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Marlinda Fulton, Executive Director

Central Florida District Dental Association Affiliates:
Alachua County Dental Association
Brevard County Dental Society
Dental Society of Greater Orlando
Lake County Dental Association
Marion County Dental Association
Volusia/Flagler County Dental Association

Important Dates

2016
October 13 .......... UF Career Kickstarter –
Panel Discussion/Happy Hour ...................... Gainesville
October 20-24 ...... America’s Dental Meeting (ADA) ................... Denver, CO
November 18 ....... Florida Board of Dentistry .............. Marriott Miami Airport

2017
January 19.......... CFDDA HOD Meeting/Caucus. ...................... Orlando
January 27-28 ...... Florida Dental Association House of Delegates ........ Tampa
February 22-25. .. ASDA Annual Conference ...................... Orlando
March 24-25 ....... FLA MOM Event ............................ Pensacola, FL
April 3-4 .......... Dentists’ Day on the Hill ...................... Tallahassee, FL
May 11-13 ......... 2017 CFDDA Annual Meeting .... Rosen Shingle Creek - Orlando
June 15 .......... CFDDA HOD Meeting/Caucus ...................... Orlando
June 22-24 ......... Florida Dental Convention .............. Gaylord Palms - Orlando
June 23-24 ......... FDA House of Delegates ...................... Orlando
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Helpful Abbreviations

BOD – Board of Dentistry
BOT – Board of Trustees
CDBC – Council on Dental Benefits and Care
CDEL – Council on Dental Education and Licensure
CEBJA – Council on Ethics, Bylaws and Judicial Affairs
CFA – Council on Financial Affairs
CFDDA – Central Florida Dental District Association
CND – Council on New Dentist
COM – Council on Membership
DDOH – Dentists’ Day on the Hill
EC – Executive Council
FDA – Florida Dental Association
FDAF – Florida Dental Association Foundation
FDAS – Florida Dental Association Services
FDAPAC - Florida Dental Association Political Action Committee
FDC – Florida Dental Convention
GAC – Governmental Affairs Committee
GKAS – Give Kids a Smile
HOD – House of Delegates
LCD – Legislative Contact Dentist
LDC – Leadership Development Committee
PDC – Project Dentists Care
History of the Central Florida District Dental Association

The Central Florida District Dental Association was organized by A. B. Whitman of Orlando, J. E. Chace of Ocala and C. W. Fain of Daytona. The Orange County Dental Society (now the Dental Society of Greater Orlando), which had been organized in January of 1922 was host to the organizational meeting on May 11, 1922. The group's President, A. B. Whitman acted as chairman and 37 dentists were present.

The group adopted the state's Constitution and Bylaws and agreed to meet twice a year. Dues were set at $10.00 per year with $6.00 going to the national and state organizations and $4.00 to the District. The Central District history actually goes all the way back to the end of the Civil War, when James Chace, became one of the first dentists in the state and resided in the Ocala area. In 1884, James Chace founded the Florida State Dental Society; the group now known as the Florida Dental Association.

James Edward Chace was the next dentist in the family and one of the founding members of CFDDA. He was the first dentist in Florida to use an X-ray for examining teeth. After that came James Edward Chace's son, Richard Chace, who also became a dentist and helped start the University of Florida College of Dentistry in the 1970s. His son Richard, Jr., is a practicing periodontist in Winter Park.

Prior to moving to the present offices on Mills Avenue, the CFDDA was housed in the Chace dental office on Morse Avenue in Winter Park. The office was staffed by Ms. Polly Podmore, who was the original Executive Director before retiring and turning the reigns over to Ms. Linda Lowell, who recently retired after 25 years of service.

The membership is broad and diverse and includes about 1400 dentists from an area that stretches from Alachua in the north to Brevard in the south. The principle cities are Orlando, Daytona Beach, Melbourne, Ocala, and Gainesville. There are many other smaller towns and large rural areas within the District. The largest concentration of dentists are in Orlando, with over 650 dentists in the Greater Orlando area.

