

Texas Dental Assistants Association



EDUCATION - EFFICIENCY - LOYALTY - SERVICE



TDAA BULLETIN

December Issue

2024

Volume II

Texas Dental Assistants Association



EDUCATION - EFFICIENCY - LOYALTY - SERVICE

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PRESIDENT
Marthann Dafft

November has been a very eventful time for ADAA and TDAA. On Nov. 9th ADAA held our 100th anniversary. ADAA was founded in the Dallas area 100 years ago. We had a day of four Educational Seminars along with the installation of officers. It was a very special installation with our very own Ronda Lane being installed as President of ADAA. We had not had a gathering in ten years. There was great excitement in getting to seeing friends I had not seen in years. So many great memories of the past were remembered of the annual meeting we had all over the country.

Then on Nov. 16th our TDAA Board met in Farmers Branch for our Mid-Year Board meeting. The Audit, Finance, and Resolutions committees met on Friday. We met then on Saturday morning for the report of officers and committees. We received a copy of the update By-Laws and moved to approve the updated Manual of Procedures. A financial report was presented and approved by motion. Ronda Lane reported on the Meeting of the Texas State Board of Dental Examiners. Linda Mueller gave her report from the Nominations Committee. If you have an interest in serving on the Board do contact her.

We are all looking forward to an exciting Annual Session this coming May 8-10, 2025. We will start with our Pre-Board meeting on May 8th at 2pm. Will follow with our Annual Session and General Meeting. All TDAA active members will have a vote on all actions. Dallas County Dental Assistants will be our hosting society. I look forward to seeing all there.

Marthann Dafft
TDAA President.

Past President Greetings

To all the hard-working Dental assistants (RDAs and CDAs) who put countless hours in volunteering for the (ADAA) Association and their community health fairs. Those of us who work tirelessly to keep Dental Offices running smoothly.



Thank you, for those of us who renew our Registration, Certifications and do the CE to provide smart quality care for patients and staff. Being an RDA that travels office to office hearing stories and getting to meet many who say they are simply burned out, moving on to Hygiene for better pay or no one understands how hard I work. I say Thank you to the Association who taught me the value of knowing my people in my career, for the bond of Friendship is so important in this big world.

This week I stumbled on a friend who retired from her career and remembered me, from doing what I do and said Thank you to me. This helped remind me in this time of Thanking to express my gratitude to those who are in my life and being a member of a bigger cause. Again, **Thank You all in the Association**

Sincerely,
Alyssa Russell
Past President/Director

Thank you

Current Officers of TDAA 2023-2025

| | | |
|---|--------------------|--|
| President | Marthann Dafft | ldymad@sbcglobal.net |
| President Elect | Sharon Dickinson | sdickins1@att.net |
| Vice President | Edith Kendall | edithmkendall@gmail.com |
| Secretary | Elizabeth O'Reilly | oreillyea731@gmail.com |
| Immediate Past President | Alyssa Russell | alydal9259@gmail.com |
| Chairman of Past President's Council | Carolyn Friend | edfreindc@aol.com |
| Executive Treasurer | Kay Jukes | kljukes@aol.com |
| Editor | Ameera Qaddo | ameera.qaddo@gmail.com |
| Meeting Coordinator | Sharon Dickinson | sdickins1@att.net |
| Website Manager | Mohanned Neamah | mohanned.neamah@gmail.com |

Local Directors

**Fort Worth District Dental Assistants Society
Dallas County Dental Assistants Society**

Lori Linger fashion1ng@sbcglobal.net

**Austin Dental Assistants Society
TDAA Student members**

Linda Mueller ljmtx@sbcglobal.net

**Greater Houston Dental Assistants Society
Coastal Bend Dental Assistants Society**

Ronda Lane vantroba@verizon.net

State Members & West Texas (when formed)

