



President's Message

Lois Parento, CDA, RDA

This past October I was fortunate enough to lead the California delegation to the 84th Annual Conference of the ADAA in San Antonio, TX. We had a great opportunity to network with assistants from around the country as well as attend quality continuing education courses and social events. The election and installation of officers took place and the ADAA is now under the leadership of our first male president, Stephen E. Spadaro, SGM.

Also noteworthy was the election of California member, Claudia Pohl, to the position of ADAA secretary. Claudia has done a fabulous job as



12th District Delegates at ADAA Conference

Left to right – Kristy Borquez, Victoria Wallace, Lana Wright, Claudia Pohl, Lois Parento, Shari Becker, and Virginia Cardoza

12th District Trustee for the last five years and we look forward to her leadership on the executive board.

As a result of Claudia's new position, Shari Becker has been appointed to the position of 12th District Trustee. She will serve the last year of Claudia's three-year term. The next ADAA Annual Conference will take place in Hawaii from September 30 to October 4, 2009. California is always in need of delegates so if you are interested please mark your calendars and look for more information in future journals.

As we begin 2009 we anticipate the many changes that are coming to our profession and are looking to our students who will be the future of *dental assisting*. It is a profession that will be in demand for many years to come and is currently the third fastest growing occupation that does not require a college degree. Scholarships, group medical insurance programs, and professional liability insurance for only \$10.00 are just a few of the benefits available to ADAA student members. As veteran dental assistants the best thing we can do is be a mentor to the next up-and-coming generation. Together, dental assistants can truly make a difference.

Nominating Report

Diane Owen , CDA, RDA
Nominating Committee Chair
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The election of 2009 - 2010 CDA officers will take place on April 18, 2009. The report of the nominating committee thus far is as follows:

President: Kristy S. Borquez

President-elect: Open

Vice President: Georgina Vargas-Burket

Secretary: Terri Kron

Editor: Joanna Clarke

Note - Treasurer, Shelly Sorensen, will be serving the 2nd year of her 2-year term.

If you are a member and are interested in serving as an officer, please contact Diane Owen for necessary qualifications and a nominating form. Nominations will also be accepted from the floor that day.

ADAA Annual Conference San Antonio October 2008



Anna Nelson and Angella Mancuso



Kristy Borquez with ADAA President, Stephen Spadaro



San Antonio Riverwalk



Vicki Silva, Kristy Borquez, Virginia Cardoza, Anna Nelson, Shari Becker, Claudia Pohl, Lois Parento, Lana Wright and Debra Englehardt-Nash



Guest speaker, Linda Miles

New ADAA President Stephen Spadaro, SGM

San Antonio resident, Stephen E. Spadaro, SGM (Ret., U.S. Army) has been named President of the American Dental Assistants Association.

He is the first man named to this office in the organization's 84-year history. Mr. Spadaro was the Executive Officer of the U.S. Army Medical Command. He has been a dental professional for 30 years in the United States Army and DENCOM Sergeant Major for several years. In 2005, he was elected the first ADAA national Federal District Trustee.

He is a graduate of Saint Stephens High School in Brooklyn, NY, the University of Maryland and Thomas Edison State University. He has also received additional education at the U.S. Army Sergeant Major Academy.



Lana Wright, Shari Becker, Debra Englehardt-Nash



ADAA past presidents
Kimberly Bland and Cathy Roberts



Newly appointed 12th district trustee, Shari Becker, with former CDAA president, Lana Wright



Newly elected ADAA president, Stephen Spadaro at his installation celebration.



12th District Trustee Update

Shari Becker, CDA, RDA, FADAA

ADAA ANNUAL CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

This year's Annual Conference was held in San Antonio, Texas in conjunction with ADA, October 15-19, 2008. As always, it was filled with great education, fun social events and a chance to meet new dental assistants from around the country – and catch up with old friends. Some of the highlights include:

ADAA in conjunction with Colgate hosted a **Reception and Fiesta** - the second annual reception for dental assistants. Over 400 assistants attended and enjoyed live music, appetizers and many won some wonderful door prizes. It was a great evening that everyone enjoyed. Several dental assistants joined the ADAA as a result.

ADAA sponsored a record number of **educational courses** with nationally-known speakers – and they were well-attended. Some great education was provided by ADAA.

Convocation ceremony awarded fellowship to 3 members.

