

**South Carolina Dental Association (SCDA)
House of Delegates (HOD) Meeting Minutes
Double Tree Hotel - Columbia, SC
Friday, December 6, 2024**

President Jim Howell called the SCDA HOD Mega Issues Meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. and lead discussions on the proposed SCDA Bylaws changes that would be voted upon later in the meeting. Many members spoke and provided opinions on the proposed changes. President Howell also led a discussion on declining membership within SCDA and urged those in attendance to reach out to non members and invite them to join. There were no official actions take during the meeting.

President Howell called the official HOD meeting to order at 10:45 a.m., made numerous announcements and explained that he would be running the meeting as Past Speaker Dr. Jim Mercer had to relinquish his SCDA obligations since he was now an ADA Trustee.

President Howell recognized Dr. Carol Baker for the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance and then read the SCDA Ethical and Disclosure statements.

President Howell recognized Dr. Craig Draffin for the Necrology report. Those remembered were Drs. Robert Watson Jr., Richard Alpert, Barry Maynor, Stephen True, John "Tommy" Sox, Jr., Peter DiVenere, Richard McDaniel, Jerry Crews, Barry Reynolds, Jeffery Walsh, Paul Joseph, Sr., Robert Austin and Doug Rawls.

President Howell presented both SCDA Awards and Presidential Citations. Dental Team Members Awards were given to Melissa Dawn Kerr and Diane Clyburn. The SCDA Meritorious Achievement Award was give to Dr. Joe Vuthiganon. President Howell also presented Presidential Citations to Drs. David Watson and Jim Mercer. President Howell then recognized Dr. Nick Papadea who provided a report on Donated Dental Services and presented their award to Dr. Jeff Gardner.

President Howell announced that the SCDA did not have a quorum for the General Membership Meeting and the decisions would fall to the HOD. President Howell recognized Dr. Monica Cayouette for the roll call. Piedmont had 12 delegates present, Pee Dee had 12 delegates present, Coastal had 9 delegates present and Central had 23 delegates present. A quorum was declared.

President Howell recognized Dr. Cayouette to present the actions of the Board noting that all minutes had been posted on the SCDA website in advance of the meeting. Dr. Cayouette mentioned several items the Board had been involved with during 2024:

January 17th Meeting:

- *The Board reviewed the final 2024 financial statement in detail and even though a negative outcome was reported at the 2023 HOD, the SCDA ended the year on a good note and in the positive.*
- *Legislative items including the dental compact and bloodborne diseases were discussed.*
- *The Board reviewed membership dues and who paid.*
- *The Board considered several proposed Bylaws Changes.*
- *The Board voted to increase several registration categories of the Annual Session.*

March 15, 2024:

- *The Board heard an update on the SCDA investments.*
- *The Board heard from Dr. Amy Brock Martin of MUSC on several joint projects involving SCDA and MUSC as they relate dentistry.*
- *The Board discussed a possible joint Annual Session with other states.*
- *The Board discussed membership in detail.*
- *The Board reviewed a proposal regarding the District's paying additional fees per member.*

May 3, 2024:

- *The Board heard from the SCDA auditors regarding the 2023 audit and it was reported that another clean audit with no issues discovered was performed.*

June 12, 2024:

- The Board heard an update on the SCDA investments.
- The Board established a Task Force on the dental compacts.
- The 2025 SCDA Board meeting dates were approved.
- The Board approved several proposed Bylaws changes.
- The Board approved a proposal to increase the \$1 per member to \$10 per member and that action would need to be presented and voted upon by each District.
- The dues collected to assist with ASDA dues at MUSC were discussed in detail.

August 21, 2024:

- The Board heard an update on the SCDA investments.
- The Board heard from Mary Kenyon Jones of DHEC's Division of Oral Health and approved financial support for puppet shows in 2025.
- The Board heard from Kathie Williams of EdVenture and approved financial support for the museum in 2025.
- The Board heard a report from meetings with the State Board on workforce issues.

October 11, 2024:

- The Board heard an update on the SCDA investments.
- The Board heard a detailed report from Dean Huja of MUSC.
- The Board held their annual Stockholders meeting.
- The Board approved the proposed 2025 Legislative agenda and 2025 SCDA budget.
- The Board approved new SCDA Committee appointments.

