



Nebraska Dental ASSOCIATION

ADA[®]

A publication of the Nebraska Dental Association

July / Aug / Sept 2025

Happy Fall



From Our New
Executive Director

*Lisa
Sypal*

In this issue

NDA Members:
FREE
D3/D4 Students:
FREE
Non-Members:
\$75



LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

 DATE:
19 September 2025

 TIME:
12 PM-5 PM

 LOCATION:
Embassy Suites
La Vista, NE

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VETERANS
Mission of Mercy
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FOUNDATION

UNMC COLLEGE
OF DENTISTRY

Creighton
UNIVERSITY
School of Dentistry

SEPT. 25-27, 2025

789 County Road J, Yutan, NE
TITAN ARMY NATIONAL GUARD READINESS CENTER



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President's Message

Dr. Adam Lamprecht



**Dr. Adam
Lamprecht**

Greetings from the land of Tigers, Knights and Warriors (I am talking about Fremont)! Our schools are back in session, and I am looking forward to fall weather and

football games. The start of a new school year also brings us volleyball where we have new college volleyball head coaches for the Huskers, Bluejays and even here in Fremont at NAIA powerhouse Midland University. All these coaches are taking over for longtime legendary individuals. It will be exciting to see how these new staff work together to lead their respective teams and utilize their knowledge and skillsets to help reshape their programs.

The Nebraska Dental Association is also going through a similar transition. After 21 years of leadership, David O'Doherty officially retired from the NDA at the end of August. I want to take time to thank David again for his dedication to the Association. When asked to name one of the greatest accomplishments during his tenure, he mentioned the formation of the Nebraska Dental Association Health Insurance Alliance. Like many of you reading this, our office takes advantage of the NDA health insurance plan, and I am very thankful for the hard work that David and the NDA put in to getting that up and running. There are certainly many other wonderful accomplishments that have taken place over the last 21 years, and we thank David for his commitment and service to the NDA.

After a very thorough search process to find David's replacement, I am excited to finally introduce you to our next Executive Director of the NDA, Lisa Sypal. Lisa comes to the NDA with tremendous experience in both non-profit and healthcare leadership. She was born in rural northeast Nebraska but

now calls Lincoln home. She credits her numerous dental community friends in piquing her interest in the NDA Executive Director position. I will let Lisa tell you her story, but I will say that the search committee was blown away by Lisa each opportunity we had to speak with her. Lisa's first day was August 11th, and she has hit the ground running! She has been working hard alongside Jody Cameron and David to get herself acclimated to the Association as well as starting to put her own spin on things. We have challenged Lisa with a busy schedule to start, visiting many of our members throughout the state here in the first few months. I am excited to see where Lisa and the team can take the NDA and how looking at things through a slightly different lens will challenge us to think differently.

I was lucky enough to host the NDA Board of Trustees here in Fremont at the end of July for our quarterly board meeting. We conducted our meeting at the new Center for Technology and Education that was just added to Fremont High School. FHS has partnered with Metro Community College to offer multiple trade programs in the new state-of-the-art facility. Included in the addition is a health science section that provides Certified Nurse Aid classes to high school students. It houses numerous hospital beds, manikins and a full-size anatomy simulator to assist with course work. Wouldn't it be amazing if we could add some dental chairs to a facility like this to help with our staffing shortages? This type of collaboration would be a wonderful place for the NDA and dentistry in general to begin to look at how we can partner with our schools to help educate our next dentists, dental hygienists and dental assistants. We already know that this is being done in other states and hopefully one day, we can add intro to dentistry into our high school curriculum.

Following our tour of the new campus, we conducted our Board of

Trustee's meeting where we had great conversation about trying to keep our Association on the right path both fiscally as well as providing a positive member experience. We want to make sure that the NDA is doing its best to meet your needs and at the same time, looking into the future to ensure we are staying relevant for years to come. As you can expect, this isn't an easy task, and we may be asking for your help. The board and district presidents then underwent a "strategic brainstorming" session to help put together goals for Lisa. As a team, we formed 90-day and 1-year goals to help her get up and running with Board driven objectives. The Board provided Lisa with a list of names that we hope she can make contact with to meet key individuals within our industry and political arenas. I appreciate the assistance of the Board and Search Committee in helping provide direction for Lisa and myself. If you have concerns or suggestions for the NDA, please connect with your District Trustee. We want this to be an organization committed to its membership and we appreciate all your feedback.

As you can see, even though it wasn't a super busy time with legislative issues or membership concerns, the NDA continues to navigate new leadership and help make a positive impact for our dental community. We continue to look for ways to modernize our Association and help make your membership a positive one. As we transition to our new Executive Director, there will certainly be some changes to the Association and sometimes change can be difficult. We hope to work through those challenges with a positive attitude and will support our team. I have faith in Lisa's leadership and cannot wait to see where she takes the NDA. I look forward to all of you meeting her and watching our team evolve under her guidance.

