



Dental Assisting National Board

September 16, 2024

**Summary of major actions taken by DANB's Board of Directors at the  
2024 Annual Board Meeting**

Chicago, IL

July 26, 2024

Including a Joint meeting with the DALE Foundation Board of Trustees

July 25, 2024

**DANB Directors in Attendance:**

Janée Tamayo, CDA, CPFDA, B.S., MSgt, USAF, Chair; Kimberly S. Plate, CDA, CPFDA, CRFDA, B.S., Chair-Elect; Meagan Mitchell, CDA, B.S., Secretary-Treasurer; Lois Bell, CDA, CDIPC, CPFDA, CRFDA, MADAA, Immediate Past Chair; Tanya Dorf Brunner, M.S., Public Member; Kerri H. Friel, CDA, COA, M.A., RDH; Frank Maggio, D.D.S.; Barbara Mousel, D.D.S., CDA, RDH; Kishan Patel, CDA, COA, CPFDA, CRFDA; Lindsey Yates, D.D.S.

**Incoming Director (participated in the meeting without a vote):**

Renee McNally, B.S., COA, CDIPC, QOA, RDA, CDA, CPFDA, CRFDA, SOA

**DALE Foundation Trustees in Attendance:**

Michael Conte, D.M.D., M.P.H., President; Vicki L. Brett, CDA, RDH, B.S.D.H., President-Elect; Royann Royer, CDA, RDH, M.P.H., Secretary-Treasurer; Guinevere B. Juckett, CDA, CPFDA, CRFDA, CDIPC, EFDA, FADAA, FAADOM, Immediate Past President; Lois Bell, CDA, CDIPC, CPFDA, CRFDA, MADAA; Joanne Dawley, D.D.S.; Sandra L. Garcia, CDA, CDIPC, RDA, FADAA, FAADOM; Carlos Gaxiola, CDIPC, RDA, RDHAP, RDH (*virtual*); Janée Tamayo, CDA, CPFDA, B.S., MSgt, USAF; Stephanie Bustos, CDA, CDIPC, RDA (Leader-in-Training / Nonvoting)

DANB's Chief Executive Officer Laura Skarnulis serves as an ex officio member of DANB's Board of Directors and the DALE Foundation Board of Trustees.

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**DANB/DALE Foundation Relationship**

DANB and the DALE Foundation approved a new organizational structure that will position the organizations for the future. The new structure further aligns DANB and the DALE Foundation, paving the way for the continued advancement of our missions and strategic goals. The new structure brings our products and services together, which will better serve our stakeholders' needs today and in the future. It also prioritizes foundation-focused initiatives while streamlining governance.

**Strategic Discussions with Communities of Interest**

DANB invited members of the dental community to attend a session held in conjunction with its Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors in Chicago on July 25, 2024. The session was attended by DANB Board Directors, DALE Foundation Board Trustees, and representatives from several dental organizations, including the American Association of Dental Boards, American Dental Association (ADA), ADA Commission on Dental Accreditation, ADA Council on Advocacy for Access and Prevention, ADA Council on Dental Education & Licensure, ADA Council on Dental Practice, American Dental Assistants Association, American Dental Education Association, Association for Dental Safety, and Association of Dental Support Organizations.

During the four-hour session, the group shared updates from their organizations and discussed several topics related to the dental assistant workforce. DANB provided updates on two of its initiatives: the [Dental Assisting Workforce Coalition](#), which is dedicated to finding solutions that champion the role of dental assistants, and the [Dental Assisting Professional Model Workgroup](#), which aims to address the inconsistency in dental assisting requirements and scope of practice from state to state. The group engaged in a lively and enlightening discussion about the future vision for dental assisting, how dental assistants are involved with each organization, and each organization's unique position related to workforce issues.

### **Assessment and Certification Updates**

The Spanish version of the RHS Exam launched in January 2024 with over 100 exams administered as of July. Translation work is also underway for the ICE and GC exams.

As part of its work to reduce barriers for candidates, DANB's Board approved several policies recommended by its Candidate and Certificant Services Committee. The "DANB Exam Reasonable Accommodations Policy" was revised to streamline the process and make it easier for candidates with disabilities to request testing accommodations. The "Background Information Questions" were revised to include a Statement of Purpose, providing candidates with a general understanding of why BIQs are required on applications. The Board also approved a one-time, 33% discount on in-person and live remote proctored second attempts after a failed exam for RHS, ICE, and GC exams, aiming to reduce the financial burden on candidates retaking an exam and to remove barriers for candidates to earn certification. DANB will be conducting a study to determine whether DANB should add an additional pathway to take the GC exam and earn the CDA certification, and the Board approved the minimum requirements that will be included in the study.

