Dear Colleague:

Thank you for maintaining your investment in organized dentistry and your commitment to strengthening our profession. With your support, the American Dental Association (ADA) will remain the largest and oldest dental association in the world.

The Pennsylvania Dental Association (PDA) and ADA are your legislative advocates, the voice for your practice in Harrisburg and Washington, DC. PDA and ADA are also your reliable source for information and communication of issues that affect your dental practice.

In 2018, PDA hired an outside consultant to evaluate member needs and assist with developing “outside the box” ideas for new benefits and services to increase membership. A key finding of the consultant’s research identified younger dentists, who are a growing under recruited market segment, as more likely to be an employee dentist with different membership needs. While PDA was aware of the trend of under recruited new dentists, we weren’t aware of the difference in needs between older members who are likely to be practice owners/partners and younger dentists who may be an employee dentist. These details are important because a large percentage of our members are over the age of 50.

To broaden the appeal of membership, PDA is working to identify programs and services that will address needs of employee dentists. Results from the 2018 survey indicate that the top critical success factor for employee dentists is continuing education. In the near future PDA will offer online continuing education programs, including courses required for license renewal that will be complimentary to members, clinical continuing education and practice management. While this benefit has member wide interest, PDA is optimistic that younger members will value the availability and convenience of online CE. Additional ideas to satisfy the needs of younger members are being researched and will be released in 2019.

Based on our 2018 member survey, 67 percent of dentists indicate that rising practice operational costs is their number one practice issue. PDA is helping members address this challenge with PDA Perks Supplies. This program helps members save up to 19 percent or more on dental supplies. Visit the website: pdaperkssupplies.com which features more than 60,000 products from more than 350 dental brands (most available through dealers) — including 3M and Dentsply. (All 3M orders are processed by IQ Dental Supply.) And, shipping is always free!

Please assist us with more effectively marketing benefits that will be of interest to you by completing the one question survey on the reverse side of the dues invoice.

Thank you for continuing to be an important part of PDA. We deeply appreciate your support and welcome your active involvement. I look forward to serving you as together we protect and strengthen the profession.

Sincerely,

James M. Boyle, III, DDS, MS
PDA President
jboyle1227@aol.com
Advocating for the Profession

PDA is your advocate on State Board of Dentistry (SBOD) issues. Staff and volunteer members attend every meeting, track emerging trends and issues, and review and respond to all regulatory proposals.

What’s on the horizon for 2019? Offices within the Governor’s Administration are reviewing these draft regulatory proposals:

▶ Child abuse (draft regulations reflect recent amendments to the Child Protective Services Act requiring continuing education and clearances).
▶ General revisions (include requirements for AEDs in all dental offices and for EFDAs to pass a clinical exam).
▶ Expanding public health dental hygiene practitioners (PHDHPs) practice site locations to include primary care offices, childcare settings and residences of homebound and hospice patients.

Once published as proposed rulemaking in the Pennsylvania Bulletin, PDA and other stakeholders will provide feedback and offer amendments. The House and Senate Licensure Committees and the Independent Regulatory Review Commission will also review these regulations and offer feedback to the SBOD. It may take two years or more for these regulations to take effect.

PDA’s Government Relations Committee (GRC) will soon set PDA’s priorities for the 2019-20 legislative session, which commences in January 2019. GRC members will assess the political climate and determine how best to advocate for insurance, access to dental care and practice management issues most important to you.

In recent sessions, PDA’s priorities included funding for the adult Medical Assistance program, dental student loan forgiveness and supervision of dental staff.

Do you have particular issues you would like for PDA to address in the legislative and regulatory arena? Contact PDA’s government relations staff at (800) 223-0016 or mss@padental.org.

Act 191 of 2014 requires all practitioners who dispense or prescribe controlled substances to use Pennsylvania Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) in a number of ways.

Failure to comply with the mandates set forth in this Act may result in civil or criminal penalties, and in the Department of Health (which operates the PDMP) reporting a licensee to his or her licensing board for potential disciplinary action.

There are no penalties for providers who do not dispense or prescribe controlled substances; however, they are encouraged to use the PDMP system as a means to improve patient care.

Log on to the PDMP website at health.pa.gov/topics/programs/PDMP/Pages/PDMP.aspx for tools to help your office stay in compliance. The Department of Health offers training on using the PDMP, clinical resources for patients and tips for treatment referrals, and answers to frequently asked questions. Be sure to read the PDMP article in the November/December 2018 Pennsylvania Dental Journal for more information.

