

## 2026 Dues Contest Open Now — Win Free Membership for 2027, Other Prizes; Renew Now

MDA/ADA/local society dues statements for 2026 have now been sent — and when you renew your membership by the end of this year you'll automatically be entered into a drawing and be eligible to win some great prizes.

Once again the MDA is offering a very special grand prize — one lucky winner will receive their ADA, MDA, and local society dues for 2027 paid for by the MDA! Be sure to renew your membership by Dec. 31, 2025, in order to qualify.

You can also qualify for a contest offering free MDA and local society dues for 2027 by signing up for auto-renewal using automatic bank account withdrawal. When you participate in auto-renew you'll help the MDA save on credit card fees and reduce time and expense spent processing individual dues payments. See your dues statement for more information.

Other dues contest prizes include:

- \$250 cash, courtesy of MDA Insurance.
- A \$100 certificate good toward any MDA continuing education course.
- MDA Services apparel.
- MDA Swag Basket.

Contest winners will be selected by random drawing in early 2026.

**Renew online!** You can renew membership online at [michigandental.org/2026](http://michigandental.org/2026). It's quick and easy. If you have questions about your statement, contact the MDA at 800-589-2632.

## MDA Board Meets in St. Joe; Highlight on MDA Programs, Technology

The MDA Board of Trustees met in St. Joseph Sept. 18-19 immediately following the annual ADA 9th District caucus prior to the ADA House of Delegates, which took place in October. The MDA Board agenda included an analysis of MDA programs, MDA office technology advances, advocacy, and the future of the MDA Annual Session. Here are the details:

**Aligning programs with member needs:** A presentation by consultant Donna Oser of the Michigan Society of Association Executives highlighted areas for MDA membership growth, following an interactive session she conducted in June to better-understand member needs at various career stages. Mid- and late-career members were subsequently identified as underserved, while dental service organizations reported strong value in MDA programs. The analysis emphasized focusing resources on high-value programs, balancing variety with financial sustainability, and ensuring alignment across the MDA and its subsidiaries MDA Insurance & Financial Group and the MDA Foundation. Moving forward, the MDA leadership will work to realign resources to meet unmet or underutilized needs while deleting programs that are not well-utilized.

**Technology improvements:** The Board heard presentations by the MDA's Angie Kanazeh, director of membership, and Michelle Nichols-Cruz, governance manager, on upcoming changes to MDA technology, including the launch of the MDA's new Novi Association Management System, which is

*(Continued on Page 8)*

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**25**  
YEARS

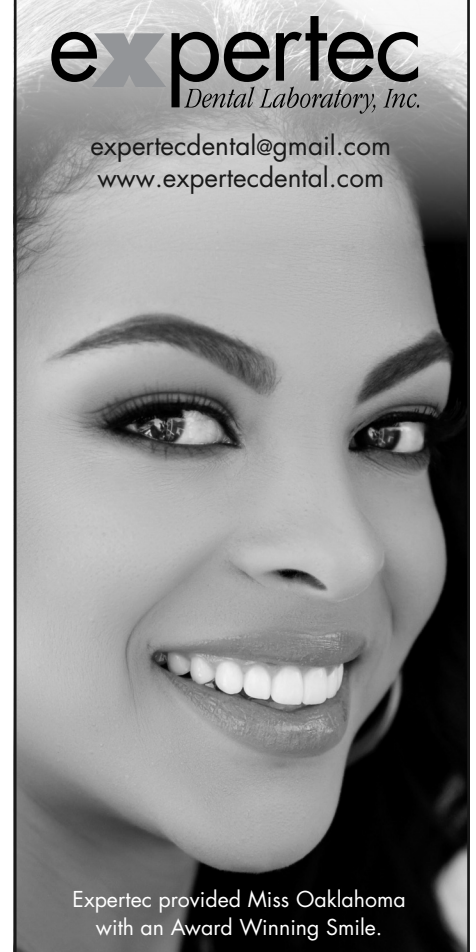
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## Board Report (Cont'd)

expected to provide members with faster service and better data accuracy than was experienced under the problem-plagued ADA database. The Board subsequently approved first-year funding for a new learning management system to integrate with the Novi AMS. Also, the Board noted the launch of HERM-E, the MDA's web-based AI knowledge assistant. HERM-E will make it quicker and easier for members to find reliable answers about MDA benefits, programs, and services.

**Advocacy:** Bill Sullivan, MDA vice president of advocacy and professional relations, provided a legislative update, noting that only 12 bills had passed the state Legislature in 2025 as of September, the lowest total in 60 years. The MDA's virtual credit card bill passed the Senate unanimously but stalled in the House, but a companion House bill is expected. (For more on advocacy, see Page 6.)

