Dental association marks a 100-year milestone

By Fred Michmershuizen, Online Editor

The Ninth District Dental Association in New York state, a regional association with more than 1,600 members, is marking its 100th anniversary this year with a Centennial Celebration. A black-tie gala will be held on May 2 at the Hotel Thayer at West Point featuring a dinner dance and cocktail hour. Commemorative exhibits and memorabilia will be on display, and attendees will have the opportunity to tour the military academy.

According to the current leadership of the Ninth District Dental Association, the 100-year milestone is a chance not only to reflect upon past success but to look forward to an exciting second century.

“The 35 original charter members would be astounded to see our organization today — nearly 1,700 strong — a larger membership than 25 state organizations. They would be impressed with our staff and our headquarters buildings. Most of all, they would be humbled by the caliber of members who have contributed to the development of dentistry as well as the advancement of the profession on national, state and local levels,” said Dr. Edward Feinberg and Dr. Gary Scharoff, co-chairmen of the Centennial Celebration, in a letter to members. “Ninth District members have made their mark everywhere.”

Feinberg and Scharoff said that the celebration also marks the launch of exciting new educational initiatives. Both men expressed appreciation for the team at Henry Schein Inc. particularly Jack Abrams and Steve Kess — and to corporate sponsors Coltene-Whaledent and 3M for their contributions over the years, “It is truly amazing how the Ninth has grown during the past 100 years,” Feinberg and Scharoff said. “From a small group of practitioners, the Ninth has become a well-respected leader in the community that has tremendous clout with professionals, the public and government officials. We have so much to celebrate as we look back at the last 100 years, and we have so much to do as we make plans for the next 100 years.”

Those annoying patient behaviors

Ever get annoyed by those irritating behaviors some of your patients exhibit when you are attempting to treat them? If so, you are not alone! A recent survey of more than 500 dentists conducted by the Chicago Dental Society revealed these irritating patient behaviors:

• Public displays of affection. Patients who have just had their teeth cleaned “test it out” on significant others before leaving the dental office.

• Fiddling with a handheld device. Answering a cell phone is annoying enough, but believe it or not, a few dentists reported getting knocked in the head by patients playing Tetris!

• Treating the dental operatory like a reading library. Some dentists said their patients have a difficult time parting with People magazine or their John Grisham novel while sitting in the chair.

• Grooming. Really, with all those mirrors and lights nearby, some patients can’t help themselves from touching up makeup or even plucking their eyebrows.