



# Chronicle Monthly

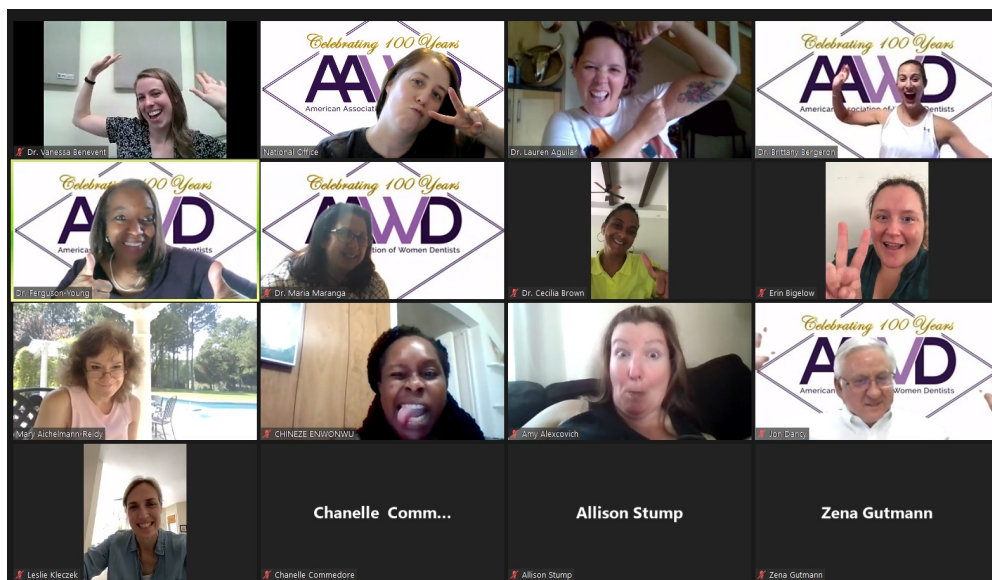
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## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

AAWD celebrates 100 years of women in dentistry!

Hey Lady Dentists!! Our first session of our workshop for women was a great success!! Thanks to all who participated.



Join us on October 23!

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## Presidents' Series

Thank you AAWD and to all the women who came before me and after. Happy 100th Anniversary!

My AAWD story started In 1993. During my D2 year of dental school at the University of Illinois College of Dentistry, I was quite involved in the dental student council and also a class officer. It was and exciting time in my life. During the school year I learned of an organization called AAWD, the American Association of Women Dentists. They were having a student meeting at the school and Dr. Mary Hayes, a pediatric dentist, was to be a speaker. Since I had begun my path to becoming a dentist, I was almost positive I would pursue pediatrics. To

my dismay I was unable to attend the meeting due to prior commitments but I did not let up on trying to meet this woman about whom I had heard so many wonderful things. Not only was she a pediatric dentist but also a business owner and a woman dentist. Everything I aspired to be! For quite some time we played phone tag before we were finally able to meet at her downtown Chicago office. From that moment forward she has always played a very important and inspirational part in my life personally and professionally.

Dr. Hayes hired me as her Saturday receptionist during my third and fourth year of dental school. Not only

## Cissy Furusho, 2005

did I learn how to work the front desk of a pediatric dental office but I also learned more about AAWD and how valuable an organization AAWD is to women dentists. I immediately joined. Through Dr. Hayes (AAWD Treasurer at the time), I met Dr. Trucia Drummond (AAWD Treasurer for many years following Dr. Hayes!) and Dr. Barbara Mousel (AAWD Past-President, 1994). These three women are still my mentors today and I owe them so much for their advice, time and passion.

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After graduating from my pediatric residency program in 1998, Dr. Hayes invited me to my first AAWD Annual Meeting. It was held in Asheville, North Carolina at the Biltmore Estate. She paid for my airfare and my room. Dr. Hayes' only request of me was that I continue to pay it forward for other women dentists to attend the AAWD Annual Meeting, which I happily have done. I remember that meeting like it was yesterday. It was the first time I met Dr. Mary Martin (AAWD Past-President, 1997 & 2015), Dr. Jane Selbe (AAWD Past-President, 1976), Dr. Helyn Luechauer (AAWD Past-President, 1977), Dr. Janet Hatchet Rice (AAWD Past-President, 1997) and so many others. It was a Who's Who of strong influential women dentists and I was impressed. I knew I had to get more involved in this organization.