In spite of the large geographic area of the District, with dentists widely dispersed, there seems to be a camaraderie between members. There is a ready willingness to help each other and to volunteer to help the public and needy individuals in every locale. The leadership of the District has always shown a great sense of professional cooperation both among the Board and the Officers and within the six affiliate associations. There is also a large group of new young dentists, both men and women who are stepping into leadership roles and are role models in their communities.
Central Florida District Dental Association
2016-2017 Officers

Dr. Lee Anne Keough, President
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Dr. Keough received her dental degree from the University of Florida College of Dentistry and was one of the first masters degree candidates in the post-graduate endodontic program UF. She received her MS and Certificate in Advanced Graduate Studies in Endodontics upon completion of the program. Dr. Keough has served as President of the Florida Association of Endodontists and is a delegate to the Florida Dental Association House of Delegates. She is a past president of the CFDDA and is active in the Marion County Dental Association. She is a member of the Pierre Fachaurd Academy (Dental Honor Society) and has achieved Fellow membership status in the International Congress of Oral Implantologists.

Dr. Bryan Bergens, President Elect
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Dr. Bergens is a Board Certified Periodontist and Fellow, International Congress of Oral Implantologists. He received his training at Louisiana State University and has over 20 years of practice experience with advanced training in all aspects of periodontics and implantology.

He is currently an Assistant Professor at the University of Florida, College of Dentistry and is also a consulting staff member at Florida Hospital Memorial Systems. Additionally, he is a member of national dental organizations including the American Academy of Periodontology and American Dental Association.
Dr. Daniel Crofton, **First Vice President**
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Dr. Crofton received his D.D.S. degree from the University of Buffalo, his M.D. degree from Upstate Medical Center in Syracuse and did his oral surgery training at Northwestern University in Chicago. He is a Board Certified oral surgeon and a partner with Central Florida Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery. He is past President of the Dental Society of Greater Orlando and the Lake County Dental Association. He has been married to Jackie for 17 years and they have two daughters, Rachel and Katie. He enjoys family vacations and golfing.

---

Dr. Craig Kara, **Second Vice President**
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craig@karadmd.com

Dr. Kara is a general dentist practicing in Satellite Beach Florida since 1990. In 1985 he received a BS in Zoology at the University of Florida. In 1989 he graduated with his D.M.D. degree and a year later finished his residency in Advanced Education in General Dentistry, also at the University of Florida. During undergraduate studies as well as dental school Dr. Kara was fortunate to have worked for Dr. Bill McArthur in the Periodontal Disease Research Center. Starting in 1994 he became involved with organized dentistry by, “moving through the chairs,” in the Brevard County Dental Society. He has been a delegate or alternate delegate in Central Florida District Dental Society since 1999. He has been married to Lisa since 1989 and has three children Taylor, Kendall, and Mitchell.

---

Dr. Suzi Thiems-Heflin, **Secretary**
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Dr. Suzi Thiems-Heflin graduated from the University of Florida, College of Dentistry with a DMD, and received her specialty certificate in pediatric dentistry from the Medical College of Georgia. She practices in Gainesville. She has been a delegate to the FDA House of Delegates since 2002, and an alternate delegate to the ADA HOD for 4 years. She has been on the Leadership Development Committee for 6 years and has served as chair for 3 years. She has been president of the Alachua County Dental Association, and is also a member of the Marion County Dental Association. She is a Fellow of the American College of Dentists. She is married to Phillip Heflin and they live in Gainesville.
Dr. Sundeep Rawal, **Treasurer**  
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Dr. Sundeep Rawal graduated from the University of Florida College of Dentistry in 2006. He completed his training in Prosthodontics at the University of California San Francisco in 2009 where he was exposed to the most current technologies shaping dentistry. He has worked extensively to utilize CAD/CAM technologies within the scope of clinical dentistry and enhance his patients’ restorative treatments. He has lectured extensively across the USA as well as internationally. Dr. Sundeep Rawal is the president of the Brevard County Dental Society, and a past president of the Florida Prosthodontic Association. He is currently in private practice in central Florida in Orlando and east to the Beaches.

