

1 **Minutes of the Michigan Dental Association**
2 **Committee on Governmental and Insurance Affairs/Dental PAC Board of Governors**
3 **Joint Meeting**
4 **October 29, 2021 – 9:00 a.m.**
5 **MDA Building in Okemos and Zoom**
6

7 **Attended**

8 Naila Farooq, DDS, PAC board vice chair
9 Sherill Behnke, DDS, PAC board member (portion)
10 Todd Christy, DDS, PAC board member (via Zoom) (portion)
11 Michelle Dziurgot, DDS, PAC board member
12 Margaret Gingrich, DDS, PAC board member (via Zoom)
13 Yehia Hassan, DDS, PAC board member (via Zoom)
14 Zelton Johnson, DDS, PAC board member
15 Kerry Kaysserian, DDS, PAC board member
16 Thomas Goodsell, DDS, PAC board member
17 James Mashni, DDS, PAC board member
18 Riley Schaff, DDS, PAC board member
19 Gabriel Holdwick, DDS, committee on governmental and insurance affairs chair
20 Jason Mashni, DDS, committee on governmental and insurance affairs vice-chair
21 Daniel Miller, DDS, member
22 Debra Peters, DDS, member
23 Sarah Tomaka, DDS, member
24 Connie Verhagen, DDS, MS, member (portion)
25 Chris Smiley, DDS, ADA council liaison (via Zoom)
26 Bill Sullivan, MDA vice president of advocacy and professional relations
27 Neema Katibai, MDA manager of government and insurance affairs
28 April Stopcynski, MDA manager of access and prevention
29 Kesha Dixon, MDA government and insurance affairs/access assistant
30 Ginger Fernandez, MDA manager of peer review, guest (via Zoom)
31 Lynn Aronoff, guest (portion)
32 Peter Rudell, JD, guest (portion)
33 Eric Heiser, DDS, guest (portion)
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35 **Absent**

36 Elizabeth Ralstrom, DDS, PAC board chair, member
37 James Cantwil, DDS, PAC board member
38 Brian Rathke, DDS, PAC board member
39 Saranna Berger, DDS, member
40 Laura Hagerty, UDM student member
41 Brianna Kosecki, UM student member
42 Curt Ralstrom, DDS, CAC liaison
43 David Clemens, DDS, ADA Council liaison
44 Jehan Wakeem, DDS, ADA Council liaison
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47 *Note: This meeting was held as a joint meeting between the MDA Dental PAC Board of Governors and*
48 *the MDA Committee on Government and Insurance Affairs.*

49 **Call to Order and Introductions**

50 The PAC Board of Governor’s meeting was called to order by Dr. Farooq at 9:04 a.m. Attendees
51 introduced themselves. The requirement for a quorum was met for both the PAC and CGIA.

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53 **Approval of the Agenda**

54 The PAC Board agenda was approved as written.

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MDA Dental PAC

57 **Recognition of Committee Members**

58 Drs. Behnke and Kaysserian were recognized for their years of service to the MDA Dental PAC and
59 provided with certificates of recognition.

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61 **Review of Donations Made in 2021**

62 MDA staff provided a summary of the contributions made on the 2021 Contributions spreadsheet with
63 an explanation on how funds are distributed. Contributions are made individual legislators, as well as to
64 each caucus in the Michigan legislature. The majority caucus, legislators in leadership positions, and
65 legislators on committees important to dentistry receive more contributions than the minority party or
66 legislators not in leadership positions. The MDA Dental PAC has not contributed to the caucuses in the
67 House and Senate to ensure MDA Dental PAC dollars go to individual legislators who are supportive of
68 MDA issues. The MDA Dental PAC supported events that were hosted by members on behalf of
69 statewide office holders. The PAC Board discussed the likelihood the Governor’s re-election and her role
70 in appointments to the Board of Dentistry.

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72 **Donation Guidelines for 2022**

73 The Board reviewed the 2021 donation guidelines:

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- The MDA staff is authorized to determine and distribute any donation of \$500 or less.
- The MDA staff must get the authorization of the PAC Chair for any donation over \$500.
- The MDA staff is authorized to make contributions of up to \$20,000 for each majority caucus in the state legislature and up to \$10,000 for each minority caucus in the state legislature per year.
- MDA PAC funds can be distributed as follows:
 - Up to \$60,000 to caucuses
 - Up to \$80,000 to individuals

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The Dental PAC Board of Governors agreed to maintain the same donation guidelines in 2022 and passed the following resolution:

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Resolved, that the Michigan Dental Association PAC Board of Governors approves keeping the 2022

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donation guidelines the same as they were in 2021.

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Dental PAC 2023 Dues Statement Optional Contribution

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Currently, the MDA Dental PAC has an optional contribution line on the MDA dues statement. The optional contribution is \$65, which has been the recommended contribution since 2019. Since its inception, the MDA Dental PAC has been almost entirely funded by members’ dues statements.

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In addition, ADPAC has an optional contribution on the dues statement of \$65, which went into effect in 2021. In 2018, ADPAC requested states increase their optional contribution on dues statements to ADPAC to \$100, but the PAC Board of Governors declined to do so.