### **Communications and Engagement**

#### Communication Initiatives

Dental Assistants Recognition Week (DARW) was a success and aimed to celebrate all dental assistants and engage with the community. This multi-faceted campaign included articles, blog posts, and e-newsletters on the DARW theme, TikTok and Instagram giveaways, recognition-themed merchandise, and promotional offers on review courses. DANB also shared the results of the [Financial Impact of Dental Assistants on the Dental Practice](#) research and launched the [Great Practice for Dental Assistants to Work](#) award, which received nearly 200 applications. [Nine winning practices were announced in August.](#)

#### Engagement Activities

This year's partnership and engagement activities included a diverse and robust conference and meeting schedule focused on relationship building with key communities of interest. DANB and the DALE Foundation participated in more than 40 engagement activities, including 12 dental conferences, delivering 15 presentations (10 in-person; 5 virtual) and a variety of other engagement meetings with key agencies. We continue to attend a variety of conferences and meeting in person and remotely, including those addressing topics related to dentistry, education, and workforce development.

### **Scholarships**

DANB and the DALE Foundation have increased their scholarships efforts and investment to provide more opportunity to those interested in education, exams and certification. Below is an overview of recent and upcoming activities for each scholarship.

#### DANB/DALE Foundation Scholarship

The scholarship launched on January 8, 2024, and was open through March 4, 2024. [Eight recipients were announced in June](#) and will receive between \$250 and \$1,000 for dental assisting education, exams, credentials, or activities that advance DEI.

#### Liz Koch Memorial Scholarship Update

The Liz Koch Memorial Scholarship marked its 10-year anniversary in 2024. Winners were announced in September and received a total of \$5,000 in funds to support professional development activities such as continuing education courses, DANB exams and certifications, DANB certification renewal, college courses, and dental conferences.

### ADS-DANB-DALE Foundation Andrew Whitehead Education and Certification Scholarship

At the 2023 OSAP Annual Conference, the Collaboration announced the creation of this scholarship, which supports oral healthcare professionals in their pursuit of the [CDIPC](#) and [DISIPC](#) certifications. In 2024, more than 400 applications were received and [45 scholarships were awarded](#).

### **DALE Foundation Updates**

In 2024, the DALE Foundation launched a new RHS Practice Test in Spanish and updated 14 other products, with significant design improvements to enhance the learner experience. New complimentary CE products are being developed via the work of the Workforce Coalition as part of a toolkit addressing cultural issues in dental practice, which is expected to launch in late 2024. The complimentary CE webinars have been well-received, reaching over 1,500 unique learners.

Both ADA CERP and AGD PACE renewed the DALE Foundation's status as a recognized CE provider.

### **Other Priorities and Initiatives**

#### Board Governance Updates

At the recommendation of the Governance Committee, the DANB Board of Directors approved the revised "Conflicts of Interest Policy, Statement of Disclosure and Participation Agreement" and the new "Governance Policy Review Cycle", further strengthening and refining DANB's governance policy infrastructure.

#### Legislative Activity and Government Relations

DANB continues to monitor and develop strategies to address new laws and regulations affecting dental assistants, as well as emerging state-level issues related to dental assisting requirements and scope of practice.

### **Board Leadership Updates**

As part of the future succession planning, the DANB Board of Directors elected Barbara Mousel, D.D.S., CDA, RDH, to the Chair-Elect position for Board Year 2024-2025, beginning September 1, 2024.

The 2024-2025 term Board Officers therefore are as follows:

- Chair — Kimberly Plate, CDA, CPFDA, CRFDA, B.S.
- Chair-Elect — Barbara Mousel, D.D.S., CDA, RDH
- Secretary-Treasurer — Meagan Mitchell, CDA, B.S.
- Immediate Past Chair — Janée Tamayo, CDA, CPFDA, B.S., MSgt, USAF

Related to the new DANB/DALE Foundation relationship model, continuing DALE Foundation Board Trustees were invited to transition to the DANB Board and continue their existing terms as DANB Directors. The following individuals accepted the position and will continue their existing terms as DANB Directors beginning September 1, 2024:

- Vicki L. Brett, CDA, RDH, B.S.D.H.
- Royann Royer, CDA, RDH, M.P.H.
- Sandra L. Garcia, CDA, CDIPC, RDA, FADAA, FAADOM
- Carlos Gaxiola, CDIPC, RDA, RDHAP, RDH
- Stephanie Bustos, CDA, CDIPC, RDA

### **Upcoming Meetings**

The Boards' next regularly scheduled Winter meeting will be held in Albuquerque, NM, from February 6-8, 2025.