Happy New Year!
As I reflect on 2016, I am filled with gratitude.
Gratitude for each of you!
Gratitude for the opportunity to serve as your president.
Gratitude for your willingness to promote a positive image of organized dentistry.

Please join me in extending heartfelt thanks to Kelly Lemke for compiling this important newsletter. It keeps us connected and showcases the wonderful ways in which we’ve worked and played together to strengthen our Alliance and promote quality dental health.

In traveling across the state, I am continually inspired by your enthusiasm and commitment. While enjoying the warm hospitality in each district, I am impressed with your many innovative activities that promote dental education in our communities. I especially appreciate our members’ mentoring of dental students and their spouses. I am touched by the Alliance members who spend hours at TMOM events to ensure that underserved populations receive good dental care.

Great opportunities await us in 2017: Legislative Day, Future Focus meeting, and TDA Convention! Once again we will come together to network our common goals, provide support, and educate ourselves on the challenges affecting dentistry.

Just as the honeybees’ work bears fruit and creates honey, let our friendships and endeavors bring forth ways to add sweetness and sustenance to our Alliance — and to dentistry.

Thank you ATDA
Rita M. Cammarata, DDS, TDA President

It is an honor to bring greetings to the Alliance of the Texas Dental Association (ATDA). As dentists, we are only as successful as those who stand beside us. Our business partners, office teams, and families provide the support each of us require to ensure we are giving our best to the patients we serve. Thank you, each of you, for being our partners in life as well as in our professions.

As a new legislative session begins, your support is invaluable: preparing for Legislative Day, greeting legislators and staff in the State Capitol, and promoting oral health are outstanding examples of your loyalty and enthusiasm for TDA. Furthermore, your tireless hours of work at Texas Mission of Mercy events throughout the year help us help those in need and improve oral health care across Texas.

Last fall I was privileged to be invited to attend and participate in the ATDA Fall Board Meeting. The many conversations I was a part of confirmed the passion of our ATDA members. This event gave me the opportunity to experience up close the outstanding work of our ATDA. It has been an honor for me to serve as TDA President, and I look forward to continuing the relationships made throughout my leadership year. Being a witness to your dedication to dentistry is not something taken lightly but respected by all members, leadership and staff of the Texas Dental Association.

Thank you ATDA members! You are a valued and essential part of the Texas Dental Association. Wishing you a prosperous year as we work together to ensure beautiful smiles of all Texans.
Do You Live in an Inactive ATDA District?
Would You Like to Activate Your Local Alliance?
Help and funds are available!
Just create a dental health project!

A Step-by-Step Guide to Reactivating Your District

Submit a letter from two Members-At-Large from your inactive district requesting funds

List the intended use for the funds (toothbrushes for children, TMOM support activities, etc.)

Name the entity to whom the funds should go (inactive Alliance or area Dental Society)

Letter must be signed by (1) two ATDA Members-At-Large from the inactive district and (2) area Dental Society President or Board Member

Submit your request to the ATDA Membership Chairman:
Julia Martin
1201 Glenbury Court
Arlington, TX 76006

Questions? Email Julia at AllianceTDA@hotmail.com

ATDA to Sponsor Speaker on Back Pain in Dentistry
If you or your spouse has escaped debilitating back pain over the course of a career, be grateful! For the rest of you, ATDA is sponsoring a TDA Meeting speaker who will address the unique musculoskeletal needs of the dental profession.

Treating Back & Neck Pain in Modern Dentistry:
A Survival Guide for the Rest of Your Career!
Tim Caruso, MBA, MS, PT
Saturday, May 6, 2017
8:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Timothy J. Caruso, MBA, MS, PT is a practicing physical therapist who has worked extensively with dental professionals since 1988 in the areas of ergonomics, injury prevention, productivity, exercise, and wellness.

Sign up via the TDA Meeting registration portal at tdameeting.com
ATDA Membership Committee: Reaching Out Across Texas!

