

Transcript of the
MICHIGAN DENTAL ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL SESSION

DAY 2

Date: 4/18/21

Reporter:

Joan Farhat Byrnes - CSR-2062

METROPOLITAN REPORTING, LLC
Phone: 517-886-4068
Email: metroreporting1990@gmail.com

MICHIGAN DENTAL ASSOCIATION
2021 HOUSE OF DELEGATES
SECOND MEETING

Annual Session
Sunday, April 18, 2020 - 11:00 a.m.
REMOTE VIA ZOOM WEBINAR
TRANSCRIPTION OF RECORDING
Lansing, Michigan

PRESENT VIA ZOOM:

- DR. TODD CHRISTY, Speaker of the House
- DR. STEPHEN MERAW, President
- DR. MARGARET GINGRICH, Immediate Past President
- DR. ERIC KNUDSEN, Secretary/Treasurer
- DR. CHRISTOPHER SMILEY, Editor

Transcribed by: Joan Farhat Byrnes - CSR-2062, Certified
Shorthand Reporter

METROPOLITAN REPORTING, LLC
(517) 886-4068

1 you wait. When I call on you to speak, you will then
2 need to raise your hand in Zoom so that your audio can
3 be unmuted. In Zoom, the hand icon is located at the
4 bottom of the participant list.

5 Delegates, we will now take a vote to
6 determine a quorum.

7 Once you see the quorum vote in your Lumi
8 platform, please choose "Present". Voting will be
9 open for 30 seconds. Please close the vote.

10 A quorum is present.

11 It now gives me pleasure to introduce to you
12 Dr. Julio Rodriguez. Julio is a former president of
13 the Wisconsin Dental Association and currently our
14 Ninth District Trustee representing Michigan and
15 Wisconsin on the Board of the American Dental
16 Association.

17 Dr. Rodriguez.

18 DR. RODRIGUEZ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good
19 morning.

20 Thank you for inviting me to join you today.
21 If we haven't already met, my name is Dr. Julio
22 Rodriguez, and I am from Brodhead, a small downtown in
23 southern Wisconsin, and I serve as your ADA Ninth
24 District Trustee.

25 It is amazing how fast this time has gone by.

1 This is my fourth year as your Ninth District Trustee
2 and addressing your House of Delegates.

3 As you all know, my dear friend Dr. Michele
4 Tulak-Gorecki will be replacing me in October, and I
5 am confident that she will do a marvelous job as your
6 Ninth District Trustee. She is not only a great
7 friend, but I know her to be a wonderful leader who is
8 knowledgeable, passionate and has great desire to
9 elevate our ADA to new heights. She will represent us
10 all extremely well.

11 I don't have to tell you how challenging this
12 past year has been. Let me just say that I am so
13 proud of our profession for holding strong in the face
14 of adversity.

15 I can assure you that the leadership of the
16 MDA and the ADA are working very hard to continue to
17 give you the tools you need to succeed. Looking into
18 our future, I believe that member success is the key
19 to our Association's success.

20 One of my goals for today is to update you on
21 what initiatives are at the front of our mind at the
22 ADA.

23 As you strive to recover your practices, the
24 ADA is also in a recovery state as well. Our first
25 priority is regaining and growing membership. Our

1 challenge is to evolve and sustain relevance with our
2 core practice-owner dentists. Our small
3 practice-owner dentists are the foundation of our
4 Association and the profession. Of course, we need to
5 provide the same core value while also becoming
6 equally relevant to non-owner dentists who see value
7 differently.

8 This will not be easy. We will need to think
9 outside the box. We will need to leverage the talents
10 that you, our members, our leadership across the
11 tripartite and our amazing staff working in Chicago
12 and Okemos.

13 One step that we believe is necessary to
14 positively impact our sustainability in the future is
15 to adapt as our profession evolves.

16 The ADA has prioritized a top-to-bottom
17 analysis on how our Association can be more inclusive
18 to all dentists. Our membership composition is
19 becoming more diverse, and we need to embrace it. I
20 know you here in Michigan are already making these
21 strides.

22 Let me share some information as to how our
23 ADA is doing in this recovery. First of all, let me
24 say that the ADA is recovering successfully, but we
25 certainly have some work ahead of us. Typically, the

1 ADA retains its greatest share of membership during
2 the first quarter of the year. As of April 12th, the
3 ADA was performing at 99.5 percent of 2020 membership
4 performance, with a deficit of approximately of 6,000
5 members. The largest member loss is reporting from
6 select high population states.

7 Of course, COVID-19 has created challenges in
8 our recruitment and retention efforts. However, seven
9 states represent 70 percent of our losses in
10 membership. As you can imagine, the Council on
11 Membership is working to try to remedy that.

12 In contrast, 21 states showed membership
13 gains in 2020. I believe that most members see the
14 value of tripartite membership, especially during this
15 critical time. Unfortunately, it is not enough.

16 Here are some facts: ADA membership is not
17 keeping pace with the growth of the market. Women and
18 ethnically-diverse dentists are outpacing our ADA's
19 growth overall.

20 This is just one reason why the ADA continues
21 to facilitate a new Diversity and Inclusion Plan that
22 we hope to be adopted by state and local dental
23 societies. A Diversity and Inclusion Toolkit has just
24 debuted to help you facilitate this plan.