New Cone-Beam Computed Tomography Machine Regulations

Currently, the Department of Environmental Protection is expected to release revised regulations related to radiation protection. Specifically, there will be new regulations impacting dental offices with Cone-Beam Computed Tomography (CBCT) machines. Offices with CBCT machines will be required to conduct regular quality control tests using the quality assurance phantom that should have been supplied when the unit was installed. In the future, DEP plans to cite offices who are not performing these tests. When these regulations are published, and PDA learns more information about the impact these regulations will have on dental offices, we will release the information to our members on the PDA website and through our publications.

The scope of practice issue that dentists find most concerning is increasing government regulations on the practice.
Join PADPAC!

By joining the PDA PAC (PADPAC), your personal contribution is magnified and plays a pivotal role in ensuring the practice of dentistry is represented by legislators who will fight for your profession.

As a new legislative session begins now is the time to mention that it is an unwritten rule of politics that you are at the table or on the menu. Your PAC contributions enable PDA to be legislative issue leaders. The insurance lobby knows this and wants an uneven playing field tipped in their favor. In order to be competitive we need your contributions.

Contribute online by visiting padental.org/padpac.

To move your agenda through the legislature and the regulatory agencies and to overcome the power and reach of the insurance lobby we need contributions to support those who support us. In order to fight and win for you PADPAC needs hard dollar contributions. State and federal laws categorize PADPAC funds into two types. Hard dollars are contributions made via personal check or personal credit card. Only hard dollars may be used for campaign contributions. Soft dollars are contributions made with a business check or credit card and may only be used for administrative purposes.

- We need hard dollars to build relationships and make a decisive impact in political races around the state.
- We need to rebuild the PAC from all the fund raisers we attended to move SB 373 Assignment of Benefits through the legislature.
- We also need to “prime the pump” for the 2019-20 legislative session. Please give what you can as every little bit helps. You can make monthly contributions which may be easier or more convenient for you.

PDA's legislative goal for the remainder of 2018 remains passing SB 373, assignment of benefits legislation, through the House of Representatives to Governor Wolf for signature.

PDA's lobbyist, staff and volunteer leaders continue to aggressively lobby against the insurance industry, which opposes this legislation.

PDA is grateful to all of you who have advocated on behalf of your profession and patients by calling your Senator and Representative in support of SB 373.

Join PDA's Legislative Grassroots Network

If you would like to play a larger role in creating the future and protecting your profession please consider being a grassroots liaison.

Having an established relationship with an elected official before an issue arises will make discussing it much easier.

As we ramp up PDA's legislative efforts this session, the more grassroots contacts we make the more likely we are to achieve our legislative goals. A little time commitment can pay huge dividends for you, your practice and your fellow dentists.

Please join PDA's grassroots network. For details about PDA's grassroots network contact John Basial at jpb@padental.org.

Pennsylvania’s Dental Meeting
Saturday, April 6, 2019
The Gettysburg Hotel, Est. 1797
One Lincoln Square, Gettysburg, PA

Do you have a new email address?

More than two-thirds of members indicated that their preferred method of engagement with PDA is through email newsletters. To stay informed about valuable member benefits and receive important updates about your profession, please share your current email address. If we don’t have your email address, you will miss out on vital updates. Please allow us to serve you better by taking a moment to forward your email address to Daneé McNatte at dam@padental.org.
Experience the PDAIS difference
PDAIS is proud to offer PDA members a wide range of personal and practice insurance with savings up to 25 percent. PDAIS offers an unparalleled understanding of your profession and coverage designed with your practice in mind. Visit their website: PDAIS.com to learn more about the insurance programs available and to request a no-obligation quote.

ADA Directory Find-a-Dentist
The ADA’s Find-a-Dentist tool, which provides consumers with additional search fields and a user-friendly experience offers an excellent way to help patients find you. Completing your profile takes only five minutes and updating your profile with a photo will put you near the top of the search results. Complete your profile at ADA.org/FAD5. For assistance with updating your profile, call the ADA Member Service Center at (800) 621-8099.

2019 New Dentist Receptions
PDA’s New Dentist Committee will host two receptions in 2019. One reception will be held in Fourth District the other will be held in Seventh District. Both programs will include a CE or educational component. More information will be announced soon, so stay tuned to PDA’s online calendar padental.org/calendar and Facebook page for details. These events are a great opportunity to meet colleagues and discuss issues important to you as a new dentist! Contact Michelle Rozman at mlr@padental.org with questions about these events.

