



NATIONAL  
DENTAL  
ASSOCIATION

*The*

# FLOSSLINE

TRIANNUAL MAGAZINE - WINTER 2024

## A NEW PRESIDENT

Dr. Cheryle Baptiste Hill assumes the Presidency with three big priorities



## IN THIS ISSUE

Interview with President Baptiste

NDA Members Inducted to American College of Dentists (ACD)

NDA and MetLife Scholarship Awards Student Scholarship

[www.NDAOnline.org](http://www.NDAOnline.org)

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## **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

**NDA HEALTH-NOW® @ Two Rivers Public Charter School  
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### **MISSION**

The National Dental Association promotes oral health equity among people of color by harnessing the collective power of its members, advocating for the needs of and mentoring dental students of color, and raising the profile of the profession in our communities.

### **GOALS**

**The goals of the National Dental Association are to:**

Improve the delivery of oral health care in underserved communities and improve the educational opportunities of minorities underrepresented in the oral health field.

**The specific objectives of the NDA are to:**

Establish the NDA as the vanguard of oral health in communities of color

Perpetuate the tradition and upgrade the stature of African American dentists in service to the minority community

Increase the number of minorities in dentistry in areas of private practice, academia, administration, research, health policy, media advocacy and the armed services

Provide members with opportunities for continued education, collaborative research, leadership training, and business networking

Inform health policy, interface with legislators, and influence legislation that affects minority consumers and providers

Support members in transition from dental student to dental professionals to retirees

Strengthen alliances with other health organizations, community groups, national coalitions, and corporations committed to the NDA ideals.



**Cover Image**

**Dr. Cheryle Baptiste**  
101st (NDA) President  
Inauguration Ceremony  
November 2024

# 2025 Executive Committee



**Dr. Cheryle Baptiste**  
President



**Dr. Reginald Salter**  
Board Chair



**Dr. LaTetra Collins**  
Vice President



**Dr. Bryant Jones**  
Secretary



**Dr. Daniel Young**  
Assistant Secretary



**Dr. Edward H. Chappelle, Jr.**  
Treasurer



**Dr. Lenise N. Yarber**  
Assistant Treasurer



**Dr. Joshua B. Tyson**  
Speaker of the House



**Dr. John Nelson**  
Vice Speaker of the House



**Dr. Wallace Bellamy**  
President Elect



**Marcus Ware, JD**  
Executive Director



**Dr. Nicole Cheek**  
Immediate Past President

# 2025 Board of Trustees



**Dr. Jacinto Beard**  
District 2



**Dr. Joy Jordan**  
District 2



**Dr. Cheryl Lee**  
District 3



**Dr. Michael Boykin**  
District 4



**Dr. Joshua Golden**  
District 4



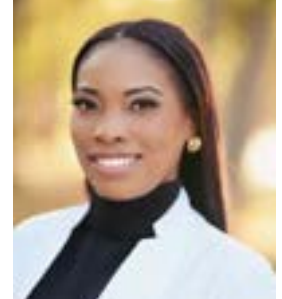
**Dr. John T. Daniels IV**  
District 5



**Dr. Perdita Fisher**  
District 5



**Dr. Dawud Muhaimin**  
District 6



**Rev. DeAndra Turner**  
District 6



**Dr. John Maupin, Jr.**  
NDAF



**Mr. James Bennett III**  
SNDA



**Rev. Angela BOWENS**  
NDAA

**Not Pictured:**

Dr. Dorita Newsome-Dobins (District 1), Dr. Yasmina Wright (District 1)  
Ms. Diane Lane Scott (NDHA) Mrs. Darlene Gay. ANDA (ANDA)

# OPENING REMARKS

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DDS, MPH, FICD

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# WORDS FROM THE EDITOR

Dear NDA Family,

As we close out an extraordinary year, I am thrilled to bring you this edition of our magazine, packed with highlights from an unforgettable season of gatherings, outreach programs, and momentous occasions for the National Dental Association (NDA).

From October to December, the NDA has been a beacon of service and leadership. Our outreach programs brought much-needed oral health education and care to underserved communities, demonstrating the profound impact of our shared mission. These efforts, along with local gatherings, served as a reminder of the strength and compassion that unite us as an organization. This issue also celebrates the monumental events that marked the end of the year. The Presidential Inauguration and the Inaugural Scholarship Gala were shining examples of our dedication to excellence, equity, and education. The gala provided a platform to honor outstanding dental students with scholarships, empowering the next generation of leaders in our field. We also proudly witnessed the historic swearing-in of the NDA's 101st President, a moment that signals both continuity and progress as we look toward the future.

***- “As you explore this edition, you’ll find stories of perseverance, leadership, and inspiration that showcase the heart of the NDA.” -***

It has been a privilege to reflect on the many ways our members and partners have worked tirelessly to advance oral health and equity, and I hope these highlights inspire you as much as they inspire me.

Thank you for your ongoing support and dedication to the NDA's mission. Together, we are shaping a brighter, healthier future.

Warm regards,



**NDA** NATIONAL  
DENTAL  
ASSOCIATION

*The*  
**FLOSSLINE**  
TRIENNIAL MAGAZINE

*Dr. Marissa Spruell*

**Dr. Marissa Spruell**  
Editor

**AN INTERVIEW WITH THE 101st  
PRESIDENT  
DR. CHERYLE BAPTISTE HILL**



# AN INTERVIEW WITH THE 101st PRESIDENT DR. CHERYLE BAPTISTE HILL

***“I just want to be able to affect policy and make changes. The three key areas that I want to focus on are enhancing financial literacy and stability for our members, membership growth, and technology.” -***

**Dr. Cheryle Baptiste Hill**, the new president of NDA, discussed her unexpected journey to the position, starting as a secretary in 2022. She outlined her key initiatives: enhancing financial literacy, financial stability, and membership growth by 40% in 2025. She emphasized the importance of technology enhancement, including a revamped website and improved database.

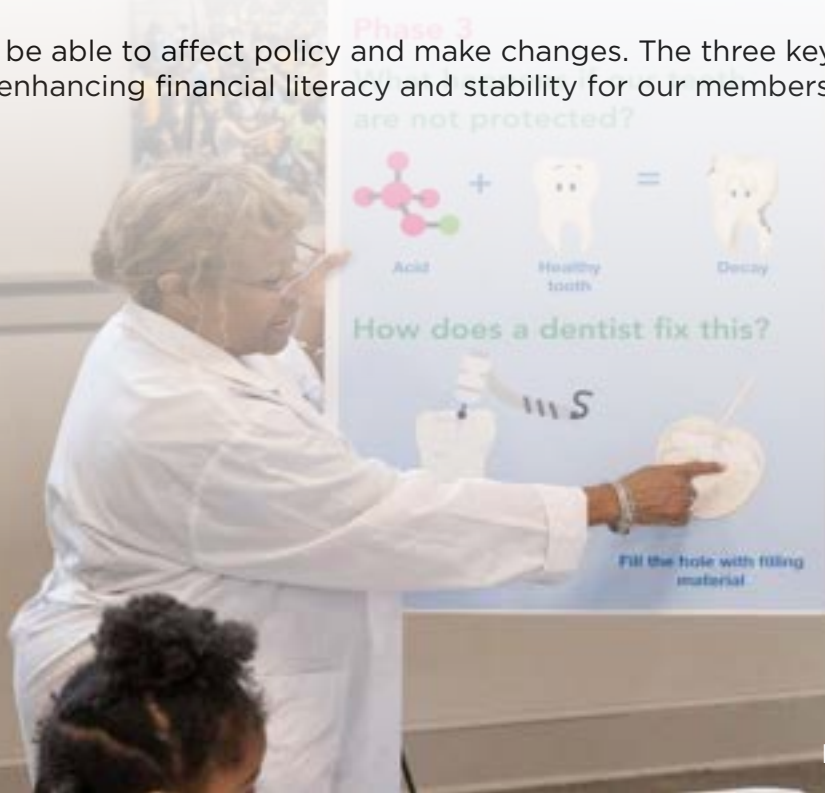
Dr. Baptiste also highlighted the need for better engagement with members, particularly through town hall meetings and mentorship programs. She aims to increase NDA's visibility and influence, including potential collaborations with the National Museum of African American History and Culture.

**Congratulations on your new role! What inspired you to take on the position of president of this organization?**

Oh, my goodness, I was not inspired! When we were in Arizona (for the NDA Convention) in the summer of 2022, Dr. Nate Fletcher said, “We don’t have a secretary; would you like the position?” And I was like, “Well, can you find somebody else? If you can’t find anybody else, I’ll do it. Now, why did I say that? [laughing]. He told me to come in to introduce myself to the Board of Trustees. I came in, introduced myself, and turned around to get ready to go. He said, “Sit down and start writing.” I had never been a secretary before. I didn’t even know everyone’s name. I just sat down and started writing. In July 2022, they voted me in.

**What is your vision for the organization during your tenure?**

I just want to be able to affect policy and make changes. The three key areas that I want to focus on are enhancing financial literacy and stability for our members, membership growth, and technology.



### *Vision 1: Enhancing financial literacy and stability for our members*

I want to make sure all of our members have some financial literacy. I have a vision to work within the National Office of Minority Business Development Agency (under the US Department of Commerce) to create the National Dental Association's business operations assistance program. When we're in dental school, we're so focused on trying to complete the clinical aspect, but most of us don't have a degree in business. No one teaches us where to find financial resources, how to secure funding for our desired projects, or how to market ourselves. I want to focus on grant writing. I have a team of people working on that. I also want to make sure that at the close of every year, we end in the black.

