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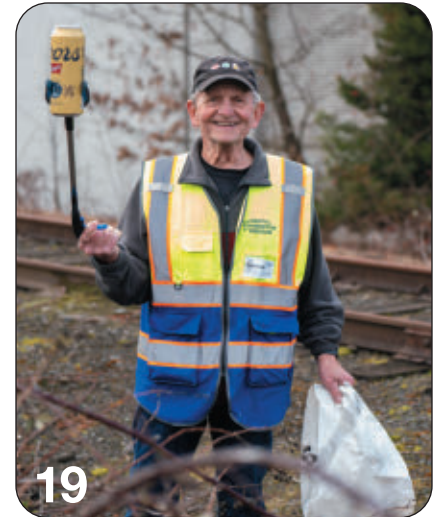
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This One Is for the Dental Assistants



By Alayna Schoblaske

AS I WRITE THIS, WE ARE SMACK dab in the middle of Dental Assistant Appreciation Week, which is celebrated during the first full week of March each year. I know you won't read it until April, but I want to take this opportunity to thank all of the dental assistants that I work with – and the ones that y'all work with, too.

I get the opportunity to work alongside over 20 DAs in my clinic. I have been able to help train four DAs and watch them flourish in their careers (one of the best feelings!). The two DAs that I work most closely with are Marisela and Michaela, and after over five years together, I'm pretty sure that they know me better than I know myself.

I also get the opportunity work with fourth-year dental students on their externships and, without fail, they always say that the best part of their experience is being able to work with a dental assistant. It's a reminder of how much better dentistry is with an assistant by my side, and a reminder not to take the support of DAs for granted. While that support is hard to put into words, I'll try with a little acrostic poem.

A – Attentive! DAs are attentive to patient needs, and they are also

attentive to all the little details that make our days run smoothly. They will often be the ones to catch that a lab case isn't back, or to make sure that they have ViscoStat ready just in case (they always seem to know when "just in case" will be).

S – Supportive! DAs really are mind-readers. They jump in with support at just the right moment chairside. Beyond that, they can often be found helping with anything from unclogging a toilet to hosting a baby shower. They do it all and support us and our patients in so many ways.

S – Sympathetic! DAs are often the first person that a patient interacts with when they come back to the operatory. They learn about patients' pets and families, their weekend plans and their favorite subject in school. They even tune into subtle cues from patients who are feeling anxious and lend a hand to ease their nerves throughout treatment.

I – Inquisitive! Have you ever noticed that DAs ask the best questions? I love that DAs often want to learn more about our clinical workflows so that they can understand the "why" behind our "what" and better explain treatments to patients. The questions also keep me on my toes! One time, I had a 15-minute conversation about phosphoric acid etch with a new DA, and I got to break out my dental school notes for a refresher on dental materials.

S – Schedulers! Whether it's a DA-turned-office-manager, or a DA helping to schedule in the back office,

our DAs often help hold our schedule together...and keep us on time. I love my DAs' subtle Post-It notes on the wall that remind me that they are "ready in A4."

T – Teachers! DAs play an important role in patient education. They help present treatment plans, help patients understand the disease process, and explain what each appointment's treatment entails. We all play a role in this, of course, but DAs are a critical component.

A – Antiseptic! DAs are often the champions of infection control, and make sure that our rooms are disinfected between each patient, and that our instruments are properly sterilized. We owe much of the safety of the work that we do to DAs.

N – Notetakers! Every practice is different, but in many practices, DAs are critical to ensuring proper documentation in the chart note. We rely on them to capture important treatment and conversation details and communicate them clearly in writing.

T – Team players! DAs are critical to team culture. We all know what an impact a positive, kind, and outgoing DA can have on the whole office, and we are so grateful for the DAs that are champions of teamwork and excellence.

If you are dentist reading this – take time today to thank your dental assistants for all they do for you, your patients, and your practice. If you are a dental assistant reading this – thank you! We are so lucky to call you colleagues. ●

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WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS! Please reach out to these new members and welcome them into the ODA community.

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Klamath County Dental Society

Melissa Colasurdo, DMD
Multnomah Dental Society

Vincent Colasurdo, DMD
Multnomah Dental Society

Tyson Curtis, DDS
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Events & Education

Component CE Calendar

CONTINUING
EDUCATION

Calendar provided by Mehdi Salari, DMD

This calendar is current as of March 22, 2024.

Please visit the host dental society website for the most up-to-date information.

Date	Dental Society	Course or Event Title	Speaker	CE	Location	More Information
04/19/24	Lane	Soft Tissue & Radiographic Pathology	Dr. Bryan Trump	4	Eugene (Lane Community College)	Register: www.bit.ly/LCDSEVENTBRITE
04/23/24	Clackamas County Dental Society	Financial Planning	Retirement Advocates	2	Oregon City (PW FCC)	RSVP to executivedirector@clackamasdental.com
04/25/24	Multnomah	OHSU SOD Faculty Social	-	-	Frank Wine Bar	Info/Register: www.multnomahdental.org
05/10/24	Lane	LCDS Golf Scramble	-	-	Junction City (Shadow Hills Country Club)	Register: www.bit.ly/LCDSEVENTBRITE
05/15/24	Multnomah	Table Clinics	-	2	Portland (Kennedy School)	Info/Register: www.multnomahdental.org
05/16/24	Central Oregon	TBA	TBA	2	Bend (Riverhouse Convention Center)	More info email: drjessicahenderson@gmail.com
05/16/24	Southern Oregon	Financial	Dr. Tyler Scott	2	Medford (West Orthodontics)	Info/Register: www.sodsonline.org
05/17/24	Clackamas, Multnomah & Washington	The Business of Dentistry: To Invigorate your Practice & Accelerate Your Success	More information to come	4	OSU Portland Center	Info/Register: www.multnomahdental.org
05/28/24	Clackamas County Dental Society	Annual Meeting, Conservative TMD Treatment	Kim Wright, DMD	2	Oregon City (PW FCC)	RSVP to executivedirector@clackamasdental.com
06/11/24	Lane	Retiree Luncheon	-	-	TBD	Register: www.bit.ly/LCDSEVENTBRITE
06/20/24	Multnomah	Women in Dentistry – Wine/Paint Night	-	-	Bottle and Bottega	Info/Register: www.multnomahdental.org
08/15/24	Southern Oregon	Ergonomics and More	Dr. Jordan Spence (Physical Therapist)	2	Medford (West Orthodontics)	Info/Register: www.sodsonline.org
09/19/24	Central Oregon	TBA	TBA	2	Bend (Riverhouse Convention Center)	More info email: drjessicahenderson@gmail.com
09/19/24	Multi-Component Event	Fall Kick Off/Tailgate Event	-	-	ODA Parking Lot	Info/Register: www.multnomahdental.org
09/26/24	Clackamas County Dental Society	Fall Social/Arcade Game Challenge			Dave & Busters, Clackamas	RSVP to executivedirector@clackamasdental.com
10/16/24	Multnomah	3D Imaging	Dr. Saulo Sousa Melo	2	Portland (OHSU SOD)	Info/Register: www.multnomahdental.org
10/18/24	Lane	Suturing for Success: (Hands-on, Limited to 30 people)	Dr. Nabeel Cajee	2	Eugene (Lane Community College)	Register: www.bit.ly/LCDSEVENTBRITE
10/23/24	Multnomah	TBA	Saulo Sousa Melo, DDS, MSD, PhD. MS	2	Portland (OHSU SOD)	Info/Register: www.multnomahdental.org
11/07/24	Multnomah	New Dentist Event	-	-	Langers Entertainment Center	Info/Register: www.multnomahdental.org
12/06/24	Lane	Advances in Dental Pharmacotherapy	Karen Baker, RPh, MS	3	Eugene (Lane Community College)	Register: www.bit.ly/LCDSEVENTBRITE
01/17/25	Multnomah	Medical Emergencies	TBA	4	TBD	Info/Register: www.multnomahdental.org
03/19/25	Multnomah	CE Course	TBA	2	TBD	Info/Register: www.multnomahdental.org
05/21/25	Multnomah	Annual Meeting/Table Clinics	TBA	2	TBD	Info/Register: www.multnomahdental.org

