

REPORT OF THE NEW DENTIST COMMITTEE

2024

Members

Yazan Alkhatib, Chair; Allison Forbes; Aruna Rao; Hallie Schley; Carly Sherod; Robert Springer; Zachary Hazelton, BOT Liaison; Dawn Jensen, MDA Staff; Carmelo Cinqueonce, Ex-officio.

Duties

Pursuant to the Committee Policy Manual of the Board of Trustees, it is the duty of this committee to:

- Identify the special needs of new dentists and propose practical and feasible activities which will enable the Minnesota Dental Association to meet these needs.
- Identify the needs and concerns of new graduate dentists and make recommendations for any programs to assist with their transition to practice.
- Enhance communications with component new dentist networks.
- Stimulate the increased involvement and active participation of new dentists in organized dentistry.
- Identify the needs and concerns of the dental students at the University of Minnesota and oversee and review the activities and benefits that the MDA provides to the students throughout the year.

Activities

The mission of this committee is to enhance the personal and professional lives of new dentists in Minnesota, thus adding value to membership within the tripartite. The goals of the New Dentist Committee this year were to include providing activities for new dentists, post graduate students, and dental students to assist them with their transition into dentistry; promote professional growth; encourage involvement and leadership in organized dentistry; and promote membership benefits.

The committee did not hold any official meetings in 2024. They did everything via email communications with the assistance of MDA staff helping organize events.

The committee sponsored several activities for dental students to assist them with their transition into the profession and to welcome them into the MDA. The committee continued the Dental Deck program, where ASDA members are given the opportunity to check out Dental Deck study cards from the MDA for three months. This year the MDA did not offer reimbursement for online study guide applications since the University of Minnesota now offers this at no cost.

The committee continues to offer seminars to dental students. These seminars help the students prepare for the next steps after graduation, including applying to post-graduate programs, reviewing, and understanding contracts, and being aware of the different practice options available to them. This year, in-person panel discussions were held at Surly's on October 17th and the classes of 2024 and 2025 were invited. This included the evening panel "Life After Graduation - Ask Me Anything" that Drs. Yazan Alkhatib, Seth Huiras, Allison Kassen, Aruna Rao, Hallie Schley, and Robert Springer presented. All were open about choices they made during dental school. They

1 talked about their dental practice choices, contracts, life balance, and how they manage their debt.
2 The committee agreed this was very beneficial to the dental students and hopes to offer it annually
3 in the early fall. This year the MDA will be hosting the “Student Networking” Event on Tuesday,
4 October 1st at McNamara Center. This event will again include new dentists on a panel, along with
5 an evening of networking with students and professionals in dentistry. The MDA will host a speed-
6 networking format with the opportunity for students and professionals to network face-to-face.
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8 The committee also participated in the MN ASDA FEVER week. Committee members attended the
9 social event at Malcolm Yards, welcoming the students back to school and encouraging them to get
10 involved with organized dentistry. This year MN ASDA FEVER week will be held September 2-7
11 with the MDA organizing a “Gift of Membership” Campaign all incoming first year dental students
12 ASDA membership dues will be free.
13

14 The MDA Board of Trustees has nominated Dr. Seth Huiras, a 2015 graduate currently serving on
15 the MDA Board of Trustees, for the New Dentist Representative at the American Dental Association
16 House of Delegates in 2025. Dr. Rachel Malterud, a 2020 graduate, will be representing the MDA
17 and new dentists as an alternate delegate in 2025.
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19 **Recap of New Dentist Events the MDA Hosted:**

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21 **ADA National Signing Day for the Class of 2024:** The MDA sent out information to the class
22 regarding free membership with the ADA/MDA/District for the remainder of 2024 and for 2025.
23 Those who completed the application received the ADA Chairside instruction guidebook, and two
24 years of the ADA online CE subscription. The MDA has sent out most of the welcome packets to the
25 Class of 2024 and converted 64 students to active membership.
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27 Goals and Objectives

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29 It is the goal of this committee to continue to provide activities and programs on a quarterly basis
30 to both the dental students and the new dentists. Our focus will be to increase new member
31 involvement at district meetings and at the MDA House of Delegates, and to continue to have
32 representation at the ADA House of Delegates. Additional focuses will be to make sure new dentists
33 are aware of the activities available within their respective districts, and to develop future leaders
34 within organized dentistry.
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36 Conclusion

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38 Thanks to the committee members for their great ideas, passion, and time. Their active
39 participation is what keeps this committee strong and active. Thank you to our staff person, Dawn
40 Jensen, for her guidance and support with the duties and responsibilities of this committee.
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42 Recommendations

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44 The committee recommends that the MDA continue to financially support the New Dentist Idea’s
45 Exchange Luncheon at the Star of the North meeting 2025.
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47 The committee recommends that the district leadership nominate one new dentist from their
48 district for the “MDA New Dentist Leadership Award” and encourages the districts to each host an
49 event geared towards dentists who have graduated in the last ten years.
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2 Submitted by:
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4 Yazan Alkhatib, D.D.S.
5 Chair