

First Letter from ADA Trustee to NYSDA Districts – January 2023
Trustee's Corner

Greetings NYSDA members from your new ADA Trustee, Dr. Brendan Dowd. In consultation with your District Editors and Executive Directors, I have decided to initiate a triennial correspondence with all of the district components in New York State. I am planning on relaying the important information and news from the American Dental Association in order for you to be as up to date as possible with your national organization. These letters will be published in the beginning of the year, in late spring and during the fall.

I would like to begin by taking a moment of personal privilege to thank our immediate past-Trustee, Dr. Paul Leary. Paul did a wonderful job representing the Second District and we all owe him a debt of gratitude for his selfless and effective service. Thank you for all of your efforts Paul.

At the ADA annual meeting in October, the ADA House of Delegates passed two resolutions pertaining to Strategic Forecasting. A House of Delegates committee, with four subcommittees and twelve Action Groups, the newly authorized Strategic Forecasting Committee will be in operation to help the ADA make decisions in real time. Issues that come up will be immediately referred to the Strategic Forecasting Committee, which will employ the subcommittees and Action Groups as needed. Urgent decisions can be made at that time, using this committee structure as a proxy for the House of Delegates, instead of waiting for the next meeting of the House of Delegates in the fall. Non-urgent issues will be vetted through the SFC and directed toward the appropriate entity (such as a Council, Committee or the House of Delegates) to be acted upon. This has become common in the private business world as well as other associations. Decisions and implementations can occur quickly to keep up with ever changing circumstances and situations. If you are ever contacted to contribute to the subcommittees or the constantly changing Action groups, please take them up on it to help our organization.

On Election Day last November, a referendum in Massachusetts was passed requiring dental insurance companies operating in the state to maintain a Dental Loss Ratio of 83%. Even more promising, it passed by an overwhelming margin of 71% to 29%. What this translates to is 83% of all revenue must be directed toward patient care and the remaining income can be used for administrative costs for all dental insurance companies operating within the state of Massachusetts. This has been a hard-fought battle to increase transparency with these companies. Currently, dental insurance companies do not have to report this data and it is very difficult to discern where the money is going. The ADA contributed heavily to the effort financially and strategically in order to make this a reality. We also need to thank the Massachusetts Dental Society and their members for all of the hard work and leadership they provided during the election season. Additionally, our own New York State Dental Association, as well as other state associations, contributed financially to the effort. We hope to transfer this success to other states in the near future. This is critical to keeping the playing field fair between dental insurance companies and the patients we serve.

The Health Policy Institute at the American Dental Association is an incredible group that performs valuable services for our members and our profession. The chief economist is Dr. Marco Vujicic and his group is constantly completing studies that help all of us with the day to day practice of dentistry. They study the economic trends of workforce issues, practice trends and modalities, as well as production and expense statistics they see unfolding throughout the country. Their information during the Covid-19 pandemic has been exceptionally helpful to understanding all of the changes and real time adjustments in the practice of dentistry. Please take the time in the future to watch one of their many podcasts or look up a few of their many studies that are available on our website. I guarantee you will not be disappointed. It will help keep you on the cutting edge of our ever-changing profession.

The new ADA Member App has been out since the House of Delegate meeting in October. Please take a moment to download it from the App store. There is a Home page with many important relevant articles concerning our profession located conveniently in this section. There is also a chat segment to catch up with your colleagues. Additionally, you can find your completed and in-progress courses, access to CE transcripts as well as a section to download practice documentation. This is a great way to keep up on the latest information in our profession and stay connected, all at your fingertips of your cellphone. It is the first iteration of the App, which will undergo many changes and additions in the future, all with the help of member's input.

As you know, the Power of Three at the American Dental Association is a unique structure that keeps our organization on sound footing. While other organizations struggle with including all of their

different contributing partners, we gather strength from the diversity of thought we bring to the table. We must continue to support this concept as we strive to improve our membership.

It is my sincerest hope that everyone had a safe and happy holiday season and Happy New Year to everyone. I am humbled and honored to be serving you over the next four years. Please contact me at drndowd@gmail.com or on my cell phone (716-510-3217) if you have any questions or information concerning the ADA. I look forward to hearing from you. Finally, I would like to thank Dr. Lois Jackson from the First District for initiating this idea and encouraging me to think about this important communication.

Sincerely, Brendan

Brendan Dowd DDS
Trustee, Second District of the ADA