

1 Michigan Dental Association
2

3 **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

4 August 6, 2021

5 Zoom Videoconference

6
7 **Attendance**

8
9 **Present**

10 Dr. Michael Maihofer, President
11 Dr. Vincent Benivegna, President-Elect
12 Dr. Stephen Meraw, Immediate Past President
13 Dr. Christopher Smiley, Editor
14 Dr. Eric Knudsen, Secretary/Treasurer
15 Dr. Todd Christy, Speaker
16 Karen Burgess, MBA, CAE, Executive Director

17
18 **Legal Counsel**

19 Dan Schulte, Kerr, Russell, and Weber

20
21 **MDA Staff**

22 Sophie Brenke, Component Relations Coordinator (for a portion)
23 Angie Kanazeh, Director of Membership (for a portion)
24 Neema Katibai, Government/Insurance Affairs Manager (for a portion)
25 Michelle Nichols-Cruz, Governance Manager
26 Bill Sullivan, Vice President of Advocacy and Professional Relations

27
28 **CALL TO ORDER**

29 The meeting was called to order by President Maihofer at 9:01 a.m.

30
31 **CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY**

32 No conflicts were noted.

33
34 **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

35 Ms. Burgess introduced two new employees to the Executive Committee. Sophie Brenke is
36 the new Component Relations Coordinator and has a lot of PR experience and knowledge
37 of associations. Neema Katibai replaces Josh Kluzak as the Government/Insurance Affairs
38 Manager. Neema has been working in the House of Representatives and recently
39 graduated from MSU law school.

40
41 **LEADERSHIP DEMOGRAPHICS**

42 The Executive Committee is responsible for monitoring the demographics of volunteer
43 leadership for MDA agencies. The EC reviewed a report showing the relevant

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44 demographic information for volunteers overall as well as a variety of subgroups,
45 including the House of Delegates, committees, the various Boards, and the LEAD
46 participants.

47
48 MDA is making progress in a positive direction in identifying the greatest opportunity for
49 involvement with its committees and LEAD program.
50

51 Ethnic categories in Aptify are based on US Census and the ADA is not willing to add
52 additional categories. However, the MDA has developed a work around and is tracking
53 this information.
54

55 The ADA plans to move towards a more customer relationship management database in
56 2024. States and components will have an opportunity to provide input into the new
57 system.
58

59 The MDA attempts to track demographics as it relates to practice style. This information
60 changes frequently and can be difficult to track, particularly for those at the beginning and
61 end of their careers. This information will be included in future demographic reports.
62

63 **LEADERSHIP FORUM**

64 The 2020 event was canceled and 2021 was not scheduled due to the pandemic. The 2019
65 Forum was well-received, with an overall rating of 4.39 on a 5-point scale. The Forum attracted
66 116 participants, a good increase from the first two meetings. The \$0 registration fee was a key
67 reason for the increased participation.
68

69 Component leaders were asked in the July Component Relations meeting if they would prefer
70 to return to a standalone Leadership Forum or continue with an integrated Leadership Forum
71 track. The response was overwhelming for a standalone Forum. As a result, the draft 2022
72 budget includes \$27K in expenses and an estimated \$8K in sponsorship revenue to fund it.
73

74 The EC previously made decisions regarding the 2020 Forum that can be transitioned to 2022.
75 Avoiding conflicts with other events, the best date for the Leadership Forum is Friday,
76 September 30, 2022. In addition to the standalone forum, the EC agreed to continue with
77 leadership topics at Annual Session.
78

79 A portion of the 2022 forum will include an inclusion panel of presidents of ethnic groups. The
80 EC agreed that the panel should consist of Michigan dentists as well as a DSO and public health
81 dentist.
82

83 This event provides two opportunities to increase the leadership pipeline. Not only is it an
84 opportunity for current leaders and the Nom Com to identify potential leaders, it is also an
85 opportunity to recruit volunteers for committees. Follow up with all attendees takes place
86 after the Forum.