25 The good news is that to date 88 percent of

1 states show signs of membership recovery based on
2 comparative performances to the end of February 2020.

3 This is only an early snapshot in time. The
4 end of the first quarter of 2021 will serve as a much
5 better metric to understand overall 2021 membership
6 recovery.

7 As the ADA focuses on membership recovery,
8 returning to 2019 end of year actuals will be a good
9 indicator of recovery success. Historically, most
10 members renew by the end of the first quarter.

11 As I mentioned before, membership growth is
12 improving among female and ethnically-diverse
13 dentists. The ADA will redirect some efforts to
14 accelerate that growth. Let me mention some of these
15 efforts.

16 For women dentists, gender distribution has
17 been changing in our profession now for decades. The
18 ADA has targeted recruitment and retention resources
19 towards female dentists who are the fastest growing
20 market segment. A commitment has been made to
21 continue the ADA Accelerator series. In addition to a
22 dedicated campaign celebrating Women's History Month
23 and International Women's Day, a special Amplifying
24 Voices session was scheduled for March which was very
25 well attended.

1 Now, for new dentists. We all can agree that
2 young dentists are our future. The ADA has developed
3 programs supported by a grant from Crest and Oral B to
4 help steer new dentists and their teams through unique
5 COVID recovery questions and concerns. These programs
6 focus on three pillars of wellness: Physical, mental
7 health and financial wellness. Our Dental Practice
8 Success Program has through its publication
9 Financial Foundations developed tax season themed
10 communications geared to new dentists. The ADA New
11 Dentist News and other channels continue to elevate
12 mental health by sharing stories on coping during the
13 pandemic.

14 Hope of the day - an organization that
15 focuses on mental health awareness and suicide
16 prevention, has assisted new ADA programming by
17 providing animated videos on mental health.

18 Lastly, we have evolving dental practice
19 models. During the first quarter of 2021, ADA staff
20 and leadership have continued to define opportunities
21 for strategic action in the DSO provider space with a
22 focus on building a culture of diversity and
23 inclusion, corporate membership acquisition, data
24 acquisition and management, and state and local
25 society support.

1 As you know, last year's ADA House of
2 Delegates referred our own Ninth District Resolution
3 Number 40 to the Council on Membership. With the
4 assistance of a new ad hoc work group, the ADA is
5 exploring new recruitment and retention opportunities
6 with employee/dentists working in DSO-supported
7 practices.

8 In addition to this, the ADA is developing an
9 employee/dentist membership value proposition to
10 refine traditional value and engage this growing
11 segment of our colleagues. Value is the key to any
12 membership decision.

13 The ADA is also exploring engagement with DSO
14 businesses with the hope to build relationships,
15 strengthen discussions and possibly secure bulk dues
16 payments.

17 Plus ADA staff are also beginning to explore
18 collaborative opportunities with the National Dental
19 Service Organization.

20 This is just a sampling of initiatives
21 beginning in early 2021. I would encourage you to
22 follow the ADA News and the ADA Morning Huddle e-mails
23 for ongoing updates and news.

24 As I mentioned earlier, I am drawing to the
25 end of my term as your trustee. I cannot thank you

1 enough for the support that Michigan and Wisconsin
2 have given me this these last four years. The
3 Michigan Dental Association is truly a leader among
4 state associations.

5 I am very hopeful and excited for the
6 opportunity to further serve our profession in a great
7 new capacity. That is why I am pleased to announce to
8 you all that I have decided to run for President-Elect
9 of the American Dental Association.

10 As an Association and as a profession, we
11 face several challenges on the horizon.

12 We must reduce barriers to quality dental
13 care for all patients. We must protect our profession
14 from outside influence. We must keep improving our
15 Association for the next generation, and we must do
16 all of that so we can ensure the success of every
17 member.

18 And yes, this is a very tall order, but here
19 is what I know for a fact. We have an amazing
20 organization with great resources on our side. I have
21 a deep understanding of our ADA, and I have a clear
22 vision for its true capabilities.

23 I know we have what it takes to thrive in the
24 months and years ahead. I am not saying that the road
25 ahead will be easy. We will overcome the adversity.

1 My point is this: Adversity shapes us. It gives us
2 perspective. Adversity defines our character. Our
3 future success in organized dentistry depends on how
4 we respond to adversity.

5 On the road ahead, I believe the ADA needs to
6 focus on three areas. First, member success. When
7 member dentists are thriving, so is the
8 American Dental Association. The simple truth is
9 financial success unlocks the freedom of choice. It
10 resolves the burden of debt and covers the cost of
11 membership.

12 I am optimistic that the ADA can find new
13 ways to enhance the success of dentists in their daily
14 practice, particularly when it comes to third party
15 payers.

16 The second is inclusion. Our membership is
17 our life blood, and our membership is changing. As I
18 mentioned previously, the ADA is working on becoming
19 more inclusionary of all dentists. My campaign slogan
20 is "All In". This means no dentist should feel
21 isolated or disenfranchised. We need to be welcoming
22 of all dentists. This is one of the many areas where
23 our tripartite structure is critical. This welcoming
24 has to begin with us here in our components and our
25 component meetings.

