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ASSISTANTS
ASSOCIATION

EDUCATION-EFFICIENCY-LOYALTY-SERVICE

The BULLETIN

..... Together We Make a Difference



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vital part of TDAA!



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Stronger Together!



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Together We Make a Difference

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Stronger Together

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OF DENTAL CARE



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Join our community and stay
informed, inspired, and connected
with dental assistants across Texas!



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

As I begin my article, I first want to thank all members of Dallas County for hosting the past TDAA Annual Session in San Antonio. It is always a special time when we can meet to renew friendships and meet new members of TDAA.

I trust this finds everyone well and enjoying the summer. I knew we had all been affected by the weather and fires. Our thoughts and prayers go to those in Texas and in our neighboring states, Oklahoma and New Mexico.

In May, we had a reaffirmation of the Board of Directors. Your Board functions like a well-tuned we machine, one that is working diligently on your behalf. I look forward to continuing working with the awesome Board. We will continue to make strides as we look forward to the future of TDAA. Please find the Board of Directors contact information in this newsletter.

Last year, I chose the theme *Commitment to Excellence*. As I have stated before 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.

Last year, with that I mind, we accomplished many things on behalf of TDAA. Updated the TDAA brand, established a communications and membership packet, revamped the TDAA Lois Solomon Scholarship, established a marketing and advertising packet, and the TDAA General Assembly voted on a packet of

President



Sharon Dickinson

resolutions which will be placed in the Manual of Procedures. Prior to the TDAA Annual Session Pre-convention Board meeting, the Board completed the first part of a new strategic plan. The Board will continue to work on the plan prior to the mid-year Board Meeting in January. When it is completed, and after Board approval, the plan will be distributed to the local organizations and members. The Manual of Procedures is being updated with changes brought from the meeting. If your local organization would like a copy, or as a member if you would like to see a copy, please contact either your director or me. During the year 2026, I also brought testimony to the TSBDE on our behalf. I know that Ronda Lane, Legislative Chairman, has kept you all updated on the Board's activities on our Facebook page and in the newsletter. Make note of any changes; it is that important that we all take note of the happenings of the TSBDE and effect the profession of dental assisting.

I had the honor of bringing greetings to TDA on behalf of TDAA at the last TDA Annual Session. I communicated to them our ongoing commitment to them as members of the dental health care team. I also brought to their attention the fact that we are aware of the dental assisting shortage and asked if we might have discussions regarding this critical concern with them. After our annual session, I had the pleasure of meeting with the TDHA President. We discussed mutual concerns of both associations. I am hoping that both meetings will continue in the near future. As the saying goes, "stay tuned!"

As I said last year and am repeating, 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? Will ...we try again! As your President, I'm open to new ideas for a fresh start or listening to concerns you have as a member. Again, please feel free to contact me.

In closing, I pledge my *Commitment to Excellence* to my Board, to TDAA members, and in representing Texas Dental Assistants. My hopes are that each of you have a wonderful and safe summer.

Yours in TDAA,

Sharon

Sharon Dickinson,

CDA, CDPMA, RDA, CRFDA, CPFDA, CDPIC

Texas Dental Assistants Association President

Current Officers of TDAA 2025-2027

President	Sharon Dickinson	sdickins1@att.net
President Elect	Kay Jukes	kljukes@aol.com
Vice President	Edith Kendall	edithmkendall@gmail.com
Secretary	Elizabeth O'Reilly	oreillyea731@gmail.com
Immediate Past President	Marthann Dafft	ldymad@sbcglobal.net
Chairman of Past Presidents' Council, Parliamentarian	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

Dallas County Dental Assisting Society	Marthann Dafft	ldymad@sbcglobal.net
Greater Houston Dental Assistants Society	Angela Soto	avelasqu2@delmar.edu
Coastal Bend Dental Assistants Society		
Austin Dental Assistants Society	Linda Mueller	ljmtx@sbcglobal.net
TDAA Student members		
Dallas County and Students members:	Alyssa Russell	alydal9259@gmail.com
State Members & potential new organizations	Brenda Olivarez	bzblondetx@yahoo.com
State Members & San Antonio Dental Assistants Society	Lori Linger	fashon1ng@sbcglobal.net

Texas Dental Assistants Association

Standing and Special Committees 2025-2027

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

Warmest birthday wishes to everyone who has recently celebrated and to those with birthdays just around the corner. May this new year of life be filled with happiness, good health, meaningful achievements, and countless wonderful memories.

Wishing you all a fantastic year ahead!

Happy Birthday & Congratulations

Congratulations to Our
SkillsUSA National Winner!

Ms. Awa Jallow

of Dubiski Career High School
in Grand Prairie, Texas.