At that meeting, Dr. Virginia "Gin" Hughson-Otte was inducted as 77th President of the American Association of Women Dentists with Dr. Dushanka Kleinman (AAWD Past-President 1982) presiding over the installation. She told each officer and trustee a story of inspiration to keep lifting and supporting each other up in the wonderful profession we have chosen.

In that moment at the 1998 American Association of Women Dentist's Annual Meeting I was truly inspired!

*"Surround yourself with people that reflect who you want to be and how you want to feel, [their] energies are contagious." Rachel Wolchin*

So, when I was asked to be a trustee on the AAWD Board of Trustees I jumped at the chance. I eventually worked my way up to AAWD President in 2005. My goals for the year were to reach out to the dental schools to support our student organizations. Sixteen years later, I still feel very strongly today that our students are our future. And yes, there still is a place for AAWD. Women dentists still have lots of ground to cover professionally and mentoring for success is still invaluable.

My re-charge has always been the AAWD Annual Meeting! For many years I never missed the annual meeting. It reminds me why I am part of this incredible organization and why we need such an organization to support women dentists in their diversity. I am connected on a personal level to so many women dentists I have met through the years. I learned what it is to run a meeting, and to be an effective Board member: skills that have translated to my state and local community and professional organizations. AAWD started me off and continues to give me the opportunity to be surrounded by women dentists working together toward one goal - supporting women dentists in their professional endeavors.

AAWD to me is like coming home. I hope to one day meet again at an American Association of Women Dentist's Annual Meeting.

Again: Thank you AAWD and to all the women who came before me and after. Happy 100th Anniversary!



Past Presidents from Left to Right: Drs. Barbara Mousel, Lilia Larin, Jane Selbe, Cissy Furusho, Kathy Kell, Judy Belitz, & Jennifer Cornell.  
Photo taken in 2014.

## A message from the President: Dr. Daphne Ferguson-Young

On September 15, 2021, I had the opportunity to represent AAWD on the Diversity Summit Presidents' Group webinar "Assessing Systemic Racism in Dentistry and Building the Right Treatment Plan: A Call to Action."

Moderating the session was Dr. Laila Hishaw, DDS, FAAPD along with presenters Karan Estwick, DDS, FAAPD and Jaha Howard, DDS, MS

The webinar and the topic were created based on a "My View" Article that Dr. Hishaw had written for ADA News published on April 9, 2021. The article was based on her experiences and her views that not much has changed as it related to diversity and inclusiveness since she had graduated twenty (20) years ago.

The panelists were Presidents of the American Dental Association, Hispanic Dental Association, National Dental Association, The Korean Dental Association, and the Society of American Indian Dentists. The ADA Health Policy Institute reports that currently "3.8% of all dentists in the U.S. are black, 5.2 % are Hispanic and 1.1 % are American Indians, Alaska Natives or Pacific Islanders".

As a baby boomer, I shared my experiences of growing up through the Civil Rights movement and my perspective on how I look at the diversity and inclusiveness issues of today. Other Presidents shared their experiences. All of us realized that that percentage of minorities in dentistry is far from the minorities population count in the U.S.

The conversation was much more than sharing experiences.... It was also about coming up with plans to nurture the next generation of dentists by mentoring, speaking to youth programs, continuing the conversation in our communities and across the pathway which leads to dental school.

Although this conversation was based on ethnicity, we all understand that the diversity and inclusiveness conversations include gender bias, religious bias, agism, and sexual orientation.

Yes, the conversation MUST continue.... These are issues which we have fought about for far too long.



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In the wake of recent events, it is important to remember that hundreds of women are victims of domestic violence and many, especially non-white women, go missing annually. If you or someone you know are in need of resources, AAWD is here to support you the best way we can.

**NamUs**  
National Missing and Unidentified Persons System

**AAWD**  
American Association of Women Dentists

7794 Grow Drive  
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Thank you to all of our partners!

