

Report of the HDA Executive Director - 2023

2023 was quite the memorable year. The decision of the 2022 House of Delegates to sell our building meant the move to a rental space that brings us to a new chapter in our administration. Moving is both fun and exciting, and tedious and exhausting! We landed at Waterfront Plaza (though most of us fondly remember it as Restaurant Row) in kind of a “loft-type” office that is half the size of our previous home, but brings with it much appreciated security and safety features. And not to mention the surrounding eateries. Nevertheless, and regardless of where we are situated, our team continues to push out Mission-related tasks and activities – those that are expected/calendared, and the unexpected but that which we must address.

There was much sentiment for the return to in-person meetings and events and yet to keep the Zoom meetings where practicable. There certainly is a place for both modalities to accomplish the tasks ahead. That’ll be the way forward.

I won’t go into detail of the work that is all covered by other workgroups and officers (please read on in the Handbook), but the following work and folks deserve special and specific shout-outs:

Dr. Scott Morita, who entered his last year as a “young dentist” in 2023 – he leaves the Young Dentist Group (YDG) in such great shape by having created a templated structure for their bimonthly events and Give Kids a Smile community events. Though he transitions out of the YDG, Dr. Morita will forever remain young.

Dr. Jaelyn Lum, who has and still is, weathering the post-COVID effects on our annual Convention. She carries quite the load of trying to meet many demands and ideas to marry “what was (the good ‘ol days)” with “what will be (how do we get young people to come)” while trying to raise non-dues revenue. Many, if not all of you, know that the look and feel of Conventions are different now than pre-COVID. This is not an easy task to deliver year in, year out. (Good thing she has two young girls to keep her young and active!)

Dr. Norman Chun, HDA President who immediately activated the leadership and membership in supporting dentists affected by the wildfires on Maui. I know that he had other plans and vision for his presidency term but his nimbleness in responding and engaging is much appreciated during a time when the unimaginable happened.

I thank you all for their steadfast leadership to our membership!

Exciting work is happening with ADA! In July 2023, I assumed the Presidency for the American Society of Constituent Dental Executives (ASCDE) and am training to serve as the 14th district ED on the ADA’s Strategic Forecasting’s Public Professional Action Group for the West Region. Local, state, and national staff are also preparing to transition to the Salesforce-Fonteva platform, which will advance our technology and produce efficiencies. I can’t even begin to tell you how excited I am for this change – our current system Aptify is

47 archaic (it's ten years old – that's like a dinosaur in the IT world). This transition is indeed a
48 heavy lift that we're asking of all staff, and I'll ask for patience from our members as my team
49 learns our way through.

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51 My two dedicated staff, Ms. Toni Perez and Ms. Rachelle Teruya, continue to push forward as
52 we try our best to take care of members, the Mission, and ourselves. I appreciate their
53 tenacity to this work. I am hoping to have an Events Manager (or similar) on staff before the
54 year ends but I also know the workforce landscape is challenging – our goal is to increase our
55 infrastructure to better meet our members' needs.

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57 And thank you to all, for your membership, for the support to one another in the hard times,
58 and for the contributions to advancing organized dentistry! I hope everyone ends 2023 with
59 fond memories as we all look forward to a strong 2024.

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62 Respectively Submitted,

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65 Kim Nguyen, MSW
66 Executive Director