Find this calendar online at www.oregondental.org. Click “Meetings & Events” > “Calendar of Events”.

Looking for additional ways to get CE? The American Dental Association has a large collection of webinars and on-demand video learning opportunities available, many of which are free to members. Visit adaceonline.org to catch up on the latest offerings on your own schedule. 🎧

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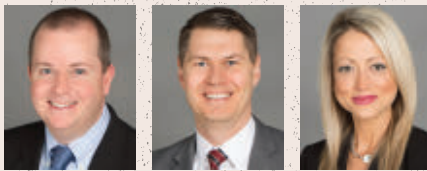
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Board of Trustees Meeting Highlights

Oregon Dental Association
Board of Trustees Meeting
January 2024

- Dr. Kent Burnett, who was appointed by ODA President Mark Mutschler to fulfill a vacant Trustee position, took the oath of office before participating in his first Board of Trustees meeting.
- Board members heard a presentation on the Council of State Governments Dentist and Dental Hygienist Compact.
- DFO Executive Director Amber Fowler gave an update on the debut of Tooth Taxi 2.0. 🗣️



Occlusal Clearance Tools to Verify Adequate Space



Alex Rugh, CDT
Team Leader Education, O'Brien Dental Lab

The most common reason we need to halt production on a case is a lack of adequate occlusal clearance. Fortunately, there are tools available that can be used chairside to measure the clearance when doing your crown prep.

The first option is Flex Tab which is a single use product made of a flexible rubbery material. After tooth preparation has been completed, the tab is placed on to the prepped tooth. Then, with the patient biting down, the tab is pulled through.



If the tab resists the pull, there is most likely an area of the prep that does not meet the clearance requirements. However, with this tab, it can be difficult to determine where the high points are so you'll have to use your judgement.

There is another product called PrepCheck which is very similar to FlexTab, but with a coating on one half that works like articulating tape. This can make it much easier to determine which areas need additional reduction.



To use PrepCheck, place the coated side of the tab on the prep and have the patient tap or grind their teeth on the coating. The PrepCheck is removed from the mouth and the prep is evaluated for any areas that show markings from the PrepCheck coating.

Any high areas of the prep are reduced and when finished, the uncoated end of the PrepCheck is placed on to the patient's prep. The patient bites down and the tab is pulled through. If the tab resists the pull, there may still be some areas that need to be reduced further. There is also a mini version of PrepCheck available which may work better for smaller teeth.

The third option is PrepSure which is autoclavable and unlike the others, is designed for multiple uses.



With PrepSure, you start with the patient closed and then insert the tool to measure the space. There are two ends to the tool, one that is used for checking the mesial portion of the prep and the other for the distal portion. Starting with the mesial end, place it on the outside of the mesiobuccal cusp and attempt to slide the tool up over the buccal cusp and in to the central groove, then continue to slide it over the mesiolingual cusp.

If an adequate amount of space has been created, the tool will easily slide up and over. You can then repeat the procedure on the distal side using the distal end of the tool.



All of these tools come in three sizes to match the common thickness requirements of various restorative options. 1mm is recommended for full cast gold, PFM's with metal occlusal, and full zirconia restorations. 1.5mm is the minimum recommended reduction for ceramic crowns, and 2mm is the optimal reduction for ceramic crowns.



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“My interest is the advocacy news,” said Dr. Amrita Patel, member since 2012. “So, I get to access all the articles specifically about that right at my fingertips, which I really like.”

One of the first major enhancements to the app was expanding the career pathways section to add a career path quiz that matches your interests and aspirations to one of nine career settings. “I’m a fairly new graduate from dental school and think [the career path quiz] was a good way to explore what options are out there,”

said Dr. Lauren Zuidema, member since 2021.

And now you can explore even more career resources and start to take the next step on your practice transition right in the app, including creating a free ADA Practice Transitions profile.

You can also engage in peer-to-peer knowledge sharing in chat. Whether you are seeking guidance or offering your expertise, it’s easier than ever to discover mentorship opportunities. Opt-in is required to chat and designate yourself as a mentor. Tap into your profile and update your communication settings to get started!

Another new feature available in the app is support with dental licensure portability. Learn what’s required to obtain your license in a new state

when you’re considering a move.

Find this information by tapping on “Dental Licensure” in the Main Menu under Benefits.

If a move is imminent, the “Docs” digital wallet can help you carry your files and vital paperwork wherever you go. “Since I was going through licensing in a new state, it was nice to have those important documents on hand and numbers available when I needed them,” said Dr. Josh Heimerdinger, member since 2016.

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ODA Members Discuss Rewards, Challenges of Different Practice Modalities

By Melody Finnemore

DENTAL STUDENTS NEARING GRADUATION FACE MYRIAD DECISIONS, among them what kind of practice model they want to work in. Some like the autonomy of a solo practice while others prefer the camaraderie of a group setting.

The independence of owning a practice is often appealing, as is the financial security and ability to leave work behind at the end of the day when someone else runs the business. Public health and academic settings offer their own advantages and disadvantages as well.

Several ODA members shared how they chose their respective practice model and why it best fits their career goals. They also talked about the challenges that go along with their modality and what they see themselves doing five years or a decade from now.