The ATDA is making strides in its effort to identify, define, and recruit new members. In particular we are targeting dental students/spouses. It’s an exciting time for the Alliance of the TDA!

Under the leadership of Julia Martin, the Membership Committee held a workshop in July with a focus on the three Texas dental schools. Those in attendance for the brain-storming event were Beth Voorhees, Janet Crow, Janet Hooten, Debbie Moore, Beth Potter, Karen Cox, Gloria Morales, and Julia Martin.

Job #1 was to brief committee members on the characteristics of Millennials. Julia states, “I can't express how important it is that Alliances get to know who the ‘Millennials’ are and what makes them tick. They are our future.” With that in mind, the Membership Committee resolved that “the ATDA must start to engage dental students on Day 1 of dental school.”

This plan was put into action in both Dallas and San Antonio. The A&M/Baylor College of Dentistry American Dental Student Association (ASDA) chapter invited the ATDA to their annual Legislative Kickoff. The purpose of this event was to spread awareness and advocacy of organized dentistry among incoming first-year students as well as upperclassmen. The TDA and the ATDA financially co-sponsored the event at Three Sheets Restaurant on September 23rd. Both the ATDA and TDA were recognized as sponsors on the official Legislative Kickoff t-shirt and poster.

About 50 students attended this event, and Julia spoke with every student she met about the Alliance - with the Alliance’s endowed Scholarship Funds generating lots of interest! All were eager to continue a dialogue with the ATDA.

In December, the ATDA Membership Committee's Cookie Break during finals week at A&M/Baylor College of Dentistry was a huge hit. The District 12/Fort Worth Alliance took dozens of homemade cookies to awaiting dental students - the line was out the door and around the corner! The students could hardly believe that the ATDA had brought them HOMEMADE cookies!

In San Antonio, Gina Villarreal and Gloria Morales attended the July kickoff event for the Great Expectations mentoring program at Two Bros. BBQ. This ADA-sponsored program matches each new freshman class of dental students with local dentists who remain with the students throughout their 4 years of dental school. While the dental students were meeting their new mentors, Gina and Gloria met with their spouses to share their experiences and advice and to tell them how being an Alliance member has enriched their lives.

The 2016 goal for the Membership Committee was to target dental students and gain name recognition for the ATDA by getting the Alliance name and logo out to the students. Sounds like Julia and her team were a big success!

Each year the ATDA Memorial Committee awards scholarships to deserving third-year students at each of the three Texas dental schools. 2016 winners were:

UTHSC Houston School of Dentistry: Megan Bender, Eric Phan, Kimberly Raabe, Kimberlie Temple, and Sonny Wong

UTHSC San Antonio School of Dentistry: Sammy Houari, Jay Patel, and Krishna Patel

Texas A&M Health Science Center Baylor College of Dentistry: Manuela De Los Angeles Avila

Left: Membership Chairman Julia Martin visits with students (and spreads the word about the Alliance!) at the ASDA Baylor/ A&M Legislative Kickoff.

Below: Debbie Moore, Paula Owens, Jill Kralicke, Beth Potter, and Julia Martin had a blast interacting with Baylor/A&M students, and all agreed that the success of this event was well worth the hours put into baking!

Pictured Right: UTHSC San Antonio dental students Jay Patel and Sammy Houari are introduced at the luncheon by 2015-2016 President Janell Dunsworth and Memorial Committee Chairman Terri Shepherd.
Be a Voice for Dentistry in Texas!

February 22, 2017

The Alliance has a longstanding commitment to advocating for the dental Profession by preparing and delivering ‘goodie bags’ to each legislative office at the Capitol in Austin on the day before Legislative Day. On Tuesday, February 21st Alliance members will deliver these much-coveted gift bags containing toothpaste, toothbrush, and other oral care items. On Wednesday, February 22nd dentists from across the state of Texas will descend upon Austin to meet with their Legislators and to advocate for the practice of dentistry and for protection of patient rights.

