

2025 SLATE CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

Secretary

Dr. Karen Becerra

As a Hispanic dental professional passionate about diversity, equity, and inclusion I'm excited to apply for a position as Secretary at the SDCDS. I have had experience serving on various committees and leading the Hispanic Dental Association San Diego Baja Chapter as a past president. I have received additional training as part of the institute for diversity and leadership at the American Dental Association. I have developed a unique understanding of effective communication, collaboration, and leadership and I'm eager to leverage my skills to support the SDCDS community and promote diversity, equity, and inclusion among our diverse members.

I am a dedicated dental professional with a total of over 29 years of clinical experience in different settings all of them dedicated to providing comfortable and trustworthy care for patients of all ages and all socioeconomic backgrounds. are the specific skills and experiences that make me a qualified board member applicant:

- I have experience supporting continued education efforts as a former president of the San Diego-Baja Hispanic Dental Association
- I have been to Sacramento and Washington DC several times to advocate for policy change and serve as an expert witness in initiatives that benefit our patients and the dental community.
- I have a track record of fostering and mentoring newer generations of dentists and auxiliary team members to create networking opportunities and collaborative connections among dental professionals across our state and our nation.
- I have led and contributed to the development of the Gary and Mary West Senior Dental Center(s) and the program, and its services have enhanced the oral health and wellbeing of thousands of vulnerable seniors in San Diego County.
- I have served in the recruitment and retention committees both in San Diego and in California and I have contributed my time and efforts to foster a sense of community among our members.

I am eager to bring my perspective and skills to the table so I can work collaboratively with other fellow board members to address the evolving needs of our profession. I am

confident that my passion, expertise and commitment to our dental society, our community and our profession will make me an excellent candidate for a board position and I look forward to the opportunity to serve and contribute to the advancement of our dental community.

Treasurer

Dr. Parvathi Pokala

The treasurer plays a unique roll in helping the board and executive committee members understand and maintain the financial stability of the dental society under the guidance of the finance committee. A few years ago I had the privilege of being the treasurer for the dental society and I believe that I have the unique advantage of being able to bring the experience gained during the previous term.

SDCDS Representative to the CDA Board of Component Representatives

Dr. Thomas Olinger

Former CDA Trustee, President of SDCDS, Two ADA councils.

Board of Directors

Dr. Misako Hirota

I have served on the Board throughout the years and believe my historical contributions and experience can serve the members of our Society as we navigate complex issues facing our newer members. It is invaluable to have a mixture of experienced volunteers to serve on the board as mentors to newly active volunteers and to be a voice to represent all our members.

HOD delegate, CDA Trustee, President of SDCDS, President-Elect, Secretary, Immediate Past President, Board of Directors for SDCDS, LDC, Bylaws Committee, ED recruitment task force, Dental Assistant Task Force

Dr. Hema Srinivasan

I believe I have the commitment and desire to serve the dental community of San Diego through this organization that has helped effect so many positive changes. My experience in running multiple offices at one time has helped hone my organizational and leadership skills and would like to bring that to this role

Had two other practices at one point which were successfully turned around with excellent systems and leadership.

Dr. Sussi Yamaguchi

I am interested because I would like to get more involved with the dental society and working with pre-dental and dental students, I feel like I can give valuable input about what future dentists want and are looking for. Also, my passion is humanitarian and volunteer efforts and I want to see that the dental society offers opportunities for dentists and their team members to give back.

I have been the clinical director for the UCSD Student-Run Free Dental Clinics for 18 years and have some leadership skills... I work well with others!

Dr. Brian Fabb

Hello! I have had the privilege of serving on the Board of Directors previously, including the Executive Board as San Diego County Dental Society President in 2020, and would be honored to serve our local dental community again. As modern changes are challenging our dental profession, I would like to be part of our local team actively working on solutions. As a business owner that still battles with insurance reimbursements, staff shortages, and rising costs of inflation, I can provide valuable insight to benefit our members and would be dedicated to representing our members' needs. Thank you for your consideration!

Previous experience on Boards of Directors, Executive Board, multiple committees including Recruitment and Retention, New Dentist and Political Action committees, private practice owner and very comfortable with public speaking

House of Delegates

Dr. Hoa Audette

I am interested in serving as a CDA delegate because I am passionate about our profession and excited for our professional future. I would like the opportunity to be part of the association who are selected to lead and shape our collective futures. Serving as a delegate will allow me to give back to the profession, its association, and the community on a regional and national level. As a delegate, I will prioritize my duties to stay informed about the issues facing CDA and dentistry locally to make sound decisions on business transacted at the House of Delegates.

