

Legislative Update January 2016
Claudia Pohl

As previously noted, AB 179 was signed by the governor in October and went into effect in January. The RDA Practical Exam is addressed in this bill; it was originally addressed in AB 178, but the efforts of opponents of AB178 resulted in language related to the practical exam being removed. As a result, the choice for continuing or discontinuing the Exam now rests in the hands of the Dental Board, who is completing its Occupational Analysis. The RDA Practical will continue unless the Dental Board between now and July 1, 2017 votes to suspend it once the Occupational Analysis is complete.

Other things that will be affected by AB 179 include an increase in application and renewal fees for the RDA and the OA and DSA permits as well as CE provider fees and new RDA Program or new course fees; the Board was to decide on the fees at the December meeting, but did not. It also now includes term limits (2) for the Dental Assisting Council.

The Occupational Analysis for the RDA is underway. The intent of the Analysis is to learn what licensees are doing and then link the test content and the job duties. As per the Board, they anticipate having results in March/April. When it is complete, the Written Exam will be reviewed and revised as needed. The Practical Exam will also be evaluated and either eliminated or revised.

The CDAA Board has reached out to the Dental Assisting Council to have dialogue, but we have been unsuccessful thus far at having anyone join us.

DENTAL ASSISTING COUNCIL (Standing Committee of the Dental Board)

Teresa Lua, RDAEF
Anne Contreras, RDA, Vice Chair
Pamela Davis-Washington, RDA
Judith Forsythe, RDA, Board Member, Chair
Tamara McNealy, RDA
Emma Ramos, RDA
Bruce Whitcher, DDS

The leadership of CADAT and CDAA are working in collaboration with the Foundation for Allied Dental Education (FADE) and the lobbying firm of Wilke-Fleury to address key legislative/regulatory issues as a result of AB179; foremost, the authority of the Dental Board to continue to issue RDA licenses if any changes to the existing examination structure should occur. The dedicated members of CADAT and CDAA can rest assured that their professional organizations have been and will continue to work within a framework of effective advocacy for the best interests of the dental assisting community.

Dental Board 2016

Board President: Steve Morrow, DDS (1/2018)
Vice President: Judith Forsythe, RDA (1/2017)
Secretary: Steven Afriat, Public member (1/2017)
Fran Burton, public (1/2017)
Stephen Casagrande, DDS (7/2016) year of grace?
Yvette Chappell-Ingram (1/2016) will do second term
Katie Dawson, RDHAP (1/2017)
Luis Domincis, DDS (1/2016) year of grace
Kathleen King (1/2018)
Ross Lai, DDS (1/2017)
Huong Le, DDS (1/2019)
Meredith McKenzie, ESQ (1/2016) will do second term
Thomas Stewart, DDS (1/2017)
Bruce Whitcer, DDS (1/2019)
Debra Woo, DDS (1/2017)

Regulatory Workshops

The following workshops have been scheduled and will be held in Sacramento. These workshops will focus on the language that needs to be changed and updated for dental assisting and dental assisting educational programs. Check our website for updated information as workshops in Southern California may also be scheduled as sites are available.

March 18

April 29

June 10

July 15

September 16

October 28

December 16