Paul Lamoreau, DDS, Owner, Aspen Dental in Grants Pass

As a student at the Oregon Health & Science University School of Dentistry, Dr. Lamoreau planned to join his father-in-law's practice when he graduated. However, his father-in-law was about to retire, so during his third year of dental school, Dr. Lamoreau started looking into other options.

Aspen Dental had an office in Grants Pass and needed someone to run it, so after graduating in 2019, Dr. Lamoreau went to work there. Just two years later, he bought

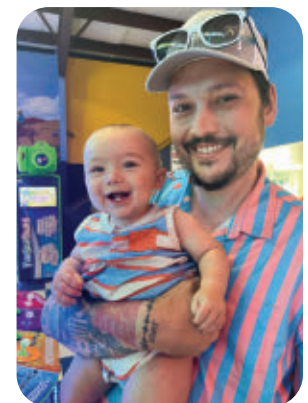
the practice. "It made the most sense because I was already doing everything anyway, so I thought if I put my name on it that would be financially better for me," he said.

Dr. Lamoreau enjoyed doing urgent care rotations in dental school and likens his practice to a similar fast-paced environment. He encourages walk-ins and said running a DSO (dental support organization) means seeing more patients than other models allow.

"For me personally, that is the kind of workday I want. I really thrive on that," he said. "Even if you do thrive on it like I do, there are days when it's hard to get everything done that needs doing."

Looking ahead, Dr. Lamoreau envisions himself eventually moving away from clinical dentistry and, in about a decade, pursuing a new phase of his career in education. He noted that it could mean a return to OHSU, this time as a teacher.

PAUL LAMOREAU



Samyia Chaudhry, DMD, Associate Professor, OHSU

Dr. Chaudhry, who graduated from OHSU in 2017, initially volunteered in the dental school and found she enjoyed it. Her sister was a dentist in her native Pakistan, and Dr. Chaudhry started to consider a similar career path when her own son needed some dental work done. She was recruited directly into a faculty position when she graduated.

“I always had a very high regard for the teaching profession. When the opportunity came, I took a leap of faith and joined the academic and teaching profession to see how

it would go,” she said. “Sometimes when you are destined to achieve something in life, there is a path that is paved for you.”

Though time management is sometimes difficult, Dr. Chaudhry appreciates the variation in her daily work routine. She teaches pre-clinical and clinical students, directs patient care, conducts research, stays connected to the latest dental advances and achievements by attending national conferences, and has opportunities to network at various events.

She also is rewarded with the satisfaction of watching dental students grow from their first year through graduation, and said it gives her purpose knowing that she is contributing to future generations of practitioners.

“For me personally, it’s the growth we see and the appreciation we get when they are struggling with something and we can help them overcome that,” Dr. Chaudhry said.

Her long-term goal is to continue her career in academics and ultimately be promoted into administrative roles.



SAMYIA CHAUDHRY

Casey Thein, DMD, Owner, Lone Pine Dental in Bend

Dr. Thein worked in a corporate practice to start his career and highly recommends it for other new grads, as well as working in public health. Both models help young professionals develop their efficiency and productivity, and also provide job security and the ability to leave work behind at the end of the day.

Still, Dr. Thein knew even in dental school that he wanted to own a private practice. “I like the benefits of controlling your schedule, being your own boss, and being able to treat your patients the way you want to treat them,” he said, adding it also

allows him greater control over his work-life balance.

During his stint in corporate dentistry, Dr. Thein gained experience while determining whether to join an existing private practice as an associate with ownership potential. He had an acquaintance who established a private practice as a startup and wanted to learn more about that option.

“I thought it sounded like a ton more work, but intriguing and you really have complete control,” he said. “I got to design the office the way I wanted from the ground up. I chose the equipment. And every patient I



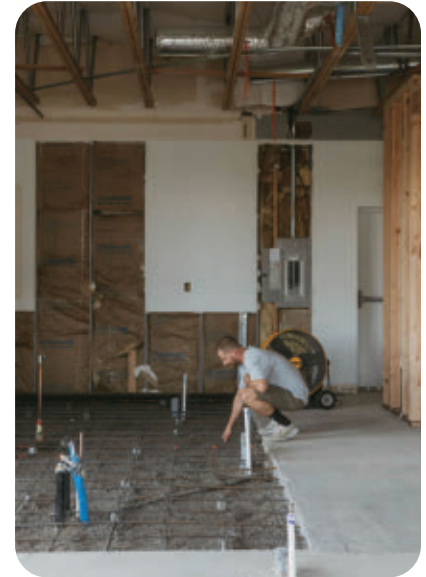
CASEY THEIN

treat is my patient from the start and is not inherited.”

Among the challenges he faced, it took a year and a half and a lot of planning to progress from getting a loan from the bank to opening his doors. Though it is somewhat less expensive to open a startup than to buy an existing practice, there are more unforeseen costs and small expenses that are difficult to plan for.

Since opening last August, Lone Pine Dental has grown steadily and gotten busier each month.

“I think the funnest part is seeing the growth of the practice. There were months when we were sitting around and only seeing a couple of patients every day, and slowly it’s been getting better,” Dr. Thein said. “At the end of the day, I’m happy to see what we built and see us growing.”



Brad Hester, DMD, Owner, Bend Family Dentistry

Shortly after graduating from OHSU, Dr. Hester job-shadowed a dentist in a group practice in Washington, and the model instantly appealed to him. In 1998, he opened a private practice as a solo practitioner in Portland. Within a year, he was in a partnership with another practitioner.

Though he did return to a solo practice briefly after the partnership practice, he found he preferred being part of a group.

“What I enjoyed most, and still enjoy most, about the group space is the camaraderie with the other doctors. We can bounce ideas off of each other, look at treatment plans together and enjoy each other’s company,” he said.

In 1994, Dr. Hester moved back to his roots in Central Oregon and started Bend Family Dentistry. It now has 10 providers in three locations. He said that the group model is sometimes associated with corporate

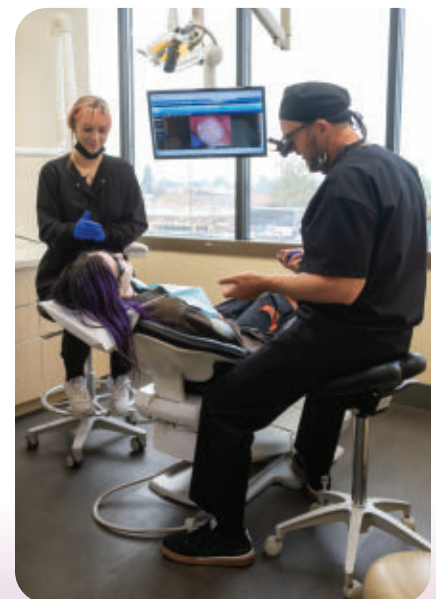
dentistry and explained what sets his practice apart.