I currently serving as an alternate ADA delegate for the last 2 years, I have served as a CDA delegate for last 6 years and as an ADHA delegate (please see resume/cv)

Dr. Doug Cassat

Experienced representation is extremely important during the House of Delegates. Important issues are presented, discussed and voted upon. Having a historical perspective is important in evaluating the worthiness of the proposal.

I have many experiences in organized dentistry. I served as your President in 1990-1991, Trustee to the CDA 1992-1998, member of the TDIC Board of Directors, chair of the CDA Audit Committee, chair of the CDA Foundation Audit Committee, and most recently, chair of the Board Composition Task Force. I have also served as an ADA Delegate for many years and on the Council on members Insurance and Retirement Programs, one year as chair. I believe my skills are being able to get people talking about an issue and then coming to a solution, perhaps a compromise in some cases.

Dr. Pamela MacPherson

I want to advocate for myself and my colleagues at CDA House of Delegates.

I've been to a few HOD in the past.

Dr. Susan Nguyen

I have been actively involved in SDCDS leadership with over 16+ years as board members, CDA House of Delegate, R&R chair, over 6 years as CE chair, New DDS/Peer review

committee member, Secretary, President elect and have volunteer in CDA Care/Free clinic/school/Veterans. I'm passionate about volunteering local and statewide especially when it comes to making key decisions in protecting and providing the best decision for our profession and organization.

Leadership skill, organizer, decision maker, detail, experience in HOD, knowledgeable organized dentistry, love of volunteering, and part of the legislative committee

Dr. Joanne Young

After practicing general dentistry full time in the Santa Clarita Valley for 33 years, I retired and moved to the San Diego area. I now have time to dedicate towards improving the positions of dentists and the availability of care. I am committed to seeing dentists be able to provide quality treatment and be fairly and adequately compensated for it.

I am familiar with Parliamentary Procedure. I have served on other dental committees and have dealt extensively with insurance companies.

Dr. Richard Bialick

The CDA House of Delegates works to bring the voices of the individual dentist to the governing body of the CDA. The issues voted upon by the CDA affect individual dentist's livelihood, business practices, and dental standards. I want to fight for the well-being of San Diego general dentists and specialists. I also want to promote rules that will protect our patients from business interests which are not dentally or scientifically sound.

In 2020-2022 I served as a delegate to the House of Delegates for one term. In this last term, I served as an alternate delegate. When called upon five days before the last session to fill in for a delegate who couldn't attend, I gladly made arrangements to attend the House of Delegates meeting so that San Diego would have a full voting presence.

Dr. Brad Sainsbury

I am honored to apply for the position of Delegate to the CDA House of Delegates, representing the San Diego County Dental Society. As a dedicated member of the dental community in San Diego, I am involved in advocating for the profession and I believe it is important that the voices of our local dentists are heard at the state level. My involvement in various committees within the SDCDS, particularly in Recruitment and Retention as well

as the Dental Assistant Task Force, has provided me with a better understanding of the issues facing our profession locally and the importance of collaboration and advocacy. With my background as a dentist with specialty training in orofacial pain, TMJ dysfunction, primary headaches, and sleep-related breathing disorders, I bring a unique perspective to the table, advocating for comprehensive care and addressing the evolving needs of our patients. I am committed to representing the interests of our members and working to advance the field of dentistry for the benefit of our community.

With a DDS from the University of Washington School of Dentistry and Master of Science in Orofacial Pain and Oral Medicine from the Herman Ostrow School of Dentistry of USC, coupled with extensive experience in general dentistry and orofacial pain treatment, I bring a deep understanding of dental complexities to the position of Delegate to the CDA House of Delegates. My leadership roles in various organizations, such as Leadership Tri-Cities, and numerous volunteer services, underscore my commitment to serving the dental community. Additionally, my professional affiliations, including being a Diplomate of the American Board of Orofacial Pain and a Fellow of the American Academy of Orofacial Pain, highlight my dedication to ongoing professional development. I am eager to leverage these skills and experiences to effectively represent the San Diego County Dental Society and advocate for the advancement of dentistry in our community.