# Report of the HDA Delegation to the ADA House of Delegates – 2019

The American Dental Association held its 160th Annual Meeting at the Moscone Convention Center in San Francisco from September 5 – 9, and it proved to be a very successful meeting. The meeting was presided over by Dr. Jeffrey M. Cole, who was the current ADA President. However, this year's meeting was referred to as the ADA FDI World Congress and was also presided over by FDI President Kathryn Kell. The FDI had over 1,100 attendees registered. The total number of attendees was 30,435 with over 10,550 dentists, 711 dental students, 8,751 dental team members and 10,423 related professionals. CE courses were 90% occupied with paid seating over 50,000.

Most of the courses, exhibitors and ADA House of Delegates meetings were located at the Moscone Convention Center, while the ADA District Caucuses and Reference Committee meetings were held at the Marriott Marquis, designated the ADA Headquarters Hotel. The House of Delegates meets Friday afternoon and all day Monday starting at 6:30 am with the election of officers.

The Opening Ceremony and General Session was held Thursday afternoon and highlighted by the Keynote Address given by actor and producer Mark Wahlberg. He is also known for his philanthropic work with children. He founded the Mark Wahlberg Youth Foundation in 2001 to curb opioid abuse among inner-city children and teens. His message was timely and well received by all in attendance.

 Our Hawaii Delegation (3) is in the ADA 14<sup>th</sup> District along with Arizona (10), Colorado (10), Nevada (3), New Mexico (2), Utah (5) and Wyoming (2). The number after the state signifies the number of Delegates allocated by the ADA based on ADA membership per state. Our 14<sup>th</sup> District has a total of 35 delegates, and each state is authorized the same number of Alternate Delegates to attend the Caucuses, Reference Committees and the House. Each Association's Executive Director is a key member of their delegation, and additionally, each state can select a secretary to accompany the delegation.

This year's election of ADA officers was unlike years past and especially last year when 4 candidates ran for President-elect. This year there was only one candidate running for President-elect, and he was our 14<sup>th</sup> District Trustee, Dr. Daniel J. Klemmedson. He was, therefore, proclaimed president-elect by the Speaker of the House after his speech at the Friday meeting of the House. For Second Vice-president, Dr. Vincent Rapini, from St. Louis was also uncontested and was proclaimed Second Vice-president and will automatically become first vice president next year at the Orlando HOD. A new Speaker was elected from a distinguished slate of four candidates, and after 3 runoff ballots, Dr. W. Mark Donald from Mississippi was elected Speaker.

The majority of work for the delegates involves the many resolutions that are brought before the House. As in years past, the majority of Resolutions were left on the consent calendar and were therefore approved without discussion on the House floor; however, a number were pulled off

the consent calendar and discussed at the four Reference Committee meetings held from 7:00 am to 2:30 pm on Saturday, September 7<sup>th</sup> and then at the House meeting on Monday, September 9.

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## Reference Committee A: Budget, Business, Membership and Administrative Matters.

- This year Resolutions 15, 74 and 75RC gave the delegates much to debate and consider at the
- Reference Committee Hearing as well as the House floor.
- **Resolution 33** was easily approved and established the 2020 budget.
- Resolution 34 stabilized the dues effective January 1, 2020 at \$565 again in spite of an anticipated \$11 deficit per member.
- **Resolution 15** eventually passed after extensive testimony at the reference committee meeting
- and the House. The resolution was intended to streamline the current dues structure. Most of the
- testimony was about changing the active life membership dues from a 75% discount to full dues.
- Pros and cons seemed equally divided, but supporting testimony came from dentists in all age
- 59 groups to include many active life members. Several attempts to amend Res 15 failed to pass, so
- Res 15 was passed as submitted by the Council on Membership. The dues were restructured to
- New Graduates 0% dues first year, 50% second year and full dues from 3<sup>rd</sup> year until retirement.
- Graduate students and resident no longer have a yearly \$30 dues. They are at 0, similar to first year graduates.
- Res 74 Also of interest was passage of Res 74, elimination of the Dentist's Prayer. Although it
- received a lot of passionate testimony both pro and con at the Reference Committee Hearing and
- on the House floor, the House voted to rescind The Dentist's Prayer from ADA policy.
- Res 75RC The Reference Committee Resolution 75RC, that Amended the ADA Policy,
- Recognition of Religious Diversity, was one of the most discussed resolutions. Attempts to
- amend the RC failed twice, and a third attempt to add the world "personal" before "moment of
- 70 reflection" was passed. So, meetings of the ADA may begin with a personal moment of
- 71 reflection or a silent prayer. This was passed in recognition of religious diversity.

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#### Reference Committee B: Dental Benefits, Practice and Related Matters.