After answering several questions, the actions of the Board were approved by general consent.

President Howell recognized Dr. Scott Cayouette for the purpose of presenting the proposed SCDA Bylaws Changes. It was explained that the proposals would be taken in three sections, elimination of non-active Committees, providing more flexibility when the HOD would meet and moving the budget approval process from the HOD to the Board of Governors.

Section 1 was presented and upon hearing no discussion, was unanimously approved and is listed below as approved:

CHAPTER VI – COMMITTEES

(Yellow & Underlined = Adds, Green & Strikethrough = Deletes)

Section 4 - Committees on Dental Benefits Programs

- A.** ~~Dental Benefits Programs Committee~~
- ~~1. Composition: This committee shall consist of eight members appointed as described in Section 1.~~
- ~~2. Duties: This committee shall assist providers, third and fourth party carriers and buyers in developing programs for the planning, administration and financing of dental care programs in order to insure that these systems and plans meet the needs of patients/subscribers in responsible ways. It shall also be the duty of the committee to assist Association members in their relations with third and fourth party carriers.~~

B.A. Mediation Committee

1. Composition: This committee shall consist of sixteen members appointed as described in Section 1. There shall be no district mediation committee.
2. Duties: This committee shall provide for a system to attempt to resolve disagreements between member dentists/patients/third parties. The method used will be "Mediation" as provided for under the American Dental Association's "Guidelines for Mediation".

Section 7 – Committees on Public Education and Projects

- A.** ~~Children's Dental Health Month Committee~~
- ~~1. Composition: This committee shall consist of five members as follows: The chairman of~~

~~each district's Children's Dental Health Month Committee, plus a chairman appointed by the President.~~

~~2. Duties: This committee shall plan, promote and produce the National Children's Dental Health Month activities in the state.~~

B. A. Community Water Fluoridation Committee

1. *Composition:* This committee shall consist of a minimum of eight members, two from each district as described in Section 1. Attendance at an ADA community water fluoridation and advocacy training is suggested for committee membership.
2. *Duties:* This committee shall serve as a resource on community water fluoridation for dentists and South Carolina communities. Members will offer training and technical assistance advocating for community water fluoridation and will provide an SCDA water fluoridation spokesperson when needed. This committee will also help coordinate other community resources to promote community water fluoridation.

Section 11: Committee on Strategic Planning

A. Committee on Strategic Planning

1. *Composition:* This committee shall consist of a minimum of eight members, two from each district, appointed as described in Section 1, Chapter 5. The committee shall also include the Public Affairs Chairman, the Diversity Chairman, the New Dentist Chairman, a member of the College of Dental Medicine faculty and a College of Dental Medicine student.
2. *Duties:* This committee is charged with reviewing available research and other pertinent elements, observing trends in the dental profession, government policy, and legislation in order to project future needs of the association. The committee will use this information to make recommendations to the Board of Governors and the House of Delegates.

Section 11: Committee on Investments, Finances and Audits

The other two proposed changes received a lot of discussion with several amendments however, all amendments were defeated as well as the overall two proposed changes.

President Howell recognized Dr. Deidre Crockett who presented the 2025 SCDA budget noting several line items. After answering several questions, the proposed budget was unanimously approved.

President Howell recognized Dr. Thomas Edmonds who presented the proposed 2025 Legislative Agenda. He answered several questions and provided information. The agenda was approved upon general consent.

2025 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

2024 WINS

- Bloodborne laws updated to include dentistry
- Medicaid Fee Increase

2025 LEGISLATION-CONTINUED DISCUSSIONS

- TMJ Legislation
- Teledentistry – Working with the Orthodontists
- Workforce – Dental Compacts
- Watch for any new legislation that may be filed by dental allied groups.

CONTINUED FUNDING

- Donated Dental Program – funded through 2024 @ \$65,000/yr (\$15,000 increase from 2021)
- Rural Incentive Program – MUSC gets \$176,101 in state funding. SC AHEC gets \$250,000 in state funding for the program.
- Dental School Debt reduction - \$1,642,166 paid annually.