As for our corporate roundtable (founded by Dr. Hazel Harper), I want to encourage new businesses and foundations to join our corporate roundtable and make sure we have financial success for the organization.

### *Vision #2: Membership Growth*

I want to increase our membership by 40% in 2025. I would like to create campaigns to target our membership and hear our members' needs. We've had two town hall meetings. We have another one coming up this Thursday, and another one will be coming. The meetings have been a wonderful opportunity for us [NDA] to receive feedback directly from our members.

### *Vision #3: Technology*

We are improving our website to include a tab for each society, eliminating the need for them to duplicate information and allowing them to access it all in one location. We're also updating our member database to ensure every member's contact information is updated.

### **How do you intend to enhance member engagement and ensure their voices are heard?**

Other than our town hall meetings, Robert T. Freeman (NDA's DC Chapter) is having a membership drive. The Robert T Freeman chapter will be 125 years old in 2025, so I want to have 100 dues-paid members by the end of this year. I also want to create a budget for NDA-HEALTH NOW®. Many people don't know what the acronym stands for. So NDA (National Dental Association), HEALTH (health, equity, access, literacy, technology, hope) NOW- national outreach on wheels. There are so many people in the community who need our inspiration and need to see people like us. I've also been approached by some of my classmates who are interested in mentoring. They've spoken to me about the impact it makes. Not only speaking to young, aspiring dentists but connecting them with individuals from other professions. So you have social workers, physicians, nurses, clergy, pharmacists, and lawyers, all working together to build our community.

### **Are there any initiatives you're excited about that focus on promoting oral health awareness among the public?**

The S.M.I.L.E. (Student Mentoring with Immersive Learning and Enrichment) Healthcare Pathway Program is a partnership between Henry Schein, Inc. the National Dental Association, and other professional associations to help mentor future healthcare professionals, enhance health literacy, expand diversity in the healthcare workforce and ultimately improve health and overall outcomes in underserved communities nationwide. The program is generously supported by the Schattner Foundation and the Delta Dental Oral Health Diversity Fund. 2024 was our second year and it was held at Meharry Medical College (MMC). In 2025, it'll be held at Howard University and MMC. The students are eager, and interested, and have many questions about what we [dentists] do.

Me being a Washingtonian, I want to get the NDA into the National Museum of African American History and Culture. There's no reason why we shouldn't be in there.

**Where do you see the dental profession in the next five to ten years, and how do you hope NDA will shape that future?**

Well, it seems like you're going to have to be wealthier and wealthier to get into dental school because of the huge amount of student loan debt. So if our our students are graduating with \$400,000 -\$500,000 in debt, where are they going to work to to be able to pay that monthly payment? I think that individuals are going to have to join forces. So instead of me being a solo practitioner, you know you might have to have 3,4 or 5 people joining forces to practice together or rotate through practices. Looking at these DSO models, it's going to be harder and harder to be a standalone practice. I know some people have opted in the past to work at designated areas where they can work off some of that student loan debt, but those are shrinking, or funding is shrinking, and we don't know what the future is going to bring.

There are many people, like me, passionate about working with Medicaid patients. Unfortunately, you cannot have a thriving livelihood on the Medicaid fee schedule. So like here in DC, we've been pounding the pavement, working with the legislators here to increase fees that dentists are paid. We need advocates for that. We also need individuals willing to provide training about licensure, patient complaints, malpractice, and more to prevent issues with the state dental board. Many of us forget the state board is there to represent the public; they're not there to represent the dentist, even though they provide the standards for your licensure. We need resources to help people know what to do if they're ever found in this situation. How are we doing our record-keeping? How are we doing following OSHA infection control protocol?

**What legacy do you hope to leave behind as president of NDA?**

***“I want people to see that it [NDA] is a safety net. Come! Let's be cohesive in this family of organizations; whether you're a child, undergrad student, in dental school, recent graduate, or seasoned dentist, know there's a place for you.”***

There's a safety net for you. Let's come together as a happy family. We have each other's back. Let's work together.

**Finally, what message would you like to share with the members of the organization and the dental community at large?**

That we are vibrant. We are active. I can give you praise reports from so many people who have achievements and they're active in the NDA. Many of our members are very, very busy people. I know many people say, “I don't have time,” but our members are busy. Just to give you an example... Dr. Sharon Russell, from the DMV area, her daughter Masai Russell was an Olympic gold medal winner this past summer. They have five children, and she's an oral surgeon. Originally she was a nurse, but later became inspired by cleft palate treatment. We have Dr. Nicole McGrath Barnes. She won the National Film Award for her feature film, “Toothache: The Painful Truth About Oral Health Care Inequity”, a documentary about the implications of a lack of access to dental health care. She's recognized internationally, and she's one of our members. Dr. Dawud Muhaimin has recently achieved Diplomate status in the American Board of Oral Implantology. These are vibrant people, they're here working and they have the vision of us being cohesive.



**SCAN TO VIEW FULL 2024  
INAUGURATION PHOTO  
ALBUM**

# BOARD OF TRUSTEES CHAIRMAN

On behalf of the Board of Trustees,

I extend to all of our members and your families a very Happy New Year! I extend my heartfelt thanks to each of you for your dedication, hard work, and unwavering commitment to the National Dental Association throughout the past year. Together, we have navigated challenges, seized opportunities, and made significant strides toward achieving our shared goals.

Looking ahead, I am filled with optimism and excitement for the opportunities that 2025 holds. With the strength of our collective vision, expertise, and determination, I am confident we will continue to build on our successes and reach new heights. We have a variety of Committees and programs to move NDA's mission forward. I invite all our members to join a committee! My vision is a NDA where there is room for everyone at the table.

Thank you once again for your continued support and contribution to our shared journey.

Onward and Upward,



**Reginald O. Salter, MBA, DDS, PhD, FICD, FACD**  
NDA Board of Trustees, Chairman

## INTERESTED IN JOINING A COMMITTEE OR PROGRAM?

**CONTACT US** at [mware@ndaonline.org](mailto:mware@ndaonline.org)

**Nominating  
Audit  
Publications/Social Media  
Policy Review  
Annual Convention  
Allison Riddle-Fletcher Women's Health Symposium  
40 Under 40  
Social Justice  
National Programs  
Eddie G. Smith Leadership Institute**



# LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Members of the National Dental Association,

I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude for the warm welcome I have received as the Interim Executive Director of the NDA. The dedication, passion, and camaraderie within the NDA community are truly inspiring and reflect the strength of our shared mission to advance oral health equity and excellence.

It has been a tremendous honor to witness and contribute to several key milestones during this period of transition, including travels to New Orleans, LA and Kansas City, MO to meet and greet our members and leaders. Together, we also celebrated the success of the Inaugural and Scholarship Gala, which raised over \$50,000 from 150 individual donors to support NDA's national programs and scholarships. This remarkable achievement demonstrates the collective power of our network to effect meaningful change.

Overall, **Transition Weekend** was a resounding success, engaging over 400+ members of the NDA community. Through our signature community outreach event NDA-HEALTH NOW®, two vibrant receptions, a productive board meeting, and the culminating gala, we came together to strengthen connections, share ideas, and celebrate our progress.

Looking ahead to 2025, we are excited to focus on key priorities:

- **Growing our membership** and enhancing member benefits to better serve our community.
- **Increasing revenue** through corporate partnerships and grants, enabling us to expand our impact.
- Hosting a **successful national convention** in Kansas City, where we'll gather to advance our mission.
- **Revitalizing advocacy efforts** with the re-launch of NDA Day on the Hill, ensuring our voices are heard.

As the national office pursues enhanced operational excellence, I invite everyone to join us in these efforts. Your partnership, passion, and perspectives are vital to realizing the vision of a stronger, more impactful National Dental Association.

Thank you for your unwavering commitment to this organization and to the communities we serve. Together, we will continue to build a legacy of excellence and equity for the future. In gratitude and partnership,

---

**Marcus Ware, JD**

Executive Director

National Dental Association

[mware@ndaonline.org](mailto:mware@ndaonline.org)

c: (301) 456-5382



# LETTER FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT

Greetings NDA family,

With a smile and full of excitement, I am elated to return to the Executive Committee of the premier organization for oral healthcare, the National Dental Association, serving as vice president. Since 1913, the NDA has been open and is positioned as the Diversity Equity Inclusion (DEI) organization for oral health. We are open to change, for change makers and for oral health champions to eliminate healthcare disparities.

My main goal for this year, which aligns with the Membership Outreach, Reclamation, and Retention (MORR) committee where I served for the past two years, is to help increase membership! This is also in accord with our President's vision for 2025. Another goal is to mentor and empower students as they transition to the NDA with confidence. Please support our mission physically, spiritually, and financially because together we can achieve more! I leave you with this thought by Henry Ford:

*"Coming together is a beginning, staying together is progress, and working together is success!"*

Respectfully submitted,

**Dr. LaTedra Collins**

Vice President

National Dental Association



# SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS & EXECUTIVE OFFICE



## Dr. LaTedra Collins Elected NDA Vice President

With an extensive history of leadership in the National Dental Association, Dr. LaTedra Collins has been confirmed by the Board of Trustees to serve as Vice President for 2025. As VP, she will lead alongside NDA President Dr. Cheryle Baptiste on the Executive Committee to move NDA's strategic plan forward, serve as the National Advisor to SNDA, and represent NDA members on the Board of Trustees.