ADA Credentialing Service
Tired of completing credentialing applications? ADA has teamed up with the non-profit CAQH to help streamline the credentialing process for dentists. The benefits of ADA’s credential service:
1. After entering your information just once, you can share it with the participating organizations of your choice.
2. Powered by CAQH’s ProView platform, which is already used by more than 1.4 million healthcare providers, the service offers a protected place to house and update all of your credentialing information.
3. Includes a number of payers are already participating in the ADA credentialing service.
4. The system also sends out quarterly attestation reminders, alerting you to update and confirm timely and accurate information in your profile.
You can learn more and update your information at ADA.org/Credentialing.

PDA PERKS SUPPLIES
My office has been using PDA Perks Supplies for two months. The prices, compared to my regular supplier, are about 37% cheaper for the supplies we typically order. PDA Perks Supplies is one of the best member benefits available, and I thank all of those involved for making this program possible for PDA members. For those considering joining PDA, PDA Perks Supplies will save you enough to pay your membership dues many times over. ~Daniel A. Shalkey, DDS

Connections Mentoring Program
Did you know that PDA has a mentoring program? Dental students or new dentists can request mentors based on criteria like practice location, practice type and specialty. Mentors are contacted if they are a suitable match based on a mentee’s request. Enroll as a mentor or mentee at padental.org/connections by signing in to the website and submitting an enrollment form. Please contact Michelle Rozman at mlr@padental.org with questions.

I loved my experiences with my mentor. I felt like I had a friend in him from the beginning. He really is an outside source of inspiration and guidance for me. I am thankful I can go to him with successes, concerns, questions, and not feel judged or belittled. It is really freeing
~Travis Tucker, DMD, Chambersburg

Through the PDA’s mentoring program, I was able to meet a recent grad and help her start her journey into private practice. It was a pleasure interacting with a young colleague and as a result, we both have made a new friend. I would strongly encourage all seasoned dentists to reach out and do the same. It was a rewarding experience.
~Shari Leavitt, DMD, Philadelphia
Commitment to Your Continuing Education

Online Continuing Education

In response to 85 percent of members, PDA will offer complimentary online CE for mandated courses in 2019. Stay tuned to an eNews update for the release of the online courses. PDA’s online CE software will also provide the following features:

▶ CE credit tracking within the software and uploaded CE credits from external sources.
▶ Email alerts when a new course is added or a CE deadline is approaching.
▶ Customized pre- and post- course testing and program evaluation.
▶ Tests are graded automatically upon submission.

Pennsylvania’s Dental Meeting
April 6, 2019
The Gettysburg Hotel Est. 1797
One Lincoln Square, Gettysburg, PA

Pennsylvania’s Dental Meeting has a new one-day format offering CE and the opportunity to attend PDA’s business meeting and town hall open forum. Plan to visit historic Gettysburg, PA, and enjoy sessions designed to inspire and educate.

Presenters, Dr. Frank Serio and Dr. Richard Wynn will lead sessions on:

▶ Instant Update - Getting Up To Speed in Periodontics for 2019
▶ Volunteer Dental Projects - What’s It All About?
▶ Drugs and Supplements Affecting Patient Care Including New FDA Drug Approvals, Herbals, Antioxidants and Nutraceuticals

Registration is available at padental.org/PDM.

Child Abuse and Opioid Continuing Education Requirements

Act 31 mandates that all licensees and certificate holders applying for renewal with the State Board of Dentistry (SBOD) are required to complete at least two hours of Board-approved continuing education (CE) in child abuse recognition and reporting. For the dental profession that means that dentists, hygienists and EFDAs need two hours of Department of Human Services (DHS) and SBOD-approved CE in child abuse recognition and reporting every relicensure period. Applicants applying for issuance of an initial license are required to complete three hours of DHS-approved training in child abuse recognition and reporting requirements as a condition of licensure.

The General Assembly passed Act 124 of 2016, which requires the following of health care providers:

▶ Applicants for an initial license must obtain at least two hours of education in pain management or identification of addiction, and
▶ at least two hours of education in the practice of prescribing or dispensing opioids for a total of four hours.

They may complete this requirement as part of their professional degree educational program or from a continuing education (CE) program taken within 12 months of obtaining an initial license or certificate.

Dispensers and prescribers applying to renew their licenses or certificates must complete at least two hours of CE in pain management, identification of addiction or the practice of prescribing or dispensing of opioids as a portion of the total CE required for biennial renewal.

Only dentists who have a current DEA registration or use another DEA number (as permitted by law) to prescribe controlled substances, need two hours of CE in pain management, identification of addiction or the practice of prescribing or dispensing opioids from an approved program provider in the two-year period preceding licensure renewal.

Act 31 courses offered in the Philadelphia area:

Wednesday, March 6, 2019, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. as part of the Greater Philadelphia Valley Forge Dental Conference. To register, visit gpvfdc.org.

