



**Michigan Dental Association  
Unofficial Board Actions  
February 28-March 1, 2019  
Trustee Report: Dr. Michael Maihofer**

Unless you spend the majority of your free time engaging in winter sports, I imagine you're anxious to see this miserably cold weather become a thing of the past. Before you get too depressed, however, remember that we're only two months away from spring and the return of the MDA Annual Session to Detroit. This year's meeting promises to be an outstanding experience with the newly renovated Cobo Center, a host of new hotels and many exciting new CE programs, along with the incredible renaissance of downtown Detroit. Think spring!

Our March Board meeting began on the evening of February 28<sup>th</sup> with dinner in the MDA headquarters building. This was followed by a two-hour meeting with ADA Executive Director, Kathy O'Loughlin DDS, who shared a wide array of information about the current state of our profession, as well as its future. It was quite an informative meeting with a lot of give and take from all of the participants.

After more than thirty years, the Board voted that the editor no longer publish the Disciplinary Actions of the State Board of Dentistry in each issue of the *MDA Journal*. It was decided that instead the editor should publish information on how to access the disciplinary reports from the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs in the *Journal*.

A new Bylaws change concerning a Speaker vacating his or her position was discussed and approved by the Board and will now be forwarded to the 2019 House of Delegates. The current Bylaws provide for filling the vacant office of Speaker midterm, with the President assuming the duties. It's possible, however, that many additional duties could become onerous depending on the challenges that year. This new proposed resolution would allow the president the option to serve as the speaker or appoint one or more individuals to fill the duties of the speaker.

Finally, the Board held a generative discussion on Dental/Medical Integration. We reviewed several articles on the subject and discussed several issues including incorporating dentistry and medical curricula into the education of primary care providers. We also discussed an initiative between the UDM School of Dentistry and the Oakland University Beaumont School of Medicine.

Please read the following summary of our March Board meeting. Remember to think spring and I'll see you in Detroit!

Michael Maihofer DDS

## Highlights from the Board of Trustees Meeting

### Board Education

The Board meeting kicked off on Thursday, February 28, with a presentation from Dr. Kathy O’Loughlin, American Dental Association executive director. She shared information from the ADA Health Policy Institute regarding practice trends, dentist earnings, dental utilization and dentist “busyness,” as well as broader health care trends. She also gave an update on the ADA Strategic Plan, with goals of increasing member engagement, ensuring financial sustainability, and building capacity at the local, state and national level. Dr. O’Loughlin addressed questions related to the new ADA Practice Transitions pilot, the possibility of a Medicare dental benefit, and ADA governance.

The Board also reviewed and discussed a TED talk titled “[Why You Think You Are Right Even If You Are Wrong](#),” outlining how having a “scout” mindset can lead to better decision-making.

### Policy

**Disciplinary Action Reports:** The Board reviewed and updated its policy on publishing Michigan Board of Dentistry disciplinary action reports in the MDA Journal. As the information is public and easily available on the State of Michigan web site, the Board updated its policy to provide information on how to access the disciplinary reports from the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs in the Journal and provide a link to the information on the MDA professional web site.

**Delta Dental Board Nomination Policy:** The Board approved interim policy set by the Executive Committee to place the current policy on hold until 2020 due to time constraints to vet nominees in a timely manner. The previously vetted candidates were contacted and those who were still interested in serving were forwarded to Delta for consideration.

**Roll Call Vote Policy:** The Board rescinded policy to record individual trustee votes on resolutions, as recording votes on each action in the minutes highlights the positions taken by individual board members and undermines the ability of the Board to speak with one voice following each meeting. The vote will continue to be recorded based on numbers and not individual names.

**Proposed Bylaws Change:** The bylaws currently provide for filling the office of Speaker midterm, with the President assuming the duties. Since the duties of Speaker may also involve chairing special committees of the HOD, the additional duties may be onerous depending on the present issues or challenges. The Board supported a Bylaws change that would allow the president the option to serve as the speaker or appoint one or more individuals to fill the duties of the speaker. The Bylaws Language Review Committee will put forward appropriate language to fulfill the intent of the recommendation to the 2019 MDA House of Delegates.

**Policy on HPV:** The MDA approved the ADA Policy Statement on the Human Papillomavirus Vaccination (HPV) as MDA policy.

**Distribution of Board Materials:** Best practices in transparency state that the minutes of Board meetings are public, but Board materials are not. Board materials are prepared in order to enable the Board of Trustees to fulfill their responsibilities and Board members are fiduciaries for the MDA. Therefore, the Board removed the reference to distribution of Board materials to non-Board members from the *Board Operating Manual*.

### **Strategic Planning**

Executive Director Burgess gave an update on the progress on the 2016-2020 MDA Strategic Plan, which was updated in October. All indicators are on track, although the downturn in the economy had a negative impact on investment returns. In preparation for future strategic planning, the Board reviewed and provided feedback on a new process and priorities topics for environmental scanning.

### **Access to Care**

The Board reviewed the current options to increase access to dental care, and discussed whether the MDA should continue to pursue these objectives now that the dental therapist bill is law. The Board agreed to continue to pursue expansion of the scope of practice of registered dental assistants, increasing Medicaid reimbursement rates, and increasing funding for the student loan repayment program.

### **Legislation**

Within the recently passed dental therapist law is a directive to the Board of Dentistry to promulgate rules pertaining to the implementation of the law, including developing education and training standards. The rulemaking process provides the MDA the opportunity to provide input to the Board of Dentistry. In the best interest of MDA members and the patients of Michigan, the Board approved several recommendations to the Board of Dentistry in regards to the rules governing dental therapists.

### **Generative Discussion: Dental/Medical Integration**

The Board reviewed several articles on the integration of oral health and primary care. The Board held a lengthy generative discussion related to demographics, current and future trends and related implications, including likely continued integration of dental and medical school curricula and outcome-based reimbursement and diagnostic coding.

### **Membership**

Ms. Angela Kanazeh, director of membership, provided a membership update which included EOY 2018 figures, sharing that the MDA's number of active members and market share increased in comparison to EOY 2017. The MDA now has a 75.4% market share compared to 75.2% in 2017 and a total of 4,483 active members. Ms. Kanazeh also reported that 2019 membership recruitment is going well, and that a new graduated dues engagement plan is in

place, which should help retention. She reported the positive impact of the Strategic Promotional Incentive (SPI), which provides a 50% reduction in dues from Jan-June for qualifying non-members.

### **Elections/Appointments**

**Action on Board Nominations:** The Board approved directors for the Michigan Dental Association Foundation and the MDA Insurance & Financial Group. It also forwarded nominees for appointment to the Michigan Board of Dentistry and put forward ADA Council appointments for the consideration of Ninth District trustee, Dr. Julio Rodriguez.

**2019-2020 Committee Appointments:** The Board approved the slate of committee members for 2019-2020 as well as committee scopes.