Nebraska Dental Association for the win!

VetMOM 2025

September 25 - 27 - Titan Army National Guard Readiness Center

Veterans Mission of Mercy (VetMOM) will be held September 25-27 at the Titan Army National Guard Readiness Center.

September 25th - Clinic Setup

September 26th - Clinic

September 27th - A.M. Clinic

Volunteer Registration on the NDA website at www.nedental.org or by using the QR code below



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ADA Tenth District Trustee

Dr. Sara Stuefen



Dr. Sara Stuefen

The ADA Board of Trustees is committed to keeping our fiduciary responsibility and focus on funding programs that prioritize member success and our strategic forecasting goals. After several years of investments in critical upgrades to our organization's systems, advocacy efforts, and key priorities, the Board took a deep dive into the cost of all ADA programs. In April, the Board rescinded its earlier approval of the 2025 Financial Operating Plan because of inaccuracies.

A new 2025 budget was approved in July which reduces expenses by more than \$20 million compared to initial spending estimates. These reductions will impact certain programs and teams, but the decisions were made carefully after collaboration with key stakeholders. Difficult decisions and conversations will continue as we look to the 2026 budget, but I have no doubt that we can face this challenge and emerge stronger and more unified on the other side.

Our advocacy team has been hard at work and achieved a big win with full restoration of the Pass-Through Entity Tax (PTET) deduction. This avoided a nearly 5% tax increase on dental practices and preserved tax parity for small business dentists. Elimination of this deduction was initially proposed in the House version of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, but the ADA lobbying team went to work to protect dentistry from this tax hike. Thanks to our members, over 11,000 grassroots letters were sent to Capitol Hill and our voices were heard. Other tax provisions that will benefit dentists include a 20% small business income deduction, restoration of 100% bonus depreciation, new domestic research tax incentives, preservation of a 21% corporate tax rate, and \$40,000 individual SALT deduction.

Although this is a big win for dentists, there is still work to do. There are concerns about the impact that the One Big Beautiful Bill Act will have on student loans. With elimination of the GradPlus loan program, capping lifetime financial aid amounts, and limiting loan repayment options, the ADA is concerned about these new barriers

for dental students. The Act also includes provisions that may cause states to make difficult decisions regarding adult dental Medicaid benefits. Our advocacy team is committed to working to address these challenges. Lastly, our association management system (AMS) transition moves ahead and continues to make great strides. As discussed in previous newsletters, our transition has been rocky and we are committed to improving the implementation. A special audit of AMS costs is underway and will examine the key financial aspects of the AMS adoption and implementation, including contract terms, deliverables, payments issued, and approval processes. This audit is being done in addition to the annual financial audits. We expect a final report to be presented to the Board in August. As of July, our AMS is at 60% stability with a target of 90% by September to ensure a smooth membership renewal season. This stabilization is our highest priority as it is essential for our states, membership efforts, and communications.

While challenges remain, your ADA Board is committed to addressing them with transparency, collaboration, and strategic focus. With continued unity and resilience, we are confident in our ability to strengthen the ADA and protect the future of dentistry.



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Congratulations to Drs. Richard Stacey & Michael Rezich

I'm pleased to announce the Dental Transition of Dr. Richard Stacey to Dr. Michael Rezich. Dr. Rezich worked as an associate and decided to buy the Practice. It was a pleasure helping them move forward.

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NDA Members:
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\$75



LEADERSHIP SUMMIT



DATE:

19 September 2025



TIME:

12 PM–5 PM



LOCATION:

Embassy Suites
La Vista, NE

Lunch will be provided from 12PM–1PM with the workshop starting directly after. Come and connect with other like-minded dentists!

Summit Highlights

The goal of the Summit is to help you become a stronger leader. Topics include:

- Using DiSC Behavior Assessments to better understand and collaborate with those around you
- Examining generational trends, their impact on team dynamics, and how to work effectively together
- Opportunities within the NDA to hone your leadership skills for personal and professional growth

Register Here



jody@nedental.org



402-476-1704



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A Message From Our New Executive Director

Lisa Sypal

Hello NDA Members!

I'm so excited to be stepping into this role as your new Executive Director! These first few weeks have been a whirlwind—in the best way—and I'm so grateful for the warm welcome. From day one, it's been clear that this is a community of people who care deeply about their patients, their profession, and each other. I already feel lucky to be part of it.

Much of my time so far has been spent learning and listening. I've been especially grateful to **Jody Cameron**, who has been with NDA for over 20 years and knows the Association's history, traditions, and relationships inside and out. Her guidance has been invaluable as I begin to see opportunities to build on that foundation and take NDA to the next level. I'm also thankful for the support of our board leadership—Board President **Dr. Adam Lamprecht** has been especially encouraging, and I've had great conversations with Board Treasurer, **Dr. Melanie Steckelberg**, and President-Elect **Dr. Todd Wragge**. I look forward to meeting many more board members in the months ahead.