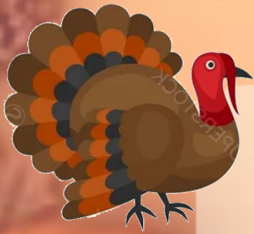
Will Henard will.henard@ttuhsc.edu

**State Members
San Antonio Dental Assistants Society**

Joy Pilant joylpilant@yahoo.com

Texas Dental Assistants Association Standing Committees 2023-2025

| Committee | Chairperson | Members |
|--|--------------------|---|
| Audit | Carolyn Friend | Joy Pilant Lourdes Garduno |
| Membership and Public Relations | Edith Kendall | Alyssa Russell Lori Linger Ronda Lane |
| Clinics and Exhibits/Education | Kay Jukes | Eva Sepulveda |
| Finance | Sharon Dickinson | Elizabeth O'Reilly |
| Finance/ Scholarship | Sharon Dickinson | Elizabeth O'Reilly Kay Jukes. Ex-Sec/Treas. Ex-official |
| By-Laws/Policies Statement | Sharon Dickinson | Elizabeth O'Reilly |
| Manual of Procedures | Edith Kendall | Alyssa Russell |
| Necrology | Edith Kendall | |
| Program | Sharon Dickinson | Carolyn Friend |
| Legislative | Ronda Lane | Will Henard |
| Revenue/Scholarship | Lori Linger | Linda Mueller |
| Nominating | Linda Mueller | Brenda Olivarez |
| Social Media | Ronda Lane | |
| Special Committees | | |
| Certificates and ADA Awards | Edith Kendall | Kay Jukes-AD-HOC |
| History | Dena Carr | |



Giving thanks for all the blessings in our lives,
big and small.

SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL DENTAL ASSISTANTS!





Congratulations

To our TDAA member Ronda Lane on being installed as the new ADAA President!

To Elizabeth O'Reilly on welcoming her first grandson, Owen, in August!

Happy Birthday

To everyone celebrating a recent or upcoming birthday, wishing you a year full of joy, love, and wonderful experiences.

Happy NEW YEAR 2025

&

MERRY Christmas



Wishing you all the best this
holiday season!

HAPPY NEW YEAR!





Please keep the following in your thoughts and Prayers

Patty Ratliff

Passed away on November 16th after a hip fracture in August led to complications, including a blood clot, leg amputation, and persistent infections.

Karen Christie

Sincere condolences for loss of her mother in Canada.

Cammie Munguia

Dealing with shingles.

Cliffa Thomasson

Holding her own. Had a surprised visit from Kay and Barbara from Houston area.

Kathleen Boyle

Kathleen and Jim Boyle are still undergoing medical evaluations. Jim had an angiogram November 21 and didn't need any stents. He is scheduled for kidney surgery on January 9th. Kathleen may need a back brace. Their great grandson who was allowed to go home in October, goes daily to the children's hospital as he has a feeding tube and using oxygen. He has gained weight and has a wide smile when he sees his mother.

Lori Linger

Busy as a caregiver for her parents.

Linda Mueller

Recovering from surgery.

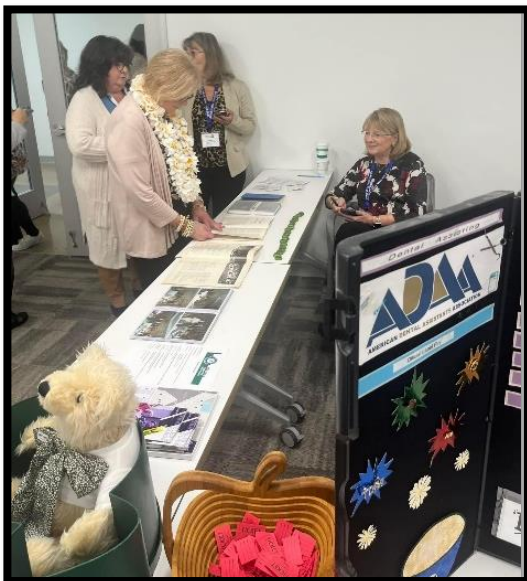
ADAA 100th Annual Session Highlights

Saturday, November 9th

Wow! We just celebrated our first in-person meeting in **10 years**, and what an incredible time it was! It was a joy to reconnect face-to-face, enjoy outstanding educational sessions, and have some fun with each other at the photo booth. Over 76 ADAA members convened for this monumental event. Special shout out to Lisa Hernandez, IPP, Kellen management team, and PDS for providing a venue and lunch.



We also had lots of ADAA merchandise to sell for a special project as well as a final auction for commemorative teddy bears. Below are some pictures from the meeting.





ADAA COMMUNICATION

It is with great news that TDAA announces our newly installed ADAA President is our TDAA member, **Ronda Lane** of Irving, Texas. She has made a commitment to bring better Communication to us.

