

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

2024

Committee Purpose:

It is the duty of this committee to:

1. Monitor legislative and regulatory changes on the local, state, and federal levels that can have a direct effect on the practice of dentistry.
2. Monitor, analyze, and provide advice concerning legislative and regulatory issues affecting the practice of dentistry and dental patients. The committee, which consists of a representative from each of the MDA districts, also assists in the development and direction of MDA legislative priorities and positions.
3. Receive input from the membership and dispense information in a timely fashion.
4. Implement legislative policy directives in the most strategically effective way.

Mission Statement

It is the mission of the Legislative Affairs Committee to protect and further the interests of the public and the dental profession by appropriate activities in matters of legislation, regulations, and other governmental relationships.

Member Responsibilities and Job Description

Committee Meetings:

The Legislative Affairs Committee holds a number of committee meetings per year. These meetings occur before, during, and after the legislative session.

Committee Members:

The Legislative Affairs Committee strives to have one member from each component district. There is a liaison from the Board of Trustees and MINDENPAC. The Executive Committee members may also serve as ex-officio members.

Responsibilities:

1. Committee members are expected to attend or participate in all committee meetings.
2. The chair of the committee is responsible for calling the meetings, participating in the development of the meeting agenda, running the meetings, and facilitating any necessary follow-up efforts.
3. In addition to attending and participating in committee meetings, committee members are expected to assist with MDA grassroots efforts.

Relationships

1. Board of Trustees:

The committee interfaces with the MDA Board of Trustees (BOT) through reporting of committee activities, requests for BOT approval, and through encouraging BOT members to participate in grassroots efforts. One representative from the Board of Trustees (BOT) serves as a liaison to the committee.

2. **MINDENPAC:**
The Legislative Affairs Committee and MINDENPAC will coordinate when appropriate. One representative from MINDENPAC serves as a liaison to the committee.
3. **Other Relationships:**
Members of the committee interface with elected officials and public policymakers through MDA's grassroots efforts and, indirectly, through the efforts of the MDA contract lobbyists and staff.

The committee also responds to requests from other MDA committees and occasionally makes requests or refers issues to other MDA committees.