I've jumped right into some exciting work! I joined **Dr. Jessica Meeske** and **Dr. Scott Morrison** for advocacy meetings with Senator Fredrickson and two candidates for Nebraska's

District 2 congressional seat and connected with ADA leaders like 10th District Trustee, **Dr. Sara Stuefen**. I've been working with **Jody** and **Dr. Deb West** on planning the upcoming Leadership Summit, and collaborating closely with the team organizing the VETMOM event at the end of September. I also joined a virtual meet-and-greet with the other 10th District State Executive Directors, who have already been incredibly supportive and helpful. It was inspiring to connect with colleagues tackling many of the same challenges and to see the interconnectedness of our work across the district and beyond.

One of my favorite parts so far has been meeting members in person. At the Omaha District Dental Society CE & Membership meeting, I connected with **Dr. Beth Kampschnieder**, **Dr. Brett Thomsen**, **Dr. Gene Gaspard**, **Dr. Natalie Frost**, and ODDS Administrator **Erika Kampschnieder**, among others. I'm also looking forward to visiting districts across the state, including the West District Meeting in Gering on September 12th. Connecting with you and understanding your needs will be at the heart of how I approach my work here.

In conversations so far, a few themes keep coming up: finding more ways to engage members, providing even more



value, growing our membership, strengthening advocacy efforts, and modernizing how we work so we can serve you better.

These aren't just "to-do" items—they're conversations I'm excited to have with you as we shape NDA's future together.

These early days have been busy, but in the best way. I'm energized, learning a lot, and so grateful for how welcoming you've all been. Please don't hesitate to reach out—whether you have an idea, a question, or just want to say hello. My door—and inbox—are always open, and I'd love to hear from you.

Here's to all the good work we'll do together. I'm so glad to be here!

Warmly,
Lisa Sypal
Executive Director
lisa@nedental.org

Remembering Dr. Gary Westerman

A Tribute by Dr. Scott Morrison

A true friend, and an unwavering supporter of organized dentistry, left us on August 21, 2025. Many of us, who are of an older vintage, will remember Dr. Gary Westerman. For those of you who never had the pleasure of knowing Gary, you missed out on a great chance to meet a wonderful human being and an outstanding Pediatric Dentist.

My memories of Gary began 35 years ago through the Omaha District Dental Society (ODDS). For many years, Gary's service as the ODDS treasurer and my service as the ODDS secretary overlapped. In addition to serving for so many years as the ODDS treasurer, Gary also served for several years as the Nebraska Dental Association (NDA) treasurer.

Gary's favorite topic of conversation was "the kids"; Eric and Amy. He was very proud of them and liked to share how their lives were taking shape. He also talked a lot about Gonzaga and Creighton, especially during basketball season. Gonzaga is where Gary completed his undergraduate studies. Creighton is where Gary attended dental school and taught for what seemed like an eternity. He was extremely proud of Gonzaga, Creighton and Iowa where he graduated from his pediatric residency. In meetings, Gary was always very protective of Creighton, reminding UNMC graduates that there were "two dental schools in Nebraska".

Gary was a good man, with a couple of eccentricities. Gary always thought we could raise the ODDS and the NDA memberships to astronomic percentages. More than once, he referred to those who were not members of organized dentistry as "freeloaders". If you consider that those who are not members of organized dentistry do, in certain respects, benefit from the efforts of those who are members, then Gary wasn't entirely wrong in this characterization.

Gary was a stickler for parliamentary procedure and the use of proper vernacular. For example, he always insisted that we "receive" and not "accept" presented reports. At the time, I thought he was too rigid in adhering to these principles, but I now realize how using the appropriate vernacular and following parliamentary procedure kept things in line and moving forward. Today, I still find myself using the same terminology he was so insistent we use in meetings.

Gary was protective of ODDS and NDA funds, sometimes to the point of being considered a tight wad. But isn't that what you want from a treasurer? While perhaps frugal with organization funds in certain areas of budget and operations, Gary was always ready to approve funding for a worthy project, campaign, or event. For several years, he secured funding and organized ODDS and Creighton dental



Dr. Westerman and his beloved wife, Judy

student involvement in KidzExplore.

Gary always had a kind word and never seemed to be upset or mad. He was inclusive of all.

I was lucky to have spent so much time with Gary, attending ODDS and NDA meetings and events. And Judy, the love of Gary's life, was always by his side. Judy was also a supporter of organized dentistry, or maybe she supported organized dentistry because she loved Gary and wanted to share that aspect of his life. Either way, organized dentistry benefitted from their joint involvement.