Dr. Jeffrey Sevor, **Immediate Past President**  
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Dr. Sevor’s periodontal specialty training was completed at Louisiana State University. He is board certified as Diplomate of the American Board of Periodontology. Dr. Sevor lectures both nationally and internationally on periodontics and dental implants. He has published numerous articles in peer reviewed journals on periodontics, implants, and research.
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The Central Florida District Dental Association Executive Council shall consist of the President, President-Elect, First Vice-President, Second Vice-President, Secretary, the immediate Past President, Treasurer and the legally elected Trustee(s) and Alternate Trustee(s) to the Florida Dental Association and one Delegate from each Affiliate Association.
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Total Delegates - 21
CFDDA - 1
Alachua - 3
Brevard - 3
Greater Orlando - 9
Lake - 1
Marion - 1
Volusia/Flagler - 3
Central Florida District Dental Association
Alternate Delegates to The Florida Dental Association
House of Delegates 2016-2017

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**Total Alternate Delegates - 21**
CFDDA – 1
Alachua – 3
Brevard – 3
Greater Orlando – 9
Lake – 1
Marion – 1
Volusia/Flagler - 3
Central Florida District Dental Association
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2016-2017

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Leadership Position Descriptions

Central Florida District Dental Association – Officers

The President:
- Presides at meetings of the Association and the Executive Council
- Calls special meetings of the Association upon written request of ten per cent (10%) of the active paid membership of the Association and calls meetings of the Executive Council when he deems it desirable, or upon the request of the majority of the Executive Council's members.
- Signs all certificates or letters testamentary upon approval of the Executive Council.
- Appoints all committees not otherwise provided for in the Bylaws.
- Appoints members to fill vacancies occurring in the offices of committees, except those delegated to the Executive Council and serves as an ex-officio member of all Constitutional Committees.
- Appoints one member to serve as Chairman of the Membership Committee and in the event of a vacancy in the office of a Trustee or Alternate Trustee, the President shall appoint a qualified member of this Association to fill such office until a successor is elected by the members for the remainder of the unexpired term.
- Performs other duties as usually appertain to his office; he shall continue as a member of the Executive Council for one year following his term of office as President.
- Shall automatically be a member of the Nominating Committee for one year following his completed term of office.
- Shall be a member of the Budget and Finance Committee for one year following his completed term.
- Shall serve as an automatic Delegate to the House of Delegates of the Florida Dental Association during his year as President of this Association.
- Shall be authorized to sign checks for the proper disbursements of the Association when the Treasurer is unavailable or incapacitated.

The President Elect:
- Shall be a member of the Executive Council and assist the President.
- Shall act as Parliamentarian for all meetings of the Association and the Executive Council.
- Shall serve as an automatic Alternate Delegate to the House of Delegates of the Florida Dental Association during his year as President-Elect of this Association.
The First Vice President:
- Shall be a member of the Executive Council and assist the President.
- Shall automatically become a member of the Membership Committee and serve as Liaison to the Executive Council.

The Second Vice-President:
- Shall be a member of the Executive Council and assist the President.
- Shall be a member of the Dental Health Committee and serve as liaison from the Committee to the Executive Council.
- Shall be responsible to the Executive Council’s wishes regarding membership presence at all Florida Board of Dentistry Meetings held within its district.

The Secretary:
- Shall keep full and complete records of this Association and its Executive Council, including all minutes of all meetings.
- Shall keep a correct list of the members of the Association as prescribed by the Executive Council, with such other information as shall be deemed advisable and keep separately from the foregoing list a list of Privileged members, a list of Life members, a list of Honorary members, and a list of members holding the Degree of Honorable Fellow, with such information as is necessary to provide an accurate, historically acceptable record.
- Shall keep an up-to-date copy of the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws of this Association, showing all amendments.
- Shall furnish in writing to the Florida Dental Association, Inc. a list of the officers elected by this Association and shall perform such other duties as generally appertain to his office.
- Shall promptly make such reports, as officers of the Association shall request.
- Shall be a member of the Executive Council.
- Shall file with the Executive Director of the Florida Dental Association, Inc. the names of Delegates and Alternate Delegates elected by this Association at least sixty (60) days before the first day of the first semi-annual session of the House of Delegates.
- Shall promptly certify to the Executive Director of the Florida Dental Association, Inc. the names of the elected Trustees.
- Shall be the custodian of the Seal of the Association.
- Shall examine the membership of Affiliated Associations and determine that they are members of this Association and the Florida Dental Association, Inc.
- Shall be authorized to sign checks for the proper disbursements of the Association when the Treasurer is unavailable or incapacitated.
The Treasurer:

- Shall serve as the financial officer of the Association.
- Shall oversee the conduct of annual audits of the Association’s financial affairs, review budget proposals, monitor year-to-date performance, and ensure the prudent investment of Association assets.
- Shall act as custodian for all monies belonging or owing to this Association that shall come into his possession.
- Shall hold, invest, disburse, or convey such funds in the name of the Association at direction of the Executive Council and/or the Association.
- Shall see that the Budget and Finance Committee review the books of the Association immediately following the end of the fiscal year.
- Shall submit all records to the Executive Council or its auditors when requested to do so by the Executive Council.

DELEGATION TO THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES OF THE FDA

The Delegates shall be the official representatives of the Central Florida District Dental Association to the House of Delegates of the Florida Dental Association.

- The CFDDA annually elects from among its Voting Members the number of Delegates and Alternate Delegates to the House of Delegates of the Florida Dental Association, Inc., to the limit allocated by the Florida Dental Association, Inc.
- The President shall serve as a Delegate and the President-Elect shall serve as an Alternate Delegate for the year in which they hold these offices. The remainder of the Delegates are selected from within the boundaries of this Association by applying the same method of allocation as used by the Florida Dental Association, Inc.
- An Alternate Delegate may act in the absence of a Delegate at any meeting of the House of Delegates.
- Each Delegate will be responsible for his own attendance at regular or called meetings or, in the event of his absence, be responsible for naming the duly elected Alternate Delegate who is to take his place.
- The Delegates and Alternate Delegates of this Association shall have a delegation meeting before each meeting of the House of Delegates.
- Delegates and Alternate Delegates shall assume office upon adjournment of the Annual Session of the House of Delegates of the Florida Dental Association at which they were elected; they shall first serve at the next Session of the House of Delegates of the Florida Dental Association.
- A Delegate may be re-elected for six (6) consecutive terms of one (1) year each, then must be retired for one (1) year before being eligible for election again. The automatic term served by the President will not be counted as one of the six consecutive terms above.
Florida Dental Association Councils/Committees*

The FDA Councils are established by the FDA House of Delegates and exist until the FDA HOD terminates them, and develop recommended changes in FDA policy for the Board of Trustees and HOD to act upon, and have their duties and responsibilities listed in the HOD-enabling resolution. FDA Councils are organized so as to enable and maintain expertise in a related group of subjects, and make recommendations to the BOT and HOD on how to implement the FDA strategic plan. FDA Councils have one voting member from each component (unless the component can't find a volunteer, in which case the FDA President may appoint a council member from any component) and one non-voting liaison to the BOT, and may appoint however many non-voting consultants as needed to accomplish its goals, and currently consist of the:

Council on Dental Benefits and Care (CDBN) – focuses on accessibility and availability of dental care, infection control, disposal of biomedical waste, and dental office workplace hazards; and promotes quality dental benefit plans based on direct assignment and direct reimbursement concepts;

Council on Dental Education and Licensure (CDEL) – oversee issues associated with dental education, licensure, dental accreditation; oversee Project SELECT to attract secondary and nontraditional education students to the allied dental health professions; monitor Commission on Dental Accreditation issues; evaluate trends in professional licensure (including faculty and student permitting); and review and recommend changes in FDA policy relative to such trends, especially on workforce issues;

Council on Financial Affairs (CFA) – oversees budget development, budgetary performance, corporate affiliation program, unrelated business income tax strategies, and investment policies and practices; develop an annual FDA budget; reviews proposed budgets for closely affiliated companies; monitors budgetary performance;

Council on Ethics, Bylaws & Judicial Affairs (CEBJA) – maintains and enforces the Code of Ethics; the patient relations peer review program; ensures the FDA's Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws and Manuals are correctly drafted and procedurally correct; advises the HOD on potential conflicts with association policies, procedures and bylaws; reviews FDA, component, and affiliate bylaws and compares them to the ADA bylaws with the goal of streamlining. The FDA Secretary is an ex-officio member of the Council on Ethics, Bylaws and Judicial Affairs and is charged with an annual review of the FDA bylaws to ensure they are current and accurate and report back to the full Council.
Council on the New Dentist (CND) – responsible for developing recommendations relating to the circumstances and special needs of newer dentists and to infuse the new dentist perspective into all the FDA does; provides feedback on the views of new dentists to leadership, other councils, the editor, staff, etc.