1 My practice was in a small town in rural
2 Wisconsin, and I can tell you from personal
3 experience, community is everything. I promise to
4 foster the unity and an inclusive dental community for
5 all dentists.

6 The third is relevance. Relevance means
7 preserving the ADA as dentistry's strong and respected
8 voice.

9 Relevance also means high membership value
10 and our largest possible market share.

11 Relevance means restoring pride in our
12 membership and creating the atmosphere in which
13 dentists cannot imagine not being members of the
14 American Dental Association. This will be key to the
15 ADA's power in advocacy and for the protection of the
16 profession we love.

17 To achieve these goals, the ADA must always
18 seek to understand the needs and concerns of our
19 membership.

20 As I said before, our campaign motto is
21 "All In". "All In" certainly has a Las Vegas
22 reference, the site of our 2021 ADA House of
23 Delegates, but it also has reference to community and
24 working together.

25 Now "All In" doesn't mean some of us. It is

1 going to take all of us. I know we can succeed, but
2 we are going to need our fellow midwesterners and
3 District Nine friends from Michigan on our team to
4 make this happen.

5 We need everyone to get involved because the
6 stakes have never been higher for organized dentistry.
7 Failing to act and adapt means declining membership, a
8 weaker ADA and the risk of permanent damage to our
9 profession. But if we succeed, and I know we can, we
10 will strengthen the ADA. Our tripartite structure
11 will be respected and protected. Our members will be
12 better off and stronger than ever.

13 My friends, I know we can do this. We have
14 tremendous opportunity ahead. Let's be the catalyst
15 for a better and stronger ADA. Let's protect the
16 future of our profession for the next generation.
17 Let's help each and every member find unparalleled
18 success. Let's bring back the pride in ADA
19 membership. We need to work together to regain that
20 pride of being a member of our profession. I will be
21 honored to be that catalyst to make that happen, and I
22 know that together we can do that.

23 Thanks again for your time today and for the
24 great work you are doing in Michigan. I hope to
25 return to your House of Delegates in 2022 as your new

1 ADA President-Elect. Thank you very much. Got bless
2 and, Mr. Speaker, that ends my presentation. Thank
3 you.

4 SPEAKER CHRISTY: Thank you, Dr. Rodriguez.

5 All of the officer and Board positions were
6 elected on Saturday. So, we will now vote for the ADA
7 delegation positions.

8 The MDA has budgeted for 26 ADA delegate
9 positions, 18 delegates and eight alternates.

10 According to the Bylaws, officers of the Association
11 are required to serve as delegates and trustees have
12 the option of serving as delegates. The Nominating
13 Committee contacted all trustee candidates and, if
14 elected, all agreed to serve as ADA delegates.

15 The officers and trustees will comprise 15 of
16 the 18 delegate position. Therefore, the House of
17 Delegates will elect three delegates and eight
18 alternate positions from the list of candidates.

19 Please note that Dr. Jerry Kohen was also a
20 candidate for trustee. Since he was elected as
21 trustee, his name has been removed from the ADA
22 Delegation Ballot.

23 This is reminder that the MDA Bylaws state a
24 majority of votes -- a majority of delegates casting a
25 legal ballot is required to elect. Candidates must

1 receive a vote of 51 percent or more of those
2 delegates present and voting to be elected.

3 If there is a tie for any of the three
4 delegate positions, additional votes will be taken
5 until the three delegate positions have been elected.

6 When voting is open, you will see all 11
7 candidates. You will be able to select up to 11
8 candidates at the time of the vote.

9 When you see the voting screen in Lumi,
10 please choose up to the 11 candidates you would like
11 to vote for.

12 You can make changes to your vote up until 60
13 seconds have elapsed or before I call the vote to
14 close. Voting is open now.

15 MR. ZUBER: Dr. Christy, if we could pause
16 for a minute, I have something I need to change.

17 SPEAKER CHRISTY: We'll pause the vote. I'll
18 pause our time. The House will stand at ease until
19 the Lumi representative corrects the vote.

20 MR. ZUBER: The vote is back open.

21 SPEAKER CHRISTY: The vote is back open.
22 Please restart your voting. Thank you. I am letting
23 this go a little longer as people are still getting
24 their votes in.

25 Voting is now closed.

1 When the results are available, I will
2 announce the results and they will be shown on the
3 screen in alphabetical order.

4 The House will stand at ease while I work
5 with Lumi to have this projected. Thank you. Adam,
6 are we ready for that vote to be projected or to send
7 to Michelle?

8 MR. ZUBER: I've sent the results to
9 Michelle.

10 SPEAKER CHRISTY: I'll go down and check with
11 her. Give me one moment. Thank you.

12 (Off the record briefly.)

13 SPEAKER CHRISTY: To the House, you have
14 elected Debra Peters as a delegate.

15 We had a three-dentist tie for the other two
16 spots, so we'll be taking an additional ballot to
17 determine of those three who will be your delegates to
18 the ADA House of Delegates.