“We are totally different from that. The corporate space, or how it is thought about, is you do exactly what I say and use the materials that I say and there is no autonomy. That has never been my passion for running my group,” he said. “My goal has always been to try to give as much autonomy to each individual dentist as possible.”

He noted that his associates choose their career path in dentistry, whether it is surgery, implants, Invisalign, orthodontics, or another interest. Discussions are frequent, and some decisions are made as a group, such as which dental materials the practice uses.

Dr. Hester said another benefit of the group practice model is that it provides greater flexibility for vacation time, and stronger financial stability when someone does want to take time off because there are other providers available to see patients.

“Also, with all the high-tech equipment today, I always felt we weren’t very effective in spending all the money on those technologies and only having one doctor use them, so that made a lot of business sense to me,” he said.



BRAD HESTER

Nicole Tasooji, DDS, Associate, Bend Family Dentistry

Before joining Bend Family Dentistry as an associate, Dr. Tasooji earned her degree at the Arizona School of Dentistry and Oral Health and continued her education at the University of Utah hospital in Salt Lake City. She and her husband then moved to Los Angeles for his residency at UCLA.

Dr. Tasooji considers herself blessed to have worked in unique places such as the rural hills of Mexico, the island of Jamaica and the eastern shore of Maryland before moving to Bend, where she and her husband work in different group practices.

She said she appreciates working in a practice with one owner and multiple associates at different locations. "It's nice to be able to talk with other providers and not be the only doctor in the office. It's also nice to be able to collaborate and run

ideas by other people. It makes the day go by faster," she said.

Dr. Tasooji pointed out that when a practice has multiple offices and staffs, it is essential that the coordination is well organized.

"Sometimes it's hard to get all of the systems and protocols

that you want to implement and get everyone to focus on doing it that way. When you have three practices, you want everything to be not necessarily individualized but more whole, and that is difficult if you don't have the right systems in place," she said.



Colin Taggart, DMD, Dentist and Interim Dental Director, One Community Health

After graduating from OHSU in 2016, Dr. Taggart did a yearlong general practice residency in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, before joining One Community Health, a Federally Qualified Health Care (FQHC) practice with clinics in Hood River and The Dalles.

“It’s a safety net for the community. We are where folks go when they have nowhere else to turn. Unless specialty care is required, we do a lot of the care here,” he said. “I’ve always been interested in taking care of the many different populations that don’t have other options for health care.”

Dr. Taggart works with a team of nine dentists, nine hygienists, and about 40 support staff in the two clinics. As interim director, he spends one day a week practicing in The Dalles clinic, another in the Hood River clinic, and three days on administrative duties.

Among the hurdles of practicing in public health is ensuring that adequate language interpretation is available for each patient population.

“Right now, we are having a really hard time meeting interpretation needs in a way that feels like we’re able to connect with the patient and have a relationship. We have been trying to use a telephone interpreter and even a video interpreter, but our connection is not very good and Spanish-speaking staff are not certified to do that,” he said.

In order to meet those needs, One Community Health initiated in-house training to certify its own interpreters through the state. The FQHC also can code for that so its assistants are compensated for interpretation services as well as their primary work.

“The patients get chair-side interpretation from an assistant who knows the language, and that has been pretty powerful,” he said.

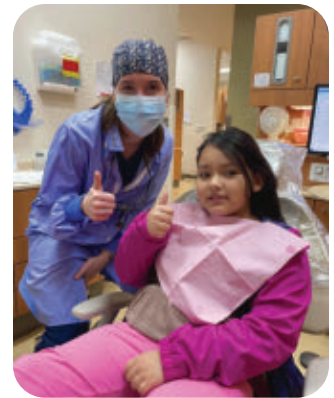
The benefits of practicing in an FQHC are that, at the end of the day, providers can leave their work behind and they don’t have to worry about the operations or business side of the practice. That also allows them to focus on patient care and clinical excellence.

“It’s nice to feel incentivized to work on disease management and prevention. The drawback is that we don’t get too focused on the aesthetics, but it is really satisfying to feel like we are addressing one of the biggest health care needs in the country,” he said.

Dr. Taggart foresees himself practicing at One Community Health for at least the next four years as he pays off his student loans through the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program, which he called “a major draw” that made it financially possible for him to pursue his dental career.

“I don’t know if I will continue to be a director. I think I’m a better clinician than administrator,” he added. 📍

COLIN TAGGART

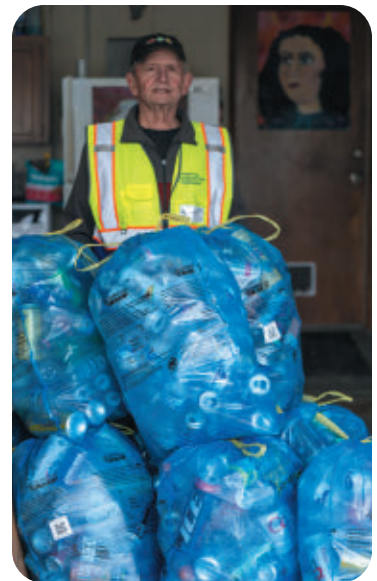
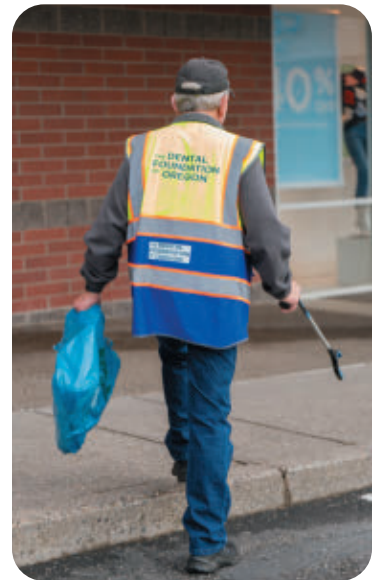


DFO Update

CONGRATULATIONS TO ED SPRADLIN, our 2023 Dental Foundation of Oregon Volunteer of the Year!

Through Ed's efforts gathering recyclables on his daily walks, he has generated nearly \$4,000 in charitable donation to the DFO's Tooth Tax program. Ed's efforts to collect recyclable cans and plastic bottles as part of the **Oregon Bottle Drop** charitable donation program have grown to include others, including friends from his local Fred Meyer store.

Thank you, Ed, for your support to our organization and your work to help fellow Oregonians in need of dental care! 📸



LORI ACKERMAN PHOTOGRAPHY

Leadership Academy Profiles

THE OREGON DENTAL ASSOCIATION KICKED OFF the seventh year of the Leadership Academy in January. The Academy provides participants with a unique backstage pass to ODA offerings and experience while developing and enhancing leadership and interpersonal skills. Learn more about the 2024 class below:



Dr. Michelle Bloemers

What most excites you about being part of the 2024 ODA Leadership Academy?