As your TDAA President I am forwarding to you her 1st Communication report to ADAA State Presidents. There are a lot of exciting things happening and things you, as a member, can take advantage of.

Do wish you a safe and joyful Holliday.

Marthann Dafft

TDAA President 2023-2025

- **Current & Up-Coming ADAA Events**

- **ADAA Win Back Campaign** - offered to lapsed members at reduced cost
- **ADAA Black Friday & Cyber Monday for New Members:** Code **ADAA100**
- **ADAA Connection Zone - Topic:** The Importance of Continuing Education- **December 3, 2024**
- **ADAA Dental Assistant Journal** - Publication should be out within 30 days
- **ADAA Webinar** – Working on hot topics now, after Council reviews, announcements coming.
- **Next ADAA Themed Week** – preliminary plan is **February 2025**

- **DARW 2025 slogan, graphics, and merchandise will be chosen soon! Stay tuned.**

- **Attention Educators!** To help you sign up your students, here is the link with instructions:

<https://adaausa.org/join-adaa/become-a-member> After you go to link, scroll down and then click on information.

If you need additional help then you can email: info@adaausa.org or call **410-940-6584**

- **The Fellowship/Mastership programs are on the website.**

Link: <https://portal.adaausa.org/certifications/programs/browse> You must be a member to enroll in either program.

Log into your account and look for tab “certifications” and choose browse certification programs.

Remember that if you have your CDA, then you will automatically receive 150 hours of the 300 required to attain the fellowship distinction.

Please pass on the information below on those already enrolled in the Fellowship program:

- If you registered prior to the changes to the program, you still have 10 years to meet the requirements.
- Payment was made to register, and when they file for completion, they will still pay the balance (new rules have a one time upfront payment now).
- ADAA does have your previous CE, even if not displayed in your CE history on the webpage.
- Make sure and retain all electronic copies of your CE.

- **Problems or concerns:**

- If you have had any problems with logging in to the New ADAA Portal then here is a link to help guide you: <https://adaa1.wpenginepowered.com/how-to-log-in-to-the-new-adaa-portal>

If you need additional help, then please feel free to reach out to ADAA at info@adaausa.org or call **410-940-6584** and they will be glad to help you. If possible, take a screenshot of the problem message and send it to management, as they can better help you with more information.

Texas State Board of Dental Examiners

NEW RDA RULES



There are two (2) new rules pertaining to the Registered Dental Assistant that became effective on September 1, 2024:

Rule 114.8 Retired Registration Status – a holder of a valid and current Texas RDA may apply to the Board to have the registration placed on retired status. There is a specific form that must be completed to request the retirement of a registration. A request to retire the RDA may be submitted prior to the expiration date. The request for retirement is subject to the license being current and in good standing. Once retirement status is granted, licensure fees and continuing education requirement are waived for the period the license is in retirement. While you are on retired status, you may not perform any activity regulated under the Texas Occupations Code. A letter confirming the retirement will be sent via your online licensing account.

The form can be found by going to this link: https://tsbde.texas.gov/78i8ljhbj/Retirement-Form_RDA_2024.pdf

Rule 114.13 Reinstatement of a Cancelled Registration – The Board may reinstate a cancelled Texas RDA to active status, provided the registered dental assistant submits an application for reinstatement on a form prescribed by the Board, pays the appropriate fees due at the time application is made, and meets the requirement of this section.

An applicant who, at the time of application for reinstatement, is practicing as a registered dental assistant in another state, or territory outside of the US, and has practiced as an RDA actively within the two (2) years immediately preceding the date of application shall provide:

- Verification of registration and disciplinary history from all state board(s) of dentistry where the registered dental assistant has held a registration,
- Proof of active practice within the two years preceding the application
- Proof that the RDA has taken and passed the Texas jurisprudence assessment administered by the Board or an entity designated by the Board within one year immediately prior to application
- Proof of successful completion of a current hands-on course in basic life support
- Proof of completion of 12 hours of continuing education, taken within the 12 months preceding the date the application is received by the Board. All hours shall be taken in accordance with the requirements for continuing education as mandated by rule 114.12 of this chapter.
- Proof of submission of fingerprints for the retrieval of criminal history record information.

The application form for reinstatement of a cancelled registration has not been implemented yet, but the Board hopes to have this by the end of the year.