On earning the Bronze Medal
in the Dental Assisting – High
School Division at the 2026
SkillsUSA National Leadership
& Skills Conference.

Held in Atlanta, Georgia, June
1–5, 2026.





Happy
Memorial
Day
Honoring All Who Served



HAPPY 4TH OF JULY



INDEPENDENCE DAY

250 years of American Independence

1776 - 2026

HAPPY
LABOR DAY
★ ★ ★



Please keep the following in your thoughts and Prayers

Mohanned Neamah Loss of his father.

Kay Jukes Her best friend lost her daughter due to a terrible accident.

Lori Linger's Her father is having palliative care.

Kathleen Boyle Continues to manage several health concerns.

Jim Boyle Has been discharged from the rehabilitation facility and is continuing treatment at home.

Cliffa Thomasson Is improving.

Linda Mueller Recovering from skin cancer surgery.

Local Organization Spotlight



PHOTOS

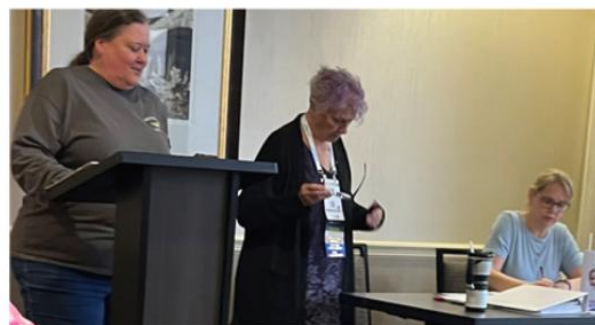
from Recent Meetings



Thank you to everyone who joined and contributed to our recent meetings and events. **Your participation makes a difference!**



Moments Together, Stronger as a Community





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. The most current meeting was on **May 7-8, 2026**. Anyone can live stream and see these meetings online and is welcome to make public comments.

The next meetings are scheduled for **August 6-7, 2026**.

Several issues were discussed at the May 7-8, 2026 meetings that were quite interesting:

1. **Board Member Dr. Robert McNeill discussed the possible revision to the Jurisprudence exam that needs to be updated, correct inaccuracies, and explore ideas on getting jurisprudence issues out to licensees and registrants (dental assistants).**
 - Unfortunately, the open rate of the TSBDE newsletter is low, and we need to find effective ways to get the messages out.
 - Approximately 23% of TSBDE disciplinary actions involve a lack of ethics and professionalism. This would include inadequate recordkeeping, inadequate treatment, lack of ethics and professionalism, improper diagnosis, improper delegation of duties to auxiliaries.
 - Dr. McNeill also pointed out how AI is being utilized, or will be used in the future, in a multitude of areas in dentistry that must be disclosed to patients from Senate Bill #1188. This bill (effective Sept. 1, 2026) requires health care practitioners who use AI for diagnostic purposes to disclose such use to their patients, review all records created by AI, and store all electronic health records (EHRs) within the US and only allow their data to be accessed by those who require the information to perform duties within their scope of their job related to treatment, payment, and other health care operations by Jan 1, 2026. Violations of SB 1188 can result in civil penalties ranging from \$5000 to \$250,000 per violation.
 - Ethics Boundaries Assessment Services (EBAS) representative Mr. Bradley Guy gave a brief presentation about an essay-based ethics evaluation tool that is used by 12 dental boards in US that is more proactive than the typical disciplinary matrix of assigning the violator to take CE.
 - He stated that 60% of misconduct is not reported but 1 in 4 of us will see ethics violations in practice. He also stated that a study found that those who took a board ordered CE webinar on ethics only spent an average time of 3 minutes 6 seconds actually watching the webinar.

This EBAS tool proposes scenarios of a violation, and the test-taker must provide an essay-based solution or corrective action. This tool cost is \$400 per test and is taken at a Prometric testing center. The TSBDE Board listened to the presentation but did not take any action at this time.

2. Service animals in dentistry are being used more frequently in dental offices as an anti-anxiety tool.

This was again a very interesting discussion.

- Does your office allow service animals to accompany a patient if they ask? Does your office provide a service animal for patients at your practice? Legal counsel was very specific that there are both state and federal laws in place about this, and every office should research this before stating that they have a “no pets” policy.
- There are only 2 (two) questions you may ask to ensure the animal is a service animal:
 - 1) Is the animal a service animal required because of a disability?
 - 2) What work or task has the animal been trained to perform?
- Only a licensed health professional who practices in the state of Texas may provide an “emotional support animal” letter in Texas, which includes therapists, psychologists, psychiatrists, doctors, nurses, counselors and social workers.
- You may ask someone to remove their service animal only if the animal is not housebroken or if the animal is out of control, and the person cannot get the animal under control.
- There are no specific, enhanced CDC sanitation protocols for service animals, but offices should maintain their standard, high-level disinfection procedures and do a thorough cleaning of the area, especially if patients or staff have allergies.