19 Adam, do you have that slide prepared? So,
20 as Adam is getting that back to me, the three members
21 who you'll be voting for for the two spots, you will
22 choose two of the three, are Doctors Elizabeth
23 Knudsen, Margaret Gingrich and
24 Gabe Holdwick. Those are the three you'll be voting
25 for to determine the two who will serve as well for

1 the ADA delegation as your delegates.

2 MR. ZUBER: Dr. Christy, we are prepared for
3 the next ballot. There are three candidates and you
4 are voting for two of them.

5 SPEAKER CHRISTY: Correct. That will appear
6 exactly as they saw with the 11 before, but they will
7 pick up to two of the three candidates, correct?

8 MR. ZUBER: There are just three candidates,
9 yes, Dr. Knudsen, Dr. Gingrich and Dr. Holdwick, three
10 candidates.

11 SPEAKER CHRISTY: Yes. They will pick two of
12 the three. House, as you heard, the ballot before you
13 will be of three candidates, Doctors Knudsen, Gingrich
14 and Holdwick. You will select up to two of those
15 candidates for delegate. I will take 60 seconds for
16 that vote. Once it begins, it's projected to your
17 screens. Voting begins now.

18 Voting is closed. The House will stand at
19 ease as I await the results. To the House, we are
20 just waiting for those results to come in and for Lumi
21 to present the slide for you. Hold off on that, Adam,
22 until I get the results from Michelle. She is
23 printing that so I have it to read. All right.

24 (Off the record briefly.)

25 SPEAKER CHRISTY: To the House, you have

1 elected Dr. Debra Peters, Dr. Gabe Holdwick,
2 Dr. Margaret Gingrich as your delegates.

3 Adam, are you prepared to present the slide
4 for the remainder and the entire delegation?

5 MR. ZUBER: Still putting together right now.

6 SPEAKER CHRISTY: Okay. Thank you.

7 MR. ZUBER: Okay, we're ready.

8 SPEAKER CHRISTY: The House is no longer at
9 ease. We will now project the ADA delegation on the
10 screen with your three delegates and the alternate
11 delegates in alphabetical order. So you have elected
12 your three delegates and eight alternate delegates.
13 Leave that on the screen for the time being.

14 I want to again thank members of the
15 Nominating Committee for their service to the MDA and
16 presenting a qualified slate of candidates for the
17 House of Delegates for the American Dental
18 Association.

19 Additionally, I would like to thank the
20 members of the Election Commission, Doctors Michael
21 Maihofer and Mary Chrysler for their diligent service
22 in preparation and completion of this year's
23 elections.

24 Thank you, Adam, that's good.

25 The officers and members of the Board of

1 Trustees, the MDA former presidents, ADA Council
2 members and MDA Committee Chairs are members of the
3 House of Delegates without vote, unless duly elected
4 as delegates by their respective component societies.

5 All members of the House of Delegates voting
6 and non-voting have the right to make a motion, amend
7 a motion and make points of order or parliamentary
8 inquiry.

9 All others, including alternate delegates,
10 are observers of the House proceedings and are not
11 allowed to participate.

12 We will now proceed with the report of the
13 Reference Committee.

14 It is the duty of the presiding officer to
15 assist members in exercising their rights and
16 privileges.

17 Whenever a member of the House believes that
18 the procedure is not being followed correctly, the
19 member may bring this to the attention of the chair by
20 rising to a point of order by entering their point of
21 order through the Q and A button through the Lumi
22 platform. Members may even interrupt the proceedings
23 to do this if necessary.

24 Members of the House are entitled to
25 understand the issues before them and to have answers

1 to questions when available.

2 I'd like to remind you to use the speaker
3 queue to speak for or against a resolution, make an
4 amendment, move the question, raise an objection,
5 point of order, request information or be removed from
6 the speaker queue.

7 The speaker queue is located in the top menu
8 bar of the Lumi panel and looks like a double speech
9 bubble.

10 When you click on the icon, type in the text
11 box at the bottom of the screen the appropriate
12 option. You may have to scroll down to see the text
13 box at the bottom of the screen.

14 Then click the arrow to the right of the text
15 box to submit your request to speak.

16 If you have submitted your request to speak
17 correctly, you will briefly see a pop-up message that
18 says "Received". You have now entered the speaker
19 queue. You are now standing in line.

20 After you type in your request to speak, then
21 you wait. When I call on you to speak, you will then
22 need to raise your hand in Zoom so that your
23 microphone can be unmuted. In Zoom, the hand icon is
24 located at the bottom of the participant list.

25 I would like to remind each member of the

1 House to speak slowly, and clearly state your name and
2 component each time you speak to assist with the
3 recording of the House proceedings.

4 Please state if you are speaking for or
5 against a resolution. This assists the Speaker and
6 provides clarity for the assembly by clearly stating
7 if you are moving to amend a motion.

8 Any member may request a point of information
9 through the speaker queue, and the Chair will attempt
10 to obtain the information. When asked to speak,
11 please direct it in the form of a question or a point
12 of order. Point of information may not be used to
13 debate without proper recognition, and any attempt to
14 do so will not be allowed. This is not the function
15 to be used for members to answer questions that they
16 may hear raised. Those responses unless requested by
17 the Chair must come from the speaker queue by typing
18 in "Pro" or "Con".