Texas State Board of Dental Examiners

NOTICE OF STAKEHOLDER MEETING

September 24, 2024

by Ronda Lane from the Stakeholder Meeting:

TSBDE President, Dr. David Yu, opened the meeting at 1:00pm.

Topic: Discussion of recent guidelines that recommend against lead shielding for dental x-rays and if the rules should be amended to reflect the guidelines by removing the requirement that dental patients must wear lead aprons while exposed to x-rays.

Dr. Purmima Kumar, ADA Council, spoke extensively about this subject. She explained how ADA reviews ADA guidelines every 5 years. The American Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology reported on evidence-based recommendations and clinical guidance for the application of patient contact shielding during dentomaxillofacial imaging. Dr. Kumar emphasized that these recommendations are related to secondary (scatter) radiation.

Based on the research, the American Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology report concluded that the recommendation is to discontinue shielding of the gonads, pelvic structures, and fetuses during all dentomaxillofacial radiographic imaging. The committee also reviewed the risks from thyroid cancer are negligible and recommends that thyroid shielding not be used during intraoral, panoramic, cephalometric, and cone-beam computed tomographic imaging.

These recommendations are based on significant improvements in:

1. Collimation- limiting the radiation field
2. Digital receptors- the use of digital receptors reduces radiation exposure significantly
3. Review of scientific evidence and research

With these 3 factors listed above, the committee will make a recommendation after looking at Texas rules and regulations at the next scheduled TSBDE Board meeting. The complete report can be read and reviewed at this link:

<https://tsbde.texas.gov/78i8ljhbj/September-27-2024-Stakeholder-Meeting-Notice-Lead-Apron-Use.pdf>

Special notification was made at this meeting that dental x-rays should only be prescribed by a dentist when needed rather than routinely and based upon a patient's individual needs.

The next TSBDE meeting is scheduled on **November 8th** and is live streamed so anyone can watch and learn.

EVENT MEETING AGENDA

2025 ANNUAL SESSION AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

May 8-10, 2025

at [Marriott Riverwalk Hotel, San Antonio, Texas](#)

Thursday, May 8, 2025

| | |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM | TDAA Registration |
| 12:00 PM – 1:30 PM | TDAA Finance Committee Meeting |
| 2:30 PM - 5:00 PM | TDAA Pre-Convention Board Meeting |

Friday, May 9, 2025

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM | TDAA Registration |
| 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM | TDAA Opening Session |
| 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM | TDAA First General Assembly |
| 11:30 AM – 12:00 PM | TDAA Balloting |
| 12:00 PM – 1:30 PM | TDAA President’s and TDAA Past President Luncheon |
| 1:30 PM – 2:00 PM | TDAA Past President’s Meeting |
| 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM | Dental Assisting Educator’s Meeting |
| 5:00 PM – 7:30 PM | TDAA President’s Reception |

Saturday, May 10, 2025

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| 8:30 AM – 8:30 AM | TDAA Registration |
| 8:30 AM – 10:00 AM | Second General Assembly and Installation of Officers |
| 11:30 AM – 1:30 PM | TDAA Post Convention Board Meeting |

Texas Dental Assistants Association



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Attention!



Bulletin submissions deadline dates:

July 15 For Aug. Sept. Oct. Nov.

Nov 15 For Dec. Jan. Feb. March.

March 15 For April, May, June, July.

Be sure to visit TDAA Facebook Group for up-dates on:

- Proposed new rule for RDA's on CE- see below*
- TSBDE Stakeholders meeting on lead apron use
- Can dental assistants be delegated digital impression task

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/190442111004697>



* Important Notification-Attention Dental Assistants

The TSBDE Board has proposed a rule that will affect the CE you will be required to attain to retain your RDA. **It states as of "September 1, 2025, at least two (2) of the 12 hours of CE required to renew your RDA every 2 years must be courses in the laws and regulations of the TSBDE."**

Dentists and hygienists are required to take a jurisprudence assessment every 4 years, but you will be required to take essentially 4 hours of CE every 4 years in comparison.

To see this rule proposal go to this link and click on rule 114.12 Link: <https://tsbde.texas.gov/laws-rules/proposed-rules>

This is important: If you are opposed or agree with this proposed rule, then you only have 30 days to write TSBDE after it is posted on the Texas Register on November 22, 2024. The TDAA is **opposed** to this proposed rule and believes that the CE requirements should be the same, or in line with what is required of dentists and hygienists.