The Council on Membership (COM) is responsible for FDA membership recruitment and retention.

FDA Standing sub-councils are established by the HOD and funded by the FDA with due regard to longevity, pertinence, subject overlap, component representation, expertise and expense; to work under the direction of, and report to a council, and exist until the HOD terminates them.

FDA Committees are created by the BOT or HOD, and are designated by the creating agency as either standing (they exist until the creating agency terminates them) or as ad hoc (they automatically terminate upon completion of their charge), and either investigate matters affecting the association or its members or administer a project, program or event where there is little need for direct oversight or policy interpretation. FDA Committees generally consist of six voting members, one from each component. Current Committees:

**Committee on Conventions and Continuing Education** – a standing committee that has 13 members as follows: 2 from each component, approved by the BOT; and 1 BOT-appointed general chair; all members vote; responsible for planning, managing, evaluating, and improving the FDA’s scientific programs and other membership activities held annually at the general membership meeting; planning and coordinating all aspects of the annual meeting including professional education, exhibits, entertainment and local arrangements; coordinating FDA agency business meetings, hotel relations, registration, and other special events and programs associated with the general meeting or scientific session.

**Governmental Action Committee** – a standing committee that has 10 members as follows: 1 from each component; the FDA president; the FDA president-elect; the FDA immediate past-president; the FDA’s chief liaison to the Board of Dentistry who is appointed by the president and approved by the Board of Trustees; all members vote except for the FDA president who only votes in the case of a tie; responsible for FDA governmental-relations activities; monitoring and directing FDA activities and positions on matters affecting the dental profession and the dental health of the public in Florida in between sessions of the House of Delegates and Board of Trustees; developing and coordinating a viable contact dentists program; communicating with the ADA Washington office on any state action needed to support or oppose federal legislation effecting dentistry; communicating with FDA political action committees and the FDA Alliance.
Leadership Development Committee -- a standing committee that has 6 members as follows: 1 from each component; and 1 BOT-appointed general chair who serves for a term of 2 years subject to a maximum number of 2 consecutive terms plus, when applicable, service in fulfillment of a predecessor’s unexpired term; all members vote except for the general chair who only votes in case of a tie; responsible for the FDA Leadership Development Institute; criteria for soliciting, confidentially evaluating, and nominating up to 3 candidates each for the offices of Speaker of the House, Treasurer and Treasurer-elect (when needed) for election at the semi-annual session of the HOD immediately prior to the commencement of their terms; nominating up to 3 candidates for Editor for appointment by the BOT at its spring meeting before the HOD annual session; developing and enforcing criteria to govern campaigns for these offices; plays no role in soliciting, determining the qualifications of, and evaluating candidates for future replacement executive directors; charged with developing mechanisms to improve leadership and communication of councils in the assimilation of all levels of the tripartite and that a town-hall forum be formed such that membership can give the committee ideas and recommendations for council development such that the committee can report to the January 2016 HOD with its recommendations.

Florida Dental Association Political Action Committee (FDAPAC) - The Florida Dental Association Political Action Committee (FDAPAC) is the political arm of the FDA that works together with grassroots members to support dental-friendly candidates during each election cycle. Members of the FDAPAC Board of Directors consist of the FDAPAC Chair and a representative from each of the six dental components, in addition to the chair of the Governmental Affairs Committee (GAC), a member of the Alliance of the FDA, a FDA Board of Trustees liaison and consultants. The FDAPAC Board meets face-to-face each year at the annual Florida Dental Convention (FDC) and by conference call throughout the rest of the year.

