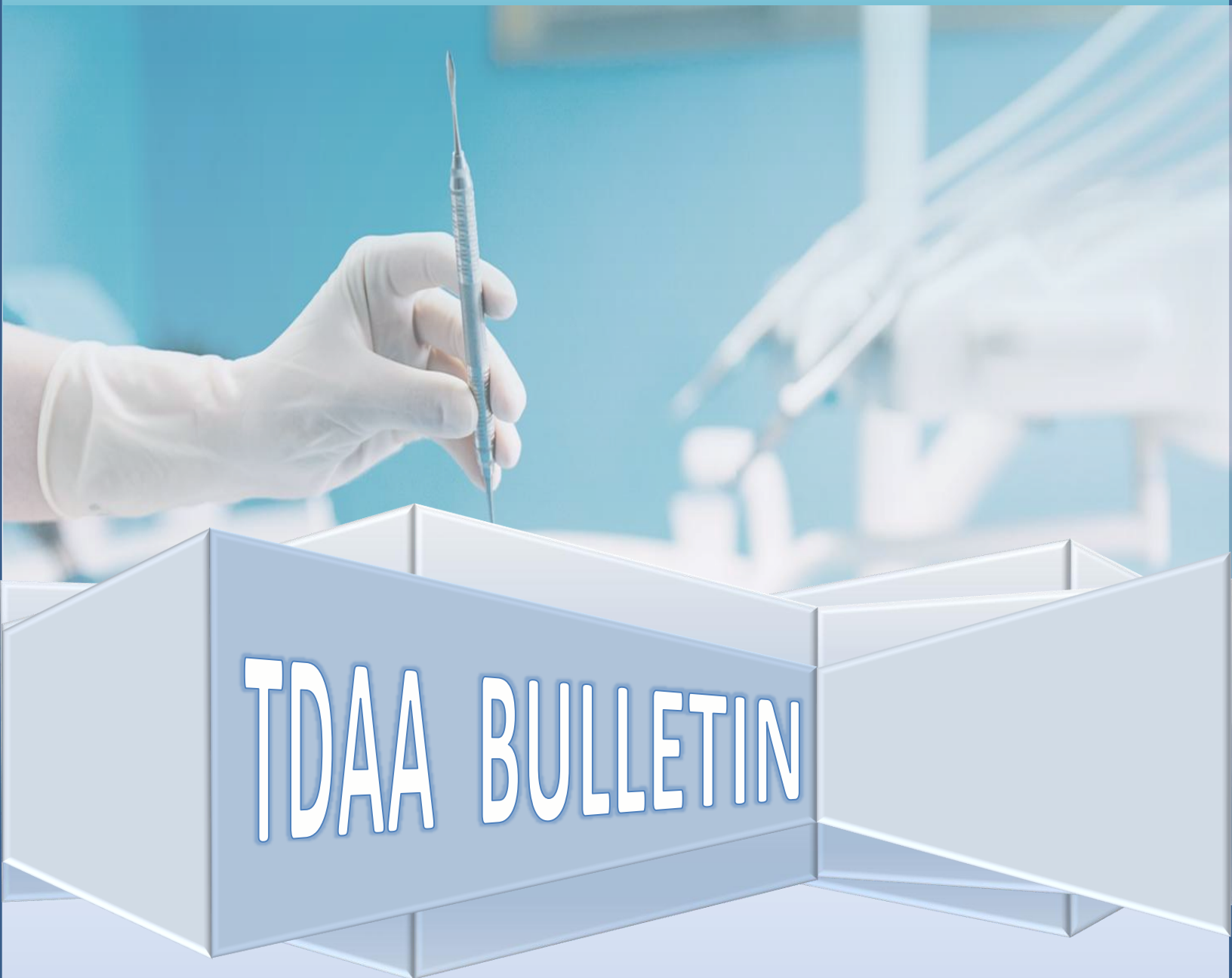


# Texas Dental Assistants Association



EDUCATION - EFFICIENCY - LOYALTY - SERVICE



**August Issue**

Volume I

# Texas Dental Assistants Association



EDUCATION - EFFICIENCY - LOYALTY - SERVICE

## P R E S I D E N T M E S S A G E

I trust this finds everyone well and enjoying the summer. I know we have all been affected by the tragic flooding in Texas and in my neighboring state, New Mexico. Our thoughts and prayers continue to go out to those affected and the rescuers.