Dr. Collins is a graduate of the Xavier University of Louisiana and the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Dentistry. She brings a wealth of professional experience to this role, having matriculated to a hospital residency program, where she obtained a certification in Moderate Sedation from Louisiana State University Health Science Center. She has worked for a Federally Qualified Health Center and is an independent contractor. In 2015, Dr. Collins became employed by Benevis, where she was promoted from Associate to Senior Associate and now serves as State Dental Director.

Dr. Collins's leadership in the NDA began in 2011, when she reactivated the Heart of America Dental Society and served as a member of the House of Delegates. Subsequently, she went on to serve as Assistant Secretary, Secretary, and a District V member of the Board of Trustees. She resides in Lake Charles, Louisiana, where she obtained a certificate in Business Administration from McNeese State University. She has participated in mission trips to Bolivia, Haiti, and Honduras and is a member of numerous organizations, including Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. She enjoys community service with her nonprofit organization, Miles of Smiles Mobile Dentistry; golf; fishing; and riding her ATV.

***“Her stellar leadership has been recognized consistently throughout the NDA and the larger profession, and we are excited to welcome her (back) to the Board of Trustees.”***

- Dr. Reginald Salter, Chairman

## WELCOME BACK DR. COLLINS



# PROTOCOL CORNER

## Continuing the Legacy of Leadership in 2025 -

**Joshua B. Tyson DDS, MPH, FICD**

As Speaker of the House for the National Dental Association (NDA), it is both a privilege and an honor to continue leading our esteemed organization into another impactful year. Together, we have made incredible strides, and I am committed to building upon this momentum to elevate the NDA's mission and influence in 2025.

This year, I am thrilled to welcome Dr. John Nelson as our new Assistant Speaker of the House. Based in Miami, Dr. Nelson has been an invaluable partner in developing innovative ideas and initiatives that support both new and seasoned dentists. His expertise, creativity, and dedication to our profession make him a perfect fit for this leadership role. We are excited to have him on board and look forward to the fresh perspectives he will bring to the House of Delegates.

I would also like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to Dr. Roderick Adams for his service as Assistant Speaker of the House. Dr. Adams has been instrumental in advancing our goals, and I am grateful that he will continue to lend his expertise as Chairman of the Bylaws Committee. His commitment to our organization remains steadfast and deeply appreciated.

A special thank-you goes out to last year's delegates for their tireless service and unwavering dedication to the NDA's mission. Their efforts have laid a strong foundation for the future. I am eager to collaborate with this year's delegates as we collectively strive to "move the needle" and continue advancing the legacy of the National Dental Association.

### The Role of the House of Delegates

The House of Delegates remains a cornerstone of the NDA's governance and vision. As a reminder, the House is tasked with critical responsibilities that shape the direction of our organization, including:

- Electing officers and adopting the annual budget.
- Serving as the court of appeal for decisions made by the Board of Trustees when convened as the Committee of Ethics.
- Determining the NDA's position on critical issues affecting the practice and science of dentistry.
- Amending and enforcing the NDA's Constitution, Bylaws, and Code of Ethics.
- Granting, amending, or revoking charters for constituent or component societies.
- Electing life and honorary associate members.
- Creating special committees to address emerging needs of the organization.

One of the most recent actions by the House was the adoption of the position paper on water fluoridation. This paper reaffirms our unwavering commitment to promoting oral health equity through proven public health measures. The paper reads:

"The National Dental Association recognizes community water fluoridation as a safe, effective, and equitable means to prevent tooth decay across all populations. As oral health disparities persist in marginalized communities, the NDA supports the implementation and maintenance of water fluoridation programs nationwide to ensure access to this vital public health intervention."

This position reflects the NDA's dedication to evidence-based practices and our mission to eliminate oral health.

# PROTOCOL CORNER

## Continuing the Legacy of Leadership in 2025 ... continued

As we move forward into 2025 under the leadership of Dr. Cheryle Baptiste Hill, the House of Delegates remains committed to fostering collaboration and innovation across all sectors of our organization. One area of particular excitement is our continued partnership with the New Dentist Committee and the Student National Dental Association (SNDA). Together, we are working to enhance programs and initiatives that support the growth and success of dental professionals at every stage of their careers.

The New Dentist Committee plays a pivotal role in bridging the gap between graduation and establishing a thriving dental practice. By focusing on mentorship, professional development, and practical resources, the committee has been instrumental in addressing the unique challenges faced by new dentists. Their efforts help early-career professionals navigate everything from practice management and loan repayment strategies to skill refinement and leadership development.

Similarly, the SNDA has been a vital part of the NDA's mission to nurture the next generation of dentists. By engaging dental students in meaningful programming, networking opportunities, and advocacy efforts, the SNDA ensures a seamless transition from student membership to active participation within the broader organization. Their enthusiasm and fresh perspectives inspire innovation and energize the NDA's commitment to cultivating diverse leadership within the dental profession.

As delegates, we are excited to continue strengthening these collaborations and identifying new ways to align the goals of the New Dentist Committee and the SNDA with the overarching mission of the NDA. Initiatives on the horizon include:

- **Expanded Mentorship Programs:**

Enhancing connections between seasoned professionals and emerging dentists to provide guidance, inspiration, and mutual learning.

- **Professional Development Workshops:**

Offering targeted training on financial literacy, technology integration, and practice ownership to equip new dentists with the tools they need for success.

- **Community Engagement Projects:**

Partnering with SNDA members to increase outreach and advocacy efforts in underserved communities, ensuring that oral health equity remains central to our mission.

- **Networking and Leadership**

**Opportunities:**

Creating platforms where SNDA members and new dentists can collaborate, learn, and grow as future leaders of the NDA.

This collaboration exemplifies our shared dedication to building a stronger, more inclusive dental community. By investing in our new dentists and students, we ensure that the NDA remains at the forefront of professional excellence, innovation, and service to our communities.

We are proud of the progress we've made and look forward to continuing these important efforts in 2025 and beyond. Together, we can ensure that the NDA remains a leader in shaping the future of dentistry.

As we move forward in 2025, I remain inspired by the passion, expertise, and collaboration within our membership. As we work to advance the organization, we are calling on our members to help shape the future landscape of dentistry. I encourage members of our local societies to step up and take an active role as we embrace this period of change.

Thank you for your trust, commitment, and engagement. Here's to another successful year for the National Dental Association!

Sincerely,

**Joshua B. Tyson DDS, MPH, FICD**

Speaker of the House

National Dental Association

# GET INVOLVED



## Opportunities to Lead: COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES

**The House of Delegates is seeking dedicated members to lead or serve on the following committees, which play critical roles in shaping the future of the National Dental Association:**

### COMMITTEE ON CREDENTIALS

Responsible for recording attendance and activities during House meetings. This committee also conducts hearings on conflicts regarding delegate certifications.

### COMMITTEE ON DENTAL EDUCATION, RESEARCH, & PROFESSIONAL ADVANCEMENT

Acts as an investigative body for dental education at all levels—predental, undergraduate, and postgraduate. This committee informs members about opportunities for internships, residencies, and specialty organizations,

### COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH

Focuses on developing and recommending policies and programs to improve public dental health. This committee also assists component societies and agencies in enhancing community oral health programs.

### COMMITTEE ON INSURANCE

Considers and addresses insurance-related issues for the protection of association members. This committee also advises the Board of Trustees on plans aligned with policies adopted by the House of Delegates.

### COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Facilitates cooperation with dentists and dental organizations domestically and abroad to exchange dental knowledge and information in alignment with House policies.

### COMMITTEE ON SCHOLARSHIP AID

Investigates and evaluates applicants for loans from the association's special fund, designed to support deserving students at the nation's dental colleges.

### COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

Ensures that the organization adheres to the highest ethical standards in all its activities and decision-making processes.

### COMMITTEE FOR ADVOCACY, JUSTICE, EQUITY, DIVERSITY, & INCLUSION (JEDI)

Builds strategic collaborations to promote equity, diversity, and inclusion in dental education, leadership, research, and patient care. This committee strives to close disparities affecting Black, Latinx, and American Indian communities,

By joining one of these committees, members have the opportunity to contribute meaningfully to the NDA's mission while helping to shape policies, programs, and initiatives that impact dentistry nationwide. We encourage all interested members to step forward and participate in this vital work.

If interested, email [ndaspeakerofthehouse@gmail.com](mailto:ndaspeakerofthehouse@gmail.com)

**The NDA Foundation** is the non-profit, charitable arm of the National Dental Association (NDA). The NDA is the largest dental organization, representing dentists, dental students, dental hygienists, and dental assistants of African-American descent nationally and internationally.

Incorporated in 1976, as a 501(c) 3, the Foundation achieves its mission through support of educational and scientific research endeavors. For more than 35 years, the Foundation has been successful in promoting its agenda, securing scholarships and grants, and funding programs to ensure oral health care remains a viable profession for African-Americans and other under-represented students.

As we embark on the New Year, I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to Dr. John T. Daniels II and his leadership team for their outstanding accomplishments during his tenure as NDAF President over the past two years. Under Dr. Daniels' guidance, the Foundation has made remarkable progress, including strengthening its financial and operational infrastructure, initiating a facility improvement plan for the Washington, D.C. national office, and increasing corporate partnerships and the number of student scholarships awarded.