FDA Task Groups are formed by and report to the BOT, and serve on an ad-hoc, short-term basis to address a particular issue, and automatically expire when they have served their function. Task Groups generally consist of a chair who is a member of the BOT and 2 additional members from different components if possible selected by the task group chair based on expertise in the specific area from inside or outside the BOT; all 3 members vote.

*Information from the FDA Bylaws/Workgroups Manual (June 2015)
Florida Dental Association Officers*

The elective officers of the FDA shall be the president, president-elect, first vice president, second vice president, secretary, treasurer, treasurer-elect, immediate past president, and a maximum of two trustees elected from each component dental association, as set forth in the FDA Bylaws.

The FDA president serves as BOT chair and presides at BOT meetings. The FDA president-elect serves as vice-chair and presides at BOT meetings when the FDA president is absent (i.e., not physically present at the time of the vote). The FDA first vice president serves when the president-elect is absent. The BOT shall elect a trustee to serve as chair pro-tem when the FDA president, president-elect, and first vice president are absent.

The FDA secretary records BOT and HOD actions and serves as the FDA’s records-custodian. The BOT chair will appoint a trustee to serve as secretary pro-tem when the secretary is absent.

*Information from the FDA Bylaws/Workgroups Manual (June 2015)

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FDA Board of Trustees*

The BOT is the FDA’s administrative body, vested with full power to conduct all business of the association. The BOT recommends policies and enacts interim policies when the HOD is not in session if it deems such policies are necessary to conduct FDA business properly. Policies, but not procedures, are presented to the HOD for ratification at the next HOD session. BOT duties include, but are not limited to:

A. selecting future Executive Director(s) according to the procedure governed by the FDA Workgroups Manual,
B. providing, maintaining and being responsible for all property, real or personal, owned or held by the FDA including the FDA office facilities;
C. bonding all officers and employees entrusted with such property;
D. establishing the FDA’s fiscal year;
E. causing the FDA’s accounts to be audited annually by a certified public accountant;
F. preparing an itemized budget of the funds necessary to conduct FDA activities for the upcoming fiscal year;
G. submitting an annual report to the HOD;
H. reviewing the officers’ and councils’ reports and making recommendations to the HOD about same;
I. providing effective leadership for the FDA;
J. serving as innovators and initiators of FDA activities, policies and positions and communicating such recommendations to other FDA Workgroups;
K. maintaining continuing surveillance of all FDA activities;
L. adopting procedures intended to ensure a properly functioning FDA;
M. maintaining continuing awareness of the organizational needs of the FDA;
N. performing such other duties as prescribed by Florida law, the FDA Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws, HOD mandates, and the FDA Workgroups Manual.

*Information from the FDA Bylaws/Workgroups Manual (June 2015)
The HOD is the FDA’s legislative body, vested with full power to determine all policies that govern the FDA in all its activities, subject only to applicable laws and the FDA Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws. The HOD may create, amend, repeal or suspend:

A. the FDA’s Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws;
B. the FDA Code of Ethics;
C. component charters;
D. HOD councils, sub-councils, committees and sub-committees;
E. memorials, resolutions or opinions issued in the FDA’s name.

SECTION 20. REPRESENTATION

The HOD has 103 certified delegates: 100 delegates from the components and one student delegate from each of the three accredited Florida dental schools. FDA line-officers and trustees may not be delegates or alternates to the FDA HOD.

The FDA allocates the number of delegates and alternates available to each component proportionate to its number of voting members determined as of December 31 of the preceding membership year as reported by the ADA in its End-of-Year Membership Statement by using the “Method of Least Proportionate Error.” Components annually elect delegates and alternates to the HOD for one-year terms with no consecutive or cumulative limit on the number of terms they may serve. The American Student Dental Association (ASDA) chapters for each of the three accredited Florida dental schools annually elect one delegate and alternate to the HOD for one-year terms.

Components and ASDA chapters identify their delegates and alternates to the FDA at least 60 days before the annual (June) HOD session. Delegates and alternates assume office upon adjournment of the annual session of the HOD at which their election is confirmed by the HOD. They start their terms at the semi-annual (January) session of the House of Delegates. The student delegate and alternate from each school rotate together through the component dental associations as set forth in the HOD Manual.

