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1937 GNYDM Pennsylvania Hotel

Greater New York Dental Meeting

Historical Background Of The Greater New York Dental Meeting

The Greater New York Dental Meeting, sponsored by the First and Second District Dental Societies, is truly the finest and largest dental education seminar in the world. This session of concentrated and intensive continuing education affords the professional team an opportunity for valuable exchange of information, scientific change and progress. The Meeting also serves as the foremost showcase in the world for the exhibit of dental equipment, supplies and service companies.

Sixty-four years ago, at the Hotel Pennsylvania, the December Meeting as it was then called, was born. Dr. Armin Wald, a past president of the First District, felt that his profession needed an intensive series of Post Graduate Classes. A small mid-winter session was held the year before at the old Academy of Medicine on West 43rd Street, with demonstrations being presented at several hospitals and the Dental Colleges. The enthusiasm spilled over into the ensuing more ambitious two day December Meeting at the Hotel in 1925. Almost 250 eager to learn dentists attended. In 1926, the executive committee of the First District, which ran the meeting, increased the number of scientific sessions, as well as, adding trade exhibits.

The "December Meeting for Better Dentistry" flourished. Dentists in the N.Y. Metropolitan area gave enthusiastic support. The Second District Dental Society, due to efforts of Dr. Charles McNeely, and an obvious need for additional help in running the growing session, joined as a co-sponsor in 1929, and has remained a partner to the present.

Working together, the First and Second District Dental Societies formed the organization Committee of the Greater New York December Meeting. This Committee's responsibility was to administer, plan and the ongoing functions of the meeting. From its modest beginning, although at that time considered overwhelmingly successful, the Meeting grew in stature as well as size. The facilities utilized grew from several rooms to the entire Statler Hilton Hotel. Registrants increased in number from hundreds to thousands. In 1929, the first year of joint sponsorship, there were 1,268 registrants. Just six years later the geometric rise in attendees hit 10,000.

Throughout the years, this prestigious forum led the way in dental education for the entire profession; local, state, national and international. Programs aimed to educate and interest the auxiliary were a hallmark. Many hands-on practical courses were first presented at the Greater New York Meeting.

Forty-eight years of progress, outstanding programs and reputation, and continued responsible service to the profession brought unprecedented numbers of professionals to

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Convention 88

share in the learning experience. With crowds of over 25,000, it was clear that the facilities at the Statler were inadequate.

Under the leadership of Drs. Shelby, Gruber Lanza, and Gelb, the Meeting in 1973 moved to larger and more prestigious quarters at the New York Hilton. Dr. Gruber was hired as Executive Director to replace the retired Mabel Purdy. Once again the meeting answered the needs of the profession with innovative seminars and expanded programs for all members of the dental family.

Today, as a result of the spirited dedication

of those who serve on the Organization Committee and the valuable help from subcommittee members, the Meeting keeps setting new goals and reaches new successes. The dedicated office staff along with Executive Director, Dr. Irving E. Gruber, and Assistant Executive Director, Dr. Howard B. Menell now are challenged to serve for the Organization Committee in preparing for *the* most prestigious and comprehensive dental education seminar in the world.

The recent move to the spacious and ultramodern Jacob K. Javits Convention Center highlights the Meeting's commitment to providing the best in Continuing Education and service to the profession. These new facilities allow for comfortable and spacious participation for the over 30,000 attendees. An ever expanding demand among professionals to learn what is new and to keep current with the state of the art and science of Dentistry is apparent. The Greater New York Dental Meeting is ready to serve the challenges now and in the future.

Ronald Maitland, D.D.S.



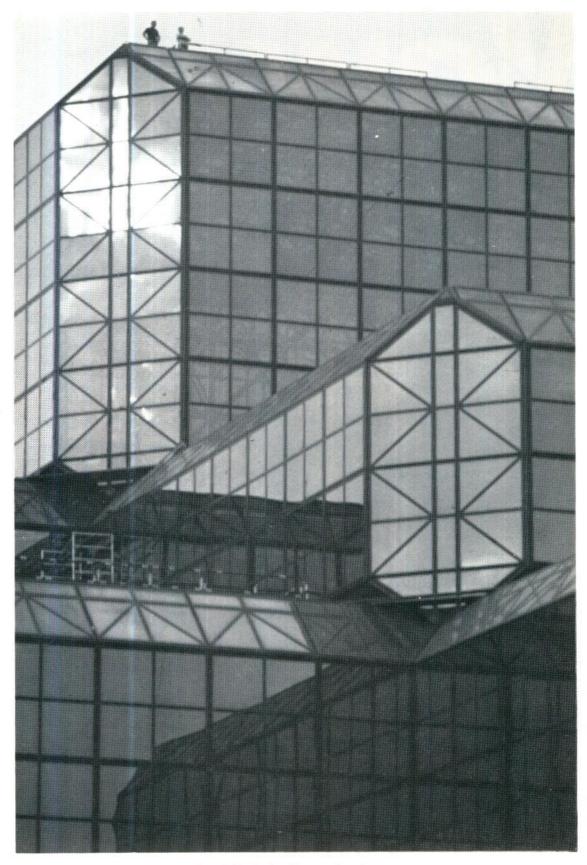
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1936 GNYDM Pennsylvania Hotel



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