Thank you, Gary, from the American Dental Association, the NDA, the ODDS, myself, and all those who knew you. Your time spent with us was cherished. You were a class act.

Scott Morrison

Updates

Medicaid Updates

DHHS has released several important updates:

- Expanded coverage: Oral screenings, fluoride, and prophylaxis frequency clarified; PHDHs may now perform Head Start screenings/assessments.
- Dentures: New staged payment rules if treatment is interrupted; model retention and documentation required.
- New services: Consultation (D9310) now covered once per year; third molar extractions allowed with documented pathology.

We encourage you to review the details in the latest Provider Bulletins and subscribe for future updates on the [DHHS website](#).

2026 Membership Dues

The ADA will send out renewal invoices via email in early November 2025. Your dues are due on January 1, 2026, and delinquent on March 31, 2026. If you are participating in the prepaid dues program, do NOT pay the invoice that is emailed to you. We will upload your payments separately into the database following your final payment.

To ensure that we have updated information, please make sure that your addresses, phone numbers, and emails are updated prior to the dues billing, especially if you have moved within districts as each district has different dues. If you have retired from the practice of dentistry, or plan to retire by the end of the year, the ADA does require that you fill out a retired affidavit. Please contact Jody at jody@nedental.org to assist you.



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Congratulations Dr. Carolyn Taggart-Burns & Summit Dental Health

I'm pleased to announce the Dental Transition of Dr. Carolyn Taggart-Burns & Summit Dental Health. It was a pleasure working with both parties to achieve the synergies of 2 great groups coming together.

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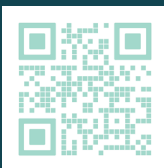
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Get Involved

Make a Difference with the NDA

Looking to make an impact in your profession? Getting involved with the Nebraska Dental Association is easier than you think—and there's a place for every interest, talent, and ambition. From short-term volunteer opportunities to serving on committees, councils, or the Board, your participation helps shape the future of dentistry in Nebraska. Every new volunteer brings fresh expertise and perspectives, strengthening our community and empowering dentists to build thriving practices and rewarding careers.

Join us and make your mark! Click [HERE](#) to learn more.

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Dental Office Available: 1702 N 120th Street, Omaha, NE. This 1,250 square-foot office is located in Candlewood Centre, just off 120th & Blondo. This space offers front and back windows for great natural light, a built-in reception desk, a small dentist office, restrooms and four patient areas. There is an optional additional 647 square feet of lower level walk out space available, if desired. The shopping Center is located in a great area with strong demographics, access and amenities. Please call Cindi Incontro with CBRE for a tour or additional information at 402-306-5025 or at cindi.incontro@cbre.com.

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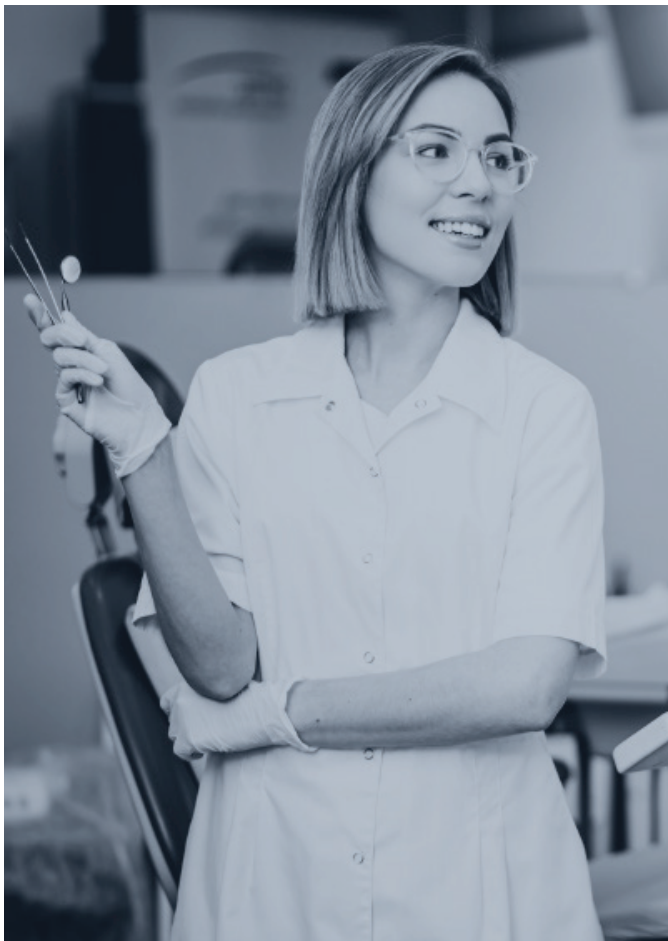
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