I'm most excited about meeting other dentists in our community! I love gaining perspectives from people who chose the same career. Dentistry can be very stressful, and it helps to have a community to exchange advice and experiences with.

What do you think the true role of a leader is?

I think a leader's true role is to empower those around them to reach their fullest potential.

Who has been a primary mentor/influential person in your life, and what have you learned from him/her?

I've been so fortunate to have multiple mentors to help guide me in my career and life. Dr. Bryan Guthrie has been a huge influence and mentor to me through dental school and my career so far. He has taught me so much about clinical skills and techniques in dentistry, as well as being such a reliable support to me throughout the challenges in my career and life. Dr. Mike Lacey

has also been a huge influence and mentor to me. He is someone who immensely values service and taking care of others. He has taught me to never let go of the value that I have for caring for those in need. Mike is also an incredible support to me, and I am so fortunate.

What do you most appreciate about the profession of dentistry?

I most appreciate being able help people in a highly specialized way. The best part of my job is providing a listening ear to patients and being able to offer them a unique service that makes a difference in their lives. It is truly a special field in that we get to interact with people from all walks of life and expand our world on a daily basis.



Dr. Emily Richard

What most excites you about being part of the 2024 ODA Leadership Academy?

I am most looking forward to exploring the different facets of the

ODA while creating new connections with dentists across the state.

What do you think the true role of a leader is?

While there are many definitions of leadership, I believe that the true role of a leader is to guide and support others in reaching their goals.

Who has been a primary mentor/influential person in your life, and what have you learned from him/her?

I am fortunate that I have had countless important mentors

that have landed me where I am today, but I wouldn't be in dentistry if it were not for my uncle. Under his guidance, I completed over 100 hours shadowing and assisting before beginning dental school, and he was there to encourage me through the hard times while in dental school. I learned that setbacks are only temporary and to use those moments as learning points to be better the next time. Even now that he is retired, he is still in my corner supporting me whenever I need.

What do you most appreciate about the profession of dentistry?

Being able to impact a patient's self-confidence by improving their

oral health is one of the most rewarding aspects of dentistry for me. There are days that are easier than others, but the ones where a

patient's quality of life or self-image is improved from a visit to the dentist is what keeps me eager to go in day after day.



Dr. Kenny Clow

What most excites you about being part of the 2024 ODA Leadership Academy?

Helen Keller said, "Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much." I am most excited about being a bigger part of organized dentistry. The Leadership Academy is the next step to doing that as well as developing further personally and professionally.

What do you think the true role of a leader is?

After eight years in the Marine Corps, I became comfortable being in charge and leading troops. Our 11

leadership traits are justice, judgment, decisiveness, initiative, dependability, tact, integrity, endurance, bearing, unselfishness, courage, knowledge, loyalty, and enthusiasm. Being the leader of your team means you are responsible for your team; you look out for them, you motivate them, unite them, and unleash their potential to improve performance by exposing their strengths and strengthening their weaknesses.

Who has been a primary mentor/ influential person in your life, and what have you learned from him/her?

My mentor and most influential person is my dad, who is also a Marine. After the Marine Corps, Dad started his own business without going to college. His success was due to his expertise, attention to detail, and the professional relationships that he built. Dad not only taught me but demonstrated what honor, courage, commitment, loyalty, hard work, and a never quit attitude can accomplish.

What do you most appreciate about the profession of dentistry?

When I began my career in dentistry, I was excited to have colleagues in the community since I was missing the camaraderie of the Marine Corps. The idea of a community of doctors with a wealth of knowledge and experience to support you and bounce ideas off of was exactly what I was looking for. Dentistry is a special profession where we have total autonomy in patient care and colleagues that support you to no end. In Oregon, we are failing. Oregon dentistry has faded from those values, with scrutiny by specialists and colleagues instead of support, and additional requirements or limitations set on us by the board. Do we really have total autonomy or a network of support in the community? I appreciate the opportunity to be more involved with organized dentistry to try and get Oregon back on track.



Dr. Mariah Baldwin

What most excites you about being part of the 2024 ODA Leadership Academy?

I am excited to learn about organized dentistry in Oregon and

how I can be involved to make a difference in my community.

What do you think the true role of a leader is?

The true role of a leader is to empower everyone on your team. People are more confident, smarter, and more creative when they have a leader who helps them to feel safe, supported, and qualified in their job positions.

Who has been a primary mentor/ influential person in your life, and what have you learned from him/her?

I have been most inspired by the pediatric dentist I grew up seeing, "Dr. Dave." Going to the dentist is among my fondest childhood memories, and every day I strive to be as kind and compassionate as he is to help my patients to feel safe and cared for.

What do you most appreciate about the profession of dentistry?

I appreciate the opportunity to change people's lives. Dental education and prevention are my passion, and it fills my heart with happiness with every patient I am able to help guide in their journey through making healthful changes in their life.



Dr. Lindsey Theda

What most excites you about being part of the 2024 ODA Leadership Academy?

I am looking forward to developing my skills beyond clinical dentistry

and network with other like-minded individuals.

What do you think the true role of a leader is?

The true role of a leader is to inspire greatness in others and help bring out individual strengths so teams can work as effectively as possible. A true leader helps to make everyone feel included and valued.

Who has been a primary mentor/influential person in your life, and what have you learned from him/her?

My mother! My mom has worked in tech sales for most of her career. She was able to balance a full-time career and be there for her family. I look up to this balance and strive to have that balance in my life.

What do you most appreciate about the profession of dentistry?

I enjoy dentistry because we can build relationships with our patients and use both art and science every day. I also appreciate the ability to have a great work-life balance and the opportunity to learn new things every day.



Dr. Cameron Schwab

What most excites you about being part of the 2024 ODA Leadership Academy?

I am most excited for the opportunity to network and learn from the leaders in our local and state organized dental communities. Leadership and advocacy are two passions of mine, and it has been incredible already to be surrounded by like-minded people who want to make a difference for dentists and specialists.

support and listen to those around them, stand up for what they believe in, and have the poise and confidence to make difficult decisions. A true leader may not have all the answers but works with others to collaborate and find a suitable response or compromise for any issue or adversity.

Who has been a primary mentor/influential person in your life, and what have you learned from him/her?

There have been a lot of people in my life who have influenced me as a leader – but I can confidently give most of the credit to my parents. They have instilled the value of hard work, interpersonal relationships, effective communication, respect, standing up for myself, my communities and those who need a voice, and above all having and following a strong moral compass. I have seen both of my parents use all of the above-mentioned values both professionally and personally and

know the power these elements have in the real world. Doug and Rhonde Ainslie have helped me become the person I am today, and I will continue to owe all my successes to both of them.