Here are some of the issues facing our profession during this Legislative Session:

- TSBDE Sunset Review
- Dental School Funding
- Insurance Reform
- Local Anesthetic Administration
- Midlevel Dental Providers
- Access to Oral Health
- Patient Protection and Safety

For more information, contact Janet Crow, ATDA Liaison to the TDA Council on Legislative and Regulatory Affairs, at jswcrow@aol.com.

Help Safeguard Our Profession Through DENPAC

Send a strong message to legislative officials – that dentists are active, passionate, and informed of the issues that affect their profession – by donating to DENPAC. This political action committee exists to safeguard against counter-productive legislation and to ensure that the TDA is a constant presence at our state Capitol in Austin.

And there’s good news...as a spouse of a TDA member dentist, your contribution is part of the Partnership Program! You can support dentistry AND get recognized at 50% of the TDA member contribution level.

Silver Lining Fund
Supporting the Dental Families of Texas

Unexpected illness...death...natural disaster.

When someone in our Texas dental family encounters unforeseen circumstances, the ATDA stands ready to help! The ATDA Silver Lining Fund makes monies available for the families of dentists needing relief through a completely confidential process. District 12/Fort Worth held a bake sale at the November meeting of the Fort Worth District Dental Society, raising $1,475 for the fund! The Capital Area Dental Alliance (CADA) of District 10 raffled off two gift certificates to The Menagerie, a fine jewelry and gift store, raising $860. Mary Coleman, longtime Silver Lining Chairman for District 20 (San Antonio) was honored at the December meeting of the San Antonio District Dental Society. Through her efforts, thousands of dollars have been raised to benefit those in need.

The Alliance has granted almost $200,000 through this fund. To recommend an individual or family to be considered for funds, contact Silver Lining Fund Chairman Kim Sauer at kim1sauer@gmail.com, 281-414-7605 (mobile), or 281-861-6317 (home).

Because misfortune can strike at any time (and it’s a relief to know that our dental family can help), Silver Lining funds are shrinking due to disbursements for dental family needs over the last 2 years. Please consider making a donation and encouraging others in our dental family to contribute as well. All donations should be mailed to the ATDA at:

Janet Crow, ATDA Treasurer
435 Coventry Road
Spicewood TX 78669

Please be sure to write ‘Silver Lining Fund’ in the memo line.
Teaming Up to Protect Our Profession: Janet Crow & Janet Hooten

No one in the Alliance has done more to protect a dentist’s ability to provide safe and effective patient care than two ladies who share both a name and a passion for dentistry. Janet Crow & Janet Hooten have each served multiple terms as ATDA Liaison to the TDA Council on Legislative and Regulatory Affairs (CLRA) and ATDA Liaison to the DENPAC Board of Directors.

In 2015, Janet Crow received a TDA President’s Award at the House of Delegates Assembly in recognition of her years of service and dedication to the TDA’s legislative efforts. This year, Greater Houston Dental Society (GHDS) President Duke Ho presented her with an award for her 18 years of service on Houston’s Legislative Affairs Committee.

Our two Janets have many things in common:

- They share a Swedish heritage, right down to family that emigrated to America from the province of Småland
- They both married their high school sweethearts (Drs. Richard Crow and Jeran Hooten) and celebrated their 50th wedding anniversaries in June
- They both attended UT and ‘bleed orange’ with a passion for Longhorn football
- They share a love for being on the water, with the Hootens owning a water skiing business, and the Crows living on Lake Travis
- Both have worked alongside their spouses
- Both are Past Presidents of the ATDA: Janet Crow in 1992-1993, and Janet Hooten in 2008-2009

Last, but certainly not least, they have both shared in political action activities with their spouses. Dr. Hooten was Secretary-Treasurer for DENPAC when the Alliance was first invited to have a representative to DENPAC. Janet Crow first became involved with political action when Dr. Crow was asked to be DENPAC Representative for District 8. More recently she served as Burnet County delegate to the Texas Republican State Convention in May 2016…a “great learning experience!” She is now on the Board as Secretary for the Burnet County Republican Women.

