



## FEDlines

### Welcome from the ADA President

Dear Colleagues:

With the start of the new year, I am thinking back to last October, when I had the privilege of attending a special reception for Federal Service Dentists during SmileCon.

It was a pleasure to catch up with old friends and meet new colleagues for the first time. Hearing some of your stories confirmed for me what I've always known to be true: That your remarkable service to our nation is essential to the advancement of public health, and that the American Dental Association only succeeds in its vision when you succeed in yours.

In 2023, the ADA is more committed than ever to supporting your unique career journey. I also look forward to how our Association will continue to advocate on behalf of our profession and communities.

The new year is here, and many of us are looking forward to starting fresh in some ways and building momentum in others. The same is true of the American Dental Association, as we continue our efforts to not just lead dentistry, but to help it thrive for generations to come.

No matter what your goals may be for the coming year, know that your American Dental Association is invested in helping you create the life and career you desire.

As you serve our great nation, we are here to help you thrive.

If you aren't an ADA member, consider making it your professional home. And if you are a member, renew your membership today.

Best wishes for a happy and healthy 2023.

George R. Shepley, D.D.S.  
President, American Dental Association





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## Member Spotlight: Patricia E. Arola, DDS, MHA, FAGD, FACHE, FICD

### ***What value has organized dentistry provided you as an FDS dentist?***

Collaborative efforts between the ADA and federal services to discuss standards of care and recommendations to promote improved oral health for all Americans has been of great value to me personally and professionally. At times, the life of a FDS dentist may feel isolated due to federal policies and procedures that are more stringent than ever. The ADA bridges the isolation gap by providing great networking opportunities to keep abreast of the issues impacting the profession and, as a result, connecting us to the community providers whose services are so important to our patient population.

### ***Why is organized dentistry membership important to you?***

The importance of organized dentistry became especially evident during the pandemic as all dentists faced unprecedented challenges and shared recommendations, findings and experiences to chart the best way forward. Learning from one another and providing personal and professional support kept dentists together, finding the best ways to treat our patients. Organized dentistry helps us find solutions to common concerns, whether it be payor issues, student debt, new technology or a myriad of other topics impacting our profession.

### ***What are some ways for Veterans Affairs dentists to get involved in organized dentistry?***

VA dentists have many options for involvement through our many internal national committees and workgroups and through becoming a VA delegate or alternate to the ADA House of Delegates. Dentists may also choose to join their local and district societies for a broader level discussion of topics outside the federal umbrella and may be chosen to serve on ADA Councils as well.

### ***How are you involved with the ADA?***

I have served 12 years as a Delegate to the House of Delegates and have participated in district meetings and caucuses. I have also represented the ADA on The Joint Commission's Professional and Technical Advisory Committee and served on the ADA Council on Access, Prevention and Interprofessional Relations.

### ***How long have you been an ADA member?***

I have been a member of the ADA for 36 years.

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## Oh Say Can You CE

Did you know that the ADA offers more than 500 hours of CE? Federal dentists can take advantage of these hours with both free and discounted courses, anytime and anyplace. Here are a few new ADA CE Online courses:



ADA American Dental Association®

**[The Alchemy of Dentistry: From Imposter to Empowered – Self-](#)**

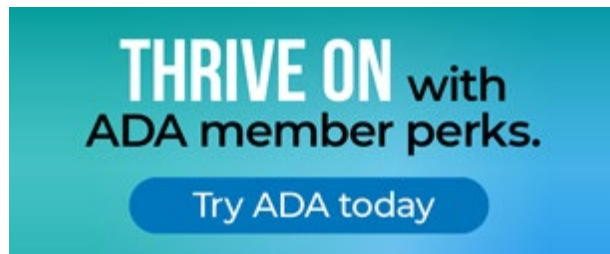
### guided Session

Dr. Jessica breaks down barriers associated with self-doubt, perfectionism and your mental well-being in the dental profession. Stop wishing away your career and find what works for you!

### Planning for Practice Transition

Building a practice doesn't happen overnight. Every owner builds their own personal and unique story along the way. They develop their own style and philosophies that make a practice something special, one patient at a time. Building is one thing; transitioning what is valued in one's practice is something entirely different. Learn how to plan and prepare for this important milestone with Fred Heppner, Transition Consultant and Business Management Advisor. Fred will help with outlining the right time to formulate a plan, what a person should look for in an associate or buyer, how to prepare for the transition, and establish realistic expectations in preserving the dentist's legacy.

Visit [ADACEOnline.org](http://ADACEOnline.org) for more information and start learning today!



## Thrive on with the ADA

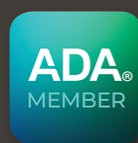
You define your own success. We're here to help you achieve it. ADA membership is packed with perks that support you personally and professionally. The advantages extend much further than the many tools, resources and discounts at your disposal: your support also allows us to continue to advance legislation and reforms that matter to you and your patients. [Join](#) or [renew](#) today.

## Graham Slam Updates in Advocacy

For the most current legislative updates please visit [Federal Dental Services](#).

Contact: Michael Graham, Senior Vice President, Government and Public Affairs, [grahamm@ada.org](mailto:grahamm@ada.org)

**Questions, Comments, Concerns?** Contact your FDS membership concierge, Ms. Monique Felton  
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Email: [FDSmember@ada.org](mailto:FDSmember@ada.org)



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