- Resolution 5RC amended Res 5 regarding Employment of a Dentist. It was passed to prohibit
   discrimination in hiring and compensation practices.
- 76 **Resolution 11RC** concerning Medical/Dental Loss Ratio was confusing and led to much
- 77 discussion. The RC strengthened the policy statement of Res 11 and sought to improve
- 78 transparency of information available to the general public, and supports the concept of a
- Medical Loss Ratio for dental plans. Res 11RC was amended and adopted as amended.
- 80 Res 12 and 12S-1 on Silver Diamine Fluoride was hotly debated and it was concluded that its
- 81 use and coding presented areas of confusion, so it was referred back for further study and
- 82 clarification.
- 83 **Res 13RC:** Alteration of Dental Treatment Plans by Third Party Claims Analysis was on the
- 84 consent calendar, but the State Associations and Dental Boards should be made aware of this
- policy and encouraged to legislate for regulations to meet this end.
- **Res 28RC** resolved that the ADA develop and promote a screening tool/protocol for pediatric
- airway issues. It was adopted after amending to add the word "promote".
- 88 **Res 72RC:** Reauthorization of Elder Care Committee for another year to review and update
- 89 Resolution 5H-2006 and to address elder care including Medicare and report to the 2020 HOD
- 90 with a Comprehensive Strategic Elder Care policy.

91 **Res 76:** slightly amended the Policy Statement on the Role of Dentistry in the Treatment of

92 Sleep Disorders. It was further amended to include all patients and not just adult patients when

93 the diagnosis is made by a physician and the treatment with oral appliance therapy is

94 recommended.

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### Reference Committee C: Dental Education, Science and Related Matters.

This year was the least controversial in recent memory for Ref Committee C. Most resolutions resulted from Board Report 5 that addressed Governance Changes for ADA Commissions and remained on the consent calendar. Resolutions 17 through 25 were generated from Board Report 5, but only 17 and 19 were removed from the consent calendar.

Res 17RC tightened up the language on the Joint Commission on National Dental Exams, but attempts to further amend failed and then a motion to refer back failed and 17RC was passed as presented.

104 **Res 19RC** led to further discussion and then attempted amendments to resolve how the
105 Commission members were selected and whether dental school faculty should be included or
106 excluded. Amendments to 19RC failed and it was passed as the RC version.

**Res 69** is the response to Res 83-2018 Geriatric Dentistry and requests that the feasibility study conducted by CDEL be provided to the Special Care Dentistry Association for its consideration in pursuing an accreditation process and standards for advanced education programs in dentistry by CODA.

**Res 79** the ADA encourage research and data gathering on the effects of cannabis and cannabidiol (CBD) products on the dentition and surrounding oral mucosa so that a policy and guidelines be developed to help the profession meet the needs of the patients.

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#### Reference Committee D: Legislative, Health, Governance and Related Matters.

**Res 3** presented by the Board requested that the listing of individual votes by the Trustees not be divulged by name, but only totals of yes/no/abstain/absent. Res 3RC tried to make it more appealing, but the resolution was unanimously defeated. The HOD felt that transparency was more important than the argument of voting their conscience without having to explain.

**Res 43** was a sleeper, but so very important. It prohibits the ADA from providing any assistance to any agency, organization, group or individuals who attempting to alter the laws of a state without the consent and approval of the constituent society.

Res 84RC is a combination of Resolutions 80 and 84 and it addresses vaping and e-cigarettes and requests that the appropriate Council provide a report to the 2020 HOD updating the ADA policy on tobacco.

Res 78 generated a lot of discussion in its attempt to "Establish a Culture of Safety in Dentistry". This resolution tasks the appropriate Council to establish a comprehensive program of safety with regards to patients as well as providers and members of the dental team. This program will include a curriculum of training as well as practice guidelines and standards. This type of program already exists within the medical community and would serve dentistry well to elevate and retain our respected position in the eyes of the public.

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One of the highpoints of the House is the induction of the incoming ADA Officers and Trustees.

134 This year Dr. Chad P. Gehani from New York was installed as the 156<sup>th</sup> President of the

American Dental Association on September 9, 2019. He gave a well delivered and inspiring

address to the House that was well received. He pointed out how our profession continues to

change with the times, but there are three constants that will sustain it: a commitment to 137 138 evidence-based practice, a patient-first philosophy and the dentist at the center of care. He 139 emphasized that the dentist-patient relationship is the tentpole of our profession and it must be 140 respected. Dr. Gehani stated that each of us has a stake in our collective destiny. Our Association is in capable hands. 141 142 143 Additional officers installed are as follows: 144 Dr. Daniel J. Klemmedson, president-elect Dr. Craig W. Herre, first vice president 145 146 Dr. Vincent U. Rapini, second vice president 147 Dr. W. Mark Donald, speaker 148 149 New Trustees elected by their ADA Districts are as follows: 150 Dr. Richard J. Rosato 1st District, Dr. Craig S. Armstrong, 15th District, Dr. Terry Fiddler, 12<sup>th</sup> District, and Dr. Brett H. Kessler, 14<sup>th</sup> District. 151 152 153 Our new Trustee, Dr. Brett Kessler, is well known to our Hawaii Delegation, and he has the 154 distinction of completing the Ironman on several occasions, but most recently, last year just 155 before the ADA Meeting in Hawaii. We wish him much success over his four-year term. 156 157 Our Delegation appreciates the opportunity to represent our members to our District and the ADA HOD. The HDA Delegation to the ADA includes Delegates: Drs. Neil Nunokawa, Curt 158 159 Shimizu and Ed Cassella and Alternate Delegates: Chris Lee, Dayton Lum and Robert Baysa. Also in attendance were Delegation Secretary Dr. Wayne Leong and HDA Executive Director 160 Ms. Kim Nguyen. 161 162 163 164 Respectfully Submitted, 165 166 167 Edmund Cassella, DMD Senior ADA Delegate

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