**Annual Session changes:** At its December meeting the MDA Board will review a report from the MDA Annual Session Task Force, chaired by House Speaker Dr. Deb Peters, which is charged with reimagining the MDA Annual Session. The Annual Session has experienced declining member participation in recent years, especially post-pandemic. Concepts under review include shorter, more interactive CE; peer-to-peer learning; greater inclusion of the dental team; and community-building. Separating the House of Delegates from the Annual Session is also under consideration.

For a complete report on the unofficial actions of the September MDA Board meeting, contact the MDA's Michelle Nichols-Cruz at [macruz@michigandental.org](mailto:macruz@michigandental.org).



Peters

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Interfaith Program Offers Volunteer Opportunities

The Interfaith Dental Program connects patients with dentists who have volunteered their time and expertise to treat individuals referred to the program by refugee agencies and organizations, faith communities, or through online searches.

Born from the urgent humanitarian need following the 2021 influx of Afghan refugees to Metro Detroit, this program has grown to serve new Americans across the state. Participating dentists determine treatment plans that eliminate disease, restore function, and enhance esthetics. They work with their own dental teams in their own office to provide care that supports employability and community integration. Program providers are reasonably compensated for staff and facility time, laboratory costs, and other overhead costs.

We are seeking to expand our network of general dentists and specialist providers willing to care for these new Americans. You're encouraged to learn more. More information on volunteering is available at [www.interfaithdental.org](http://www.interfaithdental.org), or by calling me at the phone number below.

—Colette Smiley, DDS  
Interfaith Dental Program  
Steering Committee  
616-560-1104

*The Journal welcomes letters from readers. Send letters for publication to Managing Editor Dave Foe at [dfoe@michigandental.org](mailto:dfoe@michigandental.org). The Journal reserves the right to reduce, revise, or reject any letter submitted.*

## ADA Report: Dental Practices 'Squeezed'

Dental practices are continuing to experience a “fiscal squeeze” brought on by rising prices and lower demand for care, according to an update from the ADA Health Policy Institute on the state of the dental economy for the third quarter of 2025.

The HPI survey shows that dentists' economic confidence is stable but still down from a high point in late 2024. Dental practice prices are rising faster than inflation, and two-thirds of dentists reported that they have increased their fees since the beginning of the year. Meanwhile, challenges in filling open positions, especially for dental hygienists, continue to impact dental practices.

On the consumer side, dental spending continues to increase modestly, but this hasn't necessarily translated to higher demand for care, according to HPI.

“What's interesting is even though we see slight modest growth in dental spending among U.S. households, when we look inside dental practice economics, we're seeing continued declines in appointment wait times. Capacity is opening up, and dentists are less busy,” said HPI's Dr. Marko Vujicic, Ph.D., chief economist and vice president of HPI.

You can find the full report and other reports at [ada.org/HPI](http://ada.org/HPI).

—Source: ADA

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[kelly@kprocure.com](mailto:kelly@kprocure.com)

614.774.6373

## The Journal Remembers: Dr. Charles E. Owens

Dr. Charles “Chuck” Owens, who served as MDA editor from 1990 to 1994 and held other significant posts in Michigan dentistry, died Sept. 22 at age 85. He will be well-remembered not only for his personality but as a guiding force in Michigan dental journalism through service to the MDA and his local society, the Detroit District.

Owens, a longtime practitioner in Southgate, had served as the editor of the *Detroit Dental Bulletin* for a number of years prior to taking the reins of the *MDA Journal* in 1990. During his editorship the *Journal* updated its format and made many editorial improvements, including establishing an editorial advisory board, instituting a new dentist column, and adding several new departments and features to the publication.

“It was a true pleasure to act as the editor of the MDA,” Owens remembered in 2019. “Times were exciting, with many challenges. It was exhilarating to be able to present new ideas and programs.” He explained, “As the ’90s began, dentistry saw the beginnings of controls that would alter forever the practice and delivery of services. Rules concerning infection control, chemical and radiological hazards, and privacy rights were but a few instituted by government. Fear that AIDS and other severe illnesses could be contracted through a dental procedure was commonly seen in local newspapers and in the national media. Corporate dentistry hadn’t yet taken hold, and many individual members were unequipped to handle these confusing issues.”

Owens had a keen interest and understanding of the value of dental journalism and the role of the dental editor in dental organizations. He collaborated closely with then-MDA Executive Director Gerri Cherney, and also actively worked to strengthen dental publications throughout the MDA’s component societies.

As Dr. Mike Maihofer, a one-time component editor who later served as MDA editor and MDA president, recalled, “Aside from being a unique editorialist, Dr. Owens was steadfast in encouraging and empowering dental editors. He initiated the MDA’s component editor conferences to educate component society editors and promote dental journalism. He even granted a young fledgling component editor, like me, an opportunity to guest-edit an issue of the *MDA Journal*. His generosity and encouragement are something I’ll always hold in my heart.”