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President Howell recognized Dr. Robbie Lake for the SCDA Member Benefits Group (MBG) Report. Dr. Lake briefly mentioned the new endorsements, an update on the health insurance program and other activities the MBG Board had dealt with during 2024. In closing, he thanked all the members.

President Howell recognized Dr. Mason Wade who presented the slate of those eligible for Life Membership and they were unanimously approved. Those voted into Life Membership were: Drs. Christopher L. Andrews, Mark Beard, Mark T. Billman, R. Cary Bocklet, Charles A. Crosby, Sr., Michael F. Cuenin, Ana M. Ferrer, Klye S. Greer, Kenley J. Loftis, Barry E. Malkiel, Daniel Meader, C. Michael Messier, Michelle L. Mistele, Strother E. Murdoch, III, William T. Noonan, Jr., Melanie Richards, Jeffery T. Vasko, Christopher J. Wenderoth and Catherine M. Zybak.

President Howell opened the floor for nominations for the SCDA Speaker of the House position. Upon being nominated by Dr. David Watson, Dr. Howell appointed Dr. Jim Mercer, Parliamentarian, to run this portion of the meeting. Dr. John Comisi was also nominated by Dr. Chris Griffin and Dr. Howell was voted to serve as Speaker of the House for 2025.

President Howell opened the floor for nominations for the ADA At Large Delegate position. Drs. Deidre Crockett and John Comisi were nominated with Dr. Crockett winning.

President Howell opened the floor for nominations for four at-large ADA Alternate Delegate positions. They were handled individually. For the first spot, Drs. Sarandeep Huja, Greg Millwood and Hannah Bannister were nominated with Dr. Huja winning. For the second spot, Drs. Hannah Bannister, Greg Millwood, Meredith Papadea and John Comisi were nominated with Dr. Papadea winning. For the third spot Drs. John Comisi, Greg Millwood and Hannah Bannister were nominated with Dr. Greg Millwood winning and for the final spot, Drs. Hannah Bannister and Noble Cooper, Jr. were nominated with Dr. Hannah Bannister winning.

President Howell recognized Dr. Carol Baker for the Nominating Committee report:

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| • <i>President</i> | <i>Dr. Deidre Crockett</i> |
| • <i>President Elect</i> | <i>Dr. Carol Baker</i> |
| • <i>Vice President</i> | <i>Dr. Monica Cayouette</i> |
| • <i>Secretary-Treasurer</i> | <i>Dr. Daniel Hall</i> |
| • <i>Immediate Past President</i> | <i>Dr. Jim Howell</i> |
| • <i>Historian</i> | <i>Dr. Gene Atkinson</i> |
| • <i>Speaker</i> | <i>Dr. Jim Howell</i> |
| • <i>Central District ADA Delegate</i> | <i>Dr. Julia Mikell</i> |
| • <i>ADA At Large Delegate Position</i> | <i>Dr. Deidre Crockett</i> |
| • <i>At Large Alternate Delegate (1)</i> | <i>Dr. Sarandeep Huja</i> |
| • <i>At Large Alternate Delegate (2)</i> | <i>Dr. Meredith Papadea</i> |
| • <i>At Large Alternate Delegate (3)</i> | <i>Dr. Greg Millwood</i> |
| • <i>At Large Alternate Delegate (4)</i> | <i>Dr. Hannah Bannister</i> |
| • <i>Legislative Chair</i> | <i>Dr. Thomas Edmonds</i> |
| • <i>General Chair</i> | <i>Dr. Erin Pruett</i> |
| • <i>Commercial Co-Chair</i> | <i>Dr. Tommy Parnell</i> |

The new officers were sworn in by President Howell.

President Howell was presented a gift and his Past Presidents pin and plaque, and Dr. Crockett was recognized for her speech as incoming SCDA President.

Thank you for the honor of allowing me to serve as President of the South Carolina Dental Association for the year 2025.

I am genuinely excited about continuing my journey in organized dentistry as President, and grateful for the support from previous leaders and members.

