

# E-Forum

Volume 5, Issue 2

April-June 2018



## Board Elections

Board election results were certified by the accounting firm of PLC Rouse Norton PLLC on June 13, 2018. The winners are:



Dr. Edward J. Clemons, Jr. of Durham, NC (first term)



Dr. Millard "Buddy" Wester of Henderson, NC (second term)

### Inside this issue:

Evaluators Wanted	2
NC Gen'l Assembly changes Dental Credentialing Law	3
Specialty Advertising Rule Revised	3
Proposed New CE Course for Dentists	4

## Upcoming Board Meetings

Unless otherwise noted, all meetings begin at 8:30 a.m. and occur at the Board's Office, 2000 Perimeter Park Dr., Suite 160, Morrisville, NC 27560. All meetings are open to the public. However, certain portions of the meetings may be closed when necessary and in compliance with North Carolina's Open Meetings law.

September 7-8	Morrisville, NC Board Office
October 12-13	Morrisville, NC Board Office
November 9-10	Morrisville, NC Board Office
December 7-8	Asheville, NC

## FREE CE

The Dental Board will be holding its monthly meeting in Asheville on December 7-8, 2018, at the Renaissance Inn downtown. The meeting will be open to the public and all dentists and dental hygienists in the area are welcome and encouraged to attend. As part of the meeting, Dr. Bill Claytor will present a free one-hour CE class on opioid prescribing at 10 a.m. on Friday, December 7<sup>th</sup>. The class fulfills the mandate of the opioid prescribing class required annually of all dentists who prescribe opioids to their patients and counts toward license renewal for all dentists and dental hygienists who attend.

Don't miss this opportunity to meet members of the Dental Board, receive a free one-hour CE credit, and observe the Board conducting your business. For planning purposes, please let us know if you plan to attend by calling Kelly at 919.459.1780 or email to: [info@ncdentalboard.org](mailto:info@ncdentalboard.org) with "Free CE" in the subject line.

## Evaluators Wanted



Evaluator

Quite often, in the performance of its investigative duties, the Dental Board must have patient records and dental procedures evaluated by a dentist not involved in the investigative process. We are currently seeking dentists willing to assist the Board in this important duty by serving from time to time as case evaluators. Some cases require only a review of patient charts and radiographs. In other cases, the patient may be sent to your office for a clinical assessment.

Though some dentists in the past have donated their time and expertise as evaluators, such generosity is not required. If requested, the Board generally will now reimburse dentists at a rate of \$150 per hour for evaluation of patient records, and \$200 per hour if the case involves an in-person examination of the patient **and** a review of the records. Though there are exceptions, most case evaluations

take no more than seven (7) hours.

To be eligible to serve as an evaluator the requirements are:

- Sufficient experience, education, and training to qualify as an expert in the field of dentistry.
- Ability to make fair judgments based only on the evidence presented.
- Not have been subject to discipline by the Board within the last ten (10) years.

If you qualify and would be willing to serve as a case evaluator, please contact the Board by letter, e-mail or phone as listed below:

**NC State Board of Dental Examiners**  
**2000 Perimeter Parkway, Suite 160**  
**Morrisville, NC 27560**  
**Attn: Amanda Carver**

**Amanda Carver, Investigative Assistant**      **919.459.1791**  
[info@ncdentalboard.org](mailto:info@ncdentalboard.org)    **print "Case Evaluator" on the subject line**

If you agree to serve, you may not be called into service right away. Your name will be kept on file and you will be called as the investigative caseload demands. (If the call comes at an inconvenient time, you always have the option to decline for this or any other reason.) Also, please be aware that serving as an evaluator may result in you qualifying and testifying as an expert witness if the case goes to an evidentiary hearing. Even though the vast majority of complaint investigations are dismissed or settle before a hearing, the possibility that you could be called as an expert witness should be considered before you agree to serve as an evaluator.

## NC General Assembly Changes Law Governing Dentists Licensed from Other States

A new change to the law of licensure by credentials means that dentists licensed by this method no longer have to limit their practice to North Carolina. House Bill 998 was designed to improve rural health care in North Carolina and the changes made to N.C.G. S. 90-36 are targeted to increase mobility across state lines by dentists licensed by credentials in North Carolina's neighboring states, but the changes will impact those licensed by credentials from any state. The bill was signed by the Governor on June 25, 2018 and becomes effective October 1, 2018.

Licensure by credentials allows dentists to become licensed in North Carolina based on experience rather than examination. To be eligible, a Dentist must have been licensed by clinical examination in another state and have at least a five-year track record of safe practice. Until recently, however, there were restrictions. Licensees by credentials had one year from the date the license was issued to establish a dental practice in North Carolina and had to limit their practice to our state or "upon a finding by the Board" the license became void. This restriction on mobility has been eliminated by the new law. Effective October 1, 2018, those licensed by credentials may now practice in any state in which they hold a license without fear of losing their NC license by credentials.

Interestingly, the same restriction on mobility has never applied to dentists and dental hygienists licensed by examination, dental hygienists licensed by credentials, or any person licensed through military endorsement. These groups have always enjoyed full mobility.



