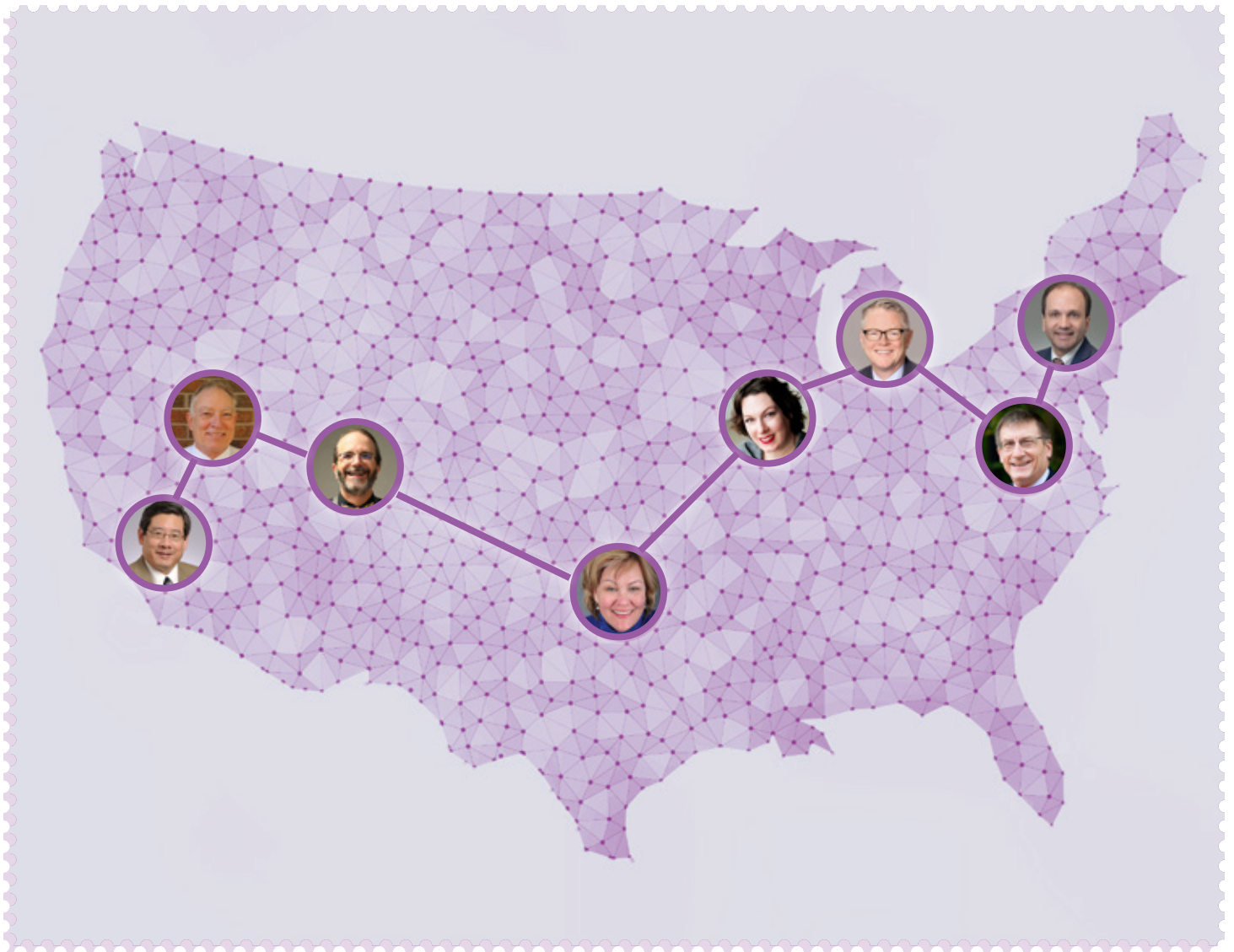


≡≡≡ **The Communicator** ≡≡≡

Official Publication of the American Association of Dental Editors & Journalists



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COVER ART: The AADEJ Officers and Staff, looking forward to welcoming all to our 1st Annual Virtual Meeting

Mitigating Authority Versus Autonomy



Dr. Daniel Orr II, CDE, AADEJ Editor-in-Chief

Editorials, truth-based opinions about topical issues, are often designed to elicit collegial discussion about opposing views.

