

Highlights from the GDA November 2021 Board of Trustees and House of Delegates Meetings

The Georgia Dental Association Board of Trustees (BOT) and House of Delegates (HOD) met on November 13 in Braselton, GA. Below are highlights from the meetings.

- Dr. Rainge thanked the BOT for their time and energy in serving the GDA, and provided an update on her presidential initiatives. She announced that she is very proud of the work that the BOT accomplished over the past eighteen months, and thanked them for supporting her through a journey of a lifetime as GDA President.
- Mr. Capaldo addressed the challenges that dentistry has faced over the past two years, during the COVID pandemic. He reported that because of the GDA's financial stability, collaborative volunteer leadership and dedicated staff, not one dentist in Georgia has been left standing alone during the COVID crisis. Georgia dentists were the first dentists in the nation to go back to full practice and re-categorized as essential healthcare workers because of the solid foundation that the GDA has built with the governor, legislators and regulators. Mr. Capaldo further reported that membership had record setting growth during the pandemic and more members were using GDA/GDIS services than ever before.
- Current and incoming 2022 BOT members participated in an annual BOT orientation session. The orientation included a review of guidelines for working with the membership, districts, executive director and GDA staff, governance and committee structures, fiduciary duties of the BOT, liability for breach of duty and insurance coverage. They also reviewed the professional conduct policy, conflict of interest policy and board disclosure statement.
- The HOD heard a presentation from Ms. Jane Walter, Dental Recovery Network, on health and wellness as they relate to personal and professional stressors.
- The BOT and HOD were provided with and reviewed GDA financials. Dr. Amber Lawson, Secretary/Treasurer, provided the BOT with an update on the GDA and GDIS reserves investments through November 5, 2021.
- Dr. Ed Green, Finance, Benefits and Audit Committee ("FBAC") Chair, reviewed the proposed 2022 GDA budget. He also reviewed the estimated income/expenses for Georgia Dental Insurance Services/Georgia Dental Holding Company ("GDIS/GDHC") and Integrity Dental Buyers Group ("IDBG") through 2021, as well as their 2022 draft budgets. Dr. Green noted that the subsidiary budgets would be approved by the GDIS/GDHC and IDBG boards prior to year-end.
- The HOD approved Resolution #2021-9, submitted by the BOT, which approved the due process policies and procedures for the GDA's Member Conduct Policy. In conjunction with the adoption of the policies and procedures for reviewing such alleged violations, the HOD also approved the proposed amendments to the GDA Bylaws and GDA Policy Manual where these policies and procedures will be incorporated.

- Dr. Henry Benson, necrology liaison, asked for a moment of silence for the following individuals who passed away since the last gathering of the HOD: Drs. Charles Lindy Cooley, James Timothy Hall and William Edward Taylor. Dr. Benson also updated the HOD on the formation of the Necrology Council. The Council was appointed by GDA President, Dr. Rainge, and is charged with creating procedures for reaching out to dental spouses and families who have experienced the loss of a member dentist, to offer support. The Council will have their first meeting before the end of the year.
- The BOT and HOD were briefed on the GDA's 2022 legislative priorities. They were also presented with the 2022 Position Papers, which the HOD approved.
- The HOD accepted the Nominating Committee's recommendations for ADA Delegation as follows:

Eastern Delegate – Dr. Rhoda Sword
Northern Delegate – Dr. Tom Jagor
Northern Delegate – Dr. Ben Jernigan
Southwestern Delegate – Dr. Hardy Gray
Northern Alternate – Dr. Ryan Vaughn
Northern Alternate – Dr. Heather McGee
Eastern Alternate – Dr. Erik Wells
Alternate, At-Large – Dr. David Bradberry
Alternate, At-Large – Dr. Michael Pruett
Alternate, At-Large – Dr. Amy Kuhmichel

- The Awards Council submitted the following 2022 awards nominations which were approved by the BOT/HOD:

Award of Merit: Dr. Donna Thomas-Moses (NWDDS)
Honorable Fellow: Dr. Noel Craig (CDDS)

- GDIS had a successful year in 2021, and projects making a contribution to the GDA reserves once the 2021 audit is completed. GDIS continues to offer outstanding coverages and excellent customer service for health, business and personal insurance coverages. For a quote, visit <https://www.gdaplus.com/>
- The GDA Foundation for Oral Health ("GDAF") recently appointed two new board members, Drs. Samer Othman and Gary Katcoff. Dr. Jernigan, GDAF Chair, thanked all who volunteered at the Remote Area Medical ("RAM") event in Louisville, GA, especially Dr. Bill Bachand, for his efforts in getting students at the Dental College of GA ("DCG") involved. It was announced that Dr. Sidney Tourial would be leaving the GDAF as part-time Managing Director, and Ms. Carol Galbreath will be taking his place as full-time Managing Director.
- There was an installation ceremony for 2022 GDA state and district officers immediately following the HOD meeting. Officers will begin their terms on January 1, 2022.
- In addition to oral reports and discussions, the BOT/HOD also reviewed thorough written reports from GDA Committees, Task Forces and Subsidiary Companies.