We take great pride in the continued impact of the NDAF-Colgate-Palmolive Company Partnership, which this past year provided 38 scholarships and fellowships to students and graduate trainees across 16 dental schools. This partnership has also sustained the Howard/Meharry Collaborative Research Initiative, with a new project focused on assessing the impact of COVID-19 on clinical preparedness, educational protocols, and the plans of third- and fourth-year dental students, as well as recent graduates of Howard University College of Dentistry and Meharry Medical College School of Dentistry. Furthermore, the partnership again supported vital pre-dental pipeline initiatives, dental student mentoring, and enrichment programs, as well as innovative community outreach and education efforts.

Notably, this past year, we proudly launched the Bridges Scholarship Program in collaboration with Procter & Gamble, Crest Oral-B, and the United Negro College Fund. This initiative awarded 18 scholarships to dental, dental hygiene, and dental assistant students, furthering our commitment to supporting future oral health professionals.

Looking ahead, I am excited to work with the Board and the 2025 leadership team - Dr. Albert Granger (Vice President), Ms. Angela Bowens (Treasurer), Dr. Lawrence Bailey (Assistant Treasurer), and Dr. Daphne Young (Secretary) - as we continue to strengthen the Foundation. A key focus will be the launch of our newly revamped website and enhanced social media program, integral components of our marketing and fund development campaign. These initiatives aim to grow our individual donor base and expand corporate partnerships. Together, we are committed to advancing diversity within the oral health professions and making a meaningful, lasting impact.



**John E. Maupin, Jr., DDS, MBA**  
President  
National Dental Association Foundation, Inc.

**THE NDA FOUNDATION**



### The NDAA

The NDAA is an auxiliary of the National Dental Association. We are composed of Office Managers, Dental Assistants, Receptionist, Treatment Coordinators, Clinical Coordinators, Finance Specialist, and any office personnel except the Dentist and Hygienist. The objective of our Association is to promote the education of the dental assistants and staff to improve and sustain the profession of dental assisting, and to contribute to the advancement of the dental profession and the improvement of public health.

Happy New Year!

The goal of the National Dental Assistants Association is to increase our membership and elevate our organization to the highest level possible. This year, we celebrated our 60th anniversary with a prayer breakfast. What a wonderful event! Thank you to all our speakers and those that contributed to the success of the convention. We were short in numbers, but we worked as a team to make it a successful convention.

*Welcome to our new members, and welcome back to our returning members.*

On behalf of the NDAA Executive Committee, it is with our deep appreciation and gratitude that we thank NDA and NDAF for a successful 60th anniversary.

Yours Truly,



**Angela Bowens, BA, MPA**  
NDAA President



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# OCT - DEC 2024 MEMBER SPOTLIGHTS





## A YOUNG PROFESSIONAL'S SUCCESS STORY

**Dr. Sterling Roberts**, a pediatric dentist, shared her journey into dentistry, influenced by a cousin and early shadowing experiences. She highlighted the support from mentors, including her aunt and the dental community in New Orleans. Dr. Roberts discussed her transition from private practice to academia, becoming a program director unexpectedly. She emphasized the challenges of being a black woman in dentistry and the importance of confidence and community support. Dr. Roberts also addressed misconceptions about dentistry, such as income expectations and the undervaluation of dentists' expertise. She aims to leave a legacy of kindness, compassion, and passion in her field

Practice Experience: 8 years  
Specialty: Pediatric Dentistry

### What inspired you to pursue a career in dentistry?

Initially, I wanted to be a pediatrician. I have a cousin who happens to be a physician. She constantly told me to look into dentistry because if she could do it again, she would be a dentist. So I started shadowing dentists (in high school), and I was like, "Oh!, dentistry might be my thing." After that experience, dentistry was in the back of my mind. Years later I had braces, and that helped me lean into wanting to know more about dentistry. So by the time I went to college, I was kind of set on dentistry.

### Did you have a mentor or role model who influenced your decision to become a dentist?

I have an aunt who happens to be a dental hygienist, and she's very active in the NDA. She's a former president of the Hygiene Association. She would take me to conferences with her and introduce me to a few people, including one who eventually became a mentor and soror. During my journey, particularly in New Orleans, I encountered numerous dentists who mentored me and ensured I was doing my part to secure admission to dental school.

### What has been the most exciting part of starting your career as a dentist?

I think the first exciting thing was getting a job... aka money [laughing]... I was definitely nervous because I left residency and I wasn't going back to New Orleans. I went from New York to DC. I was going to be the only pediatric dentist at some of the places where I shadowed. So that was pressure, but an exciting opportunity to test the waters and build my confidence. I think the next few exciting things occurred while working at different practices and trying to find the one that fits my needs best. Do I want to work for someone? Do I want to work for myself? Do I want to work in academia? Do I want to be in private practice?

Actually, last year I experienced a big transition in my career and ended up becoming full-time in academia. That was not part of my plan. I started out part-time at LSU when I moved back to New Orleans, one day a week. The director/chair was like, "Oh, I think you'd be great in academia." He tried to recruit for like, a year, and I was not interested at first. Finally, one day I decided, okay, I'll give it a try. In 2023 I became full-time. The director/chair ends up taking a position somewhere else, and I ended up being the program director. Again, not what I expected.

### Tell me a little more about your experience in academia. Has your perspective changed now that you're on the other side?

It is nothing like being in private practice. I have a greater appreciation for all of my attendings and professors. One thing that I didn't realize is how much work it takes to make sure that someone is learning. It's easy to teach your peers or teach yourself, but being able to teach someone who has no idea what they're doing is challenging. Especially with all the personalities and people learning differently. Being an educator takes a lot of patience, and there's a big learning curve when you're coming from private practice and working for yourself and then going into an academic setting where you have to be the person who knows, all the details.

### How long did it take you to develop your confidence in being a dentist? When did the nerves go away?

It took at least four or five years. I think one of the biggest changes that helped me boost my confidence was when I moved back home. It was the start of COVID, I was the only pediatric dentist in this multispecialty practice and my schedule was so packed. I was like, "Oh, I have so many people to see! But everybody has to be seen, so I'm the only person here." Realizing I could handle all of these things while also directing my hygienist and dental assistants, managing parent expectations made me realize I could do this. I had no one else to rely on but me.

**What challenges have you faced so far, and how have you overcome them?**

Honestly, being a black woman in any type of medical field, especially dentistry is the biggest challenge. We're always like having to prove ourselves. Someone is not quite trusting of you, whether it's because of how young you look, or because you are a woman, or because you are a black woman. You have to be smarter than the average person, you have to be more confident than the average student, and you have to be good at what you're doing. I think some people who are not within any of those minority groups may not quite understand because no one is questioning your intelligence or your skill set. So having to be confident in who I am has taken me quite a long way.

***“ I love Howard U, but it's not the real world ”***

When you come from an institution filled with brilliant black people, you believe there are so many of us. Then you leave Howard and you're like, "Oh, what happened to my family?" So that is a challenge, but you gotta find your people and know that you are doing the right thing and that you know what you're doing. I've become a much more confident person since becoming the program director.

**Can you share a memorable moment or a patient story that reaffirmed your choice of profession?**

I would say, probably within this last transition [as program director] when I led interviews and candidate selection last year. Seeing the residents I chose matriculate into their second year, their appreciation for what they have learned, and the feedback that they have given has been rewarding. It feels really good to be a part of someone's journey to becoming a pediatric specialist.

**How would you describe your approach to patient care?**

I want my little people (patients) to be confident in what they've done. They were able to sit still for 10 minutes, and they felt accomplished, like they were big boys and girls, because they did something very hard that they thought they couldn't do, and they did it! Seeing them smile, get their popsicles, or walk away excited about their new teeth is rewarding. When they come back and are excited to see you... it makes it worth it.

**Are there any misconceptions about dentistry that you wish more patients understood?**

I think people undervalue the fact that we are

doctors of the head and neck. You talk to other physicians and even family members; they don't realize how much we know about the human body and how much more we have to know about the head and neck. I think that if people understood and appreciated the skills that we have, the amount of education that we've received, and what we're doing, there would be a greater appreciation for dentists as physicians of the mouth.

**If you weren't a dentist, what other career might you have pursued, and why?**

I wanted to be a journalist. I like chatting with people. I think that is a lot of fun, just like getting to know people, their lifestyles, and perspectives. We're all different, but then we're all the same.

**How do you hope to make an impact on your community through your work?**

I want young people to see that there are people who look like them doing fun and rewarding things, I feel like that is a bigger impact than anything else. Growing up, I didn't see that many black dentists. All the dentists were either men or non-black. When I meet children, their parents, and grandparents, they're like, "Wow, I didn't even know there was a black dentist out here." I think it pushes young people to think differently about their career goals. Being able to educate my community on oral health is also a really big impact. I don't know if there's another profession I would be able to do outside of, let's say, being an elementary school teacher.

**What legacy do you hope to build as a professional in this field?**

I think when I leave every job that I've ever held, I want people to remember that Dr. Roberts was kind, compassionate, and passionate about her patients and the people that she worked with. And I think having a positive attitude overall and being a genuine, good person is something that I feel like I want to leave behind

***“ I feel like when I leave dentistry, or even when I leave this world, I want people to say - Dr. Sterling really cared about her people, and her patients. - ”***



## Dr. Erika King Elected President of the Florida AAPD

Dr. Erika King is a prominent figure in pediatric dentistry, known for her dedication to improving the oral health of children across Florida. She was recently elected as President of the Florida AAPD. As the current president, she stands at the forefront of efforts to advocate for children’s dental care, promote education, and advance the specialty of pediatric dentistry.

With a career built on both clinical excellence and a deep commitment to community service, Dr. King has become a trusted voice within the pediatric dental community. Her leadership is shaping the future of the profession, influencing public health policies, and inspiring the next generation of dental professionals.

