Superstorm can’t stop N.Y. meeting

By Robert Selleck, Managing Editor

"Where you are sitting right now was under water,” Les Seldin, DDS, said to Greater New York Dental Meeting attendees at the Hurricane Sandy relief symposium, held Nov. 27 on the first level of the Jacob K. Javits Convention Center.

Noting that all of the carpet had been replaced and the lower portion of the walls repainted Seldin, a former GNYDM chairman who volunteered to moderate the symposium, told the group that if the storm had arrived a week later, the massive dental meeting likely would not be taking place.

The symposium gave dentists affected by the storm the opportunity to question experts on insurance, legal matters, financial issues, SBA loans and FEMA programs.

Meeting organizers, exhibitors and presenters scrambled to repair or replace damaged property prior to opening day, making the storm’s impact all but invisible.

The primary clue the storm even happened: a strong outpouring of support throughout the meeting for dental practices affected by the storm.

The Greater New York Dental meeting exhibit hall, still bustling on the final morning of the meeting, Wednesday, Nov. 28.

Nathalie Castillo, from left, demonstrates flossing with ‘Chomper the Dinosaur’ to Brooklyn PS 11 fourth graders Kelsi Stevenson, 8, Kyla Ottley, 9, and Kelline Lubrun, 8, on Nov. 27.

Castillo is in the dental hygiene program at Hostos Community College in the Bronx. Hostos students volunteered to help with the Greater New York Smiles program, a Greater New York Dental Meeting outreach program sponsored by Colgate Palmolive Company, DentaQuest (Doral) and the United Federation of Teachers. Photos/Robert Selleck, Dental Tribune

Cathy Brandes, from left, Jeffrey Weiss and Nick Benvenuto of High Tech Innovations, offering free installation of their Backup Disaster Recovery System (data protection) to Hurricane Sandy victims.

Larry Rosenthal, DDS, with various clinicians in the Live Dentistry Arena on the morning of Nov. 28, presents ‘DentaVerse Live: Anterior Esthetics: Problems and Solutions. What to do when, why and how?’ Equipment and supplies were provided courtesy of DentaVerse.

In the Store-A-Tooth (Provia Labs) booth, Matthew Shaw, from left, Ellen Berezza and All Christians with special offers that benefit diabetes research organizations.

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