To be eligible for election and confirmation, delegates and alternates to the FDA House of Delegates must be voting members of the FDA and the component represented or members of the ASDA chapter at the school they represent. Alternates vote only when their respective delegate is absent (i.e., not physically present at the time of the vote).
QUORUM - A minimum of sixty-nine (69) delegates (i.e. a minimum of two-thirds of 103 delegates) constitutes a HOD quorum. A majority of voting members constitutes a quorum for all other FDA Workgroups.

VOTING - A majority vote decides all questions coming before all FDA Workgroups, unless otherwise required by Florida law, the FDA Articles of Incorporation, or these Bylaws. The President normally abstains but may vote or abstain in order to pass or defeat a motion (i.e., only when the vote count is evenly divided).

*Information from the FDA Bylaws/Workgroups Manual (June 2015)*
ADA Delegation*

Dentists and the public of the state of Florida are represented in the American Dental Association House of Delegates by the Florida Delegation, now known as the 17th Delegation. The 17th Trustee District of the ADA was established in 2000 when the number of dentists in the state exceeded the number required to form a new district and the Florida delegation successfully petitioned the ADA HOD for self-representation. The Florida delegation left the 5th Trustee District to join California, Illinois, New York, Pennsylvania, and Texas as single state districts of the American Dental Association.

Florida delegates have a long history of vigorous debate, expecting alternates to be as well prepared as delegates. Dr. Leon Schwartz, in One Hundred Years of Dentistry in Florida, credits the Florida delegation with “liberalizing the technicalities by which alternates can be seated on the floor of the ADA House of Delegates….. a delegate seated on the floor would get up and leave, ostensibly to go to the restroom or just to relax a few minutes. As he left he would receive a return pass from the door guard. He would then meet the alternate and give him the return pass…. One year an ADA official discovered Florida's use of this technique. After hearing Florida's argument and reasoning the rules were relaxed to allow easier access to the floor by alternates.”1 To this day, while only delegates can vote for ADA officers, 17th delegation, alternates and delegates are assigned the same responsibilities with regard to preparation and representation in all matters of ADA business.

In meetings of the 17th Delegation alternates and delegates have equal voice. Each is expected to have an opinion and engage in debate. Many of the issues at hand produce passionate argument and feelings can run high. It is the strength of 17th Delegation, that after such debate we recognize each of us has the best interests of the dentists and the public at heart. We enter and leave our meetings as friends and respected colleagues. We recognize that concurrence is not always agreement. There will be times when a member’s conscience will not let them vote with the policy of the 17th delegation, but they will also respect the process that lead to concurrence and refrain from speaking against the policy formed by the best efforts of the 17th Delegation.

The objectives of the Delegation are to provide a unified voice within the ADA HOD representing the policies and positions of the FDA but always keeping in mind that we, as members of the ADA HOD, represent the best interests of the ADA in our capacity as the 17th ADA Trustee District. More specifically the 17th delegation's objectives are:

• To help shape, and, where necessary, effect change in ADA policy to better represent the positions of the membership of the FDA.
• To ensure representation on, and / or provide consultation to, ADA boards, councils, committees and commissions regarding any item of business before a session of the ADA HOD as it relates to 17th Trustee District positions;

• To network with other constituent and district delegations to provide information on 17th Trustee District positions relative to any items of business before a session of the ADA HOD;

• To establish viable contacts between individual members of the 17th delegation and key members of other constituent and district delegations in order to generate a coalition of support for ADA policies which would be beneficial for the 17th Trustee District and other trustee districts;

• To designate spokespersons; key delegation members who are expert in specific areas that will represent the 17th Trustee District at reference committees, special committees, and on the floor of the ADA HOD.

• To recommend 17th District Trustee delegation members who are well suited to serve on ADA Councils, boards, commissions, reference committees, and other bodies of the ADA including its affiliated companies.

• To organize the 17th delegation for the purpose of disseminating information concerning the business affairs that will be considered by the ADA HOD in such a manner that all delegates and alternate delegates shall be well informed; and

• To strengthen the position of the 17th Trustee District, to be recognized as a knowledgeable, capable advocates in national affairs and on all matters pertaining to the dental health and welfare of people in Florida.

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