

Report of the HDA President – 2022-H

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4 It is amazing how quickly time passes. In about a month, I will be handing over the ‘torch’ to
5 next year’s HDA President, Dr. Norman Chun.

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7 Seldom do we find that any of us have enough time to do everything. I’ve heard that ‘time’
8 could be considered our most precious commodity; we have the freedom to choose what to
9 spend it on, and no one knows how much time we each have.

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11 During my year as president, I probably hold the new record for ‘Special House of Delegates
12 meetings’ in one year. All three of these meetings have been held to discuss the fate of our
13 HDA building, and as of this writing, the House has agreed to sell the building and it is
14 currently in Escrow. It is a bittersweet issue that has taken up a large majority of my time and
15 energy as president. I would like to thank all the delegates to HDA, our Building Program,
16 Financial Program, the Board of Trustee members, and our HDA staff for the many hours they
17 spent this past year meeting together to come to this decision and execute a sale.

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19 Throughout the year, HDA leadership travels to various mainland locations and interacts with
20 our other 14th District representatives. Meeting with other Presidents, President-elects and
21 Executive Directors from other states has been eye opening and enjoyable. Some of the issues
22 I wrote about in my last president’s message, such as workforce shortages (our dental team
23 members) and the downward trend of ADA membership, particularly dentists 1-5 years in
24 practice, will continue to be pressing topics in the new year. One new issue gaining national
25 attention is Ballot Question 2 in Massachusetts. In overly simplified terms, a single dentist
26 was able to petition for a law to implement medical loss ratios for dental benefit plans. A vote
27 Yes would regulate dental insurance rates, including requiring companies to spend at least
28 83% of premiums on member dental expenses and quality improvements instead of
29 administrative expenses, and making other changes to dental insurance regulations. The ADA
30 and component states are putting their support behind this initiative. What happens in
31 Massachusetts may open the door to change across the country; hopefully for the better, but
32 no one can know for sure.

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34 I couldn’t make it to the ADA House of Delegates in Houston due to illness (here at home
35 writing this letter during my recovery), and I miss the amazing people I got to meet this year
36 at the 14th District Caucus and Western States Presidents conference. Sometimes, we just
37 need time to take care of ourselves, to rest and recover, and feel grateful for the loving people
38 surrounding us, helping us to get better. I want to be there for organized dentistry, but time
39 spent at home cooking a meal for my family or helping my little one with her homework is
40 equally precious. We are all still left with only 24 hours in a day.

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42 To our members, working or retired, thank you for your time spent in service to your patients
43 and to those around you. It has been an honor to have spent this year of my life as your
44 president. I encourage all of you to consider spending a small portion of your time
45 volunteering in one of our many programs or mentoring the next generation. Having been the
46 recipient and participant of both has brought me great joy and respect for our profession.

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48 Respectively Submitted,
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51 Scott Kanamori, DDS
52 President