Dr. Erika King earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Biology from Spelman College in Atlanta, GA, Doctor of Dental Surgery degree from Meharry Medical College School of Dentistry in Nashville, TN, followed by the completion of a General Practice Residency and Pediatric Dentistry Residency at Harlem Hospital Center affiliated with Columbia University in New York, NY.

She is a 2023 recipient of the NDA’s 40 Under 40 award.



## Dr. Dawud Muhaimin Achieves ABOI Diplomate Status

Congratulations to Dr. Dawud Muhaimin, District 6-CA, on achieving Diplomate status in the American Board of Oral Implantology (ABOI). The ABOI stands as a pillar of excellence in the field of dental implants. By setting rigorous standards for certification and promoting continuous education, the ABOI helps ensure that both patients and dental professionals benefit from the highest levels of expertise and care in implantology. As the field continues to evolve, the ABOI’s commitment to quality, ethics, and patient safety remains a cornerstone of modern implant dentistry, helping to shape the future of restorative care and improve the lives of countless patients.

Becoming certified by the ABOI involves several stages, each designed to assess the candidate’s skills and knowledge in implantology. The process typically includes completion of an accredited dental school program and having significant experience in oral implantology, including but not limited to completing a set number of implant procedures under supervision, as well as maintaining a record of clinical experience. Diplomates must also pass a written exam, clinical exam, and oral exam.

## **NDA** participates in the Greater New York Dental Meeting

The Greater New York Dental Meeting (GNYDM) is one of the largest and most influential dental conferences in the world. Held annually in New York City, this prestigious event brings together thousands of dental professionals from across the globe, offering them an unparalleled opportunity to engage in continuing education, discover the latest innovations in dental technology, and connect with industry leaders. For members of the National Dental Association (NDA), the GNYDM represents not only an opportunity to advance their professional knowledge but also a platform to gain valuable hands-on experience and enhance their practice. The GNYDM is not only about education—it is also a premier networking event. With thousands of dental professionals in attendance, the meeting provides NDA members with the opportunity to connect with colleagues, potential mentors, and industry leaders from around the world. These connections can lead to invaluable collaborations, new career opportunities, and lasting professional relationships.



## **DR. GORDON'S MISSION WORK IN MONTANA**

Last July Dr. Nicholas Gordon, Co-chair of the NDA Committee on Global Outreach, provided free dental care to members of Blackfeet Nation in Browning, Montana in partnership with Blackfeet Tribal Health and the Department of Defense. This was a joint medical mission led by the Air Force, Army, and Navy. Care was delivered to over 800 patients.





## AN INTERVIEW WITH DR. ADOLPHUS JACKSON

**What initially drew you to dentistry, and how has your perspective on the profession evolved over the years?**

My passion for dentistry was ignited at a pivotal moment during a middle school career fair, an experience that would shape the course of my life. A group of dentists from the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) visited our school to introduce us to the profession, and their words left an indelible mark on me. They spoke not only about the fascinating world of dentistry but also about the critical need for more professionals in the field, particularly within the African American community. What struck me most was their candid discussion of the disparities in access to dental care, especially in underserved, rural areas.

**Looking back, what were the biggest challenges you faced when building your career?**

**How did you overcome them?**

Navigating the steep learning curve of managing a private practice, particularly in the financial and business aspects, has been one of the greatest challenges I've faced in my career. As a dentist, I was well-versed in clinical care, but the transition into the world of practice management was an entirely different endeavor—one that presented a host of complexities I hadn't fully anticipated. The intricacies of budgeting, billing, insurance negotiations, and payroll quickly became overwhelming. At first, it felt like a daunting and uncharted territory. While I was confident in my ability to care for patients, the business side of running a practice seemed like a completely separate skill set, and I struggled to keep up with the demands of managing a successful dental office.

There were times when I questioned whether I was cut out for this aspect of the profession. I realized that while I had a passion for dentistry and an unwavering commitment to my patients, the sustainability of my practice required a deep understanding of finances, human resources, and the myriad systems that make a dental practice run smoothly. It was a humbling experience, and the pressure to balance the two worlds—the clinical and the administrative—was a challenge that forced me to grow in ways I hadn't expected.

But I didn't face this challenge alone. Over the years, I sought out resources and embraced opportunities for learning. I became actively involved in organized dentistry, which offered me access to a wealth of knowledge and resources on practice management. Being a part of these professional networks gave me the chance to connect with peers who were navigating similar challenges, as well as experienced mentors who had been through the same hurdles and had valuable insights to share. I took advantage of continuing education courses, seminars, and workshops designed to teach the ins and outs of running a successful dental practice. These educational opportunities were critical in helping me bridge the gap between my clinical expertise and the business acumen necessary for running a thriving practice.

**Are there any pivotal moments or achievements in your career that you're particularly proud of?**

Joining the United States Dental Corps after graduating from dental school was a transformative experience for me. It instilled in me a profound sense of discipline and structure, providing a foundation that has been invaluable throughout my career. This experience shaped my approach to both patient care and professional development, reinforcing the importance of leadership and responsibility in the dental field.

One of my proudest achievements was becoming the first African American to be elected President of the Alabama Dental Association in over 150 years. This milestone was not only a personal honor but also a moment of significance for the entire state, reflecting the progress we've made in breaking down barriers and creating a more diverse and representative profession.

Throughout my career, I've also had the privilege of being inducted into some of the most prestigious dental organizations, including the Pierre Fauchard Academy, the International College of Dentists, and the American College of Dentists. These recognitions serve as a testament to the dedication I've put into both my practice and the advancement of our field.



**How do you feel the field of dentistry has changed since you started your practice?**

Dentistry has evolved in profound ways over the years, both in terms of diversity and technological advancement. When I graduated from dental school, our class was overwhelmingly male—around 90% male and only 10% female. Today, it’s inspiring to see that over 50% of dental school graduates are women, marking a major shift toward a more inclusive and diverse profession. This change not only reflects the progress we’ve made but also enriches the profession with a wider array of perspectives, skills, and insights.

Equally transformative has been the explosion of technology within the field. When I first entered practice, the tools and techniques available were far more limited. Today, we have a plethora of advanced technologies at our disposal, ranging from digital impressions and 3D imaging to laser dentistry and artificial intelligence, all of which enable us to provide our patients with the highest quality care.

These innovations have dramatically improved diagnostic accuracy, treatment outcomes, and patient experiences, allowing us to provide more efficient, precise, and personalized care. The integration of technology into dentistry has not only enhanced the practice itself but also revolutionized the way we connect with and serve our communities. As a result, the landscape of dentistry has shifted to become more patient-centered, more efficient, and more dynamic. It’s an exciting time to be part of a profession that continues to push boundaries and redefine what’s possible in oral health care.

**What’s your philosophy when it comes to patient care, and how has it shaped the way you approach your work?**

Throughout my career, I have made it a priority to not only be a skilled clinician but also to be a compassionate and attentive listener. I firmly believe that building a strong, trusting relationship with each of my patients is the foundation for providing exceptional care. I take

the time to listen to their concerns, understand their individual needs, and address any anxieties or fears they may have about dental procedures.

I recognize that many people experience stress or discomfort at the thought of visiting the dentist, so my goal is always to create an environment where they feel relaxed, heard, and respected.

I strive to offer a stress-free experience for every patient, ensuring that their time in my care is as comfortable and positive as possible. From explaining treatment options in clear, understandable terms to being patient and reassuring during procedures, I want every patient to feel empowered and confident in the care they are receiving. I believe that education is key to achieving long-term dental health, so I make it a priority to thoroughly educate my patients about their oral health, treatment options, and preventive care. By doing so, I not only help them make informed decisions but also foster a sense of ownership in their own dental health journey.

**Have you taken on mentorship roles for younger dentists? If so, what lessons or values do you emphasize most?**

Over the course of my 40+ years in dentistry, one of the most rewarding aspects of my career has been the opportunity to mentor young dentists and guide aspiring professionals as they navigate their own journeys in the field. I’ve had the privilege of mentoring countless young colleagues, offering them guidance not only on technical aspects of dentistry but also on the values and principles that form the foundation of a successful and fulfilling practice. In addition to mentoring, I’ve welcomed many students into my practice to shadow me, giving them a firsthand look at what it means to be a dentist.

I am always inspired by their enthusiasm, curiosity, and fresh perspectives, and it has been incredibly fulfilling to see several of them go on to become successful dentists themselves. Watching their growth and knowing I played a part in their journey brings me immense pride.

One of the things I most appreciate about working with young professionals is the energy and innovative ideas they bring to patient care. As much as I have shared my experience with them, I’ve also learned from their new approaches, particularly in the areas of patient engagement and technology integration. They are constantly pushing the envelope, thinking creatively about how we can improve care, streamline procedures, and make the patient experience more comfortable and efficient. This exchange of ideas has kept me energized and excited about the future of dentistry, reaffirming my belief that the profession is always evolving and that we all have something valuable to contribute.

## INTERVIEW WITH DR. ADOLPHUS JACKSON CONTINUED...

### What qualities do you believe make a great dentist, and how do you cultivate them in your practice?

That's a difficult question, one that I'm still reflecting on as I continue to grow in my own practice. Dentistry, like any profession, is a journey, and I believe that the pursuit of becoming a truly great dentist is a lifelong process. Even after over 40 years in the field, I still strive each day to refine my skills, deepen my knowledge, and elevate the care I provide to my patients. However, I can offer a few thoughts on what I believe constitutes a great dentist.

