

ACCOUNTABILITY

DEDICATION

INSPIRATION



PAUL LEARY

FOR ADA PRESIDENT-ELECT



20
22



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I have travelled to many districts across this great country, I have heard your questions, and listened to your thoughts and opinions. And you, in turn, have helped focus my attention on specific goals that everyone seems to share.

The American Dental Association has undergone a major change with the hiring of our new executive director. The ED position is critical to the structure of our organization, and the smooth transition from Dr. O'Loughlin to Dr. Cohlmlia has been something I have been lucky to be a part of. The current board, in place during this transition, is necessary to help navigate the unknown and position the organization for its best possible outcome. Clear communication skills and positive energy are traits that I have developed throughout my journey in ADA leadership, and they have helped me as we welcome Dr. Cohlmlia to the Association. Where we have been is our history. Where we are headed is new ground that will require flexibility as we negotiate a path not yet travelled.

License portability is a key issue facing the profession. It has never been more critical than it is now as we face our profession's changing demographic. The need for flexibility in licensure affects us during all phases of our professional career. This is a states' rights issue, and the ADA needs to be a catalyst for positive change.

Adjusting our organizational model from member-centered to customer-centered is critical to helping the ADA successfully transition to what the dentist of today and tomorrow is most interested in becoming. Looking ahead to where we want to be is the best way to point our great organization toward goals that will be more about where we are going than where we have been. Our past is to be revered, and all of the work and those who accomplished it should be honored. A move to agile management will help us recognize what projects are giving us the best return on our goals and which need to be replaced in order to better utilize our resources. If leadership is to stay the course and manage all these moving parts, it cannot wander. It needs to be directed, enthusiastic, and point with optimism to horizons that are bright and achievable.

I believe you will find I possess these attributes. I challenge you to look ahead and assist in developing the vision that will build our future together. For the sake of the profession, the patients we treat, and the world community who looks to us to meet their oral health needs, I ask for your support, so that together we can define the steps dentistry needs to move onward and upward.

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ACCOUNTABILITY

As an organization, we must hold ourselves accountable. The needs of the profession are endless, and a strong ADA responds to those needs readily. This has never been more tested than in the handling of the pandemic. Through it all, the strength and knowledge of our profession were clearly demonstrated by the work of everyone who serves this organization. Their nimbleness and readiness to act and react under the most extreme conditions were on full display. This is your ADA. Members demand that we communicate our intentions clearly and articulately. I possess these qualities and stand ready to serve.



DEDICATION

Dedication has defined me throughout my career. It is my guiding principle. There are no boundaries or limits to your ability to succeed when you are dedicated to the goals. The people who came before us carved a trail. They passed the baton to us. We must be open to trusting what they accomplished, and embrace change to continue the process they began. That trust is essential to providing a pathway for those who will follow us.



INSPIRATION

To act without inspiration is almost impossible. I have derived inspiration from the individuals I have met along the way. The positive results of their efforts draw others to follow. I'm here to hold the lantern, to light the way. Let us find the way forward together. Tell me what needs to be done to help you reach your goals. Working as a team, we can achieve for our profession far more than any of us could accomplish alone.



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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

1989 – Present

Private Practice, Smithtown, NY

1986 – 1989

US Naval Dental Clinic, Newport, RI

1982 – 1996

US Naval Reserve

Achieved rank: Commander

EDUCATION

1982 – 1986

Temple University School of Dentistry

DMD

1978 – 1982

St Joseph's University, Philadelphia, PA

BS Biology

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS & ORGANIZATIONS

American Dental Association, 1985–Present

- Chair Compensation Committee
- Chair of AT Dental Hygiene examination
- Liaison to CDBP, 2021–2022
- Liaison to New Dentist Committee, 2020–2021
- Liaison to CCEPR, 2019–2020
- Liaison to CEBJA, 2018–2019
- Chair Dental Content Committee
- Executive Director Search Committee, 2020
- Pension Committee, 2018–Present
- Compensation Committee, 2018–Present
- Trustee Second District, 2018–Present
- CERP Committee Member, 2014–2015
- Chair CCERP, 2015–2016, 2016–2017
- Reference Committee CDEL ADA, 2009
- PGY-1 Presenter to ADEA Taskforce, December 2014

New York State Dental Association, 1989–Present

- Trustee from Suffolk County, 2014–2017
- Delegate to House, 2010–2017
- Chair CDEL, 2008–2012
- CDEL Workgroup Chair PGY-1, 2012–2018
- ADA Delegate or Alternate, 2004–2018
- Caucus Chair CDEL, 2011, 2012, 2014, 2016
- NYSDA Governor, Suffolk County, 2007–2009
- New York State Dental Foundation Board, 2009–2014
- Washington Leadership Conference Action Team Leader, 2007–2017
- Grassroots ADPAC Speaker to Student Legislative Day, Albany, 2013
- Student Presentation on Lobbying, Stony Brook, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018
- Bernard Tillis Award for Literary Excellence, 2006

Suffolk County Dental Society, 1989–Present

- Raskin Award for Outstanding Service, 2014
- Co-Editor Suffolk County Bulletin, 2007–Present
- Suffolk Board of Delegates, 1995–2018
- Board Liaison, 2000–2001
- SCDS Ladder, 2002–2005
- SCDS President, 2006
- Chairman CDEL Suffolk, 2005–2008 and 2010–2013
- Chairman Member Benefits Committee, 2002–2005
- National Diversity Delegate, 2006, 2007
- Greater Long Island Dental Meeting Director, 2007–2018
- General Chairman to GLIDM 2012

American College of Dentists, 2008–Present

**Student Ethics Course, Stony Brook
Dental School Facilitator, 2010–Present**

**International College of Dentists,
2010–Present**

**American Academy of Military Surgeons,
1986–1995**

**Academy of General Dentistry, 1986–2011,
2017–present**

CONTACT:

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20
22