Truth is: "...the actual state of a matter,"¹ while a lie is: "...a false statement made with deliberate intent to deceive."²

Editors that proffer referenced, scientific, truthful statements about things will ultimately receive validation. However, it is inevitable that some disagreement will surface.

The tone of one's work is important. For instance, we need to be careful about writing in a condescending fashion, even if lectured by others. Attempted editorial humor that borders on mocking can become less effective.

Editors seek to encourage circum-spect opposing views in part by being intellectually welcoming, not being negligently offensive, and sending their reasonable thoughts from the bully pulpit intending to stimulate the widest audience possible.

In critical discussions about editorial views, the exchange of ideas is usually embraced by editors...after all, that is a main purpose of editorials. Editors want to encourage discussion about viewpoints, including controversial ones. The AADEJ itself has been part of such dialogue many times, such as

advocating for the specialty of Anesthesiology³ or supporting the preservations of the ADA library.⁴ In both these cases, the AADEJ took an opposite stance from the ADA. After careful discussion, the AADE (Est. 1931) morphed to the more inclusive AADEJ in 2013.⁵ The AADEJ has wonderful relationships with the American and International Colleges of Dentists, but, as with siblings, sometimes things need to be worked out.

Disagreements do not have to be discussed publicly, but can often be solved less formally, especially with the passage of a short period of time.

Care should be taken about voicing alleged crises too frequently, as Aesop counseled in "The Boy Who Cried Wolf." In time, overused pleas do not carry the intended impact.

Crisis terms such as "divisive" have almost become throw away descriptors because of ubiquitous unwarranted accusations. Truth has always divided, in part because no faction has a monopoly on the truth. When divisiveness is alleged, many automatically dismiss the challenge because of crisis fatigue.

Parents often teach kids that: "Sticks and stones may break your bones, but words will never hurt you." To what degree is this true for adults? Why are some offended by words when others similarly positioned are not? Is being offended a rational reaction to truth? Is being offended a valid argument or counterpoint?

I will leave it to wiser sages to define the frequently seen adjective "unprofessional." As with "minor surgery,"

Editors that proffer referenced, scientific, truthful statements about things will ultimately receive validation. However, it is inevitable that some disagreement will surface.

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many amorphous concepts are easy to cavalierly iterate, but virtually impossible to define to universal satisfaction.⁶

One of my own writings was once called racist, perhaps another over-used term that has sadly lost its impact. As a descendant of indentured servants,⁷ a Cherokee Nation claimant,⁸ and a member of a Faith for which a statewide extermination order was issued in 1838,⁹ that accusation was disconcerting. The Orr heritage is not singular. Shouldn't we all be in the same empathetic boat because all of us have ancestors that were abused, or did the abusing?

While many Native Americans are honored by sports teams with "Indian" appellations or traditions, some are not,¹⁰ thus the recent controversial renaming of the Washington NFL franchise because of "racism."¹¹ While either the old or new moniker may be acceptable to most observers, that does not give editors license to do anything but their best to include the majority and the more peripheral factions.

Though not Asian, I am a member of the JAACL (Japanese American Citizens' League), in part to honor my own Japanese mentors Dennis Duke Yamashita, Pat Morita, and Frank F. Chuman. These men fought nobly to help overcome 100 years of brutally explicit and uncontroversial government sanctioned racism, perhaps culminating in the World War II Federal Internment Camps¹² which were sanctioned by the Supreme Court.¹³

Be wary of gauging the fairness of an editorial via unsolicited feedback. Even if positive responses dwarf negative commentary 10:1, editors should strive to provide an appropriate platform from which the minorities may be heard. History has proven less popular opinions often prevail in time.

