



# Dental Mirror

DECEMBER 2023 EDITION

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## Happy Holidays Northern District Dental Society!



Hello NDDS Members! My name is Ryan Vaughn and I am currently the Treasurer/Secretary of the Northern District. I have been an ADA/GDA/NDDS member since I graduated from MCG 16 years ago. I am a pediatric dentist in the Gainesville, GA area and married with 5 children. I know many of you know me through the GDA and Hinman Dental Society but there are a multitude more of you who do not. I initially joined the GDA because I understood their function and appreciated what they do for our profession. However, I did not fully understand the role of the tripartite until I volunteered in helping in their mission.

I initially was asked to lead Childrens Dental Health Month in the Hall County area and that turned into also helping with other events throughout the NDDS. I started attending Northern District meetings and started to see the vast amount of work that goes into not only our district but the GDA as a whole in bettering our profession. So, at the blessing of my family, I decided to get more involved to make sure our profession continues to be strong in the face of many assaults against it. I have been through the leadership chain of the NDDS and have been both delegate and trustee for the Northern District at the GDA level. Today I am currently a delegate from Georgia at the ADA level.

Our association, on all 3 levels, has undergone extensive change in the past couple of years. At the ADA level, a new executive director was hired to replace Kathy O'Loughlin. His name is Dr. Ray Cohlmiia and he has brought many changes to the ADA in the very short time he has been in his position. The ADA has completely changed its governance structure and is working on changing its strategic mission and forecast. This comes at a time where there is significant pressure to our profession from many fronts. Medicare expansions are pushing more into our profession yearly amidst ongoing pressures about access to care and midlevel providers just to name a few. At the GDA level we have an interim executive director by the name of Kristen Morgan. Our former executive director, Frank Capaldo, stepped down at the end of the summer after a decade of saving the GDA from insolvency and strengthening it into one of the best state associations in the nation.

Kristen has many fantastic goals and ideals for where she wants to take our association over the next several years and I for one am fully supportive of her. At the NDDS level we have had a new association management company for 3 years now and they are wonderful. They make sure that our district keeps humming along and have several initiatives they would like to bring forward including events, CE and many other things to give back to our members as a whole.

This is where the rubber meets the road though. Currently in our district we have about 1500 members. At any given NDDS meeting we have roughly 20-30 participants, at the most, and usually only about 12-15 on a regular basis. By comparison, the Western district of our state has roughly 100 members and has the same number of people at their meetings. That amounts to 1% of our district participating at meetings vs 10% in the smallest district in our state. This is unacceptable. We cannot adequately fill positions within the Northern District leadership let alone at the GDA or ADA level. Also, with the lack of volunteers our association's management company cannot follow through with the events and CE courses needed to give back to our membership. And the same usual people who have volunteered for years are getting older and will eventually be stepping down. This will create a crisis which we will not be able to survive through. Currently I am one of the youngest people who help in our district and I am 42 years old (answer to life, the universe and everything). **We NEED volunteers. We NEED help.**

I fully understand that life is busier than it ever has been and the financial pressures that many of us face are vast and understated. But our profession has given us so much and that which we take for granted will be taken away from us if we do not continue to strive to better dentistry. I implore each and every one of you to volunteer and ask how you can help in our district or further up the tripartite. The profession of dentistry has given us the ability to better the health and wellness of the population of our great state let alone some modicum of financial freedom for us. If we do not continue to bolster and strengthen the Northern District, let alone the GDA/ADA, we will lose those abilities and freedom in the future. Please, if you have the time, become an active member in our district and help the profession to be better for the generations to come.

**[You can start today by clicking here and completing the NDDS volunteer form!](#)**

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# Upcoming EVENTS



- NDDS Membership Meeting & CE
- GDA 2024 Convention & Expo
- GADF 2024 Gala for Smiles



*Click Links to Register!*



## Holiday Social

December 6, 2023

Dunwoody Country Club

6:00 pm - Admin Council Meeting

6:30 pm - Membership Meeting

7:00 pm - Precaucus, Dinner & Social

*Join us for a little business and a LOT of Holiday Cheer!*

REGISTER HERE







**WEDNESDAY, JULY 3 - SATURDAY, JULY 6, 2024**

Complete the 2024 GDA "Intent To Participate" Form [HERE](#)  
and return it to the contact at the bottom.

*Do you need to renew your NDDS Membership?*

For GDA MEMBERSHIP QUESTIONS, please CONTACT:

Mary Busby, Vice President of Membership, at  
404-636-7553 ext. 114 or [maryb@gadental.org](mailto:maryb@gadental.org)

Click [HERE](#)  
to renew  
for 2024!

**NDDS** Northern District  
GEORGIA DENTAL ASSOCIATION

*Save the Date!*  
2024 GALA FOR SMILES



**AUG**  
**17**  
**2024**

**Chateau Elan**  
WINERY

# 2024 NDDS Calendar of Events

*\*TENTATIVE and SUBJECT TO CHANGE\**

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION
<b>JANUARY</b>		
Tuesday, January 16	NDDS AC Meeting	Virtual via Zoom
Tuesday, January 23	GDA Law Day (All Districts)	Georgia State Capitol
<b>FEBRUARY</b>		
Thursday, February 15	GHCDS Winter Event	Gainesville, GA
Thursday, February 22	GDA Officers Visit, Membership Meeting & CE	GDA Office
<b>MARCH</b>		
<b>APRIL</b>		
Friday, April 12	AC & CE Showcase Meeting	TBD (Porsche?)
<b>MAY</b>		
<i>*Tentative – may combine with Gala*</i> Friday, May 10	GHCDS/NDDS Golf Tournament	Royal Lakes Golf Club? River Pines CC?
<b>JUNE</b>		
Thursday, June 27	AC, NDDS Pre-Caucus & Membership Meeting	Virtual via Zoom
<b>JULY</b>		
<b>AUGUST</b>		
Saturday, August 17	NDDS Gala for Smiles	Chateau Elan
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>		
Thursday, September 26	NDDS AC Meeting	Zoom
<b>OCTOBER</b>		
Thursday, October 10	GHCDS Legislative Reception	Chattahoochee Country Club
Wednesday, October 30	NDDS Legislative Reception	TBD
<b>NOVEMBER</b>		
Thursday, November 21	NDDS Pre-Caucus & Membership Meeting	TBD
<b>DECEMBER</b>		

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**CONTACT US!**



[alyson@theassociationcompany.com](mailto:alyson@theassociationcompany.com)  
[katie@theassociationcompany.com](mailto:katie@theassociationcompany.com)



[www.ndds.org](http://www.ndds.org)



6134 Poplar Bluff Circle, Suite 101  
Peachtree Corners, GA 30092