

Dear Southeastern District,

Happy holidays! As we enter the last month of a challenging year, I've taken time to reflect on both the good and bad of 2020. Perhaps like some of you, my mind seems to gravitate towards everything that did not go as planned (the list is long). It's easy to overlook the positive and stable aspects of our professional lives that continue to go well. I am reminded of the professor who asked his class to describe a blank piece of paper with a black dot on it (google black dot story). The class as a whole focused on describing the shape and size of the dot, but failed to describe the rest of the unblemished sheet of paper. We are fortunate to be part of a respected profession that took some early blows this year, but continues to hold its ground. We have wonderful colleagues, staff and patients who trust us. I for one am recommitting myself to focus on the positive and am looking forward to 2021 with hopeful expectations.

While we have not been able to meet in person for district meetings or other events, know that the SEDDS leadership is still at work. I want to take this opportunity to provide some updates.

The Legislative Reception normally held at the Savannah Golf Club has been canceled. This comes due to a recommendation from the ADA. In its place on December 10th, the GDA is hosting a Virtual Officers' Visit at 7pm, followed by an hour long CE. The CE will focus on new billing law requirements and the COVID Pandemic Business Safety Act. The presentation will be provided by Scott Lofranco, GDA General Counsel.

As of now, there is planning underway to have an in-person CE meeting in the spring. This will be multidistrict, 2-day program held in Savannah. Updates will be forthcoming.

We recently had an executive board meeting during which time we had a financial and Board of Trustees report. Minutes from the meeting can be found by logging in to sedds.org. An [update](#) from our BOT representative Dr. Steve Berwitz can also be found at the same site.

After 5+ years of diligent service, Dr. Chris DeLeon has decided to step down from his position as the Give Kids A Smile Chairman for our district. I express my gratitude to Chris for a job well done. In light of various factors, GKAS will be canceled for 2021. There is still an opportunity to provide care for underserved children and I encourage you to look for ways to help, whether in your own office or partnering with one of the many programs already established for this purpose. If you have interest in volunteering in a leadership position for GKAS, please reach out to me or a member of the SEDDS board.

Earlier this year, Dr. Leon Aronson and Dr. Frank Humphreys passed away. They will both be missed. A donation was provided by the SEDDS to Congregation Bnai Brith Jacob and Hospice Savannah as requested by their families.

I want to thank the executive board, trustees, delegates, program chairs and committee members from the Southeastern District who are still very much engaged in your service. I look forward to the near future when we can meet again in-person and wish you a safe and rejuvenating holiday season.

Aaron Rawlings