Dentistry has always been a large part of my life. My father practiced dentistry for 58 years after serving in Vietnam, and through him, I witnessed several changes over the years within the practice of dentistry. Staffing issues, new government requirements, and having to alter the office to prevent the spread of new Bloodborne pathogens to name a few. Our most recent worldwide issue was of course the Covid pandemic. In that case, we had to make many changes within our physical office buildings, and patients were concerned with safety. Fortunately, we were given several tools from the ADA to navigate those times. Remember, dentists were not considered essential workers at first, and some were not eligible for the PPP loan until the ADA stepped in.

It helps me to remember that there are always changes and new requirements that affect dentistry whether it be licensing or where and how we practice.

I have spent several years of my life working in dentistry, starting at a young age. In the 1980's I worked with the dental assistants with sterilization and helping with some patients. I started working in the front office during my high school summers and evenings until I started college.

In 1994, I graduated from the College of Charleston and taught Math within in the Berkeley County school district. Dentistry was in my past, until my husband transferred to the University of South Carolina to finish his Chemical Engineering degree. Then, like in the Godfather movie, "Just when I thought I was out, they pull me back in." I was offered the office manager position for my fathers' very large practice with four dentists and five hygienists. During this time, I decided to take prerequisites courses for dental school, and at 30 years of age, I entered MUSC in the summer of 2002.

We were told that the new dental school was set to open soon, and our dental class was very excited. Unfortunately, MUSC dental school lost most of its state funding. This led to Tuition costs increasing sharply during my four years of dental school. At the time, many SCDA dentists rallied to try and help our dental school with monetary contributions and their time in clinics. The dentists' concern and kindness really left an impression on me.

All of us went through dental school, and even though our school location and buildings may be different, we were still a part of a community. We spent four years with the same people, and we navigated the immense pressures of dental school with our peers. We helped each other from the beginning of Gross Anatomy to assisting with patient competency exams. I could not have gotten through dental school without the friendship and support of my classmates. We went through the same experiences and knew how to help each other due to our journey together.

That is one of the reasons why I stay involved and close with my SCDA colleagues. We are in the same profession, and we understand each other's daily lives and struggles in this profession. It doesn't matter if we are general dentists or specialists, we know what we do daily.

After graduating from MUSC in 2006, I joined a group practice with my father, brother, an experienced Periodontist, and oral surgeons. Practicing alongside experienced specialists was enlightening and educational.

My organized dentistry journey started when my dad took me to my first HOD which was held biannually at the time. Those Fridays were blocked off of our schedule automatically, no question. At these meetings, I met many dentists with whom I'm still friends with today. It was nice to see dentists come together for our state.

Fortunately, I was asked about my willingness to serve on a district level as membership chair by Dr. Julia Mikell. Julia has been a wonderful mentor and friend, and I am grateful for her sharing her time and knowledge with me for several years. I served for a few years as membership chair, and was then elected to serve on the Central district board.

Through those meetings and extended board meetings, I learned an amazing amount of knowledge about how organized dentistry works and the challenges we have to navigate to protect our profession. I also learned the policies and procedures and am still learning today. It was efficient and nice to have the answers to questions and history from the more experienced members during the in-person meetings.

Several years ago the SCDA hosted an excellent leadership conference, which educated those in attendance on the topics of organized dentistry, committees, and legislative issues. It was eye opening to learn about how Denpac and Adpac helped ensure autonomy and protection for our profession. Later on, I attended SCDA board meetings as President Elect and President of the Central district, learning about nationwide and statewide issues affecting our profession. I was able to meet very intelligent and caring individuals on the SCDA staff.

Our excellent and accomplished executive director, Phil Latham, has informed the board that he will be stepping down in a few years. Therefore, Mark Brown, our associate executive director for the past twenty years, will assume some new duties this next year. We are looking forward to working with Mark a lot more and together with Phil to have a great year in 2025.

In more recent years, I was elected to serve as ADA Delegate for a four year term which opened up a whole new appreciation for our profession. There is nothing like sitting in a room full of dental practitioners from every district in country coming together to support our dental community. What an honor it has been to befriend our North Carolina and Virginia district colleagues year after year and collaborate and identify issues affecting dentists. Staffing shortages and insurance issues are unfortunately common and a shared plight. The 16th district consisting of South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia is well respected and works hard for member dentists in the changing environment of the present. Our elected delegates and alternate delegates from SC learn resolutions in detail, debate on them, and vote at the House of Delegates. I think you all would be very proud of our delegation.

