INTRODUCTION-OPENING- Vaughn Collins, Executive Director, welcomed everyone at 9:05am. He shared the theme of this year’s meeting as The Value of Membership in Organized Dentistry. He pointed out several of the valuable benefits that VSDS facilitates and directly provides. Vaughn recognized the VSDS staff for their excellent work and dedication to the society: Diane Dumas, Jo-Anne Conant, and Jenny Pitz. He also recognized the exhibitors and sponsors who are vital to the conference and asked that everyone visit the exhibitor booths and consider making a purchase. The meeting was then turned over to President, Cassandra Coakley, DDS for conducting the meeting.

CALLING MEETING TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS- President, Cassandra Coakley, DDS called the meeting to order at 9:10am and established a quorum. She followed with opening comments. Dr. Coakley introduced the current Executive Board:

- President-Elect: Thomas Opsahl, DMD
- Vice-President: Loren Peck, DDS
- Treasurer: Philip Lavoie, DDS
- Secretary: Rebekah Lucier Pryles, DMD
- Director: Dr. Audra Pinto, DMD
- Director: Chris Pazandak, DDS
- Director: Katarzyna “Kasia” Dionne, DMD
- Director: Steven Rayes, DDS
- Immediate Past President: Arthur Knippler, DMD

HONORING OF VSDS PAST PRESIDENTS- Dr. Coakley invited all Past Presidents to stand and be recognized by the membership.

LIFE MEMBERSHIP PRESENTATION- Dr. Coakley read the names of the members who were eligible for Life Membership in 2019 and asked that they come forward to be presented their ADA Life Membership Pin. Those included (but not necessarily present): Mark George, DMD, Frank Illuzzi, DDS, Arliene Pearson, DDS, Stephen Phillips, DDS, Cheryl Ullman, DMD, and Richard Venmar, DMD.

REMEMBRANCE OF DECEASED MEMBERS- A moment of silence was observed for recently deceased members: Dr. Hubert Hawkins, Dr. Horace Josselyn, Dr. Terry Kauffman, Dr. S. Henry Lampert, and Dr. Donald McLaughlin.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS- Dr. Coakley presented the names of the new members who have joined since the last VSDS Annual Business Meeting. Those included (but not necessarily present): Dr. Charlotte Church (Colchester), Dr. Mari Berry (White River Jct.), Dr. Bradford Wenzel (Rutland), Dr. Simone De Luna (Barre), Dr. Markus Richard (St. Johnsbury), Dr. Mahdi Harandy (Brattleboro), Dr. Sara Davis
(Morrisville), Dr. Robert Davis (Barre), Dr. John Hibbs (So. Burlington), Dr. Lindsey Cunningham (Student/Military), Dr. Ushma Vyas (Chester), Dr. Kate Morey (Barre), Dr. Barry Jacobson (So. Burlington), Dr. Yousef Al-Aboosi (So. Burlington), Dr. Rita Lu (Rutland), Dr. David Basali (So. Burlington), Dr. Evan Perler (So. Burlington), and Dr. Daniel Morris (Swanton).

AMERICAN DENTAL ASSOCIATION UPDATE- Dr. Judith Fisch, ADA First District Trustee – As the outgoing Trustee, Dr. Fisch reflected on her experiences throughout her dental career beginning with her role as a hygienist to her becoming a dentist who worked in the military. She then practiced with her husband in a family office in Rutland which she continues with today. Her desire to participate in organized dentistry led her to become the First District Trustee of the ADA. Dr. Fisch then provided an overview of the current efforts by the ADA and VSDS. She mentioned that the CVS contract which was formed for promoting scientifically proven ADA approved oral health products, will not be renewed. There are new strategic plans for 2020-2025. Other important highlights were the dissolution of the Foundation as its own entity and the merging of the science division and the research center. The ADA will also be simplifying the dues structure which will affect the new dentists and the life members in the future.

BOARD OF DENTAL EXAMINERS- Dr. Bill Koch, Member of the Vermont Board of Dental Examiners (BDE), discussed items that are currently being reviewed by the board. He stated that the number of cases this year was 26, which most have been processed. He also noted that the board is reviewing/re-writing the rules, which the board puts forth to elaborate on the statutes approved by the legislature. A change to note is that both CPR and Office Emergencies will be required in the future. Silver Diamine Fluoride’s use by Public Health Hygienists was defined after lengthy discussions. The board also discussed the “consent to treat” options by tele-dentistry and that silence from a dentist does not mean consent by that dentist. It is also important for the need to uphold the standard of care in every office, even if a patient asks for alternative, lower standards. Lastly, he stressed that all professionals in the office must be licensed and supervision agreements updated.

UVM MEDICAL CENTER DENTAL RESIDENCY PROGRAM- Dr. Justin Hurlburt, Director of the UVM Dental Residency Program thanked all the dentists who lecture, visit, and help the residents in the clinic and at the hospital. The volunteers are extremely important in the training of the residents. He noted that the hospital has approved expansion of the facility to add another dental chair to the clinic. Dr. Hurlburt hopes to increase the implant experience of the residents. He then introduced the residents.

THE DENTISTS SUPPLY COMPANY- Mike Wilgus, Director of Strategic Relations, The Dentists Supply Company (TDSC) gave an overview of the history and development of a new program for purchasing dental supplies at discounted pricing. The expansion of the program will form a larger collective in the future. Moving forward, they are exploring expansion of distribution centers and for implementing two call centers for customer assistance.

TEMPORARY ADJOURNMENT OF THE VSDS BUSINESS MEETING- President, Dr. Cassandra Coakley, announced the temporary adjournment of the VSDS Annual Business Meeting to break for a short Vermont Dental Foundation Annual Meeting.