87
88 The EC will be provided with more details on the Leadership Forum at its November meeting.
89

90 The EC adopted the following:
91

92 **1EC-821** Resolved, that the 2022 Leadership Forum be held as an **Adopted**
93 independent event on September 30, 2022.

94
95 **LEAD PROGRAM UPDATE**

96 A written update on the LEAD program was provided which included a history of the program
97 and tentative schedule for LEAD Class 6.0. The pandemic significantly altered the experience of
98 the current class and continual efforts are made to engage them. To compensate for some of
99 the losses for the class, a book study of John Maxwell's *Developing the Leader Within You* was
100 added. It was facilitated by Drs. Todd Christy and Deb Peters and was well received, so much so
101 the plan is to add a similar experience to future programs.
102

103 Angie Kanazeh, Director of Membership, informed the EC that the majority of LEAD graduates
104 currently volunteer for the MDA with two LEAD classes having 100% participation. A request
105 was made to include practice type in future analyses.
106

107 MDA is currently recruiting for the class that begins in January 2022. Recruitment is a
108 collaborative effort, and it is vital that the Board, committees, and components recruit for the
109 LEAD Program. The CDEI will also discuss identifying potential applicants.
110

111 While the MDA recruits through word of mouth and all publications, it really comes down
112 to current leaders reaching out and asking people to get involved; personal outreach can
113 make a huge difference.
114

115 The draft budget includes funding for a class of eight. If there are more than eight
116 qualified applicants, the EC may choose to increase funding for the program. However,
117 more than 16 would be unwieldy.
118

119 **COMPONENT RELATIONS PROGRAM**

120 At the recommendation of the Component Workgroup, the Board of Trustees approved the
121 Component Relations Program and one FTE position to support it (this was the conversion of an
122 existing position, not additional headcount). As a result of the pandemic financial constraints,
123 the position was deferred until 2021. However, the MDA recognized the challenges the
124 components were facing and moved forward with monthly Component Relations meetings as
125 well as the provision of free, collaborative online CE for member dentists. The CE was very
126 successful, with almost all components taking advantage of the opportunity. In addition, pre-CE
127 membership meetings were also offered by Zoom, and as many as eight components took
128 advantage of this opportunity at each CE meeting.
129

130 At a future meeting, the EC should establish specific success measures for the program as a
131 whole and for specific aspects of the program. In addition, the program should be evaluated
132 annually starting in January 2023.

133
134 Sophie Brenke, Component Relations Coordinator, has begun reaching out to components
135 to learn more about the components and their specific needs. The first project will be to
136 determine which components want to participate in the component e-newsletter. If they
137 do not provide local news, the newsletter will still be sent with the MDA information.
138 Following e-newsletters, MDA will focus on component websites utilizing the ADA
139 platform. MDA will continue to supplement the fees for use of the ADA platform.
140

141 **ADA HOUSE OF DELEGATES**

142 Dr. Vincent Benivegna, delegation chair, informed the EC that he hosted an orientation for
143 new delegation members the previous evening. While it was well attended from Michigan
144 delegation members, only one Wisconsin delegation member attended.
145

146 Dr. Benivegna reviewed the schedule of events and two potential Ninth District
147 resolutions:

148
149 New Dentist Representation on the ADA Board: District 8 submitted a resolution on new
150 dentist representation on the ADA Board and the ADA Board was in support of the
151 resolution. The Ninth District can still submit its resolution as the ADA reference
152 committee will review all submitted resolutions when developing its report.
153

154 Electronic Archiving of State and Component Dental Publications: There is support from
155 other states on the electronic archiving resolution. The New York State Board approved
156 co-sponsoring, pending approval by its House which meets in mid-August. California has
157 expressed interest as well and its editor will have an editorial on this issue in CDA's
158 October Journal. It was noted that AADE will not be at the ADA meeting to provide
159 testimony. Drs. Chris Smiley and Mike Maihofer will assemble talking points for the
160 delegation and those states co-sponsoring.
161

