



Live Dangerously

On behalf of the Southern Arizona Dental Society and Arizona Dental Association, INSCRIPTIONS is pleased to "introduce" your Component President for 2010-2011, Errol M. Kahn, DDS.

Dr. Kahn was born in Tucson, completed his undergraduate degree at the University of Arizona, his dental degree at the University of the Pacific School of Dentistry-San Francisco, and maintains a private practice in General Dentistry in Tucson. His service to organized dentistry includes Delegate and Alternate Delegate to the AzDA House of Delegates, SADS Board of Directors, SADS Ethics Committee, and SADS Nominations & Elections Committee.

As President of SADS, Dr. Kahn will preside over all business conducted by the society's Board of Directors, appoint special committees, designate chairs, serve as a Delegate-at-Large to the AzDA House of Delegates and write columns for this journal.

Robert Fulghum wrote a best seller titled "All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten." What did you learn in kindergarten that you feel will guide you as SADS President?

I'm not certain it's specifically mentioned in the book, but I learned competitiveness. It became clear to me quite quickly that only the best block-stackers and finger painters were going to be able to enter their first choice of primary schools.

What do you hope to learn during your term of office?

As much as possible. Dentists are knowledgeable in so many areas and are always willing to share. Oh, and the Meaning of Life would be a nice bonus!

Tell us about your first, or one of your earliest, experiences volunteering for organized dentistry.

During one of my first years out of school, I represented SADS at a local health fair. It was great getting out in the community and meeting people who were truly grateful and appreciative for our help.

What kept you coming back? What keeps you coming back today?

Each of us has a duty and responsibility to uphold and advance our profession. You can't always count on someone else to do all the work.

In what other ways has service to organized dentistry enhanced your life?

It is one of the best ways to meet and get to know some of the best people in our profession.

What are your words of wisdom for fellow members who strive to attain a leadership role in organized dentistry?

Just show an interest. Speak to any current or former board member and they will gladly welcome you.

What are your words of wisdom to those who are hesitant to step forward?

Live dangerously... take a chance.

As you assume office, how would you sum up the state of SADS?

Ours is a very vocal and engaged component of AzDA. Members are more than willing to share their interests and concerns and we should all be proud of that.

What is the one thing members can expect from you over the next year?

I will be there and be available.

What would you say is your greatest strength?

Not to toot my own horn, but I do it all steroid-free.

What do you feel is dentistry's greatest strength today?

Its people. Traditionally, dentists have shown themselves to be caring and concerned members of society.

What do you feel is dentistry's greatest weakness today?

In-fighting and apathy certainly weaken our unified voice. Add to that governmental and economic uncertainty and we have a future at which we can only guess.

What do you feel is dentistry's greatest opportunity today?

Taking a stand against mid-level practitioners and split-level quality of care. We may lose in the end, but some things, even lost causes, are worth fighting for.

Dr. Errol Kahn practices General Dentistry in Tucson. He is President of the Southern Arizona Dental Society.