In May, I had the honor of being installed as your President for 2025 - 2027. I want to congratulate the new officers who bring a wealth of experience and dedication to their roles:

### Officers:

- Kay Jukes, President Elect
- Edith Kendall, Vice President
- Elizabeth O'Reilly, Secretary
- Marthann Dafft, Immediate Past President
- Carolyn Friend, Chairman, Past Presidents Council

### Directors:

- Linda Mueller
- Brenda Olivarez
- Angela Soto
- Alyssa Russel
- Lori Linger

I look forward to working with the awesome Board. We will continue to make strides as we look forward to the future of TDAA.

During my installation speech, I announced that I have chosen *Commitment to Excellence* as my theme. Our association objectives reflect those two words: "To advance dental assistants' careers and advocate for the dental assisting profession in matters of education, professional activities, credentialing, and legislation. To promote the ideals and growth of the association, which aids in the accessibility and delivery of quality oral health care to the public." These are not just lofty goals, but a call to action. I strongly believe that we can contribute to achieving them if we open our minds and hearts to not only continuing what we have established in the past but also moving forward with new ideas.

### President



**Sharon Dickinson**

As your 85th President, I am going to promote some changes, to strive for:

- ❖ New and innovative ways to promote new members, retain existing members, and have discussions with members who have not renewed their membership.
- ❖ Foster better communication between our dental health care professionals and our association.
- ❖ Provide, once again, education to our members.

These changes will prompt significant discussion with the Board, and you can expect to see changes in the near future. One exciting aspect will be the rebranding of our TDAA Logo. I am eagerly looking forward to sharing these changes with you. Stay tuned to the next newsletter, or before, for the unveiling!

As I stated in my speech, unfortunately, I have recently spoken to members of TDA who thought that TDAA was no longer a viable organization. One member even stated that there needed to be an association to represent dental assistants! That falls on us - we must open lines of communication. We have untapped sources in our community, and as an association, we need to rally and meet the goal of membership, communication, and education to once again be the strong voice for dental assistants. I know it's easy to say we've tried, but what do we do? We try again! As your President, I'm open to new ideas for a fresh start.

In closing, I pledge my *Commitment to Excellence* to my Board, to TDAA members, and in representing Texas Dental Assistants.

**Sharon Dickinson,**

CDA, CDPMA, RDA, CRFDA, CPFDA, CDIPC

President, Texas Dental Assistants Association

# Current Officers of TDAA 2025-2027

<b>President</b>	Sharon Dickinson	<a href="mailto:sdickins1@att.net">sdickins1@att.net</a>
<b>President Elect</b>	Kay Jukes	<a href="mailto:kljukes@aol.com">kljukes@aol.com</a>
<b>Vice President</b>	Edith Kendall	<a href="mailto:edithmkendall@gmail.com">edithmkendall@gmail.com</a>
<b>Secretary</b>	Elizabeth O'Reilly	<a href="mailto:oreillyea731@gmail.com">oreillyea731@gmail.com</a>
<b>Immediate Past President</b>	Marthann Dafft	<a href="mailto:ldymad@sbcglobal.net">ldymad@sbcglobal.net</a>
<b>Chairman of Past President's Council, Parliamentarian</b>	Carolyn Friend	<a href="mailto:edfreindc@aol.com">edfreindc@aol.com</a>
<b>Executive Treasurer</b>	Kay Jukes	<a href="mailto:kljukes@aol.com">kljukes@aol.com</a>
<b>Editor</b>	Ameera Qaddo	<a href="mailto:ameera.qaddo@gmail.com">ameera.qaddo@gmail.com</a>
<b>Meeting Coordinator</b>	Sharon Dickinson	<a href="mailto:sdickins1@att.net">sdickins1@att.net</a>
<b>Website Manager</b>	Mohanned Neamah	<a href="mailto:mohanned.neamah@gmail.com">mohanned.neamah@gmail.com</a>

