

## **November 2004**

### **Change to carry us through the next decade**

As our fee structure has been sorely neglected in the past, we, as technicians, find ourselves in dire straits! DENTASA is at least endeavoring to steer us in a direction to amend our plight. However, to correct this chronic situation, radical changes have to be made.

A lengthy period of negotiations with the parties concerned was thrashed out. The only way to rectify this state of affairs is to approach the situation with sound business principles.

The Dental Technicians' Council has agreed that as of 2005 our fees will be divided into the following categories: a professional fee, a technical fee and a material fee. The professional fee will need to cover salaries; rates and taxes; and all rental and utilities.

A time and motion study done by Arthur Anderson will be used as the basis of our hourly rate. The amount of R175 was agreed upon by the Council as a professional fee but will only be implemented over a three-year period, including an accruing annual CPI Index increase. Therefore, as of 2005, our professional fee will be R145.20 per hour, and only if we are working at 100% efficiency.

However, we have decided as a group to put the necessary structures in place as an act of good faith. It is to be noted that the hourly rate is still extremely low compared to other professions with equal qualifications.

The technical fee will comprise the equipment used for procedures at a 20% usage fee per annum.

The material fee will consist of the amount of material used at cost price, excluding all metals and mounted teeth.

To realign the old distorted codes back into realistic time and motion, certain tariff codes will increase quite substantially, and likewise many will drop.

As the newly improved fairer formula falls into place over the next couple of years, it will go a long way into improving our current situation.

We are making an appeal to all dental technicians to join DENTASA as numbers equal strength.

### **Nuut by DENTASA**

Sedert die Algemene Jaarvergadering is hier 'n hele klomp veranderinge en nuwelinge by DENTASA. Die belangrikste is al die nuwe lede.

Welkom, sonder julle is daar nie 'n DENTASA nie.

Die uitvoerende komitee word versterk met 'n "young gun" by name Peter Kapp. Tesame met Dave Owen het hy reuse werk verrig om die nuwe tariewe struktuur van die grond te kry. Baie dankie en welkom.

En dan is die hele kantoor splinternuut: 'n Nuwe kantoor, in Waterkloof nogal, word gehuur vir 'n appel en 'n ui.

'n Nuwe rekenaar, die oue is "ge-RDP" en het 'n klomp frustrasie veroorsaak tot ons weer oplyn was.

Laaste maar nie die minste nie: 'n Nuwe sekretaresse- Elize Morris, sy's aan die diepkant ingegooi en hou pragtig kop bo water!

**AGM Report back**

It was decided against smaller branches but contact persons will be asked to relay information to members in their area.

There is still uncertainty about the type of legal entity DENTASA must be. We are still looking into the matter.

Matrix Laboratory was deregistered at the SADTC.

A membership debit order system was implemented.

Our President Axel Grabowski, Andre Ferreira and Theunis Bakker met with Adv. Lekitima the Monday after the AGM. A lot of thorny issues were sorted out and a cordial relationship exists now between Adv. Lekitima and DENTASA.