What do you most appreciate about the profession of dentistry?

I most appreciate the opportunity to help. It doesn't just come down to a tooth, gum, or bone issue that we fix or plan to fix – it is much more inclusive. I get to help people learn about ways to take better care of themselves and be preventative for the sake of their teeth and oral health. I get to help those who are afraid of the dentist or dental treatment receive the care they need either by means of sedation or creating a meaningful connection to help break down barriers to care. I get to help patients gain confidence in their smile. I truly love helping people. And dentistry allows me to do just that in so many different ways every single day.



Dr. Mike Moody

What most excites you about being part of the 2024 ODA Leadership Academy?

I am excited to network with colleagues, meet community members, and grow as a leader in and out of the dental office.

What do you think the true role of a leader is?

I was always taught that true leaders lead by example. A person who is in a leadership role needs to be firm yet fair and incorporate different tactics to engage with team members who come from all backgrounds.

Who has been a primary mentor/ influential person in your life, and what have you learned from him/her?

My father is a great example of a leader. He managed a large team at work but was also able to prioritize his family. He leads by example, is firm yet fair, and would never delegate a task he was unwilling to perform himself. I appreciate a leader who is able to garner respect but who is also seen as a kind human – that is how I see my father.

What do you most appreciate about the profession of dentistry?

I love being able to create relationships with patients. The personal aspect that dentistry provides us as health care

providers is truly unique. We are able to change lives through not only transforming smiles, but also through valuable relationships we make with patients along the way. 🌟





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Moda Holdings Group, Inc. Board of Directors -

Call for Applicants

With a broad array of companies under its corporate umbrella, Moda is committed to attracting candidates to serve on the organization's Boards of Directors who represent excellence in both the practice of dentistry and in its diverse business ventures. Review the full job description at <http://bit.ly/ModaBoard>.

The call for applicants is open for one dental director position on the Moda board, for a 4 year term. The incumbent in this position is running for re-election.

Interested in serving on the Moda/ODA Board? Submit a letter of interest, CV/resume, and 3-5 references (no family and one non-dental) to leadership@oregondental.org by July 1, 2024.

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ODA New Dentist Profile



Dr. Jaskiran Gill

Local Component: Multnomah Dental Society

Dental School/Graduation Year: OHSU/2023

Current practice Modality: Travel Dentist

Why did you want to become a dentist?

I was drawn to dentistry as it aligns with my passion for improving community health. Dentistry allows me to directly impact individuals' well-being by promoting overall health through the oral environment. I believe that a healthy smile is integral to overall health, and I am passionate about providing preventive care and addressing dental issues.

Working in health care and making a positive difference in people's lives through dentistry is a fulfilling and rewarding choice that aligns with my values and aspirations.

Why do you participate in organized dentistry?

I actively engage in organized dentistry as it opens avenues and endless opportunities for professional development, continuing education, networking, mentorship, advocacy, and community engagement. I participated in organized dentistry throughout dental school and will continue to do so in my post-graduate career.

After graduating, what has been your biggest challenge?

I would say handling more complex cases in the solo dentist practices where I work has proven to be a challenge due to the absence of immediate mentorship and guidance, which is found in multiple doctor practices. Despite the setbacks, I am determined to seek mentorship through my connections in organized dentistry.

What is something that is unique to your practice and why?

Unlike traditional associateship jobs, I work as a full-time locum tenens provider. This unique approach allows me to bring my skills and expertise to various dental practices on a temporary basis. The flexibility of being a full-time locum tenens provider enables me to immerse myself in diverse clinical settings and constantly adapt to new challenges, which in turn greatly enhances my skillset as I am working with different software, equipment, and office environments. This distinctive aspect not only enriches my professional experience but also allows me to contribute to different communities and reach a broader range of patients. 🌐



DR. JASKIRAN GILL

Give Kids A Smile/ Children's Health Fair 2024

COMPONENT
HIGHLIGHT

By Lora Matteson, Multnomah Dental Society, Executive Director

OUR EVENT WAS HELD FOR THE SECOND YEAR, at Powell Butte Elementary School on Saturday, February 3, and it was a great time for all! Many families took advantage of the services and resources that were offered. All the children who attended received dental screenings. Many also received cleanings, fluoride varnish, sealants, and treatment on one of the two mobile dental vans we had on site. All of them were provided with oral hygiene education, along with a goodie bag including a toothbrush, toothpaste, oral hygiene instructions, a toy, and popcorn. The dental products that we used were all

donated by Henry Schein Corporation, one of the major sponsors of Give Kids A Smile. We are so grateful to receive this product.

We were fortunate to have the new Tooth Taxi make this event their maiden voyage. It was exciting to have this brand new beautiful dental van at our event. We also loved having Medical Teams Dental Van participate again this year. The partnership with these two organizations has been a blessing. We appreciate their desire to help serve our children as much as we do.

Families who attended received a variety of valuable community

resources including OHP registration, WIC program, HeadStart, 211 info, Multnomah County Health Department immunization information, hearing and vision screenings, fire and bicycle safety, fun, games, and snacks. It was a tremendous success, and we are happy to be back in an elementary school. The support the district provided was wonderful. The balloon sculptures were a big hit!

Some of the many groups who participated and provided resources, oral health care, and information included: OHSU SOD dental students, PCC dental hygiene students, and



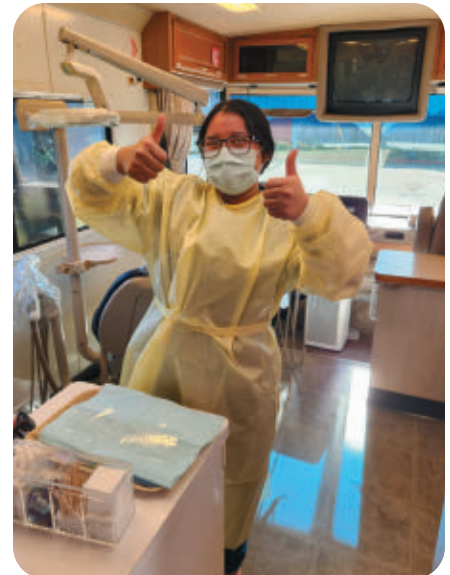
LORA MATTESON



Portland State University pre-dental students. These young minds had a great time and gained experience working with children and families. They are the future of this great profession.

We couldn't do what we do without the support of you, the members and other community partners. It is your financial support and volunteer efforts that make these events so successful. A heart-felt thanks goes out to each and every one of you who have contributed to our success. Until next year!