3. A Continuing Education (CE) Depository Platform is fast approaching.

- Due to Senate Bill 912, verification of health care practitioner CE compliance is due to launch by September 2026. This new platform will require all dental professionals to upload all CE taken in order to renew their license/registration.
- This new platform is being developed by eStrategy Solutions (currently the company who manages audits by TSBDE).
- The expense of the program will probably be passed onto the licensee/registrant at an additional fee.



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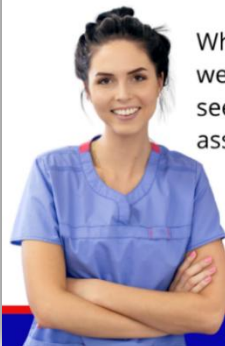


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EVENTS ANNOUNCEMENT

Important dates you might want to pencil on your calendar

EVENT	Dates	LOCATION
Southwest Dental Conference	August 21- 22, 2026	Dallas, TX
Star of the South Dental Meeting	September 25- 26, 2026	Norris Conference Center Houston, Texas
ADA 2027 Scientific Session	June 18-21, 2027	Washington, DC
TDAA Mid-Year Board of Directors	January 15-16, 2027	Embassy Suites Hotel 3880 West Northwest Highway Dallas TX
The Texas Meeting 2027	May 13-15, 2027	San Antonio, TX
TDAA Annual Session and General Assembly	May 13-15, 2027	Marriott Riverwalk Hotel

💎 We look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events! 💎



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.

Stay Connected: TDAA Facebook Group Updates:

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



- Dental Assisting Beyond the Dental Office.
- Reinstating a Canceled or Retired Registration.
- **Coronal Polishing in Texas:** Clarification on who may perform coronal polishing, required training, and who may provide that training.
- Critical steps for error prevention and effective communication, because mistakes happen, and dental assistants play a vital role.
- Could stronger education standards lead to better pay and benefits for Texas dental assistants?
- **AI in Dentistry:** Artificial intelligence and digital technology are becoming more common. Is the dental assistant's role changing?
- A TSBDE-approved Human Trafficking course can count toward the required 12 hours of CE.
- **Coming Soon:** A new CE depository platform will require dental assistants, dentists, and hygienists to verify CE completion before registration/license renewal, as required by Texas Senate Bill 912.
- **TSBDE Reminder:** Curodont application may only be performed by a DDS or RDH in Texas, regardless of manufacturer claims.
- **2025 Rule Change:** Lead aprons for routine dental X-rays are optional for patients in Texas.
- Learn handpiece maintenance tips from a professional handpiece repair company.
- Download Regulatory Guide 4.4 – Dental Facilities and keep a completed copy in your office radiation binder.
- Help is available for dental assistants audited by TSBDE.
- Order your official copper-plated Texas RDA lapel pin and wear it with pride.

BACK-TO-SCHOOL

Dental Tips for Families

— Ameera Qaddo —

As summer comes to an end and children head back to school, families are busy preparing with new backpacks, school supplies, and schedules. It's also the perfect time to make oral health part of the back-to-school checklist.

Healthy smiles help children feel confident, stay comfortable, and avoid dental problems that can interfere with learning.



1. Schedule a Dental Checkup

Before the school year gets too busy, encourage families to schedule routine dental examinations and cleanings. Regular visits help detect problems early and keep children's smiles healthy throughout the year.



2. Pack Tooth-Friendly Lunches

Nutritious foods such as fresh fruits, vegetables, cheese, yogurt, and whole grains support good oral health. Limiting sugary snacks and drinks can reduce the risk of cavities and provide lasting energy for the school day.



3. Establish a Daily Oral Hygiene Routine

Children should brush twice a day with fluoride toothpaste for two minutes and floss once daily. Parents should supervise younger children and encourage older children to maintain these healthy habits independently.



4. Protect Smiles During Sports

As fall sports begin, remind families that a properly fitted mouthguard is one of the best ways to prevent dental injuries during athletic activities.



5. Replace Worn Toothbrushes

A new school year is a great reminder to replace toothbrushes every three to four months, or sooner if the bristles become frayed.



6. Be a Positive Role Model

Children are more likely to develop lifelong healthy habits when they see parents and caregivers practicing good oral hygiene themselves.



As dental professionals, we have an important role in educating families and reinforcing preventive care. By encouraging healthy habits at the beginning of the school year, we can help children enjoy brighter smiles, fewer dental problems, and greater confidence both in and out of the classroom.

Here's to a healthy, successful, and smile-filled school year!



Sources: American Dental Association (MouthHealthy.org) | American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry (AAPD.org)
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC.gov/oral-health)