relief for high-interest rates on credit card debt for medical costs; people 55 to 64 could buy coverage through Medicare.
- Require health insurance companies that want to participate in the federal plan to put 85 percent of their premiums toward direct care
- Prefers getting tough on private insurance companies rather than eliminating them.
- Insure all children under 5; combine Medicare and Medicaid; allow young adults up to age 25 to keep family coverage.

Giuliani, Rudy (R)

- Opposes mandate; emphasizes free-market competition and a consumer-based system.
- Make insurance affordable through tax credits (\$7,500 for individuals, \$15,000 for families, additional credits for low-income households).
- Consumers can buy insurance covering major costs and pay minor costs themselves.
- Allow people to buy insurance across state lines.
- Expand HSAs by simplifying the rules and regulations to participate in them.
- Provide states with block grants to encourage innovation, reduce health costs and enroll the uninsured in public plans.
- Invest in health information technology to lower costs, create transparency for prices.
- Emphasizes competition between private insurance companies and individual choices over employer decisions.

Huckabee, Mike (R)

- Opposes mandate, emphasizes free-market, consumer-based system; make insurance affordable through tax credits and cost control measures.
- Use tax deductions and other tax incentives to encourage people to buy private insurance; provide tax credit for low-income taxpayers.
- Emphasis on preventive care rather than universal coverage.
- Use states as “laboratories for new market-based approaches.”
- Make health insurance costs tax deductible for individuals and families.
- Reform medical liability, adopt electronic record keeping; make health insurance more portable from one job to another.
- Expand HSAs to include everyone, not just those with high deductibles.

McCain, John (R) – (voted against SCHIP)

- For free-market, consumer-based system; has pledged affordable health care for every American without a mandate.
- Make plans portable and accessible across state lines.
- Provide \$2,500 tax credits (\$5,000 for families) to increase incentives for coverage.
- Move to compensate medical providers based on the quality of their work.

Presidential Candidates - Position on Health Care Continued from Page 2

- Revise tax code to “eliminate the bias toward employer-sponsored health insurance.”
- Allow small businesses and self-employed to purchase insurance through any organization or association.
- Focused on quality of health care, personal responsibility and high quality health care for veterans.
- Require transparency by providers regarding costs, prices, and medical outcomes.

Paul, Ron (R) – (voted against SCHIP)

- Advocate of market-based health care; opposes mandate; blames government intrusion into health care industry for high costs.
- Make all medical expenses tax deductible, including premiums.
- Eliminate federal regulations that discourage small businesses from providing coverage.
- Reduce reliance on third-party payers like insurance companies and HMOs.
- Create a \$500-per-child tax credit for prescription drugs and costs not covered by insurance.
- Give doctors the freedom to collectively negotiate with insurance companies and drive down the cost of medical care.
- Make every American eligible for a HAS; eliminate minimum deductible requirement for HSAs. -Reform licensure requirements so that pharmacists and nurses can perform some basic functions to increase access to care and lower costs.

Romney, Mitt (R)

- For free-market, consumer-based system; opposes mandate.
- Give states flexibility to restructure Medicaid, create programs and deregulate markets; use federal money now used to help states cover care for the uninsured.
- Opposed to a national version of the plan he supported as governor, requiring insurance for all Massachusetts residents who could afford it.
- Make all health care expenses deductible; give tax credits for insurance not provided by an employer.
- Eliminate “special treatment afforded employer-provided health plans.”
- Expand and deregulate private health insurance market with market reforms, assist low-income Americans in buying insurance plans of their choice.
- Eliminate minimum deductible requirement for HSAs.
- Support medical liability reform through federal caps on economic and punitive damages awards.

Thompson, Fred (R)

- Opposes mandate; for free-market, consumer-based system.
- Promote cost-effective prevention, chronic-care management, and personal responsibility.
- Advocate of modernizing the delivery and administration of care by encouraging the widespread use of clinical best practices, medical information technology, and other innovations.
- Make insurance portable.
- Increase competition and consumer choice while streamlining regulations through free-market solutions that benefit individuals and reduce costs for employers.
- Promote and speed medical research and life-sciences innovation.

Sources:

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Frank Grammer, D.D.S., Ph.D. - for ADA Vice-President

By: Kim D. Keisner, D.D.S.



The dentists of Arkansas are presented with a great opportunity this year. Dr. Frank Grammer is running for vice-president of the American Dental Association. Dr. Grammer’s credentials are impressive! He has just completed a four-year term as the ADA 12th District Trustee, representing Arkansas, Kansas, Oklahoma and Louisiana. He has served on the Board of Directors for the ADA Foundation, and on various councils and committees throughout the American Dental Association. His leadership roles within our state have had a positive effect for the dentists of Arkansas. Perhaps his strongest qualification is his roots with dentistry. His father, Dr. Norman Grammer, practiced general dentistry for 45 years and served as president of the Arkansas State Board of Dental Examiners. His wife, Sandy Grammer, is a practicing Dental Hygienist. His cousin, Dr. John Grammer, is a practicing general dentist and has been a trustee of the Academy of General Dentistry.