19 Proper decorum must be maintained at all
20 times. Personal professionalism is paramount, and
21 this assembly won't tolerate unprofessional behavior
22 or comments in the House of Delegates. Guests are
23 often present as well.

24 In addition, I remind you of MDA policy on
25 anti-trust in the House of Delegates Ethical

1 Statement. These policies were provided to the House
2 of Delegates in a Delegate Digest and are located in
3 the Lumi platform.

4 I would like to remind each member of the
5 House to speak slowly, and clearly state your name and
6 component each time you speak to assist with the
7 recording of the House proceedings.

8 The reference committee chair will read only
9 the resolution numbers, titles, page numbers and
10 relevant committee comments.

11 As a reminder, all motions proposed do not
12 require a second per the standing rules of the House
13 of Delegates.

14 MDA staff stands ready to make your suggested
15 amendments to the resolutions before you on the
16 screen.

17 If you have had staff prepare an electronic
18 screen of your changes, please be sure to announce the
19 assigned code when calling up the screen.

20 If you did not have a screen prepared, please
21 be prepared to walk the House through exactly what
22 wording you want and we will attempt to insert, change
23 or delete your amendments directly on the screen. We
24 have inserted line numbers on each resolution so you
25 can pinpoint the line number you are seeking to

1 change.

2 Are there any questions?

3 Dr. Katie Swan, chair of the Reference
4 Committee will now read the report of the Committee.

5 DR. SWAN: Resolution 05 - The Consent
6 Calendar.

7 Resolved, that the following resolutions be
8 adopted:

9 Resolution 04 - BYLAWS CHANGE; RECENT
10 GRADUATE AND LIFE MEMBER DUES (Page 1002).

11 Resolution 03 - BYLAWS CHANGE: LIFE MEMBER
12 AGE REQUIREMENT (Page 1000).

13 Mr. Speaker, I move Resolution 05, and the
14 Committee's recommendation is a yes vote.

15 SPEAKER CHRISTY: Thank you, Dr. Swan.

16 Are there any members who wish to extract
17 either Resolution 04 or Resolution 03 from the
18 Consent Calendar? Seeing no members in the queue, it
19 appears you are ready to vote.

20 We will now vote on Resolution 05. Once you
21 see Resolution 05 on your screen, please click "Yes"
22 or "No".

23 You will receive notification that your vote
24 was received and confirmation of the choice you
25 selected.

1 If you change your mind, click another
2 option. Your second vote will override the first
3 vote. You can change your mind until 30 seconds has
4 elapsed or before I call for the vote to close.

5 This vote before you is a Bylaws change, so
6 both of these require a two-thirds vote. Please vote
7 now.

8 Voting is now closed and we will display the
9 results when they are complete and a slide is
10 prepared.

11 You have adopted Resolution 05 with
12 Resolution 04, Bylaws - Recent Graduate and Life
13 Member Dues and Resolution 03, Life Member Age
14 Requirement.

15 Dr. Swan.

16 DR. SWAN: Sorry about that.

17 SPEAKER CHRISTY: Dr. Swan.

18 DR. SWAN: Hi.

19 SPEAKER CHRISTY: Go ahead.

20 DR. SWAN: This should conclude the report of
21 the reference committee.

22 SPEAKER CHRISTY: As well, I know Dr. Swan
23 wanted to take a moment to recognize the members of
24 the reference committee and thank them:

25 Dr. Genrundyne Algenio, Macomb; Dr. Laila Carr,

1 Detroit; Dr. Maeve Daly, Washtenaw; Dr. Andrew DeHaan,
2 Oakland; Dr. Seth Griffin, Kalamazoo; Dr. Benjamin
3 Jamo, Central; Ms. Sarah Kowalski, University of
4 Michigan Dental School, and Dr. Brian Rathke, Resort.

5 Dr. Swan, do you want to continue on that
6 next group as well? Do you have that part for me?

7 DR. SWAN: Yup, I've got it. I'm sorry. In
8 addition, I'd like to thank the members of the Bylaws
9 Language Review Committee for its diligence in
10 reviewing the language and structure of the proposed
11 amendments to the Bylaws: Dr. Michael Dincau,
12 Manistee-Mason, Chair of the Committee; Dr. Maria
13 Manatou, Detroit; Dr. Chris Manduzzi, Macomb;
14 Dr. Lawrence Palmer from Oakland; Dr. Clayton Shunk
15 from Sault Ste. Marie, and Dr. Emily Varsanik from
16 Genesee.

17 SPEAKER CHRISTY: Thank you, Dr. Swan.

18 President Meraw will now provide recognition
19 to the retiring officers and trustees. Dr. Meraw,
20 please raise your hand in Zoom. There you are.
21 Please proceed.

22 DR. MERAW: Thank you, Speaker Christy.

23 Dr. Margaret Gingrich served as MDA Immediate
24 Past President from 2020 to 2021.

25 In addition to serving as the MDA Immediate

1 Past President, Dr. Gingrich served as an MDA Trustee
2 from 2015 to 2018, MDA President-Elect from 2018 to
3 2019, and MDA President from 2019 to 2020.