## Local Directors

<b>Dallas County Dental Assisting Society</b>	Marthann Dafft	<a href="mailto:ldymad@sbcglobal.net">ldymad@sbcglobal.net</a>
<b>Greater Houston Dental Assistants Society</b>	Angela Soto	<a href="mailto:avelasqu2@delmar.edu">avelasqu2@delmar.edu</a>
<b>Coastal Bend Dental Assistants Society</b>		
<b>Austin Dental Assistants Society</b>	Linda Mueller	<a href="mailto:ljmtx@sbcglobal.net">ljmtx@sbcglobal.net</a>
<b>TDAA Student members</b>		
<b>Dallas County and Students members:</b>	Alyssa Russell	<a href="mailto:alydal9259@gmail.com">alydal9259@gmail.com</a>
<b>State Members &amp; potential new organizations</b>	Brenda Olivarez	<a href="mailto:bzblondetx@yahoo.com">bzblondetx@yahoo.com</a>
<b>State Members &amp; San Antonio Dental Assistants Society</b>	Lori Linger	<a href="mailto:fashion1ng@sbcglobal.net">fashion1ng@sbcglobal.net</a>

# Texas Dental Assistants Association

## Standing and Special Committees 2025-2027

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Chairperson</b>	<b>Members</b>
<b>Audit</b>	Carolyn Friend	Elizabeth O'Reilly Linda Mueller Kay Jukes, EX-Officio
<b>Membership and Public Relations</b>	Edith Kendall	Elizabeth O'Reilly Carolyn Friend Angela Soto Carmen Santiago
<b>Education</b>	Angela Soto	Liza Torres
<b>Finance</b>	Elizabeth O'Reilly	Linda Mueller Amgela Soto Kay Jukes, EX-Officio
<b>Scholarship</b>	Brenda Olivarez	Lori Linger
<b>By-Laws/MOP</b>	Marthann Dafft	Elizabeth O'Reilly Alyssa Russell
<b>Necrology</b>	Edith Kendall	
<b>Strategic Planning</b>	Elizabeth O'Reilly	TDAA Board of Directors
<b>Programs</b>	Kay Jukes	Carolyn Friend
<b>Legislative</b>	Ronda Lane	
<b>Revenue</b>	Kay Jukes	Linda Mueller
<b>Scholarship</b>	Brenda Olivarez	Lori Linger
<b>Nominating</b>	Linda Mueller	Brenda Olivarez
<b>Social Media</b>	Ronda Lane	Brenda Olivarez
<b>Resolutions</b>	Elizabeth O'Reilly	Sharon Dickinson
<b>Special Committees</b>		
<b>Certificates and ADAA Awards</b>	Edith Kendall	
<b>TDAA Task Force Scholarship</b>	Sharon Dickinson	Elizabeth O'Reilly Kay Jukes
<b>History</b>	Dena Carr	Kay Jukes



**Kathleen Boyle**

on the birth of her grandbaby  
boy, Michael Newman, born on  
June 21.

**Shelley Wells**

is expecting a grandbaby in  
July.

**Ruth Ruiz**

is expecting a grandbaby in  
October.



**Warmest birthday wishes to all who  
have recently celebrated or are  
about to celebrate.**

May your days be filled with light,  
your hearts with joy,

And your year ahead with endless  
blessings...

**Happy past 4th of July & Memorial Day**



**Happy Upcoming Labor Day**





Please keep the following in your thoughts and Prayers

**Dena Carr**

Progressing well with PT, still dealing with heart issues, and currently working remotely.

**Lori Linger's**

Her father is in and out of the hospital dealing with breathing issues.

**Rosie Perez's**

Her husband is experiencing medical challenges, and her mother is also unwell.

**Kathleen Boyle**

Recovering from surgery, feeling better.

**Edith Kendall**

Had an Electrical Cardioversion.  
lost her uncle, Weldon Hall.

**Cliffa Thomasson**

Has recovered from a broken foot.



