

# REPORT OF MINDENPAC

2024

## Members

Michael Flynn, Chair; Alejandro Aguirre, Treasurer; Doug Erickson; Adam Holder; Seth Huiras; Jim Nickman; Eric Strand; David Thorfinnson; Paul Zollinger; Dan Murphy, MDA Staff; Kevin Goodno, Advisor; Cody Holliday, Advisor; Carmelo Cinqueonce, Ex-officio.

## Duties

1. To promote and to further the interests of the public and the dental profession in matters of legislation and administrative regulations.
2. To develop, among the public and the dental profession, an awareness of political issues which relate to public health and welfare.
3. To support, generally, candidates for political office who, in the opinion of the MINDENPAC Board of Directors, will further the objectives of this organization. This Association is not organized to support any one party or political candidate.

## Activities

The Minnesota Dental Association Political Action Committee (MINDENPAC) serves to help the MDA and its members build relationships with candidates running for state office, via monetary support. We focus on contributing to candidates and members of all political parties based on their willingness to support the goals of our profession to advance the practice of dentistry and improve oral health for Minnesota dental patients. We are selective in screening who we contribute to and what amounts we give, and all campaign finance strategies are fully vetted by the MINDENPAC Board of Directors.

Our contribution strategy is largely based on the legislators' continued willingness to work with the MDA on legislation that benefits dental providers and our patients. Other factors include what role the legislator plays. For example, preference may be given to key legislators who sit on certain committees, legislators who are willing to author a bill for us to advance the profession, or members of the House and Senate leadership who are key in setting their caucuses' policy agenda. We also consider legislators who work against legislation that we deem detrimental to the dental profession and the oral health of our patients. New candidates for office may be supported if we feel they will advocate for our issues or if they are running against an incumbent legislator who has been adversarial to our policy goals. We try to support candidates who have close, personal relationships with member dentists.

Our MINDENPAC Board of Directors meets several times per year. We share several common members with the Legislative Affairs Committee. The MINDENPAC Board of Directors and the Legislative Affairs Committee work together to effectively develop and leverage relationships with key legislators who advance public policy that supports our profession. Although we have excellent lobbyists, grassroots advocacy with personal contact from member constituents remains our most effective tool in shaping public policy that impacts dentistry.

**2024 Member Year Fundraising and Elections**

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During the 2024 MINDENPAC member year (September 2023 to September 2024), approximately 49 MDA members contributed. MINDENPAC was present at the 2023 House of Delegates, the 2024 Dental Day at the Capitol, the 2024 Leadership Conference, and at the 2024 Star of the North. Thank you to everyone who contributed. Without your support, MINDENPAC would be unable to support the election of candidates who have supported organized dentistry.

Despite not having an election in November 2023, MINDENPAC contributed to campaigns for legislators that were key legislative allies during the 2023 Minnesota Legislative Session. Despite these contributions to campaigns being made in 2023, these contributions were made during the 2024 MINDENPAC member year (September 2023 to September 2024). In November 2024, the entire Minnesota House of Representatives is up for election. Accordingly, MINDENPAC contributed to 16 incumbents, split evenly among both parties. The State of Minnesota restricts the amount of PAC contributions a candidate can accept; because of this, some candidates returned their checks to MINDENPAC. In 2024, MINDENPAC will also contribute to both party caucuses and new candidates for office.

Contributing to MINDENPAC is more important than ever before. Contributions from MDA members have significantly decreased in previous years, limiting the financial reach MINDENPAC can have on campaigns. While the MDA can lobby for policy changes at the legislature, it cannot directly contribute to any candidates or party caucuses. Contributing to MINDENPAC can truly make a difference in advancing the MDA’s legislative agenda for years to come.

**Goals and Objectives for Next Year**

1. Continue to raise funds to contribute to the November 2024 election and the upcoming 2025-2026 election cycle.
2. Identify and contribute to new candidates to continue building relationships among new legislative champions.
3. Continue to educate MDA members on the importance that MINDENPAC has in advancing our policy goals.
4. Increase the percentage of members in the Representative’s, Senator’s, and Governor’s Clubs.
5. Continue to recognize members who support MINDENPAC in Northwest Dentistry and at the Star of the North Meeting.

**Financial Report**

The total contributions received from MDA members since September 2023 was \$11,830 (as of June 2024). Many of these contributions were used in campaign contributions.

Total expenses and account balances are listed as of June 2024:

<b>2024 MINDENPAC Year Campaign Contributions</b>	<b>\$8,750*</b>
<b>Current balance in hard dollar account</b>	<b>\$6,839.16**</b>
<b>Current balance in soft dollar account</b>	<b>\$17.90**</b>

\* *Campaign contributions included \$3,500 in October 2023 and \$5,250 in May 2024, both within the 2024 MINDENPAC member year (September 2023 to September 2024)*

\*\* *Account balances are current as of June 2024*

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MINDENPAC continues to ask for your financial support to ensure that it can remain effective next year and beyond.

Submitted by:

Michael Flynn, D.D.S.  
Chair