Component editors and writers that Owens featured in the *Journal* included Dr. Chris Smiley, Dr. James Cantwil, Dr. Erick Rupprecht, Dr. Bill Chase, Dr. Tom McLellan, and Dr. Connie Verhagen, among others. Owens also brought the late Dr. Leon Herschfus’ popular “Abstracts” column from the *Detroit Bulletin* to the *Journal*’s statewide audience, where it became one of the most-read monthly features.

“Chuck was a great mentor to me and to other dental editors,” said Dave Foe, *MDA Journal* managing editor since 1991. “I knew from the minute I interviewed with him that this was someone I could work well with. He had a real enthusiasm for editing and writing, and was always supportive of me and the role of the MDA staff. It was a time of change for dentistry, and he was the right editor for the MDA at the right time. He also was well-known nationally for his editorials and for his involvement in the American Association of Dental Editors and Journalists. I owe him a lot.”

After concluding his duties with the MDA as editor, Owens went on to serve as the inaugural president of Michigan Dental Services, an MDA for-profit subsidiary that later became MDA Services. He also served with distinction as a member of the MDA Foundation Board of Directors.

Owens is survived by his wife, Peg, three daughters, three step-children, and numerous grandchildren and great grandchildren.



Owens



## Diabetes and Your Oral Health

Patients with diabetes have special risks related to their oral health care. Poor oral health has also been shown to make diabetes more difficult to control, as infections in the mouth may cause blood sugar to rise. Diabetes can diminish your ability to taste sweets, sometimes leading to increased consumption of sweeter-tasting foods, which in turn leads to a continued cycle of tooth decay and control of diabetes. It is important to be aware of these potential complications so you can maintain a healthy smile.

### Preventing problems

Good oral hygiene and regular dental visits are important to preventing problems, especially for patients with diabetes. Brushing twice a day with fluoride toothpaste and flossing once a day helps remove decay-causing plaque, which may be elevated due to high glucose levels. Good maintenance of blood sugar levels and a healthy diet can help boost the body's resistance to infection and gum disease.

### Keep your dentist up-to-date

It is important to keep your dentist informed on the current status of your diabetes each time you have a dental visit. In order to make informed decisions about your treatment plan, your dentist needs to know:

- If you have been diagnosed with diabetes.
- If the disease is under control.
- If there has been any other change in your medical history.
- The names of all prescription and over-the-counter drugs you are taking.

### Common oral health problems associated with diabetes

Patients with diabetes can have increased risk for a variety of oral health problems. It is important to make sure your dentist is aware of any changes you may notice in your mouth so these problems can be addressed as early as possible. Patients with Type 2 diabetes may be up to three times more likely to develop gum disease.

- Tooth decay.
- Periodontal (gum) disease.
- Salivary gland dysfunction.
- Fungal infections.
- Lichen planus and lichenoid reactions (inflammatory skin disease).
- Infection and delayed healing.
- Taste impairment.

### Dealing with dry mouth

A common complaint among diabetic patients is dry mouth. Without an adequate flow of saliva, soft tissues in the mouth can become inflamed and painful. The risk of tooth decay and periodontal disease is also higher, as food particles are not washed away as well, causing elevated levels of bacteria. Saliva substitutes, sugarless gum or mints, taking frequent sips of water, using ice chips, and reducing caffeine and alcohol intake may help. Your dentist may also prescribe fluoride mouth rinses and topical fluoride to help prevent rampant tooth decay.

### Good communication and monitoring is key

Keeping your dentist informed about your diabetes will help your dentist provide you with the best care. Be sure to contact your dentist right away if you start experiencing problems such as trouble chewing, bleeding or sore gums, red or swollen gums, or sore or loose teeth. By practicing good oral hygiene habits and controlling your blood glucose levels, you can enjoy a healthy body and a healthy mouth.

## MDA Member Value Checklist

- MDA Job Board**  
Post a job, find a job, plus create a profile and job alerts. Visit [jobs.michigandental.org](http://jobs.michigandental.org).
- Dental Assistant Radiography Training**  
Meets state guidelines; easy and convenient. Visit [michigandental.org/Radiography](http://michigandental.org/Radiography).
- Peer Review**  
Recognized by state licensing authorities as a preferred method of resolving disputes. Contact Karen Hart, [khart@michigandental.org](mailto:khart@michigandental.org).
- Continuing Education**  
Courses and resources, relicensure help. Contact Jody Marquardt, [jmarquardt@michigandental.org](mailto:jmarquardt@michigandental.org).
- Dental Insurance Plans/Marketplace Questions**  
Contract analysis, more. Contact Bill Sullivan at [bsullivan@michigandental.org](mailto:bsullivan@michigandental.org).
- Address Changes/Member Records**  
Contact Joanne Floyd, [jfloyd@michigandental.org](mailto:jfloyd@michigandental.org).
- Money-Saving Endorsed Programs through MDA Insurance and MDA Services**  
Visit [mdaprograms.com](http://mdaprograms.com).



