

Delta Dental of Oklahoma / Fall 2013

Dentist Check Up

Meet the DDOK Board of Directors

An interview with Board Member John Shearing



John Shearing jumped at the opportunity to join the Delta Dental of Oklahoma Board of Directors, viewing it as a way to further the mission of a company he had long admired. Shearing has been a board member for six years, beginning with the 2006-2007 term.

Shearing was a longtime executive at Hilti Inc., a global company with Western hemisphere headquarters in Tulsa that manufactures construction tools and supplies. He served as Chief Financial Officer at Hilti for 21 years before retiring in 2002.

Prior to Hilti, Shearing held finance and senior manufacturing management roles at a variety of organizations, including Kaiser Aluminum, Bundy Corporation, General Cable, and Curtiss-Wright. He held board positions with Junior Achievement, the YMCA of Greater Tulsa, and Goodwill Tulsa –serving as chairman of the board for the latter two. Shearing originally hails from Toronto, Canada, moving to the U.S. in 1984.

Today, Shearing and his wife, Beverley, live in Tulsa and spend their spare time doting on two grandchildren. They have two daughters who live with their families in Joplin, Mo., and Chicago, and visit often.

DDOK: What was your motivation for joining the board?

Shearing: *Well, since I retired, it was an opportunity to use my business experience in finance and general management. When it was suggested to me, I thought of my personal experience with Delta Dental – since they were Hilti's provider of dental insurance – and I was always impressed with the speed with which they responded to claims. I thought of them as a first-class organization.*

DDOK: What committees have you served on with the Board?

Shearing: *Finance, Charitable Foundation, and Executive committees.*

DDOK: What are the major points of difference between DDOK and other carriers?

Shearing: *Number one is the quality of service. No doubt about it. Number two, the specialization – all the other competition are in other lines of insurance – we, as you know, specialize in dental insurance.*

DDOK: What are the biggest changes you have seen since serving on the board?

Shearing: *I think, as with any organization, the board has matured and grown as the company has grown. Also, an important change has been the actual growth of the organization and its achievement in improving its market share. Those are the biggest and most notable changes.*

DDOK: What does the future of dentistry or dental benefits look like? What are some of the challenges?

Shearing: *The most obvious is the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and the effect it will have for years to come – assuming that it moves forward – on everything in the medical field. We could be very deeply affected by the future steps taken with those plans to overhaul the health care system.*

DDOK: What are your thoughts about the DDOK Oral Health Foundation?

Shearing: *I am a very enthusiastic supporter of the Foundation. I think it's just great. Our mission is being accomplished, especially through the Foundation's association with the Oklahoma Mission of Mercy each February as well as the various ongoing clinics throughout the state. These programs are doing some great work for people who wouldn't otherwise have that kind of dental help available.*

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Foundation Spotlight

Dr. Frank Lipsinic Receives Oral Health Hero Award



Delta Dental CEO John Gladden presents the Oral Health Hero Award to Dr. Frank Lipsinic.

Dr. Frank Lipsinic of Oklahoma City has been recognized with the 2013 Oral Health Hero Award by the Delta Dental of Oklahoma Oral Health Foundation for his extraordinary service to benevolent dentistry. Dr. Lipsinic served as the OU College of Dentistry's Faculty Coordinator and Dental Director of the Good Shepherd Free Dental Clinic for over 14 years before retiring in August.

Dr. Lipsinic graduated from the West Virginia School of Dentistry in 1977 and served 29 years in the Air Force. Shortly after joining the faculty of the OU College of Dentistry in 1998 he became involved with the Good Shepherd clinic as a community service program for the students.

"The primary objective for student community service is to instill an attitude of charity and mindfulness of others," said Dr. Lipsinic. "One must have early exposure to the concept of giving back if it is to be ingrained in the fiber of one's being."

On Monday evenings during the school year, OU dental students and

faculty volunteers provide tooth extractions and examinations to adults at Good Shepherd Clinic. Every other Tuesday evening, dental and hygiene students, faculty and community volunteers provide preventive and restorative dentistry to needy children. In 2010, Dr. Lipsinic fulfilled his vision to add a denture program to the clinic.

"There are dozens of charitable dentistry clinics and programs across the state and they are wholly dependent upon volunteer dentists," said Delta Dental president and CEO John Gladden. "By fostering a spirit of community service in hundreds of dental students over the years, Dr. Lipsinic has helped ensure these programs can continue to provide dental care to those in need."

Dr. Lipsinic received the award at the 2013 Delta Dental "Resource for Dental Care" Summit held October 8 in Oklahoma City. Representatives from the OU College and Dentistry and the Good Shepherd also recognized Dr. Lipsinic at the event.

Donna Brogan, RDH, Honored for Distinguished Service

Donna Brogan, of Oklahoma City, was selected by the Oklahoma Dental Hygienist Association for the 2013 Delta Dental Distinguished Service Award for a Dental Hygienist. A graduate of the OU College of Dentistry Dental Hygiene Program, Brogan

now serves on its faculty and was honored as the Alumnus of the Year and the Outstanding Part-time Faculty member in 2012. Brogan organized the entire dental hygiene section of last year's Remote Area Medical (RAM) free dental and medical clinic and has volunteered for the Oklahoma Mission of Mercy, MobileSmiles Oklahoma dental van and countless Give Kids a Smile events.



Oklahoma Mission of Mercy Registration Now Open



Online volunteer registration is now open for the fifth annual Oklahoma Mission of Mercy (OkMOM) to be held February 7

and 8 at the Chisholm Trail Expo Center in Enid. Each year, OkMOM delivers more than \$1 million worth of donated dental services to patients in need of care they cannot afford or access otherwise. Bring your entire dental staff for a great team building experience!

Go to www.OkMOM.org for details.