4 Margaret, on behalf of the Association, thank
5 you for your many years of service.

6 Dr. Christine Mason and Dr. Robert Richards
7 served as MDA Trustees from 2020 to 2021.

8 Dr. Vincent Benivegna served as MDA Trustee
9 from 2016 to 2021.

10 On behalf of the Association, thank you for
11 your service.

12 SPEAKER CHRISTY: Thank you. The agenda at
13 this time calls for new business. New business may
14 only be introduced with unanimous consent of the
15 House. Is there any new business before the House?

16 Seeing none, we will move on.

17 We will now have the installation of officers
18 and new trustees.

19 Dr. Meraw.

20 DR. MERAW: Thank you. Would
21 Doctors Maihofer, Knudsen, Dziurgot, Kohen, Newman and
22 Rupprecht please raise your hand in Zoom so your
23 audio/video can be unmuted? Thank you.

24 We will now administer the Trustee Pledge of
25 Office. If you could please raise your right hand.

1 "In recognition of the privileges and
2 responsibilities of serving as an officer and trustee
3 of the Michigan Dental Association..." --

4 SPEAKER CHRISTY: It appears we've lost
5 Dr. Meraw for a moment. The team is working to
6 contact Dr. Meraw.

7 DR. MAIHOFER: Mr. Speaker. Did everything
8 go out?

9 SPEAKER CHRISTY: It appears so, yes.

10 DR. MAIHOFER: It was not just me then?

11 SPEAKER CHRISTY: No, it was not just you.

12 Dr. Gingrich, are you available? Dr. Meraw
13 is signing back in. We'll finish the oath up and move
14 to the next step.

15 DR. GINGRICH: Am I on?

16 SPEAKER CHRISTY: Hold on, Dr. Gingrich.

17 Dr. Meraw is signing back in.

18 DR. GINGRICH: Okay.

19 SPEAKER CHRISTY: Adam, Dr. Meraw signed back
20 in. Do you see his hand raised?

21 MR. ZUBER: He should be a panelist at this
22 moment. He should be --

23 DR. MERAW: Can you see me? Thank you. All
24 right. Speaker Christy, this Lumi doesn't like me for
25 some reason. Do you want me to start over?

1 SPEAKER CHRISTY: No, why don't you go from
2 the second page, page 29, "To make decisions that are
3 in the best interest". I want you to finish strong.

4 DR. MERAW: Thank you very much. Okay.
5 Hands raised again before Lumi kicks me out.

6 "To make decisions that are in the best
7 interest of the public and the dental profession;

8 To faithfully represent the dentists of the
9 state of Michigan;

10 To obey all state regulations pertaining to
11 the practice of dentistry;

12 To observe the standards of ethics of this
13 Association;

14 To be guided by the principles of conduct and
15 leadership and the provisions of the organization and
16 operating manual adopted by the Board of Trustees."

17 Will you collectively say, "I so pledge".

18 (All answered: "I so pledge".)

19 DR. MERAW: Thank you.

20 It is my pleasure to introduce our next MDA
21 president, Dr. Michael Maihofer.

22 DR. MAIHOFFER: Thank you, Steve.

23 So, who'd have thought we'd end up here,
24 another year, another virtual House? Not me.

25 You know, it doesn't seem like that long ago,

1 there we were back in 2019 working along, minding our
2 own business, doing all the things we normally do,
3 taking care of our patients, providing a livelihood
4 for ourselves, our families and our employees. Some
5 of us old enough thought we'd already lived through it
6 all.

7 Some of us can remember the Kennedy/King
8 assassinations, the Vietnam war protests, the AIDS
9 epidemic, the Twin Towers falling on 9-11, all
10 catastrophic events that changed the course of life
11 and history. And then along comes COVID-19, and
12 unlike many of those other monumental historical
13 events, this one really hit hard for dentistry and the
14 entire world. It hit us all economically and
15 psychologically in ways that may take years to fully
16 recover from, but we will and we are, because
17 dentistry is strong and dentistry is resilient.

18 I am not going to reiterate all the ways
19 organized dentistry has responded to this crisis. I
20 am going to repeat my belief that organized dentistry
21 is now stronger than ever before because of this
22 crisis and how it has responded, and I am extremely
23 proud of that and I hope that you are too.

24 First off, I want to thank Dr. Steve Meraw
25 for the fantastic job he's done guiding us through one

1 of the most horrible years that any of us can
2 remember. I know this wasn't what you signed up for,
3 Steve, but as they say, when life gives you lemons,
4 and believe me Steve has created some pretty
5 incredible lemonade out of a pretty horrible year and
6 for that we all thank him.

7 In the coming year we will continue to build
8 on his many accomplishments as well as to promote
9 anything that furthers our mission of helping our
10 members succeed.

11 Of course, we will continue to advocate
12 legislatively for those priority items our members
13 have identified. I'm going to be brief. I'm just
14 going to mention a few. I'm just going to mention
15 four.

16 We are still working with the federal and
17 state government on relief for the high cost of
18 personal protective equipment. We know that the
19 rising costs of PPE have increased the costs of
20 providing care and that dentists are getting squeezed.
21 We need to find ways to bring these costs down.