### Specialty Advertising Rule Revised

After hearing from numerous dentists at the public hearing in June and receiving numerous written comments, the Board has revised the proposed amendments to the rule governing advertising as a specialist. The revisions qualify as substantial and, therefore, require the Board to re-publish the rule and schedule another public hearing and comment period.

Click here for a link to the text of the revised rule and the public hearing schedule:

<http://ncdentalboard.org/PDF/NoticeofTextfor21NCAC16P.0105.pdf>

### Agendas and Minutes

To view the agendas of upcoming or past meetings or to read the Board's most recent minutes, visit the Board's web site. Keep in mind the agenda of the upcoming meeting is **generally** posted at least two days before the meeting.

[http://www.ncdentalboard.org/meeting\\_announcements.htm](http://www.ncdentalboard.org/meeting_announcements.htm)

## Proposed New CE Course Requirement for New Dentists

A new rule recently approved by the Rules Review Commission requires new dentists licensed in our state to take a six-hour course in Professionalism and Ethics as part of their first year 15-hour CE requirement. The rule will take effect and impact dentists licensed after January 1, 2019 who are actively practicing in North Carolina. Dentists who are licensed in multiple states would not be required to take the course until they begin active practice in NC. The public policy behind the rule is to make new dentists aware of those areas that are the subject of frequent complaints made to the Dental Board and to reduce the chances of becoming the subject of a complaint.

The text of the rule may be read below.

### **21 NCAC 16R .0201 CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIRED**

*(a) Except as permitted in Rule .0204 of this Section as a condition of license renewal, every dentist shall complete a minimum of 15 clock-hours of continuing education each calendar year.*

*(b) For licensees who prescribe controlled substances, ~~One~~ one hour of the total required continuing education hours shall consist of a course designed to address prescribing practices, including instruction on controlled substance prescribing practices and controlled substance prescribing for chronic pain management.*

*(c) Each applicant who receives an Instructor's license or a license to practice general dentistry after January 1, 2019, and who is actively engaged in the practice or teaching of dentistry in North Carolina shall take a six-hour course in professionalism and ethics in the first year that the applicant is required to meet the continuing education requirements of Paragraph (a) of this Rule.*

*(1) The six-hour professionalism and ethics course shall be included in the 15 clock-hour requirement of Paragraph (a) of this Rule.*

*(2) The professionalism and ethics Course shall include segments addressing coding and billing, record keeping, informed consent, patient and staff boundaries, office management, duties delegable to dental auxiliaries, the American Dental Society's Code of Ethics, and professionalism.*

*(3) A dentist who receives a variance or exemption from continuing education requirements under 21 NCAC 16R .0204(a)(1),(3), or (4) shall be exempt from taking the professionalism and ethics course until such time as he or she resumes full practice. A dentist classified as a semi-retired Class II dentist shall complete the professionalism and ethics course.*

*~~(e)~~(d) Any or all of the hours may be acquired through self-study courses, provided that the self-study courses are related to clinical patient care and offered by a Board-approved sponsor listed in Rule .0202 of this Section. The dentist shall pass a test following every self-study course and obtain a certificate of completion.*

*~~(d)~~(e) Courses taken to maintain CPR certification shall not count toward the mandatory continuing education hours set forth in this Rule.*

*History Note: Authority G.S. 90-31.1;  
Eff. July 1, 2015;  
Amended Eff. September 1, 2018; August 1, 2016;  
Pursuant to G.S. 150B-21.3A, rule is necessary without substantive public interest Eff.  
January 9, 2018.*

## North Carolina State Board of Dental Examiners

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We're on the web!

[ncdentalboard.org](http://ncdentalboard.org)

**The purpose of the North Carolina State Board of Dental Examiners is to ensure that the dental profession merit and receive the confidence of the public and that only qualified persons be permitted to practice dentistry and dental hygiene in the state of North Carolina.**

### Disciplinary Actions

Recent disciplinary actions are reported on the Board's website under the "Disciplinary Action" tab. Actions involving revoked or suspended licenses remain posted until the revocation or suspension is lifted. **All** past disciplinary actions can be accessed by searching by name or license number under the "License Verification" tab.

[http://www.ncdentalboard.org/  
license\\_verification.htm](http://www.ncdentalboard.org/license_verification.htm)

### Current Board Members (as of August 1, 2018)

<u>Current Board Members</u>	<u>Term Expires</u>	<u>Hometown</u>
Millard "Buddy" Wester, III, DDS (President)	2021	Henderson, NC
Merlin W. Young, DDS (Past Pres.)	2020	Wendell, NC
Kenneth M. Sadler, DDS (Sec/Treas.)*	2019	Winston-Salem, NC
William M. Litaker, Jr. DDS	2019	Hickory, NC
Catherine Watkins, DDS*	2020	Winston-Salem, NC
Edward J. Clemons, Jr., DDS*	2021	Durham, NC
Nancy St. Onge, RDH*	2020	Apex, NC
Dominic Totman, Esq. (Consumer)**		Charlotte, NC

\*Eligible for a second term

\*\*Appointed by the Governor