[membership@michigandental.org](mailto:membership@michigandental.org)

800-589-2632

## Are You Taking Advantage of these ADA/MDA Practice Management Resources? Part II

The MDA and ADA offer an extensive range of resources that can help you succeed in your dental practice and professional career. These resources bring extra-value to your MDA/ADA membership, so take advantage of them!

This month in the *Journal* we're continuing the list of ADA/MDA practice management resources we began in the October issue. Last month we covered human resources, new dentist assistance, continuing education and some general professional resources. This month we're listing ADA/MDA legal resources, information resources, insurance plans, and wellness/personal development resources. Check marks indicate whether the programs and services are available through the ADA or the MDA.

If you'd like additional information on any of the programs and services listed, or have other questions, contact the MDA at 800-589-2632 or email [membership@michigandental.org](mailto:membership@michigandental.org).

How many of these resources are you using? Scan the list below and see!

	ADA	MDA
<b>Legal Resources</b>		
Legal Section on Website		X
Legal column in Journal		X
Endorsed Legal Services		X
Legal Guidebooks/Publications	X	X
Sample Legal Forms	X	X
<b>Information Resources</b>		
Print Publications	X	X
Digital Publications	X	X
Members-only Website	X	X
Print/Online Classified Ads	X	X
Job Board		X
Library and Archives	X	
<b>Insurance for Members</b>		
Member Health Plan		X
Life Insurance	X	X
Disability Insurance	X	X
Cyber Liability Insurance		X
Malpractice Insurance		X
Liability and Property Insurance		X
Worker's Comp Insurance		X
Accident Insurance		X
Critical Illness Insurance		X
Practice Loan Insurance		X
Business Overhead Insurance		X

**ADA      MDA**

**Wellness/Personal Development**

Health and Well-Being Resources	X	X
Care Program (Addiction, Stress, etc.)		X
Member Assistance Programs	X	X
Leadership Development CE	X	X
Leadership Area on Website	X	X
Name Change Checklist		X
Dentists Married to Dentists Checklist		X
Investment Planning Services		X
Moving Checklist		X

**Office Resources**

Peer Review		X
Billing and Coding Support	X	X
Dental Benefits Information	X	X
Contract Analysis Service	X	
Discounted Dental Supplies		X
Office Supplies Discounts		X
Member Logo		X
Regulatory Compliance Support	X	X
HIPAA Compliance Support	X	X
HIPAA Compliant Email Service	X	X
Website, Online Marketing, Patient Communication Services	X	X
Endorsed Financial Services		X
COVER Locum Tenens Program		X
Patient Education Materials	X	
Amalgam recovery/disposal	X	X
Staff apparel	X	X
Credit card processing	X	X
Interpretation/translation services	X	X
Real estate financing	X	X
Credit cards	X	X
Dental Records Management	X	

**Patient Marketing**

Social Media Support	X	X
Consumer Website	X	X

# Allan Jacobs, Former House Speaker, Passes

Dr. Allan Jacobs, most recently of Palm Beach Gardens, Fla., a former speaker of the MDA House of Delegates, died Sept. 11. He was 77.



Jacobs

Jacobs served as speaker from 2004 until 2008, and previously served on the MDA Board of Trustees, representing Oakland County District, from 1999 until 2004.

An endodontist, Jacobs also served as president of the Michigan Association of Endodontists and a member of the Board of the American Association of Endodontists. He also taught dental students for three decades as a faculty member at the University of Michigan School of Dentistry.

## CE Cruise Coming in January

There's still time to take part in the MDA's exciting Sun, Sand, & CE dental continuing education cruise aboard the Royal Caribbean Icon of the Seas Jan. 17-24, 2026. You'll unwind, refresh, and earn nine CE credits as you enjoy a luxurious Caribbean cruise. What better way to escape the cold Michigan winter?

The cruise includes CE from Susan Maples, DDS; stunning destinations with exciting excursions, plus all-inclusive dining, entertainment and accommodations at exclusive member pricing.

For more information, see the QR code at right.

## Foundation Year-End Campaign Underway

During the last quarter of every year, the MDA Foundation embarks on its Year-end Campaign. This campaign raises money allowing the Foundation to continue its work year after year.

Watch your mail and email for details on this year's campaign. With each donation received, the MDA Foundation can help educate and serve more people throughout the state.

Donations received before Dec. 31 may qualify for tax benefits. Check with your financial adviser on your specific tax status. You can donate now by scanning the QR code at right.

Watch for a cover story on the Foundation next month in the *Journal*.