First and foremost, a great dentist upholds the profession and the care of their patients with the highest level of respect and integrity. Dentistry is not just about performing procedures; it's about maintaining the trust that patients place in us. The responsibility we carry is immense, and as such, it requires a commitment to doing what's right, not just what's easy. A dentist's actions, both in and out of the office, should reflect a deep reverence for the profession and a dedication to the well-being of those they serve.

A great dentist must also be caring and compassionate. Dentistry can be a source of anxiety for many patients, and it's our job to help alleviate that fear. A great dentist not only understands the technical aspects of their work but also has the emotional intelligence to connect with patients, empathize with their concerns, and provide comfort. It's about making patients feel valued as individuals, not just as dental cases. Compassion allows a dentist to approach their work with a genuine desire to help, creating a safe and supportive environment for all patients, regardless of their background or condition.

Being a great listener is another critical trait of an exceptional dentist. Listening to patients' concerns, fears, and expectations not only builds trust but also ensures that we address the root causes of their issues. Effective communication is vital in building the patient-dentist relationship, and taking the time to hear what a patient is saying (and sometimes what they're not saying) is essential in crafting a treatment plan that aligns with their needs and desires. Great dentists don't just hear their patients—they truly listen.

Lastly, a great dentist recognizes the importance of a holistic approach to care. Dentistry is not just about treating teeth; it's about understanding the interconnectedness of oral health with overall health. A great dentist will take the time to educate patients on preventive care, ensuring they have the knowledge

and tools to maintain their oral health for a lifetime. They will take a proactive approach to treatment, working to prevent issues before they arise, and they will treat every patient as an individual, tailoring their care to meet each person's unique needs.

### Are there any changes in dental education or training you'd like to see for the next generation of dentists?

As a former CODA (Commission on Dental Accreditation) Commissioner, I had the privilege of witnessing firsthand the high standards of dental education in our institutions. I can confidently say that our dental schools offer an excellent and comprehensive education that prepares students well for the clinical and academic demands of the profession. These schools are committed to producing well-rounded, competent professionals who are equipped with the foundational knowledge, technical skills, and ethical principles necessary to excel in the field of dentistry.

However, one area where I believe there is room for improvement is in the amount and variety of patient-centered clinical experiences students receive during their training. While dental schools have made significant strides in incorporating advanced technology into their curriculums—ranging from digital radiography and 3D imaging to CAD/CAM systems and laser treatments—there remains a gap in the hands-on, real-world experience students gain when interacting with patients.

With all of the technological advancements shaping our practice, I feel that students would greatly benefit from more direct patient encounters to build both their technical skills and their confidence before graduation. While simulations and models can provide valuable learning experiences, they cannot fully replicate the nuances of treating live patients—those who bring unique challenges, emotions, and needs that require a well-rounded approach to care.

Real patient interactions not only allow students to hone their clinical skills in a more dynamic, unpredictable environment, but they also provide invaluable lessons in communication, empathy, and patient management. These experiences foster a deeper understanding of the patient's perspective, which is critical to becoming an effective, compassionate dentist.

Incorporating more patient-centered experiences into the curriculum, particularly early in the training process, could serve as a bridge between the theoretical and the practical. It could prepare students for the realities of patient care, where they will need to navigate not only the clinical challenges but also the interpersonal aspects of dentistry. A stronger foundation in these areas would empower our future dental professionals

## What keeps you motivated after so many years in the profession?

I continue to find deep and lasting joy in being a dentist, a profession that has enriched my life in ways I never could have fully anticipated when I first entered the field. The technical skills and knowledge required to be an effective clinician are, of course, vital, but what truly brings me fulfillment is the holistic connection I have with my patients. Being a dentist is not just about treating teeth; it's about making a positive impact on my patients' lives, from their physical health to their emotional and even spiritual well-being.

On a spiritual level, dentistry has provided me with a platform to serve others. I view my work as an extension of my faith and purpose in life. Healing, whether it's physical or emotional, is an act of service that connects me to a greater calling. I don't just see my role as a healthcare provider; I see it as an opportunity to uplift others, to bring peace to their lives by addressing their concerns, fears, and anxieties. There are times when patients arrive at my office anxious or in pain, but by the time they leave, they are often relieved, both physically and emotionally. That sense of relief and empowerment is part of the spiritual fulfillment I derive from my work. I consider it a privilege to be able to contribute, however small, to their overall well-being.

If you weren't a dentist, what other career might you have pursued? Having been a dentist for so many years, it's difficult for me to imagine pursuing any other career. Dentistry has become an integral part of who I am—it's not just a job or a profession; it's a calling. The joy I find in serving my patients, mentoring young dentists, and contributing to the well-being of my community has made this career deeply fulfilling. However, since you've asked about pursuing an alternate career, I have given some thought to other paths that might have brought me a similar sense of purpose and impact. One such career I would have loved to pursue is education.

In education, the opportunity to shape the future of young people is something that I find incredibly meaningful. Teachers provide the foundation for success—instilling values, skills, and a sense of purpose that students carry with them throughout their lives. They don't just teach subjects; they help cultivate character, resilience, and a sense of wonder about the world. They guide students not only through their academic journeys but through life's challenges and triumphs. And yet, despite their immeasurable impact, educators are often underappreciated, with their selfless devotion to their students and communities going largely unnoticed.

## What advice would you give to young dentists just starting their careers?

To the young dentists just beginning their journey, I cannot stress enough how important it is to invest in both your personal and professional growth through active involvement in organized dentistry. One of the most powerful ways to build a successful and fulfilling career is to join established dental associations like the National Dental Association (NDA). These organizations provide invaluable resources for networking, mentorship, and professional development, and they offer opportunities to engage with the broader dental community on both local and national levels. By participating in these groups, you not only stay up to date with the latest trends, innovations, and best practices, but you also contribute to the collective voice of our profession. In doing so, you become part of a community that shares a common goal: to elevate the standard of dental care and to serve the best interests of our patients.

Furthermore, I highly recommend joining study groups—whether locally or nationally—as a way to continuously enhance your knowledge and skills. Dentistry is a rapidly advancing field, and it can be easy to feel overwhelmed by the pace of new technology, techniques, and research. Staying engaged in study groups ensures that you are consistently exposed to the latest advancements, which can directly impact the quality of care you provide. Additionally, these groups offer a platform to exchange ideas with colleagues, ask questions, and share experiences, which can significantly enrich your own practice. Surrounding yourself with peers who are equally committed to lifelong learning is not just beneficial for your technical skills but also for your confidence in treating patients with the most current and evidence-based practices.

To sum it up, my advice to young dentists is this:

***“Engage with your profession through organized dentistry, stay informed by joining study groups, and above all, be patient, compassionate, and ethical. Your success and fulfillment in dentistry will come not just from your clinical expertise but from your commitment to the values that make our profession noble and meaningful. Stay grounded in those principles, and your career will be as rewarding as it is impactful.”***



## NDA Members Visible and Vocal at the **ACD Annual Meeting**

The American College of Dentists (ACD) grants fellowship status to dentists and other distinguished individuals who have consistently upheld the highest standards of ethical conduct toward dental patients, their colleagues, the dental profession, and the broader community. In addition to ethical conduct, ACD Fellows have a proven track record of professionalism, leadership, and excellence. In 2024, NDA past and current leaders were strongly represented at the ACD Annual Meeting and Convocation, thanks in part to ACD Fellows successfully recommending other NDA members for fellowship. It was wonderful to see Dr. Carlos Smith (past SNDA national president) and Dr. Janet Southerland (Provost LSU and NDA member) captivating attendees as presenters during the Fellows Forum under the theme: The Dark Side of Leadership. Our NDA members were present, visible, and vocal. Everyone appreciated our contribution to the esprit de corps. Our presence and participation benefit the NDA.

The ACD is a partner in supporting the NDA mission in very tangible ways. We encourage ACD Fellows to please nominate a worthy colleague. We want to see our members wearing the very classy stoles at the ACD Convocation. Make sure to participate in the ACD-sponsored leadership session at the 2025 NDA Convention.

***“Remember—leadership, like the practice of dentistry, requires ongoing learning.”***

**By Pamela Alston, DDS, MPP, FACD**



# WELCOME

## TO ALL NEW MEMBERS OF THE



**NATIONAL  
DENTAL  
ASSOCIATION**

**Dr. Kofi Agyeman  
Dr. Joyce Akinnibosun  
Dr. LaToya Barham  
Dr. Nana Boamah-Mensah  
Dr. Kenisha Brannon  
Dr. Kerin Burdette  
Dr. Kandis Carter  
Dr. Kennedy Chioma  
Dr. Fallon Cunningham  
Dr. Kaila Daniels  
Dr. Micah Dickerson  
Dr. Alexandria Dixon  
Dr. Annitrece Downs  
Dr. Desiree Drew  
Dr. Shelvia English  
Dr. Sheld'onia Evans  
Dr. Kenol Felix  
Dr. Sydnye Fields  
Dr. Charleton Goodman  
Dr. Travia Guess  
Dr. Antjuan Hampton  
Dr. Alexxis Harris  
Dr. Elias Hilaire**

**Dr. Brianna Horne  
Dr. Precious Johnson  
Dr. Deziree McGee  
Dr. Kari McKenzie  
Dr. Kenneth Nash  
Dr. Katerina Nynman  
Dr. Genie Ochi  
Dr. Raymond Odemz  
Dr. Gbeminiyi Oluleye  
Dr. Iria Ondo  
Dr. Jessica Puruleski  
Dr. Nesredin Redi  
Dr. Sheream Reed  
Dr. Shonte Reed  
Dr. Tareina Rogers  
Dr. Mahrukh Rukhsana  
Dr. Christopher Spears  
Dr. Marissa Spruell  
Dr. Lauryn Taylor  
Dr. Yemisi Thomas  
Dr. Kimberly Townes  
Dr. Gerald Ward  
Dr. Haley Weglarz**



**NATIONAL  
DENTAL  
ASSOCIATION**

[www.ndaonline.org](http://www.ndaonline.org)



# 2024 PRESIDENTIAL TRANSITION





## THE WELCOME RECEPTION

### TRANSITION WEEKEND

Dr. Williams Ebbs and Dr. Larry Crenshaw graciously hosted a welcome-to-DC reception for NDA members attending Transition Weekend programs. The welcome reception allowed members to meet other guests, sponsors, and stakeholders in a more casual atmosphere.





