

Report No. 24	New <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Substitute <input type="checkbox"/>	Amendment <input type="checkbox"/>
Submitted By:	Dr. Brendan Dowd		
Date Submitted:	May 13, 2026	Reference Committee <input type="checkbox"/>	Direct to House <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Total Financial Implication:	\$ none		
Amount One-time	\$ none	Amount On-going	\$ none

ADA Trustee

1 ADA TRUSTEE REPORT TO THE 2026 NYSDA HOUSE OF DELEGATES

2
3 A warm welcome to the New York State Dental Association 2026 House of Delegates.
4 Once again, it has been an exciting year at your American Dental Association. To begin
5 with, we have a new Executive Director. Dr. Nader Nadershahi began his term earlier
6 this year on March 23rd and he has hit the ground running. As a member of the search
7 committee, I saw firsthand the unique talent, experience and temperament Dr.
8 Nadershahi possesses for this position. I have the utmost confidence he will lead the
9 ADA to new heights in advocating for our members as well as the patients we treat. Our
10 interim Executive Director, Dr. Betsy Shapiro, returned to her previous position of Chief
11 of Governance and Strategy Management. She performed extraordinarily well for the
12 ADA in her role as interim Executive Director and we all owe her a debt of gratitude for
13 her work.

14
15 The American Dental Association Credit Union (ADACU) has gotten off to a nice
16 start. As of March 31st, of this year, we have had 259 members join, with total deposits
17 of over \$3.8 million dollars. Loans have been taken out for mortgages, automobiles,
18 credit cards, personal and student loans totaling more than \$2.5 million. Total product
19 growth adds up to \$6.4 million. We are averaging 43 new members per month, which is
20 above our original estimate. All indicators are showing successful results. As leaders of
21 NYSDA, this is a tangible member benefit we should be communicating with our
22 members. It's a great example of creating unique benefits for an association with power
23 in numbers. Please make sure this information is disseminated to your components.

24
25 The ADA continues to advocate for community water fluoridation at .7 parts per
26 million. Unfortunately, in the last two years, the debate on this subject has intensified
27 with Florida and Utah passing legislation removing properly titrated fluoride from
28 community water. Concurrently, legislation has been passed in fifteen states supporting
29 it. The ADA, through the National Fluoride Advocacy Committee and the ADA Fluoride
30 Ambassadors, has been proactive in taking this issue on. It consists of dentists,
31 hygienists, deans and faculty of dental schools, pediatricians, nurses, water experts,
32 local community leaders, students, as well as research experts. Whether it is testifying
33 at hearings, creating legislation, writing letters, giving media interviews or educating the

34 public, these two groups have been on the forefront in supporting community water
35 fluoridation. As the chairman of the ADA Fluoride Ambassadors, we meet monthly to
36 give updates from around the country, plan for upcoming hearing or events, compare
37 and review testimonies and keep statistics to inform our members of the changes in
38 community water fluoridation in their communities. The ADA has also testified and
39 lobbied at the federal level in Washington, DC for community water fluoridation and
40 fluoride supplements. This will continue for the foreseeable future to protect the oral
41 health and overall health of the citizens of our country.

42
43 The ADA Governance and Organizational Health Evaluation recommended by the
44 2025 ADA House of Delegates is well underway. An independent firm, Vista Cova, was
45 selected by the ADA Governance Committee in consultation with a Governance and
46 Organizational Health Advisory Evaluation Task Force, which includes members
47 representing the House of Delegates. Together, there is now one work group, the
48 Governance and Organizational Work Group, that will be the stakeholder group charged
49 with reviewing initial data, receiving synthesized reports and draft recommendations,
50 and providing direct feedback to Vista Cova as work progresses. Monthly progress
51 reports will be sent out from Dr. Rosato and Dr. Nadershahi to keep members informed.
52 There will be a Town Hall for members of the House of Delegates to engage with Vista
53 Cova on the afternoon of Friday, October 9th, in Indianapolis before the start of the
54 2026 House of Delegates.

55
56 I would like to congratulate Dr. Maurice Edwards upon completing his term as
57 President of the New York State Dental Association. I appreciated working alongside
58 him and the NYSDA Board of Trustees this past year. Thank you to the New York
59 County Dental Society and Executive Director Diane Laurenzo for their wonderful work
60 planning the NYSDA House of Delegate meeting in Atlantic City this year. My
61 compliments to the NYSDA staff and Executive Director Mike Herrmann for their hard
62 work throughout this past year.

63
64 My last triennial letter to the components will be in September this year. I will then
65 hand off the reigns to our next Trustee from the Second District, Dr. Payam Gourdarzi. It
66 has been a truly wonderful experience and an honor of a lifetime representing all of you
67 at the American Dental Association these past four years.

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69 If you need to contact me, please email me at dowdb@ada.org,
70 drrndowd@gmail.com or call me at 716-510-3217. Have a great summer and the best
71 to you and your families.

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