Ultimately, when our efforts exceed the comfort level of those with

authority over us, our well-intentioned writings may not receive approbation. But, just as editorials are not gospel, neither are publication manager opinions. While editorial autonomy is important, editors represent entities that ultimately have the final decision on content. The AADEJ has developed excellent guidelines to help harmonize editorial and publication sponsor interests.¹⁴

Volitionally agreeing to withdraw a writing is not necessarily the end of the story. AADEJ President Mike Diorio shared a circumstance wherein he was asked to not publish an effort, only to be asked to resubmit it a short time later.¹⁵

Further, a temporary limitation in distribution often makes a work more popular than it would have been otherwise...what better way to stimulate interest than to limit access to something? Possibly the top selling fictional work of all time, Cervantes' *Don Quixote* has been banned off and on for hundreds of years, most recently by judicial fiat peripheral to a 2018 Spanish legal case.¹⁶

Jerome's 4th century translation of ancient documents, into the common, or vulgar, tongue,¹⁷ has evolved from one hand written copy to the best-selling tome in history,^{18,19} while also being repeatedly banned, under penalty of death, somewhere or another ever since.^{20,21}

Perhaps our goal should not be to be "right," but to be fair presenters of disparate ideas, to search for common ground, and to agree to collegially honor the right to disagree.

I close as an imperfect editor with an aspirational quote from President Diorio: "First and foremost I feel our role as editors and journalists is to stimulate thought, to discuss the uncomfortable, to enlighten, inform, validate, or question."²²

Thank you for a great year Dr. Diorio, and welcome Dr. Shue as you assume the Presidential mantle next issue.

Fight On.

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From the Executive Director



Meg Plummer, AADEJ Executive Director
meg@aadej.org

New Members and Annual Conference

Welcome to our newest AADEJ Members. It hasn't been the best year to get to know each other, but we hope you can join us on October 23 on our virtual board meeting for a quick hello and meeting and then next year in Las Vegas for our Annual Conference.

New Members

- Ms. Rachel Sinacola
- Mr. David Binder
- Dr. John Conroy

Virtual Meeting—we need YOU!

Our Annual Conference will not be taking place this year, but we still will be holding a quick business meeting on October 23 at 11:00am Eastern. Please RSVP to meg@aadej.org. The format will be on Zoom, our new love/hate relationship. We'll be congratulating some award winners, voting on a few bylaw changes, and just checking in with each other. Wear your business casual on top and pajamas on the bottom if you'd like, it's 2020 after all!

William J. Gies Award Winners



1st Place

Dr. Kerry Carney, *The Wrong Questions*

2nd Place

Dr. Chester Gary, *Ships Passing in the Night; New Wave Dental Practice Transitions*

3rd Place

Dr. Chester Gary, *Dentistry's Contract with Society Remains Relevant*

The winners will be notified and the ADEA will send a letter, certificate, and prize money to them directly and we can congratulate them on the call October 23.

Thank you for your participation in this event!



Dr. Kerry Carney



Dr. Chester Gary



2020 Journalism Awards

Golden Pen

(Article or series of articles of current interest to the profession)

Division I

Journal California Dental Association, March 2019, *Opioids Trying to Navigate the 'Perfect Storm,'* Kerry K. Carney, DDS, Editor.

Division II

The Cutting Edge, September & October 2019, *Nutrition and Dentistry,* Robert Shorey, DDS, Editor.

Honorable Mention

Northwest Dentistry, November–December 2019, *Dental Impact of Playing a Musical Instrument,* John E. Lueth, DDS, Editor.

Honorable Mention

The Nugget, March 2019, *Technology in the Mouth,* Ash Vasanthan, DDS, Editor.

Platinum Pencil

(Best use of graphics)

Division I

Wisconsin Dental Association Journal, November/December 2019, *Member Testimonials,* Ryan Dulde, DDS, Editor.

Division II

The Nugget, May 2019, *Celebrating, Ash Vasanthan,* DDS, Editor.

Honorable Mention

The Cutting Edge, April, 2019, *A Trip Down Memory Lane,* Robert Shorey, DDS, Editor.

Silver Scroll

(Most improved publication)

Division I

Virginia Dental Journal, 2017–2019, Richard F. Roadcap, DDS, Editor.

Division II

West Michigan District Dental Society Bulletin, 2017–2019, Rachel Sinacola, DDS, Editor.

Outstanding Cover

Division I

Word of Mouth, Winter–Spring 2019, Melissa Carman, Editor.

Division II

The Cutting Edge, December 2019, Robert Shorey, DDS, Editor.

Newsletter

Division I

Tri-County Dental Society Connection, Spring 2019, *Sexual Harrasment in Dentistry,* Dan Jenkins, DDS, Editor.

Division II

NDA Journal, Fall 2019, Daniel L. Orr II, DDS, Editor.

Honorable Mention

The Cutting Edge, October 2019, Robert Shorey, DDS, Editor.