## NEWS BRIEFS

### New Dentists Get ADA Store Discounts

Did you know that if you're a recent graduate you receive a discount on ADA Store products? This discount is good through the rest of this year, so you can save on the science-backed resources you need, when you need them. Visit [ADAstore.org](http://ADAstore.org) or call 800-947-4746 from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Central Time. Use promo code ADAgrad25 by Dec. 31 to Save 20% on ADA Store products. Members should sign in for additional discounts.

### Nominations Sought for MDA Affiliate Board

*Note: The following is printed by request of MDA Insurance & Financial Group.*

MDA Insurance & Financial Group, Inc. supports Michigan dentists by offering insurance products, practice management resources, and dental supplies. Operating under the trade names MDA Insurance and MDA Services, its mission is to help dental professionals protect their practices and enhance patient care. As an affiliate of the Michigan Dental Association, MDAIFG is committed to delivering value and peace of mind to its members.

MDAIFG is accepting nominations from association members to serve on its Board of Directors. The MDAIFG bylaws state that the Board shall consist of no fewer than seven and no more than 13 directors. Terms are one year, beginning May 1, and continuing until successors are elected or the director is displaced. Directors may serve multiple terms but must stand for election annually.

Board members are expected to attend four to five half-day meetings per year. While committee service is not mandatory, many members choose to participate.

Detailed information on director duties and responsibilities, along with application instructions, are available on the MDA website at [michigandental.org/Leadership-Central/Get-Involved/MDA-Subsidiaries-Affiliates](http://michigandental.org/Leadership-Central/Get-Involved/MDA-Subsidiaries-Affiliates). The deadline to apply is Feb. 1, 2026.

### Leadership Applications Due Dec. 8

The MDA House of Delegates Nominating Committee continues to seek candidates for a variety of MDA Board, officer, and leadership positions to take office in 2026 and serve during the 2026-27 administrative year.

Open positions for 2026 include MDA president-elect, MDA secretary/treasurer, MDA editor, MDA speaker of the House, three MDA trustee positions (three-year terms), and 12 alternate positions on the ADA 9th District Delegation.

Interested candidates for any of these positions should

apply to the Nominating Committee prior to Dec. 8, 2025. Detailed information about the candidate submission process, including descriptions of each position's term and duties, also appears on the MDA website at [michigandental.org/MDA-Governance](http://michigandental.org/MDA-Governance). For questions about the nomination process, contact Michelle Nichols-Cruz at [macruz@michigandental.org](mailto:macruz@michigandental.org) or at 517-346-9414.

### MDA Radiography Program Can Train Your Assistants

The MDA Radiography Training Program allows dentists to provide a convenient, affordable way for dental assistants to obtain radiography training required under Michigan law without the need for classrooms, travel, and time away from work, using an innovative training program combined with hands-on clinical certification from a participating dentist.

The MDA program is an online course supervised by the employer dentist. The supervising dentist awards the certification upon successful course completion by the assistant. Neither the MDA nor the state certify that dental assistants have met the requirements. All dental assistants taking radiographs must be certified in a course that is substantially equivalent to programs accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation.

The cost is \$325 per assistant for MDA members and \$425 per assistant for non-MDA members. After successful completion of the online training, the assistant must demonstrate the ability to perform two acceptable full-mouth series of images (including four bitewings) with a maximum of five retakes. After meeting all course requirements, a certificate of completion will be issued and signed by the supervising dentist. Certification obtained through this program is only valid in the state of Michigan.

For more information, visit [michigandental.org/Radiography](http://michigandental.org/Radiography).

### First Dental Therapist Licensed

Michigan licensed its first dental therapist — Dana Obey — on Sept. 2. She subsequently began practice as a provider at a tribal health center in the Upper Peninsula, according to reports.

### MDA Office Closed Nov. 27-28

The MDA office will be closed Thursday and Friday, Nov. 27 and 28, in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday, MDA CEO/Executive Director John Tramontana has announced, following the custom of past years.

The office will reopen Monday, Dec. 1.