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96 MDA staff presented data showing that 25% of members contribute through their dues and 75% opting
97 out of their dues. In comparison, the Michigan State Medical Society reports ~1-4% of their members
98 contributing to their PAC. The Board requested additional information about the percentage of
99 members that also supported ADPAC and analysis of the impacts of COVID on contributions in 2020 and
100 2021.

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102 The following resolution was approved unanimously:
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104 **Resolved, that the Michigan Dental Association Dental PAC Board of Governors recommends to the**
105 **MDA Finance Committee that the optional PAC contribution amounts on the annual dues statement**
106 **be set at \$65 for MDA Dental PAC and \$65 for ADA ADPAC.**

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108 **PAC Board Donation Goals**

109 During the 2020 PAC Board of Governors meeting, the Board asked MDA staff to gather information
110 about fundraising goals that other states' dental PAC's have set for their Boards. The MDA Board of
111 Trustees and MDA Foundation Board have fundraising goals established for their board members to
112 either contribute personally or gather contributions from other members. However, MDA staff could
113 not find a similar requirement for other states' dental PAC boards. The Board discussed whether it
114 should impose a similar requirement on its members. It was noted that all PAC Board members
115 contribute. There was discussion about the importance of setting a goal to create a culture of
116 participation and involvement, give external focus, and demonstrate leadership to the broader member
117 population. Concerns were raised that imposing a requirement would discourage new dentists from
118 participating in MDA leadership opportunities. The Board agreed that an aspirational, cumulative
119 fundraising goal would be useful to encourage members to also contribute more.

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121 The following resolution was adopted unanimously:
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123 **Resolved, for 2022, the Michigan Dental Association Dental PAC Board of Governors has a board goal**
124 **of raising \$10,000 with an Annual Session PAC Competition goal of \$30,000.**

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126 **PAC Competition 2022**

127 The 2021 MDA PAC Competition was held virtually over the course of the House of Delegates and it
128 raised over \$25,000.

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130 The competition took place among the 12 MDA House of Delegate regions and the objective was for
131 each House of Delegate region to raise as much PAC money as possible from its membership during the
132 MDA Annual Session. All MDA members were eligible to participate. The regions that raised the most
133 amount of money and had the highest participation rate were both recognized in the MDA Journal.

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135 In addition, individual donors were recognized by being entered into a prize drawing. The individual
136 winners were:

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138 - \$1-\$149, Apple TV – Dr. Michael Maihofer
139 - \$150-\$499, Apple AirPods – Dr. Matthew Turchi
140 - \$500-\$999, Apple Watch – Dr. Elizabeth Ralstrom
141 - \$1000+, Apple iPad and name recognition in the MDA building – Dr. Naila Farooq
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143 The winner for the most dollars raised was House of Delegate Region 4, West Michigan/Muskegon, and
144 the winner for the highest participation rate was Region 1, the Upper Peninsula.

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146 The Board adopted the following resolution:
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148 **Resolved, that the Michigan Dental Association PAC Board of Governors approves the Dental PAC**
149 **Competition for the 2022 Annual Conference.**

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151 **Adjournment**

152 Dr. Farooq adjourned the Dental PAC meeting at 11:30 a.m.

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154 **Call to Order**

155 Dr. Gabriel Holdwick called the Committee on Government and Insurance Affairs meeting to order at
156 12:00 p.m.

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158 **Joint CGIA/PAC Informational Items**

159 Dr. Holdwick assumed leadership of the meeting.

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161 **Committee on Access to Care Update**

162 The CGIA and PAC Board received updates on the progress made to improve hospital access for
163 dentistry, the MDA's relationship with the Michigan Oral Health Coalition, educating dentists
164 about providing care to pregnant women, and the Donated Dental Services program. The
165 committee also discussed issues with Dentaquest's administration of Healthy Kids Dental.

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167 **Legislative and Insurance Update**

168 The CGIA and PAC Board received updates on Public Act 12 of 2021 (House Bill 4067) which
169 recognized five new dental specialties, the 2021 MDA Legislator of the Year award, the student
170 debt workgroup, House Bills 4224 and 4225, network leasing proposal, teledentistry proposal,
171 the FY2021-22 budget, advocacy for improved adult dental Medicaid coverage, and the ADA's
172 advocacy against the proposal to expand Medicare Part B to include dental benefits. The CGIA
173 and Board listened to a presentation about the structure of the Michigan Independent Citizen
174 Redistricting Commission, the current state of the redistricting process, and the implications of
175 redistricting. CGIA and PAC Board members were provided with a copy of the letter sent by the
176 ADA to the Biden administration in opposition to vaccine mandates. An update was provided on
177 grassroots outreach and the need to educate legislators about current day practices in dentistry.

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179 **ADA Council Liaison Report**

180 The CGIA and PAC Board received an update from the ADA New Dentist Committee about the
181 addition of a New Dentist seat to the ADA Board, national DEI in dentistry data, and the Practice
182 Transitions program. Additionally, an update was provided from the Committee on Government
183 Affairs teledentistry policy and the ethical implications of turning away unvaccinated patients.
184 The ADPAC provided an update on the support for dentists currently in office.

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