Special Citation

(Unusual concept and/or presentation)

Division I

Journal California Dental Association, April 2019, *Older Adults: The Long and Winding Road to Address Their Needs,* Kerry K. Carney, DDS, Editor.

Division II

The Nugget, November 2019, *Honoring Our Veterans,* Ash Vasanthan, DDS, Editor.

Honorable Mention

Virginia Dental Journal, July, August, September 2019, *Dental Benefits Expert,* Richard Roadcap, DDS, Editor.

Leadership Editorial/Article

Division I

Northwest Dentistry, July–August 2019, *Larry's Legacy: A Forty-Eight-Year Retrospective,* John E. Lueth, DDS, Editor.

Honorable Mention

Tri-County Dental Society Connection, January–March 2019, *Why Be a Member?,* Dan Jenkins, DDS, Author.

Division II

West Michigan District Dental Society Bulletin, Summer 2019, *Female Representation in the Workforce and in Dental Leadership,* Rachel Sinacola, DDS, Author.

Honorable Mention

Macomb Dental Society Journal, Spring 2019, *What Does It Really Mean To Be A Servant Leader,* Christopher Gorecki, DDS, Author.

Humanitarian Service

(Article or series of articles that exemplifies 'Serving Others')

Pennsylvania Dental Journal, September/October 2019, *7th Annual Mom-n-PA,* Stephen T. Radack III, DMD, Editor.

Outstanding ICD Publication

International College of Dentists 11th District Newsletter, Sharon Grubb, Editor.

Outstanding ICD Online Publication

The Texas Section of the International College of Dentists—A Regular Record of ICD Activities in Texas, Claude Stephens Jr., Editor.

Editor's Note: All but three of the ICD Journalism recipients were AADEJ members. Congratulations to these honorees and also to the AADEJ.

Autonomy and the Maxillary Sinus



Brian Shue, DDS, CDE, AADEJ President-Elect

Thirty-three-year-old Dr. Chapin Harris collapsed onto his bed, exhausted after laboriously editing the last article for his upcoming publication. He accomplished this without a PC, Mac, or even an iPad—and not just because of a bad Wi-Fi connection. He relaxed and blew out the flame from his nightstand candle. Electric power had not been harnessed yet.

The year was 1839. The world was filled with various dental charlatans and quacks who generally gave dentistry a bad name. Dr. Harris created the American Journal of Dental Science, the first-ever dental journal, which was available as a six-month subscription for \$3 or annually for \$5 (equivalent to \$73 or \$121, respectively in today's dollars adjusted for inflation). Best of all, he and his publishing committee were their own bosses.

But not for long. In 1841, Dr. Harris turned his Journal operation over to the American Society of Dental Surgeons (ASDS)—the first-ever national dental association—established the year before in order to promote dentistry as a science and a respectable profession. ASDS membership had great benefits and included the opportunity of receiving a doctor of dental surgery degree by paying an extra \$10 (\$258 in today's dollars).¹ However, talk is cheap, but the printed word isn't—membership did not include a subscription to its Journal. Dr. Harris remained editor, but inherited a higher authority over

the publication—the ASDS executive committee.

This leadership team included Dr. Horace Henry “Father of American Dental Science” Hayden. With all these great minds in formation to elevate the profession, one would think everyone was on the same page. Not true. Dr. Hayden refused to share a 180-mile-plus journey with Dr. Harris to New York City to go to the first editorial board meeting. Then he crashed the meeting late, demanded that Dr. Harris cease this publishing venture, and said scientific dental knowledge does not belong in a “magazine.”¹

But wait, there's more. This relationship was even more complicated. Not only were the two of them friends who practiced dentistry in the same town, but Drs. Harris and Hayden were the two principals working together, at this very same time, to establish the first-ever dental school—the Baltimore College of Dental Surgery, which would open the next year—with Dr. Harris appointed as the first dean and Dr. Hayden the first president.

Which brings us to the third annual ASCS meeting, held in Boston, July 19–21, 1842. Complete with scientific lectures, official meetings, and dental product exhibits, it was a 19th century CDA Presents. It even included an officially endorsed product—drill stocks by ASDS Executive Committee member Dr. Edward Maynard (who also invented the barbed broach and a breech-loading U.S. military rifle).