Their involvement has led to lasting friendships with many dedicated dentists who have contributed greatly to the protection of the profession and the people of Texas.

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For more information, contact ATDA Liaison to DENPAC, Janet Hooten at jjhooten@sbcglobal.net.

The Root...Your Source on the Latest in Dental Legislation, Regulation, Advocacy!

TDA publishes an easy-to-read monthly newsletter that will keep you up-to-date on the latest matters affecting the practice of dentistry.

Just visit TDA.org and click on the tab ‘Advocacy’ to download the latest issue of The Root!
A meeting of presidents! ATDA President Beth Voorhees visits with TDA President Dr. Rita Cammarata at the January 2017 Meeting of the Capital Area Dental Society.

Chita Harris presents ATDA President Beth Voorhees with an ‘Alcalde’ naming her as Honorary Mayor of La Villita in San Antonio at the District 20 Christmas luncheon.

Diane Bogan, Janelle Dunsworth, Janet Crow, and Heide Heath enjoy a luncheon in March at the beautiful Junior League of Houston in honor of Janelle, who served as 2015-2016 ATDA President.

The volunteers at the Smiles of Hope charity dental care event were well-fed thanks to the efforts of Kristen Huriega (left) of District 20/San Antonio. Susan Quick (right), Director of Development at the San Antonio Christian Dental Clinic, joins her in the clinic’s break room.

Reconnecting over lunch are District 10/Capital Area members Phyllis Worob, Ann Root, and Kim Widner.

Jeanette Kostohryz and Melanie Steglich added holiday spirit to the dental office at Dallas Heritage Village in preparation for the Christmas Candle Lighting Tour.

The Capital Area Dental Alliance collected lots and lots of toys for the Blue Santa program at their Christmas cookie exchange.

Susan Eickenhorst and Linda Radwanski at the Capital Area Dental Alliance Christmas cookie exchange.
ALLIANCE RETURNS TO THE HIVE IN FREDERICKSBURG FOR 2016 FALL BOARD MEETING

ATDA Executive Board members were refreshed & rejoined with one another at the Fall Board meeting at the lovely Inn & Spa on Baron’s Creek in Fredericksburg on September 29-30. This venue was such a hit in 2015 that the ‘busy bees’ of ATDA decided to ‘buzz on back’ in 2016!

‘Queen Bee’ Beth Voorhees led us warmly & efficiently through all of our committee meetings and reports. Special guest and Dental Health speaker was Richard Tagle, CEO of the Andy Roddick Foundation. He spoke about ways to give underserved kids a chance at a better future.

On Thursday evening, everyone buzzed over to the Garrison Brothers Distillery for a private tour, tasting, and dinner. TDA President Dr. Rita Cammarata was a special guest for the evening. Tour guides explained the process of making bourbon whiskey from ‘corn to cork!’ TDA staff Paul Schlesinger and his band - back by popular demand! - once again kept everyone entertained during dinner to the sweet sounds of Western swing.

Thank you to Districts 5 (Dallas County), 6 (Waxahachie/Ennis) and 10 (Capital Area/Austin), who were the hosts for this enjoyable 2-day event!
Texas Well-Represented in AADA

The Alliance to the American Dental Association (AADA) has undergone an organizational overhaul, but one thing that hasn’t changed is the involvement of its Texan members.

Our own Sharon Bryant was installed as President-Elect at the AADA Convention in Denver in October. She’ll follow Teresa Theurer of Utah into the role of President in October 2017. Teresa is the mother of ATDA Publicity Secretary Lisa Burns.

What’s more, Diane Bogan is currently serving as Treasurer for the AADA Foundation for Dental Health Education, and Brittany Checketts is the Leadership Council representative for Student Spouse Recruitment.

AADA members - and future members - are invited to the 2017 AADA Leadership Conference in Salt Lake City, Utah on April 27-29 during the beauty of springtime in the Rockies. This conference will be held in conjunction with the Utah Dental Association annual meeting, so terrific continuing education courses will be available for your spouse!