Please let TSBDE know your opinion & write them:

Texas State Board of Dental Examiners
1801 Congress Avenue, Suite 8.600
Austin, TX 78701



This is the content of a letter sent by Marthann Dafft and Ronda V. Lane to TSBDE regarding the proposed rule change 114.12 on Continuing Education for Dental Assistants

November 29, 2024

Dear TSBDE General Council

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the recent TSBDE November 8, 2024, Board motion of a proposed rule change to 114.12 requiring dental assistants to complete two hours of CE every two years on laws and rules in Texas. The Texas Dental Assistants Association (TDAA) is opposed to the proposed rule 114.12 for several reasons.

- This would essentially quadruple the CE requirement of Jurisprudence for dental assistants in comparison to dentists and hygienists, who take the jurisprudence assessment every 4 years (which typically takes one hour to complete).
- The financial burden would be much more for the RDA, who is the lowest paid member of the dental team.
- Possible job loss if a dental assistant confronts an employer on a delegated duty in question.
- Exacerbate the shortage of dental assistants by adding additional requirements.
- Availability of dental assistant CE courses in Jurisprudence and maintain accuracy of material presented.

Dental Assistants: 1 hour CE per year = 4 hours CE every four years = \$80

Dentist & Hygienist: Jurisprudence assessment every 4 years = \$48

The Texas Dental Assistants Association is in full agreement that RDA's need to be fully informed, stay abreast of law/rule changes, and stay compliant under the supervision of a licensed Texas dentist, however we believe that the requirements should be equal to what is required for dentists and hygienists; a jurisprudence assessment every 4 years.

The financial burden would also be higher if you estimate that a 1 hour CE typically costs \$20 or more and multiply that by 4 years (\$80) versus the cost of the TSBDE Jurisprudence Assessment cost of \$48 every 4 years.

Based upon the committee meetings watched, it appears that TSBDE is concerned about dental assistants performing illegal tasks and trying to find ways for licensees to stay well-versed in compliance regulations, which ultimately ensure patient safety. It is our opinion that the burden of policing the industry should be placed on the dentist, not the dental assistant. This proposed rule adds the burden to a dental assistant, which will bring conflict with their employer, or promote willful disobedience since many dental assistants will perform any duty their dentist delegates to them to keep their job. Job loss is a real threat to dental assistants who are delegated tasks that are questionable or illegal but must be done to keep their job.

This new rule will exacerbate the shortage of dental assistants by adding additional requirements to the RDA credential, both financial and time. There is no doubt that dental assistants are leaving the profession for a multitude of reasons, so adding another requirement will most likely have a negative effect on any resolution to this shortage.

Finally, it is our opinion that the Board should maintain control over any material aimed at educating the dental assistant in matters of Texas laws or TSBDE rules and regulations, as they do for dentists and hygienists with the jurisprudence assessment. The availability of Texas jurisprudence CE courses for dental assistants is very limited if any exist at all and would take time to develop and implement. Additional questions that will probably surface might be what objectives should a course cover specifically for dental assistants and how can the knowledge gained be assessed, or if the course must be "live" or by self-study? The TDAA believes that a dental assistant jurisprudence assessment administered by TSBDE would not only maintain control of the accuracy of material presented but could also focus on what information the Board would like the dental assistant to learn.

Thank you again for the opportunity to submit comments and input on matters that directly affect the dental assisting profession. The TDAA is opposed to the proposed rule 114.12 and believes that the Board requirements for RDAs should be equal and in line with what is required of dentists and hygienists by use of a dental assistant jurisprudence assessment. If TDAA could be of any further help, then please let us know how we could support and assist the TSBDE in any way.



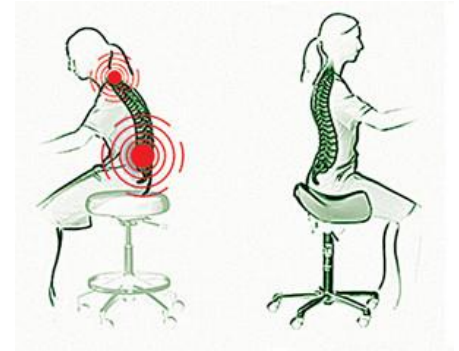
Managing Back Pain in Dental Assistants and Staff

By Ameera Qaddo

Back pain is a prevalent issue among dental assistants and staff due to the physically demanding nature of their work. Long hours of sitting, repetitive movements, and maintaining awkward postures while assisting dentists or performing procedures can lead to musculoskeletal problems. Addressing these issues is vital for improving the quality of life and productivity of dental professionals.