By 1842 standards, things were going pretty well—until one afternoon. Dr. Hayden had just finished an engaging, yet lengthy, after-lunch lecture titled “Diseases of the Antrum

In fact, the ADA House of Delegates met in Las Vegas to address a full set of business, including Resolution 48: “Autonomy of the ADA Editor.”

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Maxillare.” It was 4 p.m. and Dr. Harris was next. He began his address titled “Diseases of the Maxillary Sinus.” Uh-oh. Notice the similarity? Dr. Hayden did—after all, he wasn’t born yesterday (no, born in 1769 to be exact, before the American Revolution and a time when future presidents John Quincy Adams and Andrew Jackson were still in their colonial diapers).

But after one hour, Dr. Harris stopped his lecture and “begged to be excused from its further reading.”² Did Dr. Harris have old-fashioned Industrial Revolution food poisoning? Or was it due to the glare from the Father of American Dental Science for “upstaging” him by repeating the same topic? We may never know.

Nevertheless, Dr. Harris was excused. A successful motion was made to publish Dr. Harris’ entire presentation in the next issue of the Journal, which he did.

It touched a raw nerve in Dr. Hayden. He swung back with a blistering 22,000-word commentary that was so long, it took the next two issues of the Journal to contain all of it. He completely tore apart Dr. Harris’ article on the maxillary sinus showing multiple examples of errors. Additionally, he made sarcastic personal remarks about “our friend” and “our good doctor” Harris, and, if that wasn’t bad enough, he did the unthinkable—he attacked the credibility of the Journal all the way back to the first issue.

Why did Dr. Harris publish all of this? Did he have autonomy to reject the publication of Dr. Hayden’s 55-page

attack? It seems like he didn’t. He and his publishing committee had to answer to the ASDS Executive Committee. And Dr. Hayden was ASDS president.

Editorial autonomy is still important today

In fact, the ADA House of Delegates met Oct. 10–14, 2011, in Las Vegas to address a full set of business, including Resolution 48: “Autonomy of the ADA Editor.” It sought to resolve a discovered conflict in the ADA bylaws, which states the ADA Board of Trustees have power to “cause to be published in, or to be omitted from, any official publication of the Association any article in whole or in part (page 40, ADA Bylaws, lines 1836-1838).” In other words, the ADA editor didn’t have autonomy in the 21st century.

Widely accepted guidelines already exist on the relationship between the editor and the owner of a scientific publication, which is best described by the World Association of Medical Editors (<http://wame.org>) as: “editors-in-chief should have full authority over the editorial content of the journal ... including original research, opinion articles and news reports ... and how and when information is published.” It also states, “owners should not interfere in the evaluation, selection, or editing of individual articles, either directly or by creating an environment in which editorial decisions are strongly influenced.”

Additionally, these guidelines are followed by the American Association of Dental Editors. Note these guidelines focus on written content, not

advertisements. Has this editorial “control” been exercised at the ADA? Not according to an unnamed source. What would happen if the editor decided to publish an article that is contrary to the “will” of the ADA Board? That is why the editor is an appointed position. The responsibility of the editor to publish appropriate material for a publication is balanced by the authority of the owner of such publication to remove the editor when necessary, as well.

The delegates of the ADA’s HOD voted overwhelmingly in favor of autonomy and the ADA bylaws will be changed and reviewed at the next meeting. It is appropriate to bring ADA bylaws up to the accepted standard, which in turn, will allow the ADA editor have autonomy to do his job.

Looking back, the relationship between the two founders of modern dentistry was never the same. What caused Dr. Hayden to fume hotter than a steam locomotive’s boiler? It was not because the Journal didn’t publish his material on the maxillary sinus; he declined that request because he planned to publish it in his future book—a fact omitted by a historian. Dr. Hayden said he would continue his critique on Dr. Harris in future issues, but this goal was interrupted when he died in 1844.

Dr. Harris was able to rescue the American Journal of Dental Science from the remains of the ASDS, which did not survive the Amalgam War of the 1840s. He once again operated with full autonomy and continued to publish it until his death in 1860—just one year after the start of another national dental organization—the ADA.

Reprinted from CDA Journal 40(5)385-386. May 2012.