VERMONT DENTAL FOUNDATION MEETING- David Baasch DDS, Vermont Dental Foundation President, called the annual meeting of the VT Dental Foundation to order at 9:48am. A quorum was established. He briefly discussed the history of the Foundation, the support efforts they sponsored this year, and the changes in structure that they propose. He discussed the recommendation by legal council to change the organization from a membership to an affiliate of the VSDS. A motion was made by Dr. Paul Averill and seconded by Dr. Bill Koch to empower the Vermont Dental Foundation trustees to revise and amend the Vermont Dental Foundation articles of incorporation to convert from a membership organization to one
whose trustees are appointed by the Executive Board of the Vermont State Dental Society. It was unanimously approved.

The slate of Dental Foundation Trustee Officers are as follows:

President: David Baasch, DDS  
Secretary: Stephen Pitmon, DDS  
Treasurer: Philip Lavoie, DDS  
Trustee: David Blanck, DDS  
Trustee: Stuart Corso, DMD

There were no further nominations from the floor. A motion was made by Dr. Gerald Theberge to accept the slate of officers as presented. Dr. Brian Shuman seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

With no other business from the Vermont Dental Foundation, Dr. Baasch adjourned the meeting at 9:51am.

RECONVENING OF THE VSDS BUSINESS MEETING- President, Dr. Cassandra Coakley reconvened the VSDS Business Meeting at 9:52am.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER- Dentistry- Current Trends and Future Directions- Dr. Kathy O’Loughlin, Executive Director of the American Dental Association, presented on the changing genders, ages, and ethnicity in dentistry today. The new generation of dentists are looking for more technology, team-based care, and group/community settings. Solo practices are declining and group practices are expanding where dentists are employees rather than owners. Dentistry has been one of the last businesses to emerge from the recession and with that are changes to the field. She reviewed future concerns such as the Medicare for All program and the ADA is promoting “medically necessary care” which is an issue that the public most wants. Dr. O’Loughlin pointed out that the consumers driving dentistry today are the 25-45-year-old population who are looking for technology and esthetic enhancements. Public awareness of the importance of oral health is crucial for the future.

The future goals for the ADA include: increasing market share of lagging demographics, maintaining a net-positive gain in membership, retention of members, stabilization of finances, introduce the pilot program of the new ADAPT system for connecting dentists to associates or buyers, utilization of state outreach managers for societies, dues simplification/restructuring, and having the ADA be the trusted organization for science based information.

APPROVAL OF 2018 MINUTES- President, Cassandra Coakley, DDS noted that the 2018 VSDS Annual Business Meeting minutes were emailed to all members prior to the meeting. A motion was made by Dr. Brian Shuman and seconded by Dr. Grace Dickinson Branon to accept the minutes. The motion was unanimously approved.

TREASURER’S REPORT- Treasurer, Phillip Lavoie, DDS reviewed the overall condition of the financial accounts at VSDS. At this time, the accounts are reconciled, and revenues and expenses are as projected. The dues increase will be 1.5% for the 2020 membership year. When the ADA implements their dues simplification and removes specific discounts, the VSDS will not be removing those discounts.

PRESENTATION OF THE PETER TAYLOR AWARD- Dr. Judith Fisch was presented the Peter Taylor Award for her significant contribution in a positive manner to the field of oral health in the state of Vermont. It was presented by Dr. Kathy O’Loughlin and Dr. Cassandra Coakley.
PRESENTATION OF DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD- Dixie Vallie, CDA, COA, EFDA was presented the award for her dedication and work in the dental field, including her many years as the first dental assistant on the Board of Dental Examiners.

VSDS PRESIDENT’S REPORT- “A Year in Review” - Dr. Cassandra Coakley shared the achievements of the society and visions for the future. There were many successes over the past year, and a very personal tragedy in loosing Austin Eubanks. Dr. Coakley asks that everyone reach out to your family and peers to make sure that they are not struggling with issues that can be supported.

CANDIDATES FOR THE VSDS 2019-2020 EXECUTIVE BOARD- President, Cassandra Coakley, DDS read the slate of nominees for the board:

- President: Thomas Opsahl, DMD
- President-Elect: Loren Peck, DDS
- Vice-President: Rebekah Lucier Pryles, DMD
- Secretary: Chris Pazandak, DDS
- Treasurer: Audra Pinto, DMD
- Director: Kasia Dionne, DMD
- Director: Steve Rayes, DDS
- Director: Richard Lajoie, DDS
- Director: Emily Hill, DDS

Nominations from the floor for the Executive Board and the Board of Dental Examiners were solicited by Dr. Coakley. Having no additions, the nominations were closed. Dr. William Koch made a motion to accept the officers as listed. Dr. Charles Verderber seconded the motion. With a voice vote, the motion was unanimously approved. The officers of the Vermont State Dental Society were installed. Dr. Coakley will serve on the Executive Board as Immediate Past President, a non-voting position.

PRESENTATION OF PRESIDENT’S AWARD AND ADA PIN- New VSDS President, Thomas Opsahl, DMD presented Past President, Cassandra Coakley, DDS the VSDS President’s Award and the American Dental Association President’s Pin.

INCOMING PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE- President, Thomas Opsahl, DMD discussed that he would like to connect with the membership to stay excited and energized for the coming year. He would like to focus on public information for education, workforce challenges, and mentoring younger dentists. There are many issues that the Board will be facing, but by working collaboratively with the current diverse team, VSDS will continue as the leader in Vermont oral health. Work together and reach out to board members in your area. Listen to one another.

ADJOURNMENT- President, Thomas Opsahl, DMD asked for any further business for the meeting. With no additional items, Dr. Opsahl called for the adjournment of the meeting at 11:31am.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Pazandak, DDS
Secretary