Highlights include a dental health fair with each state running a booth for elementary-aged children; a luncheon with the Alliance to the Utah Dental Association in the beautiful ballroom in the Joseph Smith Memorial Building; the ADPAC breakfast; and breakout classes covering the following topics: New Dentist/Student Spouse, Office Marketing, Service Opportunities, and Practice Management.

You will also have the opportunity to attend a rehearsal of the famous Mormon Tabernacle Choir!

Visit AllianceADA.org for more information.
Five Districts Share Dental Health Award Funds

What has kept many of us ‘abuzz’ this year? Dental health! As part of ATDA’s mission of “education, fellowship, and service” five Districts applied for the Dental Health Award. With so many worthy projects, Dental Health Chairman Jill Kralicke and her committee decided that all five groups should share in the funds. To learn about these projects, just read on!

District 5 Dallas County
Dallas County Alliance members worked with Texans both old and young this year. They have reached about 1,500 students with their puppet shows this year; they also speak with the students about good dental health habits, and each student is presented with a toothbrush and toothpaste. Also, in March District 5 bought dental care products and hosted a program at the Senior Source of Dallas. This event is coordinated with Community Dental Care, who provides education for the seniors. According to District 5 Dental Health Chairman Betty Ball, “Because of ATDA award money, we are able to provide gift bags with dental and denture care products for the seniors and the ones they assist, averaging about 300 bags. We give these following a presentation that addresses dental needs of seniors...We appreciate the contribution of ATDA to help make this outreach possible.”

District 8 Houston
In August the Greater Houston Dental Alliance provided toothbrushes for back-to-school backpacks for the San José Clinic. In December, members prepared and delivered oral hygiene kits to a women’s shelter. The GHDA will also be participating in dental health activities alongside Greater Houston Dental Society members and other dental professionals in early 2017.

District 12 Fort Worth
Fort Worth Alliance members continued their successful Parker County Senior Smiles project in memory of Dr. Fred Potter, a longtime, well respected Weatherford dentist. Members put together 144 kits (half for regular seniors, half for denture wearers). All kits included a special brochure designed by Julia Martin that contained info on brushing, flossing, and denture care. Members went to the Weatherford Senior Center in April to distribute the kits to a group of extremely fun and appreciative seniors! They told dental jokes and had a wonderful visit with the seniors there. The Alliance had such a warm reception that they have decided to do the project again in 2017!

District 20 San Antonio
The San Antonio Alliance used their funds to purchase audiovisual equipment for their oral health puppet show outreach at local schools. These puppet shows are organized with help from Jodie Hostetter, RDH from San Antonio Metro Health. Jodie manages the school-based sealant program and is the liaison for Miles of Smiles, Smiles of Hope, and Give Kids A Smile Day in San Antonio.

District 10 Austin/Capital Area
Janet Hooten reports that the “money that we received from the Dental Health Award was used to buy dental supplies for the children who attend The Andy Roddick Foundation’s Summer Programs. The children who attend are those who do not have the abilities to attend camps, etc. during the time they are off from school.”
“Leadership is about making others better as a result of your presence and making sure that impact lasts in your absence.” These words from Facebook executive Sheryl Sandberg perfectly sum up the ATDA presidency of Janell Dunsworth of District 5/Dallas. Highlights of her presidency include:

- Addressing the challenges of membership by working with ASDA to recruit dental student spouses in Dallas, San Antonio and Houston
- Making a tangible difference through financial and man-hour support of TMOMs
- Reactivating District 2 in the Beaumont-Port Arthur Area
- Attending the AADA Leadership Conference
- Visiting Alliance districts across Texas

Hip, hip, ‘whoo-ray’ to Janell for a terrific Alliance year!

Ruth Ault and Conni Durbin had ‘owl the fun’ greeting Alliance members at the Registration table.

Pattie Nield invites Alliance members to “guess the number of owls” on the poster for a prize (answer: lots and lots of owls!)

Alliance members and special guests enjoy great food and great company at the annual Alliance Luncheon. This fun event sells out every year!