2024  
PRESIDENTIAL TRANSITION | BOARD MEETING





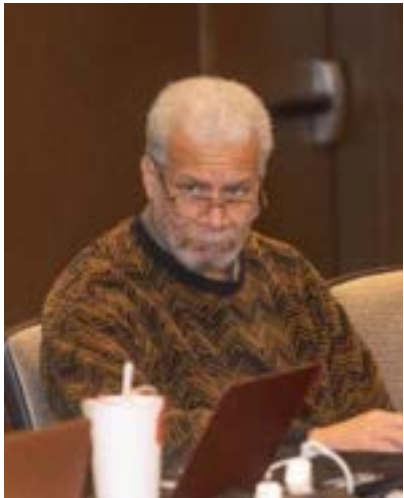
2024  
**BOARD MEETING**



## BOARD MEETING

The National Dental Association (NDA) recently held its Transition Board Meeting, marking a pivotal moment of leadership continuity and strategic planning for the organization's future. This meeting provided an opportunity for outgoing and incoming board members to collaborate, share insights, and align on key priorities to advance the NDA's mission of promoting oral health equity and excellence in dentistry. Discussions focused on ongoing initiatives, organizational goals, and strategies to strengthen the NDA's impact within the dental community and beyond. The seamless exchange of ideas and leadership reaffirmed the NDA's commitment to fostering innovation, advocacy, and mentorship as it continues to empower its members and serve underrepresented communities.





# CONTINUING EDUCATION DURING PRESIDENTIAL TRANSITION WEEK

## Financial Strategies Session with Equitable Advisors

These are scenes from the Transition Weekend continuing education session that took place in Washington, DC. Ms. Nasha Knowles from Equitable Advisors, a member of the NDA Corporate Roundtable, led the session. The topic for the session was titled, *The Business of Dentistry: Six Common Mistakes to Avoid*. Members can look forward to more sessions and member benefits from NDA's relationship with Equitable Advisors.



# NDA NEW DENTIST NETWORKING SOCIAL

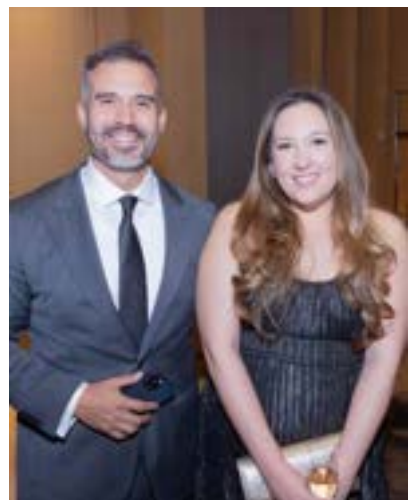
NDA welcomed colleagues who graduated dental school within the last five years and dental residents during a New Dentists networking social in Washington DC. The New Dentist Committee was established by the NDA to advocate for dentists with less than five years of experience in the profession by communicating their needs to NDA leadership while increasing support and leadership roles of new dentists.

Colleagues who would like to join the **New Dentists Committee** may contact Interim Executive Director Mr. Marcus Ware at [mware@ndaonline.org](mailto:mware@ndaonline.org) or NDC Chair- Dr. Chanelle Roberts at [chanelle.roberts@gmail.com](mailto:chanelle.roberts@gmail.com)



2024  
PRESIDENTIAL TRANSITION | VIP GALA RECEPTION





# 2024 PRESIDENTIAL TRANSITION | GALA



## THE INAUGURAL GALA

The National Dental Association (NDA) proudly hosted its inaugural Scholarship Gala, a landmark event dedicated to celebrating academic excellence and supporting the next generation of leaders in dentistry. The evening brought together dental professionals, community leaders, and sponsors in a shared commitment to advancing diversity and opportunity within the field. The gala featured inspiring speeches, elegant festivities, and heartfelt moments as scholarships were awarded to deserving dental students who demonstrated outstanding academic achievement, leadership, and a passion for serving underserved communities. This memorable event highlighted the NDA's dedication to empowering future dental professionals and ensuring equitable access to education and resources in oral healthcare.

# 2024 INAUGURAL SCHOLARSHIP GALA





## A SPOTLIGHT ON Mr. Anthony James NDA Metlife Scholarship Awardee

**Hometown**  
Houston, Texas

**Educational Background**  
B.S. in Kinesiology from Texas A&M University

**Current school and classification**  
Howard University College of Dentistry, First-year dental student

**Active roles in your dental school?**  
D1 SNDA Representative

### Why did you choose dentistry?

Honestly, I wasn't entirely sure that dentistry was the right path for me. I knew I wanted a career that offered the opportunity to make a difference, but I wasn't sure what that would look like. I took a gamble on dentistry because I always loved how a smile could make a person's day better. It wasn't until I became a dental assistant, that I knew I had chosen the right path. Experiencing the work firsthand gave me a sense of fulfillment and purpose that I hadn't anticipated. In the field of dentistry, you're able to build meaningful relationships with patients and have a direct impact on their health and well-being. The effort you put into meeting your patients' needs is immediately evident, and witnessing the joy and relief your care brings them is truly rewarding. The combination of patient care, meaningful connections, and the ability to make a difference in my community are all contributing factors that solidified my passion for dentistry.

### What are your long-range goals?

I have several long-range goals that center around not only advancing in my career but also contributing to my community and the profession as a whole. I want to help increase access to dental care, especially in underserved communities. I plan to focus on providing care for individuals who may have limited access to quality services, in an effort to bridge the gap in dental health disparities and ensure that people from all backgrounds receive the care they need. In addition, I would love to mentor the next generation of dental professionals, especially students from underrepresented communities. As someone who has benefited from mentorship and support, I want to give back by guiding aspiring dentists, sharing knowledge, and helping them navigate their journey, both academically and professionally. I also believe in the importance of advocacy, so I hope to be involved in initiatives that promote dental health equity and raise awareness about the critical role oral health plays in overall wellness. Whether that's through policy advocacy or collaborating with public health organizations. Ultimately, my goal is to build a trusted, patient-centered practice where I can make a meaningful impact on individuals' health and contribute to the larger dental community. What were your emotions or thoughts upon learning you received a scholarship? I was in disbelief. Imagine being invited to this amazing event where you're just grateful to even be offered an invite to attend, and later hearing such great things about a particular student and his journey through dental school, only to find out that the student is you. It made me realize that I never sat back to think of how far I've come and how hard I had been working to get to where I am. Once I realized that my name had been called to receive the MetLife scholarship I was speechless and couldn't help but feel overjoyed. It was a moment of immense gratitude and a stepping stone to achieving my educational and career goals.

## ANTHONY JAMES CONTINUED

### What does this scholarship mean for you?

Receiving the MetLife scholarship was an incredibly rewarding experience. At the time, I was deep into my first semester of dental school, where it often felt like my life was consumed by classes and studying. Dental school is demanding, and while the work is constant, it's easy to forget to pause and reflect on how far you've come. Being selected as this year's scholarship recipient was a powerful reminder that my hard work and dedication haven't gone unnoticed. It reassured me that there are people who believe in my potential and are invested in my success. This scholarship is not just a financial boost, but a vote of confidence in my ability to contribute meaningfully to the healthcare field, and it represents a significant investment in my future.

### What would you say to MetLife if the opportunity presents itself?

I am incredibly honored and grateful to have been selected as a scholarship recipient. This opportunity represents a vote of confidence in my potential and my future. I understand the value of this support and the doors it opens, not only to further my education but also to grow as an individual and a future professional. With your help, I can focus on my studies and pursue my career goals with greater confidence and determination. Your investment in my success encourages me to not only excel academically but to contribute to the community and the field in meaningful ways. Thank you for believing in me and for supporting students who strive to make a difference. I look forward to honoring

this opportunity through hard work, dedication, and a commitment to giving back in the future

**Are you inspired by the support that NDA offers to underrepresented minorities? If so, how?**

***“The NDA does an incredible job creating opportunities in the field of dentistry for individuals from diverse backgrounds, especially given the disparities faced in our healthcare and educational system.”***

By offering scholarships, mentorship programs, and networking opportunities, the NDA has helped to open so many doors for talented students and healthcare professionals. The level of support the NDA has provided to the underrepresented community shows its commitment to breaking down barriers and promoting the overall advancement of diversity and inclusion within the dental profession.