# Pictures of the Meeting in San Antonio



2025-2027 TDAA Board



Certificates of appreciation





Award to Marthann presented by Alyssa



Linda Mueller and Marthann Dafft



Invitation (a rose) to come back for TDAA annual session in 2026

This is a picture of Dena Carr, TDAA Past President in 2000 who could not attend the TDAA meeting in May to receive her 25 year charm due to medical issues. She received her charm after the meeting and is thrilled with it. She wrote the following when she submitted her picture:

**"Well, I did it 25 years. I did not think it would come, but here it is 25 years in TDAA was amazing as Past President and amazing friends you will never forget our time together. Dena Carr 2000."**





# MAYOR'S BACK 2 SCHOOL FEST

Saturday, August 2, 2025

Mayor John Whitmire and the City of Houston are helping give Houston students a strong start to the school year! Enthusiastic volunteers joined the Mayor's Back to School Fest, presented by Shell, where thousands of families received free school supplies, health screenings, and valuable resources.

In addition to distributing 25,000 backpacks filled with school supplies, the event offered on-site health services, including dental screenings and sealants, vision screenings, and routine immunizations. Families were also connected to a wide range of health and social services provided by community agencies.





# ADAA COMMUNICATION

July 8, 2025

By: Ronda V. Lane  
ADAA President



## **Communication promised.**

Last November I pledged that ADAA would make positive improvements in communication, customer service, and partnerships/sponsorships to increase non-dues revenue. I am pleased to announce that all 3 pledges are being realized.

### **1. Communication improvements**

Have you noticed that ADAA management & Board has been communicating with you, our members, more frequently? You should be seeing more email notifications about educational opportunities (AMT meeting on July 24), current topic discussion forums (such as ADAA Connection Zone: The Magic of Connection with Purpose: Advocating for Dental Assistants on July 15), webinars (June 24 & Sept 18). ADAA has also been more consistent with our publications, such as our ADAA Update, the Dental Assistant Journal, not to mention my quarterly correspondence to state presidents (Nov, Feb, April & July). The renewal notifications for membership, board minutes posting, and thanking members for rejoining have also improved significantly. We are making progress, but open to hearing from you about anything else you would like to see.

### **2. Customer Service Improvements**

As mentioned in previous correspondence, response time to [info@adaausa.org](mailto:info@adaausa.org) and 877-874-3785 is in 48 business hours. If any members have had any issues at all, please contact me quickly and let me know... I am all about customer service, and I promise that I will help and get you answers as quickly as possible. (email: [vantroba@verizon.net](mailto:vantroba@verizon.net) )

### **3. Partnerships/Sponsorships improvements**

I am pleased to announce our outreach to dental industry companies is happening and we have made significant progress. This takes time and repeated contact to secure sponsorship, but we are working on this regularly. We could use your help though. Please reach out to me if you know of any company wishing to launch a new product or service as ADAA has multiple platforms to fit any budget.

### **4. ADAA Connection Zone: The Magic of Connection with Purpose-Advocating for Dental Assistants—July 15<sup>th</sup> @ 7 pm CST, Register today!**

On July 15<sup>th</sup> the ADAA will be presenting another ADAA Connection Zone meeting. The topic is important: The Magic of Connection with Purpose: Advocating for Dental Assistants.

ADAA has been providing letters of support to states experiencing proposed policy changes concerning dental assistants. This presentation will offer testimonies from several as well as poll questions that you could voice your concerns. Together we can do wonders!

## 5. **Membership Recruitment & Retention with Dental Brain Games Booklet**

A special ADAA project management has recently completed to help with membership recruiting & retention is the Dental Brain Games booklet. This booklet is a great campaign that captures the games published in our Journal for over a year. The booklet will not be in print form, but rather a downloadable PDF document, so the cost is minimal. We can also use this booklet as a “thank you” gift when members renew or students transition to professional member.

## 6. **Follow up on attending the Consortium**

On June 6<sup>th</sup>, I attended a consortium by invitation from ADEA with many other allied dental professionals (ADHA, NDHA, DANB, ADTA, ADEA). Our objective was to explore & build collaborations among allied dental professionals and find ways we could work together, pool our resources and achieve common goals. I had thought there would be discussions on the recent AZ law about OPAs, but I was wrong. This subject did not come up. We discussed many topics, including recruitment (students and educators), standardized education and interprofessional education, workforce shortages, retention issues, public education campaigns on dental roles and responsibilities, pursuing self-regulation, and many more. This Allied Dental Partner Association is in its infancy, and ADEA will be sending out some action plans soon and if this should move forward. I will keep you posted as I learn more.