*And speaking of the present, I never imagined that I would be 53 years old with an almost two years sole proprietorship practice under my belt. There are differences when practicing alone, as many here know. I would say to the next generations of dentists, to be open to every avenue in our profession. One day you may be in a group practice, faculty practice, or in a small town practice. I absolutely love where I practice now, and it fits my lifestyle. Changes always occur when we least expect it, and I have been able to navigate those changes with the support of the SCDA members and community. **Every dental professional should feel not alone, but supported by others.** As mentioned before, we supported each other in dental school through the grueling schedule, exams, and stress of clinicals. Why should that stop after graduation?*

One of my goals this year as President, is to expand member's knowledge of all aspects of organized dentistry. Hopefully, if enough dentists see what we do, they will also join to protect our patients and profession. The main goal that I will have and ask that you help us with is our Membership. We are an organization full of exceptional practitioners, with a wealth of knowledge and service to our state. We need to remain strong to ensure that we are listened to by the legislature. I encourage those that have been serving as members and delegates for several years to help educate fellow dentists about the benefits of membership in the SCDA. We are only as strong as our membership, and we need to stay strong in numbers. We need to show the public and those that can alter our profession with one vote that we represent all dentists in South Carolina.

Thank you again for this honor and opportunity to serve this great association.

During lunch, Dr. Gene Atkinson presented a short presentation about the SCDA Annual Session held in Greenville earlier this year.

President Howell recognized Dr. David Moss for an update from the recent ADA SmileCon and House of Delegates meeting mentioning those who served on the South Carolina Delegation, an overview of resolutions reviewed and voted upon, and recognition of Dr. Jim Mercer being inducted to the ADA Board of Trustees.

President Howell recognized Dr. Mercer for an update from the ADA. He mentioned several projects and initiatives the ADA was working on regarding membership, a new software system, non-dues revenue opportunities and the new alliance with Forsyth.

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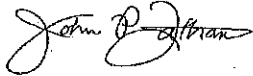
President Howell recognized Dr. Huja for an update from MUSC. He shared several initiatives and new faculty at the College of Dental Medicine.

President Howell recognized Dr. Tom McDonal for a Medicaid and State Board report. He shared numerous statistics from Medicaid along with a focus on the recent fee increase. He also provided an update from the State Board focusing on licensure renewal and CE Broker.

President Howell recognized Dr. Erin Pruett Brown who urged participation for the 2025 SCDA Annual Session which will be held in Columbia.

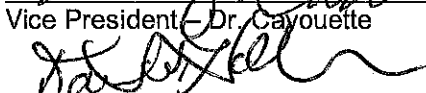
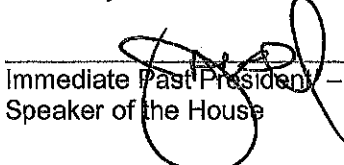
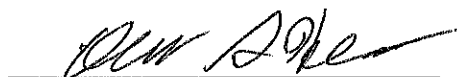
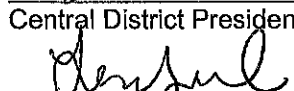
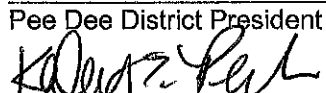
There being no further business, the House was adjourned at 2:38 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



John P. Latham
SCDA Executive Director

The minutes of the SCDA HOD on December 6, 2024 were approved at the next SCDA Board meeting.


President – Dr. Crockett
President-Elect – Dr. Baker
Vice President – Dr. Cayouette
Secretary-Treasurer – Dr. Daniel Hall
Immediate Past President – Dr. Jim Howell
Speaker of the House
Central District President – Dr. Henderson
Coastal District President – Dr. Jordan
Pee Dee District President – Dr. Fowler
Piedmont District President – Dr. Peek
Delegation Chair – Dr. Moss