22 Number two, we are still seeking creative
23 ways to help address the rising cost of student debt.
24 This is a tough one, but we realize that these
25 enormous debt burdens impact where dentists choose to

1 practice as well as the overall cost of dental care.
2 We need to continue to look for other forms of loan
3 forgiveness and find other solutions.

4 Also, we're going to work on legislative
5 solutions that will promote transparency in dental
6 benefit company's network leasing. You know, it just
7 isn't fair that dentists believe their patients are
8 covered by one plan only to find out that's not the
9 case, that the plan has leased their network of
10 dentists to another dental benefit company, often
11 changing coverage status and reimbursement and, that,
12 my friends, should be illegal, and that's what we're
13 working toward.

14 Finally, we're going to lobby for improved
15 Medicaid funding for general anesthesia and better
16 access to hospital and ambulatory surgical centers.
17 This will especially benefit those dentists treating
18 many of Michigan's most vulnerable citizens.

19 So those are just a few of the things we're
20 going to accomplish this year for our patients and for
21 our members.

22 Now I want to talk about something that I
23 consider to be the MDA's most important initiative
24 this year, and that's the establishment of our
25 Committee on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion. And yeah,

1 I know what you're thinking, isn't the MDA coming to
2 this party a little late? Isn't every organization,
3 Association, corporation, mom and pop book store and
4 corner gas station adopting policies that embrace
5 diversity, equity, inclusion and, yes, they are, but I
6 can assure you that the genesis of our committee
7 several years in the making isn't a fashion statement
8 but reflects our deep commitment to ensure that our
9 membership, our leadership as well as all of our
10 committees reflect and represent the diversity of
11 dental practice in our state, because if they don't we
12 can no longer legitimately speak for our membership.
13 If they don't, we will no longer be able to
14 legitimately speak for our profession here in
15 Michigan.

16 And although we will be acknowledging and
17 learning from our diversity, we also need to celebrate
18 the things we share in common, and that's our
19 commitment to our patients and promoting the oral
20 health of the public. That's what we are all about.
21 That's what our MDA is all about. It doesn't matter
22 if you practice in a group practice, solo practice,
23 DSO or FQHC. It doesn't matter if you're black,
24 brown, Caucasian, Asian or Middle Eastern, we are all
25 in this together. As an Association, we must

1 continually look to the future.

2 I am humbled and honored to serve as your
3 president, but I can't do it all by myself, so I'm
4 asking for help. Please continue to volunteer at the
5 local and state level. Volunteer to serve on a
6 committee or board. Participate in a legislative
7 meeting or fundraiser and encourage your colleagues to
8 do it as well. Get over this idea that I don't have
9 anything to contribute, that it's not my place to
10 lead. Everyone has something to contribute, and
11 everyone's voice deserves and needs to be heard. With
12 all of us working together, all of us speaking with
13 one voice, our profession will be stronger and the
14 oral health of those we serve will be better and all
15 of us will succeed.

16 I wanted to thank you for this opportunity.
17 I look forward to hearing from and working with all of
18 you, and I promise you my best in the coming year.
19 Thank you.

20 SPEAKER CHRISTY: Thank you, Dr. Maihofer.

21 The next item on the agenda is unfinished
22 business. The only business that can be taken up
23 under this agenda item is business that has been
24 postponed sometime during this meeting.

25 Seeing none, we are past this point.

1 I have received no announcements.

2 Before we adjourn, we do have some people who
3 wish to make a short announcement. For those making
4 an announcement, please type "Point" in the speaker
5 queue. When you are called on to speak, please raise
6 your hand in Zoom to unmute your audio.

7 I know we have two, Dr. Vincent Benivegna and
8 Dr. Katie Swan. The chair recognizes Dr. Swan.
9 Please unmute your audio.

10 DR. SWAN: Okay. Mr. Speaker, can you hear
11 me?

12 SPEAKER CHRISTY: Yes, I can. Thank you.
13 Please proceed.

14 DR. SWAN: Thank you. I'd like to take a
15 moment to thank our former MDA President,
16 Dr. Margaret Gingrich, for her leadership during the
17 onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. Last year at the time
18 of this meeting, we were still in the thick of things.
19 Emotions were still running really high. There was a
20 lot of panic among dentists about how long our offices
21 would remained closed. Margaret selflessly agreed to
22 stay on until the House of Delegates meeting could be
23 moved to a virtual platform, and she continued to work
24 hard on our behalf instead of just going through the
25 motions. She really took a lot of bullets for us

1 during that time, both personally and professionally.
2 Her presidency then ended quietly without the usual
3 celebrations of gratitude.

4 This year it seems like the panic has mostly
5 subsided and we are back to business, even if business
6 is a little harder than it used to be. I know it's
7 mostly a result of timing, but I don't feel like we've
8 given Margaret an appropriate sense of our gratitude
9 for all she's done and continues to do, as evidenced
10 by her smoothly running the meeting during some
11 technical difficulties yesterday.

12 If we were in person, I would ask you all to
13 give her a standing ovation, but I looked and Lumi
14 doesn't have that ability. So, I want to express my
15 personal thanks, and I really urge each of you to
16 consider reaching out to Margaret to personally do the
17 same. Thanks for this opportunity, Mr. Speaker.