Pictures speak louder than words. Enjoy the photos! 📷



2023 oda Annual Report



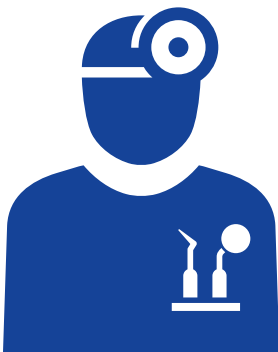
Barry Taylor, DMD,
ODA Executive
Director

A Message from ODA Executive Director Barry Taylor, DMD

2023 WAS A YEAR OF TRANSITION for the Oregon Dental Association with a new strategic plan, changes in staffing on the ODA team, and moving forward without the hinderance of a pandemic. There were many highlights including some great wins in Salem during the legislative session, a great Regional Event in Florence, and increasing our presence at the OHSU School of Dentistry. And of course, a full in-person Oregon Dental Conference in April. The end of the year was highlighted by a robust MLR discussion at the ODA House of Delegates and the Board of Trustees initiating a task force to look at changes to our component model.

We are headed into 2024 with a full staff and prepared for the changes that the ODA needs to make to adapt to a changing marketplace for membership. This summer, the ADA/ODA will be changing to a more modern and robust association management system, which we hope will help us better manage our membership and member relationships. We also look forward to proposed changes to the ADA dues structure as well as possible changes to the ODA component structure. 2024 will be a great year with focused goals and opportunities for membership recruitment and retention. Driving all of our work will be the ODA core purpose, “to advance the dental profession and to promote the highest standard of oral health and oral healthcare.”

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1,989
Total Members

COMMUNITY

Membership

We love to see our members thrive! With the intention of providing each ODA member a comparable membership experience, our goal is to continue to support our 16 local components throughout the state. This effort may look different depending on whether the local component has staff or is purely volunteer driven, is large or small, in the metro area or rural, is highly active or currently rebuilding. The ODA staff is here to support our diverse components and members as we understand one size does not fit all. We worked closely with local component leadership to retain and recruit members

throughout the state using a variety of methods. Member engagement focused on email, direct mail, digital ad campaigns, and social media. Multiple campaigns focused on new dentists (0-10 years out of dental school) or recently lapsed members. Moving into 2024, peer-to-peer recruiting by current members is critical to growing the association. Staff attended 11 component meetings, held four component leadership meetings, and attended six component socials. We were there to listen to you, the members, inform members and non-members of association benefits, and continue to expand offerings to make membership valuable and relevant.

The ODA has continued highlighting member value to new dentists and OHSU dental students. The New Dentist Council continued to support the ODA Mentor Program. The program currently has three in-person pods and one virtual pod, with 69 mentees participating and 25 mentors who meet monthly to discuss life in dental school, interesting cases, wellness, and life after dental school. We continue to have a presence at OHSU, which led to 22 touchpoints/programs in 2023. We continue to partner with OHSU staff/faculty and ASDA to expand our programming to present relevant topics and have plans to expand faculty outreach. A new dentist social held at this year's regional event in Florence brought together members Friday night for trivia and cocktails.

We are pleased to share that with the support and hard work of our volunteer leaders and staff across the state, we retained 92% of membership. Welcoming 109 new members into ODA membership in 2023, we ended the year with membership totaling 1,989 dentists throughout the state. This represents 51.5% of active dentists. As we move forward into 2024, we will continue to concentrate on retainment of current members while demonstrating the value of membership to all Oregon dentists. Our strength comes in numbers, and we urge you to share your community experiences with colleagues in hopes that they will join your association! We thank you for your support of organized dentistry.

Wellness Initiative

There were many highlights for the Wellness Initiative in 2023 under the leadership of Chair Dr. Julie Spaniel. One highlight was the inclusion of representatives from throughout the five states (OR, WA, ID, MT, AK) in ADA District XI as we begin to build a District XI Wellness Ambassador program.

Dr. Spaniel's involvement as an ADA Wellness Ambassador and a member of the ADA's Dental Wellness Advisory Committee has greatly helped the ODA and ADA be in alignment with their goals for wellness. The ODA continues to be recognized as one of the leading states for addressing wellness.

The Wellness Committee, composed of more than 15 Wellness Ambassadors, met twice in person in 2023, and in addition to educational guests, had the opportunity to discuss action items to advance our Wellness Initiative. At the May meeting, which was the first to be attended by Ambassadors from outside of Oregon, there was discussion about the ODC Wellness Track as well as discussion regarding removing all mentions of mental illness in the application process and in the dental rules. Oregon would be following the Oregon Medical Board in an effort to remove stigmatizing language for all applications so that states would have consistent rules. The Oregon Board of Dentistry is currently considering the language proposal.

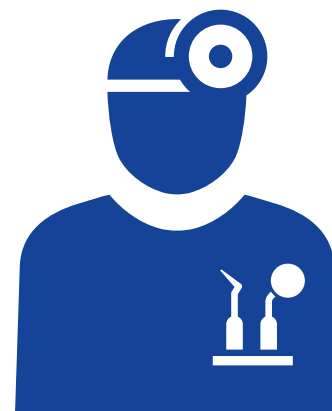
In November, the Ambassadors met again via Zoom, and we had representatives from four of the five states in District XI. There was discussion among the Ambassadors for activities in their respective states and what they would like to see moving forward as the group becomes active at a district-wide level. The group also suggested that they meet on a quarterly basis. Dr. Felicia Bloom was present to give updates on the ADA Well-Being Summit and other activities that the ADA was working on in regard to well-being.

In addition to the continual promotion of the Wellness Ambassador peer-to-peer support, the ODA was also successful in getting funding approved for the Oregon Wellness Program through the Oregon Board of Dentistry budget. We will continue to advocate for continual funding for the program.



109

New Members



More than

15

Wellness Ambassadors

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EDUCATION & PRACTICE SUPPORT

2023 Oregon Dental Conference

The 130th Oregon Dental Conference (ODC) was held on-site at the Oregon Convention Center, April 13-15, 2023. There were 66 speakers who presented 85 scientific continuing education sessions. Two of the sessions were hands-on workshops.

The exhibit hall was held on Thursday, April 13 and Friday, April 14. There were 121 exhibiting companies. There was a Grand Opening Reception on Thursday and an Ice Cream Social on Friday to drive traffic to the hall. Also new last year was the Friday evening party, which combined events for ODA leaders and ODC attendees.

A total of 3,670 individuals attended the conference (3,156 dental professionals and 514 exhibitor personnel). We thank everyone who attended and supported the 2023 ODC!