Friday, March 22, 2019, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at the Philadelphia Hilton City Avenue Hotel. To register, visit padental.org/calendar.

Visit padental.org/act31andact124 for additional information and links to online courses to fulfill these requirements.
Concerned Colleague Advisory Group

If left untreated, substance use disorders in dentists can place both patients, and the practice, in jeopardy. PDA’s Concerned Colleague Advisory Group, along with the PDA Health and Well-Being Program, offers compassionate and confidential assistance to dental team members that may be suffering from impairment involving dependency to drugs or alcohol. Through PDA’s Health and Well-Being Program, licensed dental team members can receive one-time grants to assist with monitoring costs related to chemical dependency.

If you are aware of somebody in the dental community who is exhibiting any signs of chemical dependency (extreme mood swings, isolation, excessive use of alcohol or pain medications, DUI violations) please contact the Central Office at (800) 223-0016 or kek@padental.org. Members are encouraged to support PDA’s Health and Well-Being Program by making contributions to the Pennsylvania Dental Foundation.

Electronic voting

All members will be encouraged to participate in the annual electronic election of PDA’s delegates and alternates to ADA’s House of Delegates and PDA Treasurer. The roster of candidates and their profiles will be available for viewing on padental.org by December 31, 2018, and the electronic voting will begin on February 14, 2019.

The electronic ballot will be emailed to you. Please contact PDA to confirm that we have your email address on file.

Join an Advisory Group

PDA advisory groups are up and running, and waiting for you to join. New voices will enrich the discussion, and the more new ideas the better. By joining an advisory group you will discover volunteer leadership opportunities to increase your visibility, influence the dental community and find ways to give back to the profession.

PDA Program Assistance – Supporting District and Local Societies

PDA is always making strides to provide support to component dental societies. Program Assistance is one way society volunteers can lessen their workload while providing a local member benefit. Using this service, societies work with PDA staff to promote and coordinate social or continuing education (CE) programs. Assistance options available include: mass email promotion, online registration through PDA’s website and CE administration documents.

As of October 2018, PDA has assisted 11 component societies on 14 different projects. The Sixth District Dental Society recently utilized Program Assistance for their Act 31 and Act 124 CE course. PDA provided course promotion with mass emails, online registration and CE administration materials. Nearly 170 dentists and dental team members registered to attend the program.

Does your society want to host a social or CE program, but doesn’t know where to start?
Contact Andrea Hoover at ach@padental.org.

More than eight out of ten (84%) dentists are likely to recommend PDA to a colleague.
Our Commitment to Public Health

Mom-N-PA 2019
The Mom-n-PA free dental missions continue to make a great impact on underserved patients in all regions of our state. Be part of the seventh annual MOM-n-PA mission to be held in Wilkes-Barre at the Mohegan Sun Arena on Friday June 7 and Saturday June 8, 2019. Volunteer registration begins April 1, 2019 at mom-n-pa.com.

With the help and generosity of nearly 5,000 volunteers in the first six years of the mission, 9,159 patients have received care and a total value of $5.2 million in dental care has been provided. Make a difference, join in and help provide free dental services for those in need.

Foundation Donation
Please include a contribution to the Pennsylvania Dental Foundation with your dues payment. With your help, the Foundation will continue to fund initiatives and provide aid to colleagues in need.

The Foundation is PDA’s philanthropic and charitable organization that enhances health by securing contributions and providing grants for sustainable programs in education, access to care and assistance for Pennsylvania dentists and their families in need. Contributions to the foundation are tax deductible.

Online Public Dental Clinic Directory
In response to frequent requests from the public and member dentists, PDA’s website, padental.org includes a comprehensive directory of low-cost dental clinics located in Pennsylvania. The resource, organized alphabetically by county, offers the public, elected officials and member dentists an easily accessible guide to low-cost dental centers.

The directory is a popular stop for the public receiving a total of 962 unique visits from January through September 2018.

PDA members are encouraged to volunteer and/or contribute supplies to the dental clinics. To view the directory, please logon to padental.org/clinicdirectory.

EPA Amalgam Separators Final Rule
The Environmental Protection Agency’s final ruling requiring the use of amalgam separators in dental practices went into effect on July 14, 2017. The compliance date for most dental offices will be July 14, 2020; newly purchased or constructed practices are subject to the rule immediately. In addition, there are record keeping and other best management practice requirements. Offices will also be required to submit one-time compliance reports noting their compliance with the rule. To learn more information about the rule, or to find out if you office is exempt, please visit the PDA website at padental.org/practicemanagement.