162 Both resolutions have been approved by the MDA Board and provided to Wisconsin for
163 support as Ninth District resolutions. The resolutions will be discussed and finalized at the
164 September caucus.
165

166 Alternate Delegates: At this time, Michigan is down two alternates as Drs. Chris Gorecki
167 and Michele Tulak-Gorecki had to resign from the delegation. Dr. Chris Gorecki was a
168 delegate and Dr. Elizabeth Knudsen was moved to a delegate position.
169

170 DEI Resolution: The ADA New Dentist Committee submitted a resolution on DEI, and this
171 will be discussed by the district at the pre-caucus. The MDA is already doing the
172 recommendations for states that are outline in the resolution.

173

174 **ADA POLICY ON ADPAC DONATIONS**

175 The EC discussed the ADA's recent policy on ADPAC donations. There are some members
176 that feel the ADA did not go far enough and the recent policy is the same statement ADA
177 has published previously. Dr. Rodriguez informed the MDA that ADPAC's goal is to be
178 more transparent and open, however there are certain things it can and cannot legally
179 disclose until after the election takes place.

180

181 Dr. Smiley's August editorial will be on Dr. Gosar and how he believes the ADA did not go
182 far enough.

183

184 It was agreed that this issue should be discussed at the ADA pre-caucus as MDA is not
185 aware of WDA's position. Dr. Naila Farooq is the Ninth District representative on ADPAC
186 and Dr. Maihofer will contact her to make sure she attends the pre-caucus.

187

188 The EC requested that this topic be discussed by the Board in executive session in
189 September.

190

191 **OFFICER AND STAFF REPORTS**

192 *2022 Budget:* Ms. Burgess informed the EC that the Committee on Finance met recently to
193 discuss the 2022 budget. The draft budget was \$7,000 in the black, however due to an
194 increase in employee health insurance premiums, the draft is now in the red. The
195 employee health insurance premiums are showing an increase of 15%. As the Employee
196 Benefits Advisory Committee can approve increases up to 10%, MDAIFG staff is in the
197 process of trying to negotiate the fee down. The Committee on Finance will review the
198 budget again prior to forwarding the budget to the Board.

199

200 *COVID:* With the increase in the Delta variant, Ms. Burgess stated that MDA staff must
201 wear a mask when not at their desk, no matter their vaccination status. There is a small
202 percentage of staff not vaccinated and MDA is encouraging them to do so. There has been
203 one known break-through case in the staff.

204

205 *Administration:* There are currently two open positions at the MDA; Membership
206 Concierge and Marketing Director. The marketing director position should be filled soon.

207

208 *Special Board Meeting on Licensure:* Dr. Maihofer stated that the August 31 Special Board
209 Meeting on Licensure will be a frank and open discussion. Speakers include the dental
210 school deans and representatives from the Michigan Board of Dentistry, American Board
211 of Dental Examiners, American Dental Association and Wisconsin Dental Association. No
212 decision or vote will take place at this meeting as follow up will take place at the
213 September Board meeting.

214

215 *e-Prescribing:* Mr. Sullivan reminded the EC that the law goes into effect October 1 and
216 that rules have not yet been promulgated. MDA staff has attempted to meet with LARA to
217 discuss enforcement with no rules in place.

218

219 *ADA Panel on Augmented Intelligence:* Dr. Smiley will be a part of the ADA Panel on
220 Augmented Intelligence on October 12 at 3:30 in Las Vegas. In addition, Dr. Smiley is a
221 recipient of the Evidence Based Dentistry Award that will be presented at 5pm.

222

223 *Mid-States/President-Elect Conference:* Dr. Benivegna stated that he would be attending
224 the Mid-States Leadership Conference in Chicago from August 13-15 followed by the ADA
225 President-Elect Conference from August 15-17.

226

227 ADJOURNMENT

228 The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 am.

229

230

231 Michael Maihofer, DDS
232 President

Eric Knudsen, DDS
Secretary/Treasurer