*Thank you!*  
TO OUR SPONSORS



GEORGIA SCHOOL OF  
ORTHODONTICS



First National Bank



**Qualdent**

**Dental Laboratory Group**



**ATTENTION  
POST  
GRADUATES!**

**DEADLINE: MARCH 3, 2025**



# 2025 TORCH FELLOWSHIP AWARD

Trailblazers in Oral Health  
Research Scholars of African  
Heritage

**\$70,000  
AWARD**

*The award was created to recognize and support promising biomedical and dental clinician scientists of African descent who have demonstrated a commitment to scientific explorations in the oral health impacting communities of color.*

## **CRITERIA**

- Eligible applicant must be current post-doctoral fellow/researcher and provide proof of completion of PHD, DDS/DMD program.
- Provide an abstract of intended or current research related to one of the following areas: odor control solutions, enamel health, microbiome-host response, tissue integrity/repair, oral hygiene among specialized populations, oral health promotion and literacy, or advances in new clinical measures (diagnostics).
- Must be able to present your research at the following events: NDAF/Colgate Research Day (Virtual)- April 2025; Colgate Research Innovation Day- Colgate Technology Center- June 2026; and NDA/NDAF Minority Faculty Forum, NDA Annual Convention- July 2026.

**FOR MORE SUBMISSION  
INFORMATION :**

<https://www.ndafoundation.org/torch-scholarship.html>



## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT | OCT - DEC 2024

# NDA HEALTH-NOW® at Two Rivers Public Charter School

**The National Dental Association, NDA-HEALTH NOW® initiative** hosted an impactful community event at Two Rivers Charter School, bringing much-needed oral health education and services to students and families. The event featured interactive workshops, free dental screenings, and engaging activities designed to promote awareness of good oral hygiene practices and the importance of preventative care.

Volunteers, including dental professionals and community leaders, worked together to provide resources and answer questions, ensuring attendees left empowered with the knowledge to maintain healthy smiles. This event exemplified the NDA's commitment to reducing health disparities and fostering healthier communities through education, outreach, and compassionate care.



## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT | OCT - DEC 2024

### Brush Up! Special Smiles



**The National Dental Association, Howard University College of Dentistry, and Colgate-Palmolive** collaborated on the “**Brush Up Smiles**” program to promote oral health for children with special health care needs. This unique program engaged 20 children and their parents or guardians in an engaging and interactive learning experience, aiming to equip families with oral health knowledge and practical skills. The initiative won Colgate-Palmolive’s new dentist leadership award at the 2024 Convention. Dr. Daniel Young, a 40 Under 40 award winner, developed the curriculum and oversaw its implementation.

The program included a range of exercises, each designed to be both enjoyable and educational. A dedicated nutritionist guided the participants through their journey, registering their weight and offering dietary advice. During this workshop, parents and participants learned about healthy snacks and food choices through hands-on activities in which they selected several food alternatives and received advice on choosing nutritious choices.

Parents and guardians took an active role in the program, learning effective brushing techniques, investigating Colgate-Palmolive oral care products, and getting answers to their oral health questions from expert dental professionals. The program provided an open forum for families to ask questions about dental hygiene while also learning how to instill lifelong healthy habits in their homes.

Multiple stations throughout the facility provided both instructional and entertainment opportunities, transforming the arena into a welcoming and energetic environment. Activities included:

**Dance sessions** to promote physical fitness and engagement.

**Face painting**, ring toss, and coloring/drawing stations provide children with creative options for play and relaxation.

Colgate also generously gave goody bags filled with dental care products to all participants, ensuring that families left with tools to maintain excellent oral hygiene at home.

The “**Brush Up Smiles**” initiative highlights the significance of organizing inclusive events that combine education and enjoyment. By focusing on the unique needs of children with special needs, the program not only promoted healthy dental habits but also generated a sense of community and support among the families involved.

# Honoring Their Legacy



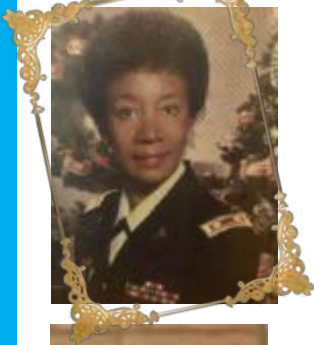
**DR. HARVEY WEBB** | *PAST NDA PRESIDENT*

JULY 31, 1929 - OCTOBER 27, 2024



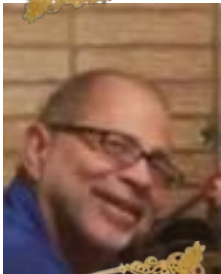
**DONNA MARIE GAMBLE**

MAY 5, 1961 — NOVEMBER 20, 2024



**LTC, DR. MARYLIN RUSSELL**

JULY 27, 1944 - SEPTEMBER 27, 2024



**DR. LEONARD CHARLES BRED A III**

SEPTEMBER 29, 1958 - DECEMBER 6, 2024



**DR. TERRELL WATERS**

DECEMBER 5, 1935- JANUARY 14, 2025

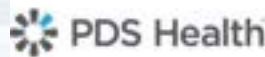
2024  
HONORING THEIR LEGACY



NATIONAL  
DENTAL  
ASSOCIATION

# CORPORATE ROUND TABLE 2025

Formed in 1996, the NDA-CRT serves in an advisory capacity to strengthen the organization’s growth and development. This is achieved through corporate giving, in-kind donations, administrative contributions, and active engagement in NDA programs.



The National Dental Association has winning partnerships with these Corporate Roundtable Members!

**SUPPORT THOSE WHO SUPPORT US!**

# 112<sup>th</sup> CONVENTION & SCIENTIFIC SESSION

**DENTISTRY UNITED: Empowering  
Communities, Inspiring Leaders**

**JULY 10-13, 2025 || SHERATON KANSAS CITY, MO**

## CONVENTION RATES

	Jan 1 – Mar 1	Mar 2 – Jun 30	After July 1
- <b>Member</b>	\$ 650.00	\$ 750.00	\$ 1,000.00
- <b>New Dentist (5 Years or less)</b>	\$ 450.00	\$ 550.00	\$ 800.00
- <b>Non-Member</b>	\$ 900.00	\$ 1,050.00	\$ 1,200.00
- <b>Resident</b>	\$ 375.00	\$ 375.00	\$ 450.00
- <b>2024 Graduate</b>	\$ 350.00	\$ 350.00	\$ 425.00

## EVENT TICKETS

- <b>President's Gala</b>	\$ 175.00
- <b>40 under 40</b>	\$ 150.00
- <b>WHS</b>	\$ 150.00
- <b>Social Justice</b>	\$ 75.00

**Scan Code to Register**



**WWW.NDAONLINE.ORG**

# THE HIGHLIGHTS

## 112<sup>th</sup> CONVENTION & SCIENTIFIC SESSION

**DENTISTRY UNITED: Empowering  
Communities, Inspiring Leaders**

**JULY 10-13, 2025 || SHERATON KANSAS CITY, MO**

### **NDA-Health NOW® Community Outreach**

Thursday, serving the local community.

#### **20+ CE Credits:**

Included with your registration fee from Thursday to Sunday.

**50+ Exhibitors and Vendors:** Showcasing the latest in dentistry.

**Networking Opportunities:** Multi-generational connections throughout the convention.

#### **THURSDAY**

*July 10th (CE Sessions from 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM)*

Minority Faculty, Administrators and Practitioners Forum and Awards Luncheon  
Movie Screening and Discussion: TOOTHACHE: The Painful Truth About Oral Health Inequity  
Opening Family Networking Mixer  
President's Welcome Reception

#### **FRIDAY**

*July 11th (CE Sessions from 8:00 AM - 4:15 PM)*

Exhibit Hall Grand Opening  
District Caucus Meetings  
Alumni Receptions  
**President's Gala\***

#### **SATURDAY**

*July 12th (CE Sessions from 8:00 AM - 5:15 PM)*

President's Symposium  
**Women's Health Symposium Awards Luncheon\***  
Special Hands-on Training: Platelet Rich Fibrin in Surgery and Esthetics  
**40 Under 40 Reception and Gala\***

#### **SUNDAY**

*July 13th (CE Sessions from 8:00 - 11:00 AM)*

Sunrise Service  
Past President's Breakfast  
**Social Justice Luncheon\***

**SAT. NOV. 7 2025**

7 pm - 11 pm

Save  
the  
Date

*Presidential Inauguration  
and  
Scholarship Gala*  
**Dr. Wallace Bellamy**  
102nd President-Elect

Kimpton Sawyer Sacramento - 500 J St, Sacramento, CA 95814

*You're invited!*

Join us at the National Dental Association Inaugural Gala  
for the installation of our Executive Officers,  
Board of Trustees, and Officers of our Family Organizations.

**NDA** NATIONAL  
DENTAL  
ASSOCIATION





## Elections Announcement

To be considered for an officer's position on the NDA Board of Trustees/Executive Committee, please review duties and complete the online form at [www.ndaonline.org](http://www.ndaonline.org). Applications require a high-resolution photo (preferably a professional headshot) and CV.

Positions eligible for nomination:

**President-Elect**  
**Vice President**  
**Secretary**  
**Assistant Secretary**  
**Treasurer**  
**Assistant Treasurer**  
**Speaker of the House of Delegates**  
**Vice Speaker of the House of Delegates**

Board of Trustees seats that will become open

**District 2- 1 seat**  
**District 4- 1 seat**

Elections for Trustees will take place during District Caucuses at the Annual Convention

**Nominating Committee Chair- Dr. Travis Kimble: [te.kimble92@gmail.com](mailto:te.kimble92@gmail.com)**

# APPLICATIONS ARE DUE MARCH 1, 2025