**Welcome  
to the  
group chat  
you didn't  
know you  
needed.**

**RENEW  
TODAY!**



## Keeping Current

### Events and Such

**Nov. 3** — MDA Foundation Mission of Mercy Breakout Session #1 via Zoom, 5:30 p.m.

**Nov. 5** — MDA Foundation Mission of Mercy Breakout Session #1 via Zoom, 5:30 p.m.

**Nov. 6** — Committee on Finance via Zoom, 6 p.m.

**Nov. 7** — New Dentist Committee via Zoom, 7 a.m.

**Nov. 7** — MDA Insurance & Financial Group Joint Board meeting, 9 a.m.

**Nov. 10** — MDA Foundation Executive Committee via Zoom, 6 p.m.

**Nov. 10** — Membership Committee via Zoom, 7 p.m.

**Nov. 11** — MDA Foundation ASC Committee via Zoom, 6 p.m.

**Nov. 12** — MDA Nominating Committee via Zoom, 6 p.m.

**Nov. 14** — Committee on Government and Insurance Affairs and PAC, 9 a.m.

**Nov. 20** — Committee on Finance via Zoom, 6:30 p.m.

**Nov. 21** — Committee on Peer Review/Health and Well-Being via Zoom, 9 a.m.

**Nov. 21** — MDA Foundation Board of Directors via Zoom, 9:30 a.m.

**Nov. 21** — MDA Executive Committee via Zoom, 1 p.m.

**Nov. 27-28** — MDA office closed in observance of Thanksgiving.

### Welcome New Members!

The Michigan Dental Association is pleased to welcome nine new members to organized dentistry.

**Central:** Dr. Dennis Engstrom; **Macomb:** Dr. Sabina Kurtovic, Dr. Sharon Singh; **Oakland County:** Dr. Deepanshu Bhardwaj, Dr. Timothy Thewes; **Resort:** Dr. Marcus Kropf, Dr. Grant Smith; **Saginaw Valley:** Dr. Curtis Smith; **Washtenaw:** Dr. Kaitlin Monash.

### New Certified Dental Business Professionals

The MDA CDBP credential is awarded to dental team members who have completed coursework and earned their Certified Dental Business Professional designation.

#### CDBP graduate

Jamie Wernette, Sheridan.

#### CDBP renewal

Michelle Myers-Berlin, Whitehall.

### In Memoriam

**Dr. Wayne Colquitt**, Ann Arbor. Washtenaw District. Died Aug. 5, 2025. Age, 83.

**Dr. Michael Comar**, Boca Raton, Fla. Kalamazoo

Valley District. Died Sept. 8, 2025. Age, 87.

**Dr. Allan Jacobs**, Palm Beach Gardens, Fla. Oakland County District. Died Sept. 11, 2025. Age, 77.

**Dr. Charles E. Owens**, Grosse Ile. Detroit District. Died Sept. 22, 2025. Age, 85.

**Dr. Eugene Louis Bonfiglio**, Grand Rapids. West Michigan District. Died Oct. 10, 2025. Age, 95.

### BHS Disciplinary Report

Visit [michigan.gov/lara](https://michigan.gov/lara) to access the latest disciplinary reports for dentists, registered dental hygienists, and registered dental. You may also check any licensee for disciplinary actions at the same web address.

### Self-Reporting of Criminal Convictions and Disciplinary Licensing Actions

Section 16222(3) of Michigan's Public Health Code requires any licensee or registrant to self-report to the Department of Community Health a criminal conviction or a disciplinary licensing or registration action taken by the state of Michigan or by another state against the licensee or registrant. The report must be made within 30 days after the date of the conviction or action. Convictions and/or disciplinary actions that have been stayed pending appeal must still be reported.

Should the licensee or registrant fail to report, and the Department becomes aware of the conviction or action, an allegation will be filed against the licensee or registrant. Sanctions for failing to report can include reprimand, probation, suspension, restitution, community service, denial or fine. For more information contact the MDA's Karen Hart at 800-589-2632, ext. 453.



**Reception in Bloomfield Hills** — Former Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder (left) joined MDA members Dr. Naila Farooq (center left), Dr. Michelle Szewczyk (right), and state Sen. Mike Webber (R-Rochester Hills) at a legislative fundraising reception Monday, Sept. 15 at the Bloomfield Hills home of former state Sen. Martin Knollenberg and his wife Lori.

## Journal, Michigan Dentists Receive Editing Awards

Michigan dentistry was well-represented at this year's American Association of Dental Editors and Journalists meeting, held Sept. 9-10 in San Diego, Calif.

Michigan award-winners included Dr. Rabia Arif, editor of the *Oakland County Dental Review*, who received three Division Two International College of Dentists/USA Section Journalism Awards. Also, Dr. Michelle Dziurgot, MDA editor, and Dr. Bill Chase, former MDA editor and former MDA president, now living in Palm Springs, Calif., accepted Division One International College of Dentists/USA Section Journalism Awards for two articles published in the *MDA Journal's* December 2024 issue.

Another former MDA editor, Dr. Chris Smiley, served as 2024-25 AADEJ president and presided over the conference, while Michigan's Dr. Tim Kosinski, Academy of General Dentistry editor, presented a program on editing clinical publications.

Dr. Mike Saba, Macomb District editor, attended the meeting as well and began a term as AADEJ vice president. Other Michigan attendees included Dr. Sabrina Wadood, West Michigan editor; Dr. Romesh Nalliah, of the University of Michigan School of Dentistry; Dr. Mike Maihofer, former MDA editor and MDA president; Denise Maihofer, AADEJ executive director; Reva Darling, director of MDA Services and marketing; and Dave Foe, MDA director of print and e-publications.