## 7. **Attention Students and Educators**

Today, an educator called me to let me know that she used one of the Members Only Recordings on our website (From Graduation to Your Future in Dental Assisting) and it was a hit! Her students really appreciated her sharing. She will be using another one soon (Advancing Your Career and Your Salary) so that her students have every resource as a member at their fingertips.

Log in to your account. Go to Resources on menu. Click on Members Only Recordings in the drop down menu and look at what you can utilize as a valued member of ADAA.

*Best Wishes* and may your goals bloom like summer gardens,

**Ronda V. Lane, ADAA President**

Email: [vantroba@verizon.net](mailto:vantroba@verizon.net)



# Texas State Board of Dental Examiners

## Board Meeting Report

By: Ronda V. Lane, BS, CDA, RDA, FADAA



The Texas State Board of Dental Examiners meets quarterly. Anyone can stream and see these meetings online and are welcome to make public comments.

The link is: <https://tsbde.texas.gov/board-and-committees/>.

### The Schedule for Upcoming Meetings

#### August 7, 2025, Committee Meetings

- Anesthesia Committee Meeting at 8:30 AM  
Agenda: <https://tsbde.texas.gov/78i8ljhbj/Anesthesia-Committee-Agenda-August-7-2025.pdf>
- Disciplinary Review Committee at 9:30 AM  
**Note:** Discussion about 3 RDAs heard before SOAH  
Agenda: <https://tsbde.texas.gov/board-and-committees/>
- Dental Practice Committee Meeting at 11:00 AM  
**Note:** Possible action on Rule 114.2 Registration of Dental Assistants  
Link: <https://tsbde.texas.gov/78i8ljhbj/Dental-Practice-Committee-Agenda-August-7-2025.pdf>
- Licensing Committee Meeting at 1:30 PM  
**Note:** Possible action on Rule 114.6 General qualifications for registration  
Link: <https://tsbde.texas.gov/78i8ljhbj/Licensing-Committee-Agenda-August-7-2025.pdf>

#### August 8, 2025, TSBDE Board Meeting

- Board Meeting at 8:30 AM  
Agenda: <https://tsbde.texas.gov/78i8ljhbj/Board-Meeting-Agenda-08.08.25.pdf>

#### **TSBDE Notification:**

TSBDE Staff Member Email Hacked, see link below

Link: <https://tsbde.texas.gov/tsbde-staff-member-email-hacked/>



# EVENTS ANNOUNCEMENT

*Save the date*

## Southwest Dental Conference



Come by and meet TDAA board members at the TDAA booth!

- August 22-23, 2025
- Anatole Hotel
- Dallas, Texas

The link to the Southwest Dental Conference.

<https://swdentalconf.org/>

## TDAA Mid-Year Board of Directors Meeting

- November 14-15, 2025
- Hotel: Embassy Suites Hotel  
3880 West Northwest Highway
- Meeting to be held at:  
Christ United Methodist Church  
2807 Valwood Pkwy,  
Farmers Branch, Texas

## TDAA Annual Session

- May 7-9, 2025
- Marriott Riverwalk Hotel
- San Antonio. Texas



# THE SCHEDULED SPEAKERS

## FOR 2025-2026 SEASON OF CE IN DALLAS

By: Alyssa Russell

Date	Speaker	Subject
Sep 09 <sup>th</sup>	Dr. Jeff Plagenhoef	Presentation on anesthesia.
Oct 14 <sup>th</sup>	Colbey Eldredge with Henry Schein	Systems to reduce stress when wearing many hats.
Nov 11 <sup>th</sup>	Lonestar Handpieces	Care and maintenance of handpieces.
December	--	Christmas Party
January	--	No meeting
Feb 10 <sup>th</sup>	Dr. Roxanne Tarapore	TBA
Mar		The State Department of Radiation.
Apr 14 <sup>th</sup>	To be Announced	Possibly Round Table