The Past Presidents’ Luncheon was a forum for socializing and for exchanging experiences of the past and challenges of the future relative to the Alliance. Nineteen current and former Presidents were in attendance.

Congressman and Mrs. Brian Babin from Houston and 2015-2016 AADA President Sue Gardner and her husband Dr. Kim Gardner enjoy the President’s Reception.

2015-2016 TDA President Craig Armstrong Presents Janell Dunsworth with the Alliance Recognition Award at the TDA House of Delegates in May.

Pattie Nield, Patty Taylor (underneath the costume!), and Jeanette Morgan—all from District 20/San Antonio — had an ‘owlsome’ time at Convention.
Alliance Serves America’s Heroes

The first veterans-only Texas Mission of Mercy (TMOM) was held in Dallas on November 11-12, 2016! Alliance members were among the hundreds of volunteers supporting 100 volunteer dentists to put a smile on the face of nearly 1,000 veterans.

TMOM is a mobile dental clinic that travels around the state providing basic dental care (including cleanings, fillings, or extractions) free of charge to uninsured Texans. Nearly 90 percent of veterans living in Texas do not qualify for dental benefits, meaning most of the brave men and women who served in our military services must pay out of pocket for dental care. For many of our veterans living on a fixed income, dental care can be unaffordable.

A big ‘thank you’ to our TDA and Alliance members who helped to serve those who have served our country!

Julia Martin checks blood glucose level on a veteran before treatment is delivered.

Julia Martin and ATDA President Beth Voorhees teamed up to make Dallas veterans feel at home.

ATDA President Beth Voorhees visits with grateful veterans in the pop-up clinic in the Cummings Committee Center gym.

Thank you to the Alliance TMOM team! (L to R) Jeanette Kostohryz, Immediate Past President Janell Dunsworth, President-Elect Patty Taylor, Paula Owens, President Beth Voorhees, Julia Martin, Diane Bogan, Debbie Moore, and Kathy Cunningham.

Dr. Mike Giesler of the TDA Smiles Foundation receives a $5,000 check from Paula Owens, Foundation board member, and Diane Bogan, ATDA Liaison to the Board at the TDA House of Delegates in May.

The Alliance Supports TMOMs Financially Too!

In appreciation and support of all of the participating dentists, hygienists, assistants, laboratory technicians, staff and other volunteers who serve the less fortunate citizens of Texas through their participation in TMOMs, the Alliance of the TDA was thrilled to present a $5,000 check to the TDA Smiles Foundation for the purchase of a portable dental unit, chair, carrying case and other TMOM supplies.

Your Alliance membership DOES make a difference in the great state of Texas!
87th Annual Session
May 4-5, 2017
Grand Hyatt Hotel - San Antonio, Texas

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

THURSDAY, MAY 4

8:30 am - 4:00 pm  Registration
9:00 am - 11:45 am  ATDA Committee Meetings
10:00 am - 4:00 pm  Guest Vendors & Hospitality Room
12:00 pm - 1:45 pm  Past Presidents’ Luncheon*
2:30 pm - 4:00 pm  Cooking Class & Tasting**
4:00 pm - 5:00 pm  Committee Meetings
6:00 pm - 7:30 pm  President’s Reception (sponsored by Austin Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery and The Alliance of the Texas Dental Association)

FRIDAY, MAY 5

9:00 am - 1:00 pm  Registration
7:30 am - 9:30 am  Executive Board Breakfast Meeting
9:00 am - 3:00 pm  Guest Vendors & Hospitality Room
9:45 am - 11:45 am  General Meeting 1st Session
12:00 pm - 1:30 pm  Ticketed Alliance Luncheon**
1:45 pm - 3:30 pm  General Meeting 2nd Session & Installation of 2017-2018 Officers
3:30 pm - 4:30 pm  2017-2018 Executive Board Orientation

Saturday, May 6

8:00 am  President’s Address to TDA House of Delegates
9:00 am - 12:00 pm  ATDA-Sponsored Speaker Tim Caruso**