The conference consisted of two days of continuing education in dental journalism, and included sessions on copywriting, digital publishing, AI, podcasting, and more.



**At AADEJ meeting** — Dr. Mike Saba, editor of the *Journal of the Macomb District Dental Society*, shown here with MDA Editor Dr. Michelle Dziurgot, is now serving as vice president of the American Association of Dental Editors and Journalists. (Photos: Mike Maihofer.)



**Award-winners** — Dr. Bill Chase (left) received an International College of Dentists/USA Section Journalism Award for a December 2024 article on leadership, while Dr. Michelle Dziurgot received the ICD's prestigious Golden Pen award. Also shown are Dr. Leighton Weir and Dr. Richard Roadcap (right), representing the ICD.



**Three awards!** — Dr. Rabia Arif, Oakland District editor, received three ICD/USA Section Journalism Awards. She's shown here with Dr. Elliot Paisner, ICD president (left) and Drs. Leighton Weir and Richard Roadcap (right) of the ICD.

# Positions to Open on State Board of Dentistry

Each year the MDA Board of Trustees makes recommendations to Michigan's governor for individuals to serve on the Michigan Board of Dentistry. At least one general dentist position is expected to become available in June 2026.

Members interested in being considered for MDA endorsement to the state Board should submit a letter of interest and a current curriculum vitae (maximum two pages) by Feb. 1, 2026, to Michelle Cruz at [mcruz@michigandental.org](mailto:mcruz@michigandental.org). Upon receipt, nominees will be asked to complete a brief questionnaire to finalize the application process. The MDA Board of Trustees will review all submissions at its February 27, 2026, meeting and will recommend up to two endorsed candidates per open position to the Governor for consideration.



Cruz



Sullivan

Note that MDA endorsement is not required to apply directly for appointment to the Michigan Board of Dentistry. For more information, contact the MDA's Bill Sullivan at 800-589-26532, ext. 405 or at [bsullivan@michigandental.org](mailto:bsullivan@michigandental.org).



**Cornhole tournament** — Macomb District members Dr. Kyle Katynski (left) and Dr. Mike Saba (right) joined state Rep. Doug Wozniak (R-Shelby Township) at his annual cornhole tournament fundraiser, held Sunday, Sept. 21 at Coyote Joe's in Shelby Township. Among the issues discussed: potential Medicaid cuts and dental staffing shortages.

**UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE®** **Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation (Requester Publications Only)**

1. Publication Title: The Journal of the Michigan Dental Association

2. Publication Number: 0 0 2 6 2 1 0 2

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6. Annual Subscription Price: 0

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8. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher (Not printer): Michigan Dental Association, 3657 Okemos Rd., Ste. 200, Okemos, MI 48864-3927

9. Full Names and Complete Mailing Addresses of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor (Do not leave blank)

10. Owner (Do not leave blank. If the publication is owned by a corporation, give the name and address of the corporation immediately followed by the names and addresses of all stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of the total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, give the names and addresses of the individual owners. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, give its name and address as well as those of each individual owner. If the publication is published by a nonprofit organization, give its name and address.)

11. Known Bondholders, Mortgagees, and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1 Percent or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages, or Other Securities. If none, check box.

12. Tax Status (For completion by nonprofit organizations authorized to mail at nonprofit rates) (Check one)

PS Form 3526-R, July 2014 (Page 1 of 4) (See instructions page 4) PSN: 7530-09-000-8855 PRIVACY NOTICE: See our privacy policy on [www.usps.com](http://www.usps.com).