The **Leadership Forum**, led by Linda Miles gave all the participants insight into their natural leadership style and associated strengths and weaknesses as well as an understanding of how other leaders function and their different styles. It was very well attended and everyone learned gained valuable insight.

The ADAA **Foundation Party** was an auction – providing lots of fun and laughs as people bid on everything from Tiffany jewelry to a week in the Grand Caymans. In addition to a good time, the Foundation worked toward its goal of \$40,000. A final report will be given.

A dues increase of \$5 for students and active members was approved effective 2009

Next year's Annual Conference will be held September 30 - October 4 in Hawaii. 12th District will again be host for the meeting . . .

OTHER INFO

In addition to the Student and Educator Newsletter, ADAA is developing a Business Beat, which is designed for front office dental assistants. It will be mailed to those members who have identified themselves as business assistants. There will be two newsletters yearly and one online.

It is an honor to have been appointed 12th district trustee to complete Claudia Pohl's term as she progresses into her new role as ADAA Secretary. I look forward to serving California to the best of my ability and appreciate your support over this next year.

**The ADAA Toll Free number is now operational:
(877) 874-3785.**

Legislative Update

Kristy Borquez , CDA, RDAEF, FADAA
Government Relations Chair
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Now that AB2637 and SB853 have gone into effect, efforts are being devoted to identifying areas that need clarification and assuring a smooth implementation and transition. It is unknown at this time whether there will be any additional legislation in 2009 that will require monitoring or action.

Several areas surrounding educational programs are being addressed, but it does not appear that there will need to be any significant changes that will need to be made to the new laws governing RDA applicants and licensees.

One recent clarification of interest to RDAs is that existing RDAs do not have to be certified in pit and fissure sealants, unless they wish to perform that duty. Only RDAs who first become licensed on and after January 1, 2010, must provide proof of having completed a board-approved course in this duty in order to be licensed. However, RDA educational program faculty must be certified in this duty no later than July 1, 2009.

With regard to the RDA practical exam, the Dental Assisting Alliance has advocated to COMDA that the two currently tested procedures be retained after 2009, with changes to the material used for the direct provisional restoration (currently referred to as a temporary sedative dressing). It is anticipated that COMDA and the Board will make a decision later this year.

COMDA and the Board may need RDAs to provide input for the various written tests that must be developed, including the Orthodontic Assistant and Dental Sedation Assistant. If you might be interested, email me and I will contact you when more information is available.

As a reminder, COMDA will cease to exist on July 1 of this year, and its functions integrated into the Dental Board. At the same time, a new Dental Hygiene Committee will be created.

The Dental Assisting Alliance will be making recommendations to the Dental Board concerning the most appropriate way for dental assisting issues to be appropriately addressed, and will also be asking that the Board develop some mechanism by which to assure the dental assisting community that fees paid by dental assistants are spent solely on dental assisting activities.

Comda Website: www.comda.ca.gov

**CDA Foundation Sponsors Dental Assisting Student Scholarships
For Table Clinic Competition • CDA Scientific Session - Anaheim 2009**

The California Dental Association (CDA) is pleased to extend an invitation to dental assisting students who wish to exhibit a table clinic at *CDA Presents The Art and Science of Dentistry* during May 14–17, 2009, at the Anaheim Convention Center. The ***Dental Assisting Table Clinic Competition*** will be held on ***Friday, May 15, 2009***, 2:00 - 5:00 p.m. Students will have the opportunity to present their tables to attendees visiting the competition area during public viewing from 12:00 - 2:00 p.m. First place students win a \$1,000 scholarship + a \$300 cash award. For any additional questions, please contact Danny Kacalek via telephone at **800.232.7645** ext. 5311, or via e-mail at danny.kacalek@cda.org.



Marriott Burbank Airport Hotel in Burbank, CA

The 2009 CDAA Annual Session

will take place in Burbank, CA at the beautiful newly refurbished Marriott Burbank Airport Hotel. It is located directly across the street from the Bob Hope (Burbank) Airport and the Metrolink station, making it easily accessible from all areas of California.

The General Assembly with election of new officers will take place directly following a morning of continuing education and a luncheon honoring past presidents of the California Dental Assistants Association.

Please mark your calendars for Saturday, April 18, 2009. Details for this event will soon be listed on the CDAA website, www.cdaaweb.org.



California Dental Assistants Association

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