FAQs – Unification of Mid-Peninsula Dental Society and San Mateo County Dental Society

1. Why are the two societies merging?

The merger formalizes a long-standing partnership between Mid-Peninsula and San Mateo County Dental Societies. For years, we've collaborated on events, shared resources, and supported each other's missions. Unifying allows us to serve our members more efficiently and with greater impact.

2. What are the goals of the merged organization?

Our unified society will be dedicated to advancing the dental profession by providing exceptional member services, continuing education, and advocacy—while preserving the community spirit and local identity of both original organizations.

3. How will this affect current members?

Members will benefit from enhanced services, expanded programming, and a more streamlined organizational structure. The sense of community and local representation that members value will be maintained.

4. Will the name of the organization change?

Yes, we will be called The Peninsula Dental Society

5. What will happen to leadership and governance?

Leadership will reflect the strengths and experience of both societies, ensuring balanced representation and continuity. A new governance structure will be established to support our unified goals and serve our members effectively.
As part of this process, **the bylaws of the new organization will be reviewed and edited** to reflect the merger, streamline operations, and uphold the values and mission of the combined society. Members will be kept informed and may have opportunities to provide input during this process.

6. How does Mary Conway's retirement relate to the merger?

Mary Conway's retirement marks the end of a remarkable chapter in our history. Rather than seek outside management, we are choosing to honor her legacy by investing in our internal community and continuing her vision through collaboration and unity.

7. Will there be any immediate changes to dues or benefits?

Yes. As part of the merger effective September 12, 2026, member dues will be adjusted to match the lower rate currently in place between the two societies. This ensures fairness and

immediate value for all members. Member benefits will remain the same or improve as we combine resources and expand services.

8. How will this affect continuing education and events?

Members can expect a broader array of continuing education opportunities and events, made possible by our combined resources. Our goal is to enhance access, quality, and variety.

9. Will I still be able to network with colleagues in my local area?

Yes. Local identity and community engagement remain central to our mission. We will continue to host regional events and networking opportunities across both areas to maintain the close-knit connections members value. In addition, **core events that members know and enjoy, such as annual meetings, CE seminars, and social gatherings, will continue as part of our shared calendar**.

10. How can I get involved in the transition?

Members are encouraged to participate in upcoming events, provide feedback, and help shape the future of our united organization.

11. Will events and meetings be held equally across both regions?

Yes. One of our top priorities is to ensure geographic fairness in planning events, meetings, and continuing education opportunities. We are committed to hosting gatherings in both the Mid-Peninsula and San Mateo County areas to maintain accessibility and engagement for all members.

12. How will communication with members be handled after the merger?

Members will receive updates via email, newsletters, and dedicated web pages. We are also establishing dedicated points of contact to ensure questions and feedback are addressed promptly. Your voice matters, and we will prioritize open communication.

13. How will the budget and finances be managed between the two societies?

As part of the unification process, both societies' financial assets and obligations have been carefully reviewed and transparently integrated into a single, consolidated budget. A joint finance committee, comprised of representatives from both organizations, will oversee the transition to ensure fiscal responsibility, alignment with our shared mission, and equitable allocation of resources. The unified budget will prioritize member services, continuing education, and community engagement while maintaining full financial transparency and accountability.

14. Who is handling the legal aspects of the merger?

The legal aspects of the merger are being carefully managed with expert guidance to ensure compliance and a smooth transition. The **Folsom – Jackson Law Firm** assisted with the merger process.

15. What will happen to the current staff as part of the merger?

We are pleased to share that **all three staff members from the San Mateo County Dental Society (SMCDS) will be retained** as part of the unified organization. Their experience, dedication, and institutional knowledge are invaluable assets, and their continued presence will ensure a smooth transition and consistent member support. Additionally, **Mary Conway will remain on in a part-time capacity** providing continuity, guidance, and support as we move forward together.

16. How will member data and privacy be handled during the merger?

We take member privacy seriously. All member data from both societies will be securely consolidated and managed in compliance with applicable privacy laws, CDA, and best practices. Access will be limited to authorized personnel only.

17. Will the merger affect partnerships or affiliations with other organizations?

We aim to maintain and strengthen existing partnerships and affiliations. The unified society will continue collaborating with key dental organizations and community partners to maximize benefits for our members.

18. What is the timeline for completing the merger?

The merger process was completed August 31. An important step was that **all 32 California Dental Societies, including ours, approved the merger on the consent agenda at the HOD in November 2025.** Updates will be given at the HOD in November 2026.

19. How can members provide feedback or ask questions about the merger?

Members are encouraged to share their questions, concerns. Please email Nakia Brandt nakia@tpds.org

20. Will the merger impact the mission or values of the societies?

The merger is rooted in shared mission and values. We are committed to preserving the core principles that have defined both societies while strengthening our collective ability to serve members and patients.

21. Will members need to take any action as a result of the merger?

Most of the transition happened behind the scenes, and members will not need to take any immediate action.

22. Will the merged society have a new name or branding?

The Peninsula Dental Society

23. How will historical records and legacy contributions be preserved?

We recognize the importance of honoring the histories of both societies. All key historical records, recognitions, and contributions will be preserved and integrated into the new organization's archives and culture.

24. Will member categories or eligibility change?

At this time, there are no planned changes to membership categories or eligibility requirements. Should any adjustments be proposed, they will be communicated transparently with opportunities for member feedback.

25. How will decisions be made during the transition period?

During the transition, both boards and a joint leadership task force representing both societies collaborated to guide decision-making, manage logistics, and maintain continuity in services. All decisions were made with member interests as the top priority.

26. Will this affect how I renew my membership or pay dues?

The membership renewal process will continue as usual per CDA's policies on your anniversary date. Invoices with The Peninsula Dental Society will be sent on September 12, 2026 to those members that are due to renew.

27. What happens if the merger vote is not approved at the CDA House of Delegates?
The Merger was approved in November 2025 on the House of Delegates consent agenda, we made the history books 😊

28. Will there be opportunities to celebrate this merger?

Yes! We plan to commemorate this important milestone with a celebration during the November 18 General Membership Meeting in Palo Alto. The event will give members a chance to connect, reflect on our shared history, and look forward to our future together.

29. Will the new organization have a new website or office location?

The website will be tpds.org **San Mateo County Dental Society (SMCDS) currently owns an office space at 939 Laurel Street Ste C, San Carlos, CA 94070 and the unified society will maintain this location** as our primary office.