Preventive Measures

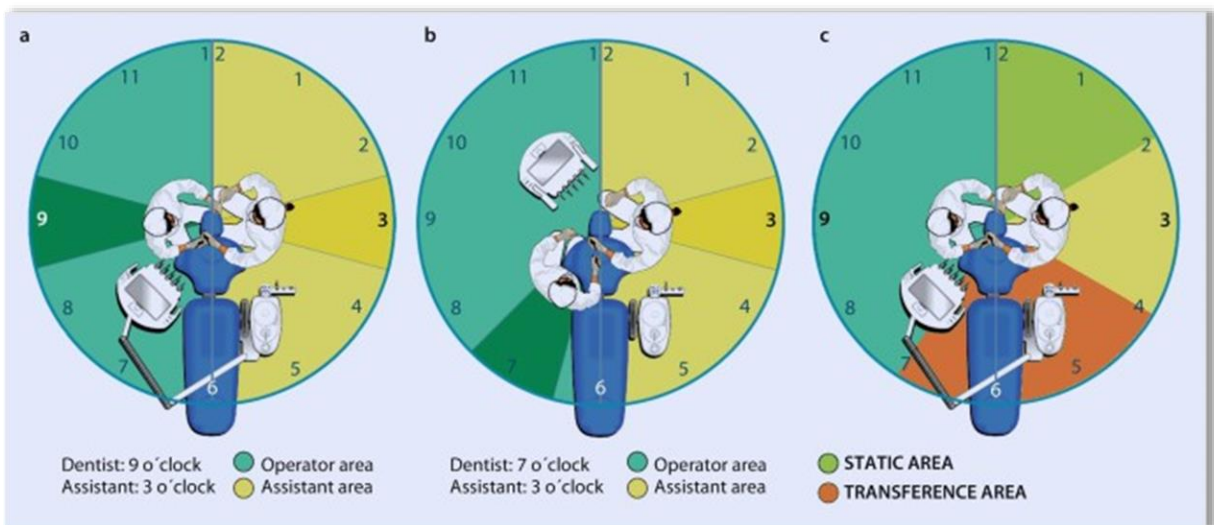
- Ergonomic Equipment:**
 - Use adjustable stools and chairs with lumbar support.
 - Ensure instruments are within easy reach to avoid twisting.
- Proper Posture:**
 - Sit with your back straight and feet flat on the floor.
 - Adjust the patient's chair to reduce unnecessary leaning.
- Stretching and Exercise:**
 - Perform stretches during breaks to alleviate muscle tension.
 - Strengthen core muscles through exercises like yoga or Pilates to support the spine.
- Frequent Breaks:**
 - Take short breaks to change position and relieve back stress.
- Continuing Education:**
 - Attend workshops on ergonomics and body mechanics to learn best practices for minimizing strain.



Seeking Professional Help

If back pain persists, consulting a physical therapist or chiropractor can be beneficial. They can provide tailored exercises and therapies to address chronic pain.

By prioritizing ergonomics and adopting preventive strategies, dental assistants can maintain a healthy spine and reduce the risk of long-term back issues, enhancing their overall well-being and job performance.





Nomination Form for TDAA Board of Directors

The _____ or I _____, Member,

Nominate _____ as a candidate for the office of:

President Elect

Vice-President

Secretary

Member of the Board of Directors

Candidate's Qualifications:

Member of _____ Dental Assistant Society for _____ years.

Certified in _____ Currently Certified? Yes No

Obtained Texas Registered Dental Assistant in _____ RDA # _____

Served Component Society in following capacities:

Served TDAA as:

Served ADAA as:

I, as a Candidate for the office of _____ do hereby state that the above information is true. If elected, I will accept responsibility, perform duties involved, and serve to the best of my ability this Association and its' ideals.

Submitted by

Signature

Date

President-Secretary of Component Society _____

Candidate must complete one form in its entirety and sign all forms received and return to Nominating Committee Chairman before deadline. Email to Inda J. Mueller: LJMTX@sbcglobal.net