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Note from President-Elect: I hope you enjoy this reprint. Although it was published eight years ago, it is still relevant today. Additionally, AADEJ plans to reassemble the dormant publication committee. AADEJ must strive to uphold and elevate the standing of our nation’s dental editors and dental journalists to the highest level of professionalism, including our newsletter. Are you interested in joining and helping us? If so, please contact executive director, Meg Plummer at meg@aadej.org.

Why Be a Member?



Dan Jenkins DDS, CDE

When I was a radioman in the Navy one of my fellow radioman sailors told me that he had a High School teacher hand their class a test sheet with only one question —“Why?” I’ve always remembered that. Perhaps I’ve been hoping a teacher would give me a test question like that? My question to you, as a member of the AADEJ is: “Why be a member of the AADEJ (along with the ADA)?”

How would the AADEJ’s growth affect dentistry? Could we inspire more dentists to join the ADA? Has the AADEJ promoted benefits of membership, such as the free CE at this year’s annual meeting?

Nationally, the percentage of licensed dentists who are members of the ADA is around 67%. Over many years, I have asked people if their dentist is an ADA member—a large majority are not sure if they are or not. However, if they liked their dentist they think they are. I also have asked people what percentage they think are members of the ADA. While most admit they don’t know, the vast majority think that all dentists are members of the ADA—100%! On an online forum, I read a post by a dentist who said he was “proud” that he was not a member of the ADA as he posted many disparaging phrases about the ADA.¹ I asked him if he advertised the fact that he was not a member as I guaranteed him that unless he advertised it all of his patients thought he was. (I have yet to see any dentist advertise they are not a member of the ADA.) That dentist never responded.

Some things to think about: Is your physician a member of the AMA? Did you ever check? Would it matter to you? Would you change medical doctors if they were not a member of the AMA? You may be thinking, “Well, the percentage of AMA membership

is probably the same as dentists in the ADA.” Wrong! The percentage of the almost one million licensed MDs and DOs who are members of the AMA is barely 15%. (It was 75% in the 1950s.¹ The AMA has not released information as to how many of the eighty-thousand plus medical students are members.² This means the number of AMA member licensed medical doctors may be even less. Yet, the AMA is listed as one of the most influential professional organizations in the USA. They provide more funds for lobbying for healthcare issues than any other organization.³ I find that interesting as they seemed to oppose national healthcare for a long time yet could not stop it.

In case you are not already aware, the membership of the ADA is also around one hundred and sixty thousand. The ADA has been very influential in and national political activities... read just about any ADA News. There are now six dentists serving as U.S. Congressmen. One of those Congressmen told me personally he is being considered for replacing a Senator in his state. These dentist politicians help us all by being in the backrooms where things take place.

Over my years of membership, I have seen the ADA take on the insurance companies in court and win—for all dentists, not just members. I have seen state associations take on liability insurance companies—and succeed. Big wins for all dentists are regularly reported in the ADA News. I’ve frequently seen legislation that state associations are involved in make it through the legislature to a signature by the governor and become law.

You may wonder what the AADEJ might do? Each year delegates are chosen from state associations to represent dentists in the ADA House of Delegates. The HOD has the final word on what the ADA does. The AADEJ historically has both supported and opposed HOD opinions. The delegates can have a strong influence on, not only ADA but on Dental Boards across the nation.

This leads to why our increase in AADEJ membership is important. Increased AADEJ membership translates to more opportunities to discuss issues with members and delegates. Additionally, more members means we should have more members available to fill leadership positions in the

Continues →

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For the Longest Time

A Report from the Program Chair



Richard F. Roadcap, DDS

Who said Canadians don't have a sense of humor? A chamber choir from Vancouver, British Columbia has set the Pandemic to music. Visit this link (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LpAKcQufacc>) for an a cappella ode to COVID-19. AADEJ had recruited a stellar array of presenters for the 2020 Annual Meeting in Orlando, and as events transpired our stalwarts were left to twist slowly in the wind, awaiting a decision by the ADA and others on meeting in person. Our speakers' forbearance was greatly appreciated as one deadline after another passed without a decision. With the ADA's

move this summer to cancel in-person events for October, AADEJ was left with no alternative but to likewise cancel the didactic portions of the Annual Meeting. As is required by the bylaws, a virtual business meeting will be held Friday October 23, at 11:00 a.m. EDT.