18 SPEAKER CHRISTY: Thank you, Dr. Swan.

19 Dr. Vince Benivegna. Vince, please raise
20 your hand again in Zoom.

21 DR. BENIVEGNA: Can you hear me?

22 SPEAKER CHRISTY: Yes, we can, Dr. Benivegna.
23 Please proceed.

24 DR. BENIVEGNA: First, I'd like to thank the
25 House for electing me President-Elect. I'd also like

1 to thank the Speaker, Todd Christy, and MDA staff for
2 running such an efficient virtual House of Delegates
3 again this year. Lastly, I'd like to thank
4 Doctors Margaret Gingrich, Deb Peters, Sherill Behnke,
5 my classmate and MDA President Michele Tulak-Gorecki
6 and Ms. Karen Burgess for their encouragement and help
7 in my journey through organized dentistry.

8 I am excited to start my President-Elect year
9 and look forward to meeting the challenges that lie
10 ahead for Michigan dentistry. I think we have an
11 excellent directional road map, our newly updated
12 strategic plan that has set our goals for the next few
13 years. And I'm confident that with the quality, best
14 in class leadership that the MDA possesses, we will be
15 able to handle any curve balls that may come our way.
16 I look forward to continue to helping member dentists
17 succeed. Thank you and smile on.

18 SPEAKER CHRISTY: Thank you, Dr. Benivegna.

19 Next we have Dr. Christopher Smiley. Please
20 raise your hand in Zoom so you can be recognized.

21 DR. CHRISTOPHER SMILEY: Thank you,
22 Mr. Speaker. Can you hear me?

23 SPEAKER CHRISTY: Yes, I can, Dr. Smiley.
24 Please proceed.

25 DR. CHRISTOPHER SMILEY: Thank you. Two

1 years ago I was elected as your Editor and it's been
2 an incredible, incredible run.

3 After the first year, the House changed the
4 Bylaws to allow three-year terms rather than an annual
5 renewing. Although that allows me to have another
6 basic four total years before I would face
7 re-election, I am looking at having what would be
8 anticipated as my three-year term, which will
9 culminate at the next House in April, be the end of my
10 term as Editor.

11 So, as I enter my last year, what I intend to
12 be my last year as Editor for the Journal, I would
13 like to invite anybody interested in becoming editor
14 to reach out to me, reach out to David Foe, we'd be
15 happy to answer your questions. We want to ensure the
16 success of our publication. Thank you.

17 SPEAKER CHRISTY: Thank you, Dr. Smiley.

18 Seeing no one else in the queue, we will move
19 ahead.

20 Once taken, the actions of this House of
21 Delegates are no longer the opinions, wishes,
22 suggestions or recommendations of any individual,
23 committee or officer, but are now the actions of the
24 entire House of Delegates. This House of Delegates is
25 authorized under the Association Bylaws to act for the

1 entire Association and, thus, they are the actions of
2 the entire Association. It is incumbent upon every
3 member of this Association to accept the actions of
4 this House of Delegates as the actions of the
5 Michigan Dental Association.

6 Following the meeting, the MDA will e-mail
7 the House survey using Survey Monkey. When you
8 receive it, please take a moment to complete the
9 survey. The MDA is looking for your feedback and
10 guidance.

11 Are there any other announcements?

12 I would like to take this opportunity to
13 thank the members of the House, our Board of Trustees
14 and our Association staff for making this year's
15 session so efficient and productive.

16 Additionally, I would like to thank the
17 entire MDA staff for their support for this 2021 House
18 of Delegates. In particular, my personal thank you to
19 April Stoczynski, Jeff Mertens, Jennifer Lennemann,
20 Ginger Fernandez, and your incomparable Governance
21 Manager, Michelle Nichols-Cruz. My sincere
22 appreciation to you all in making this a successful
23 House.

24 The 2022 House of Delegates meeting will be
25 held on April 27th through 30th in Novi, Michigan.

1 The MDA Board will meet via Zoom 15 minutes
2 following the adjournment of the House of Delegates.

3 Dr. Daly, please raise your hand in Zoom and
4 unmute your audio.

5 DR. DALY: I move that the second meeting of
6 the 2021 House of Delegates meeting be adjourned.

7 SPEAKER CHRISTY: Dr. Daly, could you do me
8 one favor here though? Could you state your name and
9 component please?

10 DR. DALY: Yes, absolutely. I am Maeve Daly
11 from the Washtenaw District, and I move the meeting of
12 the 2021 House of Delegates meeting be adjourned.

13 SPEAKER CHRISTY: The second session of the
14 2021 Michigan Dental Association House of Delegates is
15 now adjourned. Thank you.

16 (Meeting adjourned at 12:07 p.m.)

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

1 STATE OF MICHIGAN)
) ss
2 COUNTY OF EATON)

3 I certify that this transcript, consisting of
4 39 pages, is a complete, true, and correct transcription of
5 the audio recording of the meeting held in this matter on
6 April 18, 2021.

7 I also certify that I am not a relative or
8 employee of an attorney for a party or financially
9 interested in the action.

10

11 May 7, 2021

12

13

14

Joan Farhat Byrnes, CSR-2062
Notary Public
Eaton County, Michigan
My commission expires: 4-10-25.

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25