

Report No.	24	New <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Substitute <input type="checkbox"/>	Amendment <input type="checkbox"/>
Submitted By:	Dr. Amarilis Jacobo, Vice President			
Date Submitted:	May 24, 2025	Reference Committee <input type="checkbox"/>	Direct to House <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Total Financial Implication:	\$ none			
Amount One-time	\$ none	Amount On-going	\$ none	

### Report of the Vice President

As I begin to reflect on this past year as Vice President of this fine organization, the first thing that comes to mind is unity. I am humbled by the relationships I have cultivated and the lessons I have learned. To the executive committee, the board of trustees, and the staff, I say thank you. In a year of transition, I have uncovered that any turmoil can be persevered through the strength of our core values. Those values are advocacy, hard work, determination, and leadership. So, let's continue to push our goal further and accomplish even more.

Advocacy. The dental profession at this moment has many issues to address. Our organization's role is to be an advocate not only for the dentists in our region but also for our patients. One focus should center on providing updated information about community water fluoridation, offering strategic resources and toolkits to dental leaders, and maintaining communities access to optimally fluoridated water at 0.7 mg/L. We know that children's dental health would drastically decline without fluoride. As an organization who prides itself on advocacy, we must work with the State to identify champions to take on this charge. To succeed, we also must collaborate with other states to strengthen this advocacy on a national level.

Hard-work and Determination. We must strive to expand access to care to vulnerable communities across New York State. For that, we must continue our engagement in the political arena, educating our representatives about their constituents' oral health, access to treatment, and coverage for that care. From dentures to braces, oral health is amidst a public crisis. To reconcile, we will need to continuously commit many hours of service, travel to Albany, and attend meetings. We are an entity of and for our colleagues and our patients. This year and the next year will require hard work, but - knowing many of you - I know we can adjust to this new demand.

Leadership. I would like to end by reflecting on something that brought me great joy through this past year. I had the pleasure of walking Congress's hallways this past March, accompanied by a delegation of students from various New York universities. Seeing the students take charge on crucial points in the highest places of authority, I confidently envision a bright future for organized dentistry. Closing this term and starting anew, I look forward to continuing the mission of this organization and fulfilling the value we embody.