Waste Management Guidelines
PDA’s Waste Management Guidelines were recently revised to reflect changes made to Pennsylvania regulations for regulated medical and chemotherapeutic wastes. Most notably, the changes include a change in terminology from “infectious waste” to “regulated medical waste” and increased storage time for regulated medical waste. The Guidelines can be found at padental.org/wmg. If you have any questions, please contact Kathleen Bumpers at kek@padental.org with questions.

Website Toolkits – Community Water Fluoridation and Take Five
PDA’s website offers a wealth of information and great resources for members on a variety of topics. You can access the Community Water Fluoridation page at padental.org/fluoride. This toolkit includes quick facts, talking points and other media resources, including a sample letter to the editor.

The Take Five initiative encourages our members to become Medical Assistance providers. You can find details about Take Five and helpful links at padental.org/take5.
Renewal Options

PDA offers members the convenience of monthly payments via credit card for membership renewal.

The program will automatically debit your membership dues from your designated credit card in 12 equal installments from January thru December of the current year, 2019. You will be notified of your monthly debit amount after PDA receives your completed eDues Credit Card enrollment form, included with this newsletter. The credit card eDues program provides you with an incremental, hassle free and automatic method for maintaining membership.

Online Dues Payment Incentive

Help PDA reduce staff time and office overhead by renewing your 2019 membership online.

► Sign in to PDA’s website with your username and password.
► Click Renew in the top right corner to see your dues amounts.
► Click Proceed to Checkout.
► Enter your credit card information and click Submit Order.
   You will receive an email receipt with details of the transaction.

Renew online by December 31, 2018 to be entered into a raffle to win one $250 check from PDA. Four winners will be chosen and notified via email by mid January.

PDJ Issue to Spotlight Dental Volunteerism

Publicizing volunteer efforts and service is very important to us. In 2019 we are planning a special issue of the Pennsylvania Dental Journal focusing on the volunteerism and service of our members, and the many ways in which you help people in need, whether clinics and missions in our state, or on dental missions to other countries.

If you would like to share your story or the story of a colleague in your community, please send information about these volunteer efforts to:
   Dr. Steve Radack, editor, at stradack3@gmail.com, and
   Rob Pugliese, director of communications, at rap@padental.org

We will be compiling stories for the September/October 2019 issue.
CREDIT/DEBIT CARD eDUES ENROLLMENT AGREEMENT

PDA IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE A CREDIT/DEBIT CARD OPTION FOR THE eDUES PROGRAM. The program will automatically debit your membership dues from your designated card in 12 equal installments from January through December of the current year, 2019. Members can sign up to participate in electronic payments for the current dues year in any month except December. The eDues program provides an incremental, hassle free method for maintaining membership.

PLEASE RETAIN A COPY OF THIS FORM FOR YOUR RECORDS.

This authority is to remain in full force and effect until the Pennsylvania Dental Association has received written notification from me (or either of us) of its termination in such time and manner as to afford the Pennsylvania Dental Association and FINANCIAL INSTITUTION a reasonable opportunity to act on it. PDA will issue a refund to members who withdraw from the eDues program and want to terminate membership if written notice is received before March 31. After the March 31 deadline, any unallocated dues already collected on the member’s behalf will be recognized as PDA dues revenue.

________________________________________  ______________________________________
(Print Individual Name)                     (Signature)

________________________________________  ______________________________________
(ADA Number)                                          (Date)

BANK ACCOUNT (ACH) eDUES ENROLLMENT AGREEMENT

PDA WILL CONTINUE TO OFFER THE eDUES PROGRAM FOR BANK ACCOUNTS. The program will automatically debit your membership dues from your designated bank account in 12 equal installments from January through December of the current year, 2019. Members can sign up to participate in electronic payments for the current dues year in any month except December. The eDues program provides an incremental, hassle free method for maintaining membership.

PLEASE ATTACH A COPY OF A VOIDED CHECK TO THE BANK ACCOUNT DEBIT ENROLLMENT FORM. PLEASE RETAIN A COPY OF THIS FORM FOR YOUR RECORDS.

This authority is to remain in full force and effect until the Pennsylvania Dental Association has received written notification from me (or either of us) of its termination in such time and manner as to afford the Pennsylvania Dental Association and FINANCIAL INSTITUTION a reasonable opportunity to act on it. PDA will issue a refund to members who withdraw from the eDues program and want to terminate membership if written notice is received before March 31. After the March 31 deadline, any unallocated dues already collected on the member’s behalf will be recognized as PDA dues revenue.

________________________________________  ______________________________________
(Print Individual Name)                     (Signature)

________________________________________  ______________________________________
(ADA Number)                                          (Date)