In 2024, the ODC will continue to be 100% in person at the Oregon Convention Center. It will feature 50 speakers and 80 courses from April 4 to 6, with four hands-on workshops. ODC 2024 will have a focus on health and wellness. Daily yoga, a Wellness Hub with resources and activities in the exhibit hall, and a robust wellness track will be offered including continuing education sessions in nutrition, ergonomics, mental health, and financial health. We look forward to bringing the Oregon Dental Conference back and providing our community with the opportunity to Connect, Learn, and Grow!

Regional Event

On November 3rd and 4th, the ODA successfully hosted the second Regional Event in Florence, Oregon. Dr. Caroline Zeller and Lou Radja each gave very well-received presentations. Attendees were able to earn five hours of CE credit. The Friday evening prior featured a fun trivia social event hosted by ODA's own Dr. Travis Baskerville. The education sessions were followed by a fun tailgate party for those in attendance. This event was open to all ODA members as well as non-members and dental team members, and we reached our goal of over 50 participants in addition to an increase in sponsors from the previous year.

ODA's next regional event is scheduled for the weekend of November 2nd at Brasada Ranch in Central Oregon. We ambitiously hope to have over 100 registrants for this event, which will be highlighted by a great Western-themed party on Saturday evening. Save the date and watch for registration to open soon!

ADVOCACY

2023 Legislative Session

The ODA's legislative agenda was highlighted by the passage of House Bill 3008 to improve transparency of dental plans and prevent surprise business expenses, protect access to care, improve oral health outcomes, and promote public understanding of health care costs. The bill accomplishes this through transparency in insurance practices involving provider networks, as well as transparency in the claims reimbursement process.

The bill requires dental plans to obtain a provider's consent before selling or leasing out provider panels, along with advance approval to receive reimbursement payments via electronic credit cards rather than checks. Insurers are also required to communicate about payment processing fees associated with these electronic reimbursements. For one ODA member, third-party credit card processing fees have added up to \$11,000 a year.

ODA members not only helped craft the bill – they also worked with staff to advocate for these policies in the Capitol: meeting with legislators, testifying to legislative committees, sharing their stories in the news, and more.

Throughout the session, a major sticking point was whether insurance companies should be required to have dentists opt into these agreements rather than making them opt out, which often leads to surprise expenses. Ultimately, we were successful in ensuring opt-in requirements were included. While some states currently have opt-in requirements when it comes to virtual credit card reimbursements, *Oregon is the first in the nation to require consent in advance of network leasing.*

The ODA Lobby Team also spent considerable time and effort on HB 2979, which was a \$20M budget request addressing the dental workforce crisis. HB 2979 won unanimous approval in the House Committee on Health Care, then stalled in the Joint Committee on Ways and Means. Developed by ODA members,

and sponsored by dentists Rep. Hai Pham and Rep. Cyrus Javadi, HB 2979 would have addressed Oregon's shortage of dental support staff by funding the primary pathways Oregonians take to become dental assistants and hygienists and better supporting those working in rural and underserved areas. The bill would have invested in high school and community college education and training programs for dental assistants and hygienists, expanded eligibility for incentives to all oral health professionals serving high-need communities, and improved access to free resources for dentists offering on-the-job training.

ODA staff and leadership collaborated with stakeholders throughout the session and built a coalition including over two dozen organizations. ODA members testified to legislators, participated in interviews featured on local news programs, and sent a record 1,500+ letters advocating for the bill to state lawmakers.

Although HB 2979 stalled during the walkout, the initiative is strongly positioned for future efforts.

Additionally, the ODA advocated for a number of other bills including better funding for an Office of Oral Health, bills addressing dental assisting examination barriers, and successful passage of the Oregon Board of Dentistry budget, which includes funding for the Oregon Wellness Program.

2024 Legislative Agenda Development

With a short session approaching in 2024, the ODA will be monitoring bills related to oral health as well as advocating against the 3-6% rate decrease proposed in the Oregon Health Plan. The ODA Lobby Team will also be doing the groundwork for possible legislation regarding a Dentist/Dental Hygiene Compact, possible legislation regarding MLR, and other bills to address the complications with third-party payers.



ODA will be monitoring bills related to oral health



LEADERSHIP

ODA leaders are the livelihood of the organization, giving their time and expertise to advance the association, profession, and patient care. We continue to see record participation in leadership and opportunities for membership engagement. This is in part due to our highly successful Leadership Academy, which offers members the opportunity to experience a backstage pass to ODA experiences and offerings while developing and enhancing their leadership and interpersonal skills. Additionally, ODA leaders and staff continue to work on increasing engagement at the component level.

House of Delegates

The 2023 House of Delegates was offered virtually on September 23 with 76 participants. The ODA HOD has the distinction of being the only state to hold their meeting virtually. In addition to resolutions and other business, the delegates participated in a robust discussion about the Medical Loss Ratio issue after Dr. Caroline Zeller moderated a panel discussion with representatives from the American Dental Association, California Dental Association, and Massachusetts Dental Society.

THE DENTAL FOUNDATION OF OREGON

2023 was filled with a number of positive experiences including achieving Platinum status on Candid (formerly GuideStar) for the sixth year in a row, and for the first time ever, they were independently evaluated and rated by Charity Navigator, earning a 92/100 score! Both organizations are the premier destinations for nonprofits and nonprofit research.

The DFO also closed out a busy 2023 with plans for the February 2, 2024, official launch of the new Tooth Taxi, as they retire the first mobile clinic, which has traveled over 90,000 miles within the borders of Oregon providing care onsite at schools. The team is excited to welcome

a brand-new replacement mobile clinic as this marks an exciting new chapter in the history of the program, and with that comes new opportunities yet to be realized.

Steadfastly adhering to the DFO's mission to advance oral health education, provide charitable care, and coordinate resources for Oregon's children and vulnerable communities since its launch in 2008, the positive impact of the Tooth Taxi program can be demonstrated by the numbers: 25,613 patients screened; 15,455 unique appointments on the Taxi; 25,785 students received classroom oral hygiene education resulting in \$8,816,047 in FREE dental service! 🎯

CLOSING MESSAGE

2023 was a transitional year for the ODA, and we had many successes to celebrate. Declining membership continues to be a challenge for all dental associations, and the ODA is not immune to this. As we look forward to 2024, we are encouraged by exciting events such as the ODC and Regional Event, our HOD, and our increased emphasis on components to engage our membership. Our volunteer leadership is strong, robust, and very active. Our outstanding Lobby Team will continue to advocate for dentists and oral health in Oregon, and we will pursue legislation in 2025 to address third-party payer issues. The ODA staff has set their goals for 2024 and want to make it a great year.

Thank you, Sponsors!

Our generous sponsors help make the ODC a success!

For information on becoming a sponsor,
Please contact Carole Astley at 503.218.2010, x2004
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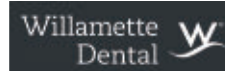
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