13. Publication Title: The Journal of the Michigan Dental Association

14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below: 09/01/2025

15. Extent and Nature of Circulation

Bi-Monthly circulation	Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
a. Total Number of Copies (Net press run)	6806	6200
(1) Outside County Paid/Requested Mail Subscriptions stated on PS Form 3541 (include direct written request from recipient, telemarketing, and internet requests from recipient, paid subscriptions including nominal rate subscriptions, employer requests, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies.)	6536	6043
b. Legitimate Paid and/or Requested Distribution (By mail and outside the mail)		
(2) In-County Paid/Requested Mail Subscriptions stated on PS Form 3541 (include direct written request from recipient, telemarketing, and internet requests from recipient, paid subscriptions including nominal rate subscriptions, employer requests, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies.)		
(3) Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, Counter Sales, and Other Paid or Requested Distribution Outside USPS®		
(4) Requested Copies Distributed by Other Mail Classes Through the USPS (e.g., First-Class Mail®)		
c. Total Paid and/or Requested Circulation (Sum of 15b (1), (2), (3), and (4))	6536	6043
d. Non-requested Distribution (By mail and outside the mail)		
(1) Outside County Nonrequested Copies Stated on PS Form 3541 (include sample copies, requests over 3 years old, requests induced by a premium, bulk sales and requests including association requests, names obtained from business directories, lists, and other sources)		
(2) In-County Nonrequested Copies Stated on PS Form 3541 (include sample copies, requests over 3 years old, requests induced by a premium, bulk sales and requests including association requests, names obtained from business directories, lists, and other sources)		
(3) Nonrequested Copies Distributed Through the USPS by Other Classes of Mail (e.g., First-Class Mail, nonrequestor copies mailed in excess of 10% limit mailed at Standard Mail® or Package Services rates)	38	0
(4) Nonrequested Copies Distributed Outside the Mail (include pickup stands, trade shows, showrooms, and other sources)	60	60
e. Total Nonrequested Distribution (Sum of 15d (1), (2), (3) and (4))	98	60
f. Total Distribution (Sum of 15c and e)	6634	6103
g. Copies not Distributed (See Instructions to Publishers #4, (page #3))	173	97
h. Total (Sum of 15f and g)	6807	6200
i. Percent Paid and/or Requested Circulation (15c divided by 15f times 100)	96.2	96.8

\* If you are claiming electronic copies, go to line 16 on page 3. If you are not claiming electronic copies, skip to line 17 on page 3.

**UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE®** **Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation (Requester Publications Only)**

16. Electronic Copy Circulation

	Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
a. Requested and Paid Electronic Copies		
b. Total Requested and Paid Print Copies (Line 15c) + Requested/Paid Electronic Copies (Line 16a)		
c. Total Requested Copy Distribution (Line 15f) + Requested/Paid Electronic Copies (Line 16a)		
d. Percent Paid and/or Requested Circulation (Both Print & Electronic Copies) (16b divided by 16c x 100)		

17. Publication of Statement of Ownership for a Requester Publication is required and will be printed in the November 2025 issue of this publication.

18. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner: Jackie Hammond, Business Manager, Date: 09/16/2025

I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions (including civil penalties).

# 2026 ANNUAL SESSION



michigan dental  
ASSOCIATION  
YOUR CONNECTION TO ORAL HEALTH®

# TABLE CLINIC/POSTER APPLICATION

2026 MDA ANNUAL SESSION

APRIL 30 - MAY 2, 2026

DEVOS PLACE, GRAND RAPIDS

The MDA Committee on Continuing Education and Events invites you to share an improved technique, procedure, clinical skill or research topic regarding dentistry and the scope of practice, by presenting a table clinic/poster at the 2026 MDA Annual Session in Grand Rapids. The 2026 Annual Session will be held April 30 – May 2, 2026. Why not consider sharing your knowledge with your colleagues and earn CE credit doing it. An application appears below or online at [annualsession.michigandental.org](http://annualsession.michigandental.org). For more information, contact the MDA at 517-346-9401, or email [mbethea@michigandental.org](mailto:mbethea@michigandental.org).

■ NOTE: Table Clinics/Posters will be judged. Prizes will be awarded. The MDA will send a press release to the winner's local newspaper or digital media outlet and receive recognition in the MDA *Journal* (monthly magazine).

Event time: Friday, May 1, 2026, 4 – 6 p.m. \*Presenter must be present during the entire two hours.

Clinic  Poster (check one), Title of Clinic/Poster\*\*:

Lead Contact: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

On-site Presenter Names (include credentials): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Professional Discipline\*:  Dentist  Hygienist  Assistant  Student: Name of School: \_\_\_\_\_

Other: Name of Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

■ **NOTE: Table Clinics/Posters must be educational in nature.** No advertising matter, commercial promotion, solicitation or sales of any type are permitted as part of a Table Clinic/Poster presentation.

One table/poster clinic title sign is provided. The MDA will provide the equipment listed below. All other equipment must be supplied by the presenter. Contact the MDA for audio/visual equipment and pricing at 517-346-9401.

Presenters shall be provided with:

■ 6' x 3' Tackboard (for posters) ■ 6' High Top Table w/chairs (for clinics)

Please check below if you will need:

Electrical Outlet  Table-top Screen

Any other equipment required will be the financial responsibility of the presenter.

■ NOTICE: Table Clinics/Posters are limited to approximately 30 clinics; presenters are urged to apply early. Applications due by Feb. 14, 2026. Mail completed application to: Michigan Dental Association, 3657 Okemos Road, Suite 200, Okemos, MI 48864-3927, send an email to [mbethea@michigandental.org](mailto:mbethea@michigandental.org), or go to [annualsession.michigandental.org](http://annualsession.michigandental.org).

\*\*The Michigan Dental Association reserves the right to shorten titles if necessary.



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