This year's Dental Editors' University, scheduled smack-dab in the middle of spring quarantines, was also cancelled, and with an abundance of caution, will not be held in 2021. Should we be able to meet in Las Vegas in October '21, the two years between face-to-face meetings will seem like the longest time. Reader suggestions for next year's event are most welcome.

Continued from page 8 →

AADEJ, state associations, and component societies. This can be important as members will feel more comfortable contacting a fellow member about their concerns. I should add that this also can lead to the AADEJ having more members selected to serve as a delegate to the ADA House of Delegates, as I myself have done many times. Our current Editor-in-Chief has voted as a delegate within several entities such as the AAOMS, ADSA, ASDA, etc. and is the current Nevada state representative for the ACD, ICD, and ADSA. The opportunities are there for dental writers.

Of course, there are many other reasons besides politics and regulations for being a member of the AADEJ and ADA. I've polled dentists on this question "Why be a member?" many times.

Most of AADEJ and ADA members I have known for over 30 years have

wanted to give back to dentistry and found that membership and leadership is a good way to do that. Most started with serving on a committee and got hooked on the camaraderie they found and satisfaction of helping dentistry, its members, and needy patients.

If you wish to help organized dentistry help you and your colleagues, please consider contacting the AADEJ to let us know you are available. One way all of us can help is by getting to know our colleagues who are not members—maybe even invite them to a CE meeting and let them feel the friendship. I can only imagine what could happen if the AADEJ could double its membership, a realistic goal. Imagine the explosion if each current member brought a prospect to a meeting? Try it!

Oh! As for the sailor's answer to his high school teacher's question of, "Why?" It was what I would answer to

a potential-member dentist considering joining: "Why not!" My Navy colleague received an "A."

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Dan Jenkins (Dan I) is a former President and Editor-in-Chief of the AADEJ. This work was originally published in a modified version in the Tri-County Dental Society Connection, Winter 2019 issue. The original article won a 2020 Honorable Mention for an Article or Editorial on Leadership from the ICD, USA Section, Div. 1. See page 4 of this issue of the Communicator for this and other ICD Awardees.

What a Long Strange Game It's Been



Mike Diorio, DDS, CDE, AADEJ President

The sun is setting, or may have already set (depending on what time zone you call home), on my time as president of AADEJ. In many ways, it feels like my term started in a previous life, many years ago in September of 2019 in San Francisco.

I was looking forward to referencing how my term spanned the country

from the west coast to the east coast. Unfortunately my travels got a little rocky about a third of the way in, both chronologically and geographically and I will have to settle for a sendoff or better yet a transfer of power from the Rocky Mountains.

This was my first opportunity ever to take the reins of an organization, much less a national organization, and I am forever grateful for the opportunity. It has truly been a privilege to have been chosen a few years back to “climb the ladder” as it is often referred to and serve as president.

Personally, I have known through life that head coaches do a much better job when they have a great team of assistant coaches. It was true when I coached my kids in sports and was true “coaching” the AADEJ team this year. For many years I was a player on the team as a local editor.

Somehow got a promotion to be an assistant coach for a few years and then all of a sudden I was given the title of head coach and now in

charge of running the team and calling the plays.

To say this year or season has been a challenge would be a serious understatement. We, as an organization, had an amazing game plan drawn up that included what would have been a spectacular Dental Editors University in Anaheim and an equally impressive annual session in Orlando. Never in my wildest dreams could I have imagined having to now game plan through a pandemic for a formidable opponent named COVID-19. This is when a head coach finds out what his team is truly made of, in both natural ability and sheer determination. Guess what? Our AADEJ team is full of All Stars. I could not have asked for a better group of individuals to take the field with me, or better yet, carry me and our organization through the storm.

I am excited to return to the role of an assistant coach and to be handing over my clipboard to Dr. Brian Shue. He and I started the transition process a few months back and I can step aside knowing that the AADEJ is in good hands for next year, and the years to come. We, as an organization, have built a great leadership team of former players now serving as assistant coaches. These individuals are now on the “ladder” and will be guiding the organization into the future.

I am disappointed, and a bit sad, that we were not able to all gather in Florida this year but I am cautiously optimistic that we will be able to meet up again in Vegas in 2021. Stay safe and happy writing!

This was my first opportunity ever to take the reins of an organization, much less a national organization, and I am forever grateful for the opportunity.

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