# 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 the TDAA Facebook Group for updates on:

- Important information on past TSBDE Board Meetings.
- RDA Renewal Information.
- Dental Assistants can get in trouble with TSBDE in a very public way!
- TSBDE rule 110.13 regarding Nitrous Oxide or level 1,2,3, or 4 levels of sedation.
- Important Clarification on Rule 114.12 (RDA) Renewal.
- TSBDE rules on Coronal Polishing and Pit & Fissure Sealants duties.
- The Professional Recovery Network of Texas (PRN) is recognized by the TSBDE for assisting dental professionals with potential impairments related to substance use or mental illness.



Visit us on  
**Facebook**

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

## Thank you to our TDAA Sponsors...



① ② ③ ④

Opportunities for dental assistants are currently available throughout the state of Texas!

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- Flexible temporary assignments
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- Agency pays you directly
- No tax worries - we match, withhold taxes & send W-2



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# Exploring Advanced Roles For Dental Assistants

By Ameera Qaddo



For many dental assistants, the profession begins at the chairside, but it doesn't have to end there. Dental assisting is not just a job; it's a stepping stone to a variety of fulfilling and higher-responsibility roles within the dental field.

Whether you dream of becoming a dental assisting **educator**, an **office manager**, or even moving into **sales**, **public health**, or **program coordination**, there are clear and attainable pathways for growth. What matters most is your willingness to learn, lead, and invest in your own development.



## Your Skills Are Already Your Strengths

As a dental assistant, you're already equipped with many of the skills that are essential in advanced roles:



- Communication & Patient Care
- Organization & Time Management
- Clinical Knowledge & Attention to Detail
- Team Collaboration & Multitasking

These core strengths make you a natural candidate for leadership, administration, or education roles; you just need to build on them with the right experience and training.

## 1. Dental Assisting Educator

Do you enjoy mentoring new assistants or teaching coworkers? Becoming an **educator** in a dental assisting program might be your perfect fit.

### Steps to Consider:

- Gain several years of chairside experience (usually 3–5 minimum).
- Pursue a Certified Dental Assistant (CDA) credential if you haven't already.
- Consider earning an associate's or bachelor's degree in education or a related field.
- Apply to dental assisting programs as a clinical instructor or faculty member.



Educators shape the next generation of assistants, bring clinical reality into the classroom, and often enjoy a stable work schedule with weekends and holidays off.

## 2. Office Manager or Practice Administrator

If you thrive on organization, leadership, and problem-solving, the role of **office manager** could be your next step.

### Steps to Consider:

- Gain experience with scheduling, billing, and insurance
- Learn dental software like Dentrix, Eaglesoft, or Open Dental
- Ask to shadow or support your current office manager to gain real-world insight.
- Take courses in office management, HR, or communication
- Work toward certifications such as FAADOM (Fellow of AADOM)

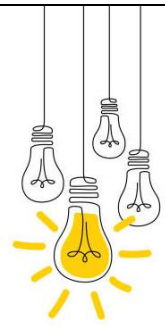
You help the business thrive by managing staff, finances, and patient satisfaction.





### 3. 🌟 Other Career Options to Explore

- **Dental Product Sales or Training Rep:** Use your knowledge to support dental companies.
- **Public Health Program Coordinator:** Help underserved communities gain access to care.
- **Continuing Education Presenter or Consultant:** Share your expertise and inspire others.



#### 📊 Tips to Get Started

1. **Set Goals:** Define where you want to be in 1–3 years. Is it in leadership, teaching, or a specific specialty?
2. **Continue Learning:** Seek out CE courses, certifications, or degree programs aligned with your goals.
3. **Find a Mentor:** Talk to professionals who've taken the path you want to follow.
4. **Speak Up:** Let your current employer know you're interested in advancing; they may offer mentorship, training, or new responsibilities.
5. **Join Associations:** Engage with TDAA, ADAA, or AADOM for networking, job opportunities, and educational resources.

Keep learning. Keep growing. Your future in dentistry is full of potential, and it's yours to shape.

