

Highlights from the GDA March 2022 Board of Trustees Meeting and Retreat

The Georgia Dental Association (“GDA”) Board of Trustees (“BOT”) met March 11 - 12, 2022, in St. Simons, GA, and below are highlights from the meeting.

- Dr. David Rice, Ignite DDS, engaged the BOT in a workshop regarding how to captivate and keep today’s new dentist.
- GDA President, Dr. Zach Powell, announced his three presidential initiatives – membership, advocacy and professional development. He also provided an update on his presidential activities since taking office in January. He attended Officer’s Visits in Northern, Southwestern and Southeastern Districts, and has enjoyed meeting members and talking about their ideas and concerns regarding the profession of dentistry. He will be visiting the Dental College of Georgia (“DCG”) on March 28 to talk to D4 students about the benefits of joining organized dentistry. Dr. Powell announced that he looks forward to working with the members of the GDA to strengthen the dental profession as well as organized dentistry.
- Executive Director, Mr. Frank Capaldo, provided the BOT with a 2021 year-end review, emphasizing that it was one of the most successful years the GDA has ever seen. He highlighted strategic plan progress in membership, government relations, health policy, continuing education, governance, public relations and finance, and noted that the future looks bright for the GDA.
- The BOT was provided with 2021 year-end financial statements. The GDA had an exceptional year and will exceed the 2021 budgeted net income. Georgia Dental Insurance Services (“GDIS”) had a positive year as well, and their board will meet in mid-March to determine the amount of grant dollars they will contribute to the GDA. The BOT was also provided with GDA’s January 2022 financials, and an update on GDA and GDIS investment accounts.
- Membership Committee Chair, Dr. Bill Bachand, updated the BOT on several membership initiatives. Membership is slightly ahead of the same time as last year, and Dr. Bachand thanked GDA volunteer leadership and staff for focusing on membership renewal and retention. Speakers are needed for lunch and learns at DCG, and mentors are needed for the Leadership GDA program. Interested members should contact Katherine Torbush at the GDA office.
- The BOT heard an update on the 2022 legislative session and the GDA’s legislative initiatives which include teledentistry, Medicaid carve-out and insurance company claw backs. The FY2023 budget was approved and includes a 10% increase for two extraction codes and a 7% increase to seventeen other dental codes. Senator Dr. Lester Jackson is running for labor commissioner and Representative Dr. Lee Hawkins is running for an additional term in his district.
- The Nominating Committee requested that the BOT and districts assist in recruiting qualified candidates for GDA officer positions of Vice President, Secretary/Treasurer and Editor, three district trustees and two at-large trustees whose terms will expire on December 31, 2022. All interested candidates should submit a CV and cover letter listing

qualifications to the Nominating Committee c/o Jeannie Watson at jeannie@gadental.org, no later than June 20, 2022. The Nominating Committee will receive nominations and review submitted candidates prior to the July HOD meeting in order to present a slate of qualified candidates for election.

- Dr. Noell Craig, Central District Dental Society Trustee, nominated Dr. Amber Lawson for GDA Vice President, and Dr. Jessica Brown, Southwestern District Dental Society, nominated Dr. Jay Phillips for GDA Secretary/Treasurer.
- Necrology Task Force Chair, Dr. Henry Benson, provided the BOT with the outcomes from the Task Force's work on developing resources and a process for reaching out to families who experience the loss of a member dentist. He presented the *Guidebook for the Sudden Loss of a Dentist or Closure of Practice*, the *Loss of a Dentist Procedure for GDA Staff*, and the GA Board of Dentistry's Guidelines for Practice Closures, and gave a brief overview of each document. The BOT approved the documents as well as the name change of the Task Force to the Remembrance and Caring Committee.
- Mr. Capaldo announced that he and Dr. Powell will be reigniting the GDA's Third-Party Payor Task Force. The Task Force was established before the COVID-19 pandemic, but meetings were put on hold to focus on other priorities related to the pandemic. Mr. Patrick O'Rourke, Practice Quotient, has been invited to serve on the Task Force, and Dr. Powell will appoint other individuals with interests in the subject to the Task Force.
- The BOT was provided with a summary of outcomes from the 2021 BOT evaluations. Results were constructive, thoughtful and all around positive. The overall sentiment from the BOT was that serving on the board has been personally and professionally rewarding, strengthened critical thinking and discussion skills and improved confidence.
- The BOT passed a motion to amend the bylaws to allow presidents-elect voting privileges when serving on the BOT. The motion will be submitted to the Council on Constitution and Bylaws to draft the appropriate language, and will be sent back to the BOT for approval. Once the BOT approves, the HOD will vote on approving the amendment at the July 2022 HOD meeting.
- The BOT engaged in a conversation, led by immediate past president, Dr. Annette Rainge, regarding the nominating criteria and process for state officers to determine if more rigorous protocols should be in place for vetting the individuals who serve in these positions. They agreed that a Task Force should be assembled to put together recommendations for required criteria to run for GDA president, president-elect and vice president.
- Georgia Dental Insurance Services (GDIS) provided a written report detailing member participation in health, Medicare supplements, business insurance products, professional liability and personal lines. The BOT and all GDA members are encouraged to give GDIS the opportunity to quote their insurance needs.
- The GDA Foundation for Oral Health 2022 Healthy Mouth, Healthy Me! spring/summer campaign will feature a 30-second spot entitled "Show us Your Smile Again." As we



emerge from the pandemic and people start taking off their masks, the spot encourages them to make sure their once-hidden smiles are in great shape by visiting their GDA dentist.

In addition to oral reports and discussions, the BOT also reviewed thoroughly written reports from GDA Committees, Councils, Task Forces and Subsidiary Companies.