

November 2026

ADAA Membership Update: Growing Stronger, Moving Forward, and Building Our Future Together! 🦷💜

Dear ADAA Family,

If there's one thing I've learned throughout my years in dentistry, it's that you can't build a great dental team alone, and you certainly can't build a great association without amazing people standing beside you!

I am thrilled to share that the ADAA is moving forward, our membership is growing, and the excitement surrounding our future continues to build! While we still have work ahead of us, every day brings new opportunities, new relationships, and new reasons to be optimistic about where we're headed. And believe me, we've been busy!

First, I am incredibly excited to officially welcome Kevin Henry as ADAA's Chief Growth and Strategy Officer! Many of you already know Kevin as a longtime champion of dental assistants and someone who has spent decades making sure our voices are heard, our contributions are recognized, and our profession receives the respect it deserves. Kevin brings tremendous experience, enthusiasm, and fresh ideas to our association, and I couldn't be more excited to work alongside him as we continue building a stronger ADAA. In fact, Kevin and I are already putting our heads together to explore some exciting ideas for this year's Greater New York Dental Meeting! We'll both be there presenting educational sessions for dental assistants, and we're looking at ways to make our presence an opportunity to connect, engage, and celebrate our profession. Stay tuned, because you know we can't get two passionate dental assistant advocates together without something exciting happening!

Our vision for ADAA doesn't stop at state lines, or even at our country's borders! We are actively exploring new relationships and partnerships with dental industry leaders, organizations, and companies that share our commitment to advancing dental assisting. We're also reaching out to dental assistant organizations in other countries to explore opportunities for collaboration, education, and professional advocacy.

Dental assistants around the world share many of the same challenges, aspirations, and goals. Imagine what we can accomplish when we begin sharing ideas, resources, and experiences across borders!

Our goal is simple: Create more opportunities, strengthen our collective voice, and ensure dental assistants have a seat at the table wherever decisions affecting our profession are being made. I have the pleasure of being on a task force sponsored by Delta Dental The task force is looking at the universal license/certification that allows dental professionals to work across state lines within the dentists and hygienists community. While the educational requirements for these dental professionals are pretty standardized across state lines, the same is not the case for dental assistants. Our mission within the task force is to eventually propose standardized educational requirements for dental assistants across state lines. We realize that this particular mission will be a heavy lift, but I'm making sure that our voice is represented and that this is a critical move for our profession.

I am also happy to share that ADAA has successfully renewed the final year of our current educational services contract with the United States Air Force! This continued relationship represents an important opportunity for our association and reinforces the value of the educational services ADAA provides.

As we continue rebuilding and strengthening our association's financial foundation, opportunities like this help us create greater stability and position ADAA for future growth. We're not just thinking about where ADAA is today. We're planning for where we want to be tomorrow, next year, and well into the future! Education remains one of the cornerstones of our mission, and we want ADAA to be a place where dental assistants at every stage of their careers can continue learning, growing, connecting, and discovering just how valuable they truly are.

I want to once again extend my deepest and most heartfelt appreciation to the state leaders whose incredible generosity has helped ADAA continue moving forward during this important period of transition. Your willingness to step up and support our national association when it needed you most has made a meaningful difference. Your contributions have been more than financial support. They have been a powerful reminder of what makes this organization so special: People who believe in the profession, believe in one another, and refuse to give up on our future.

To those who have contributed, encouraged us, volunteered their time, and continued to stand with ADAA, please know that your support has not gone unnoticed. We are truly grateful. This is what association leadership and teamwork look like!

Another reason to celebrate? Our membership is growing! 🎉 Every new member represents another voice, another perspective, and another opportunity to strengthen our profession.

To our longtime members, thank you for your loyalty and continued belief in ADAA. To our newest members, welcome to the family! We're excited to have you with us as we write this next chapter together.

As your president, I want you to know that I recognize the trust you have placed in us as we navigate this new chapter. Rebuilding an association doesn't happen overnight. There are challenges, unexpected detours, and certainly a few moments when an extra cup of coffee comes in handy! What keeps me energized is knowing that we have members, state leaders, volunteers, and industry supporters who believe in what ADAA can become.

We're creating an association that is more connected, more responsive, more innovative, and more focused on the needs of today's dental assistants while preparing for the opportunities of tomorrow. We are not simply rebuilding ADAA. We are reimagining what ADAA can be!

I encourage each of you to stay involved, invite a colleague to join, participate in our educational programs, share your ideas, and consider serving on a committee or council.

Your voice matters. Your experience matters. And most importantly, YOU matter!

Thank you for believing in ADAA, supporting our efforts, and being part of this exciting journey. The momentum is growing, the possibilities are expanding, and I truly believe some of our best days are still ahead. Together, we will continue to Educate, Elevate, and Advocate for dental assistants everywhere!

With gratitude, excitement, and a whole lot of dental assistant pride! 🦷💜

Erin Hendricks, RDA, CCHW