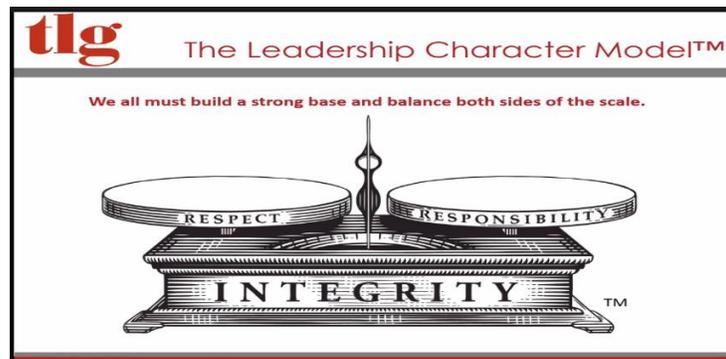




Michigan Dental Association
Unofficial Board Actions
June 26-27, 2021

Trustee Report: Dr. Christopher Gorecki

The MDA June 2021 Board meeting started as an all-board Zoom meeting on Wednesday evening with a presentation from Chris McCusker, PhD. The topic was “Leadership Character and Board Effectiveness.” It was attended by 46 members of the MDA Boards. There were multiple small group break-out sessions that were quite mind-provoking. I believe most participants found value in outlining the processes that constitute an effective board. A quote that stood out for me from the presentation was from one of the founders of Motorola Robert S. Galvin. “Leadership is going first in a new direction... and then being followed.”



The speaker focused on the balance that needs to be found between respect and responsibility, with the underlying need for integrity among all board members to have an effective and productive board.

Depending on which meeting you needed to attend, the travel days to Traverse City were on Thursday or Friday. The individual boards from the MDA Health Plan and IFG met on Friday, while the MDA Foundation board met via Zoom on Friday. The social aspects of an in-person meeting were evident when we all were able to meet for a reception which was followed by more camaraderie at the roof-top venue at the Indigo Hotel later that evening. Saturday afternoon social events included either a wine-tasting event at the Chateau Chantal Winery or a tour at the Village of Grand Traverse Commons, the shuttered Traverse City Mental Hospital!! Once again, despite the continuous rainfall all were grateful that we were finally able to meet in person.

One of the goals for the current president Michael Maihofer is to promote diversity and inclusion in the MDA as well as collaboration with other diverse dental associations. This was evident when the board passed several initiatives to bring diversity and inclusion to fruition. Labeled the Diverse Dental Organizations Projects, the Board discussed and approved funding for several key projects that will continue to advance the work of the MDA. All these initiatives will continue to position the MDA and its members to promote the success of every dentist in the state of Michigan. Much more work was accomplished at the meeting and the Board of Trustees is looking forward to a productive year.

Chris Gorecki

Highlights from the Board of Trustees Meeting

Board Development

The meeting kicked off on June 23 with a joint Board training session via Zoom for the MDA, MDAIFG, MDA Foundation, MDA Health Plan and Dental PAC Boards. The session was led by Chris McCusker, Ph.D., a senior consultant with Turknett Leadership Group and focused on the Leadership Character Model. This model stresses the importance of integrity in all leaders and research has identified that the most competent leaders are those that balance respect and responsibility.

At the MDA Board meeting in Traverse City over the weekend of June 26-27, the Board held a generative discussion on the importance of a culture of inclusion at all levels of the MDA. Discussion focused on the importance of ensuring inclusion, particularly at the component level. Inclusion is making sure that everyone has a voice and can participate in a way that is meaningful to them. The Board had a lively discussion, and several suggestions were noted. These will be reviewed further, and input sought from the Committees on Membership, New Dentist and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, as well as in the monthly Component Relations meeting.

The Board also viewed a video titled "[How Your Brain Responds to Stories and Why They are Crucial for Leaders.](#)" The video explained how effective storytelling can create empathy and inspire action. Focusing on the story that data tells has a bigger impact than the data alone.

Endorsements

The Board of Trustees reviewed recommendations from the MDA Insurance and Financial Group Board regarding potential products and services to meet member needs. After review, the Board of Trustees approved the following four endorsements, subject to an appropriate contract:

iCoreConnect: MDA currently endorses iCoreConnect for encrypted email and e-prescribing software. iCoreConnect has a variety of other software products available to include dental information technology managed support and service program. New solutions will be introduced over the coming years and iCoreConnect has agreed to offer MDA members a discount on all products and services it provides. The products currently endorsed have been high quality and service from the company has been excellent.

Complete Dental IT: Complete Dental IT is a collaboration of ChoiceTel and iCoreConnect. The company offers assistance with technology for the dental office. Services include internet access, back-up internet on a separate circuit that would be unaffected by a primary system failure, firewalls and routers and telephones with any necessary cabling, to help dentists replace aging phone systems with new technology. Complete Dental IT provides dentists with a trusted vendor to analyze their needs and find solutions that fit those needs and their budget. A discount of 35% off all three tiers of managed IT is available for MDA members.

Dental Business Solutions (DBS) for CPA Services: MDA members have frequently inquired whether the association has an endorsement for dental-specific certified public accounting services. The MDA currently endorses DBS Investment Advisers, LLC, for wealth management and retirement planning services and keeping the CPA services aligned with the investment advisers' services will strengthen both programs and provide the best MDA member experience. DBS will provide a \$100 discount on its monthly accounting service fees.

Alerus for Section 125/POP/COBRA Plans: MDA rescinded its endorsement with BASIC for Section 125/POP/COBA plans due to unreliable service. The MDA Board approved an endorsement of these services with Alerus with a 15% discount on document-only services fees, 11% discount for Flexible Spending Account, Health Savings Account, Health Reimbursement Account and Commuter services, and a waiver of the \$150 implementation fee for pretax administration. MDA has utilized Alerus for many years for its employee retirement plan and has proved to be a reliable and responsive company.

Governance

New Dentist Representation on the ADA Board: For several years, the chair of the New Dentist Committee has served on the ADA Board as an *ex-officio* member without the right to vote. There has been discussion of including a new dentist as a voting member on the ADA Board of Trustees, as new dentist members have a unique perspective. The Board believes that giving the new dentist on the ADA Board a vote will strengthen and broaden the Board's actions. A resolution was approved to forward a *Bylaws* change to the 2021 ADA House of Delegates that would allow the new dentist member the right to vote.

Electronic Archiving of State and Component Dental Publications: For many years, the ADA library was the repository and archivist for almost every dental publication in the world. The ADA discontinued maintaining this archive and much of the historical content has been lost. Few tripartite publications are archived by PubMed due to the mixed content – clinical and nonclinical. The Board believes the ADA is the voice of the profession and should take action to ensure that tripartite publications are maintained in a centralized searchable electronic format. A resolution was approved to forward a recommendation to the 2021 ADA House of Delegates asking that the ADA explore creating or facilitating a searchable digital archive for tripartite publications.

2021 House of Delegates Actions: The Board reviewed and approved the 2021 MDA House of Delegates actions.

Policy/Advocacy

Student Debt: The Board approved recommendations from the Student Debt Workgroup to address student debt. Some of the recommendations include working with and engaging the dental schools,

educating students and members, and providing enhanced resources on the MDA website on student debt.

ADA Policy on Silver Diamine Fluoride: MDA approved the [ADA Statement on the Use of Silver Diamine Fluoride to Arrest Carious Lesions](#).

Registered Dental Hygienist (RDH) Prescription Authority: The Michigan Dental Hygienists Association (MDHA) recently submitted a legislative initiative that would give RDHs limited prescription authority by assignment of a dentist for fluoride supplements, topical sodium fluoride or stannous fluoride anti-caries treatment and topical or subgingival anti-infective. The Board believes that in order to prescribe, a provider must be able to make a diagnosis, and RDHs are not qualified to diagnosis patients. It is also aware that electronic prescribing would eliminate the need for this proposal. The Board approved policy that it is not in favor of providing Registered Dental Hygienists with the authority to write prescriptions.

House Bill 4359 – CRNAs: House Bill 4359 would expand the scope of practice of Certified Nurse Anesthetists to allow them to perform certain procedures independently of a supervising physician. If passed into law, it would allow CRNAs to practice in dental offices without obtaining additional training. The MDA chose not to act on the bill, as it does not believe there would be a big enough impact on dentistry to justify getting politically involved.

Diversity and Inclusion

Diverse Dental Organizations Projects: Representatives of the Michigan Dental Association have been meeting regularly with representatives of diverse dental organizations, including the Wolverine Dental Society, the Hispanic Dental Association, the American Association of Women Dentists, and the Society of American Indian Dentists. The goal is to build relationships between the organizations and identify opportunities for collaboration. After several meetings, the group has identified several collaborative projects and all organizations agreed to support them. The Board approved funding for the following projects:

1. Establish a fund through the Michigan Dental Association Foundation for the purpose of providing grants to support efforts to increase the diversity of the dental profession in Michigan. The intention at this time is to provide an equal amount in grant funding to each Michigan dental school to support the costs associated with the DAT and DAT test preparation in the Summer Enrichment Program (UDM) and the Profile for Success Program (UM).
2. Establish a collaborative microsite. A dedicated webpage with its own address would facilitate collaboration, raise awareness, and allow for promotion of the fund above. It would also be a home for information about dental careers as well as other collaborative projects such as a mentoring or shadowing program.
3. Create videos to promote dental careers featuring real-life dental professionals of diverse background. The expectation was that the videos could be shared with junior high and high schools for career days, pre-dental study clubs and dentists to share with their patients. All videos would be housed on the microsite.

Membership

Quarter Year Recruitment Campaign: The Board agreed to participate in an ADA pilot program to enhance the retention impact on the quarter-year dues campaign, which provides free membership to

potential members in the fourth quarter of the year. The pilot program provides 15 months of value for the price of 12 months and requires auto-renewal upon joining. As part of the pilot, dues are quoted immediately at application for the following year. The Board approved a dues level of \$550 and assessment of \$295 for the pilot program; full dues and assessment for 2022 will be set by the Board of Trustees in September 2021 after development of the budget.

Financial

AV System Upgrade: The Board of Trustees approved the replacement of the AV System in the MDA Headquarters building.

2020 Audit: The Board received an informational report on the 2020 consolidated audit, prepared by Plante Moran. Despite the pandemic, the MDA ended the year in a strong financial position. It was a clean audit, and no significant issues were identified.

2021-2025 Strategic Plan

Strategic Plan Update: Executive Director Karen Burgess gave an update on progress to date on the new strategic plan, highlighting the development of a member survey, consideration of new software to manage and analyze data and increase member engagement, the establishment of a new Committee on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, as well as progress on the advocacy goal. She introduced a new template for ongoing reporting of Strategic Plan activities and outcomes.