

**KENTUCKY DENTAL ASSOCIATION  
HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
SECOND SESSION**

Galt House  
Louisville, KY  
August 27, 2023

**Dr. H. Fred Howard**, Speaker of the House

1. **CALL TO ORDER.** **Dr. Fred Howard, Speaker of the House**, called the House of Delegates to order at 10:30 AM.
2. **QUORUM STATEMENT.** **Dr. Barry Curry** announced that a quorum was present.
3. **INVOCATION.** **Dr. Kevin Wall** gave the invocation.
4. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA.** The agenda for the House of Delegates was approved.
5. **ADDRESS OF THE SIXTH DISTRICT TRUSTEE.** **Dr. Mike Medovic**, Sixth District Trustee of the American Dental Association presented brief remarks to the KDA House of Delegates.
6. **KDA EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS' REMARKS.** **Dr. Stephen Robertson** presented the following remarks.

Kentucky Dental Association House of Delegates  
Executive Director Report  
August 27, 2023  
Galt House, Louisville, Kentucky

Friends, welcome to the end of another great meeting of the Kentucky Dental Association! As I approach the end of my first meeting, and first month as your Executive Director, I am excited for the future! While we have challenges ahead of us, I feel we are in a time of great possibility. The ideas and the minds throughout this room and organization are the necessary fuel to help lift the KDA to new heights. For too long we have allowed ourselves to be hamstrung by complacency. We have eliminated our think tanks and started to stagnate as a group. Once again this year we have asked our Delegates to come to a meeting where our only proposed business is renew a budget remarkably similar to the last several budgets. It is time to remove the lid and step out of the box we find ourselves in and start on the process of moving this organization forward once again.

You have heard myself, ADA President George Shepley, and our Trustee Mike Medovic speak of the fact that this is a time of unprecedented change. These changes are coming fast and cannot wait for decisions once annually. We need to adapt, and be able to respond quickly, preferably acting proactively as we move to the future to keep the KDA ahead of the curve.

Today you will hear the call for the establishment of new work groups from our reference committee. This will hopefully be the first step of many to move us back to being an organization of action rather than reaction. We need new avenues for member involvement with ability to bring forth new, fresh ideas designed to grow and reinvigorate this organization.

Work Groups allow the opportunity for focused, short bursts of members time, so they can be actively involved in reshaping the KDA without long time commitments and travel. This get in, get it done, and get out mentality will allow us to be more nimble as we grow.

We need to reinvigorate our Executive Board and get it back to being a group of action with their finger on the pulse of the entire membership and organization, rather than a group that meets to hear empty reports, rubber-stamping our continued complacency.

We have ideas. We have fabulous ideas. Now is the time to move. It takes us all and we must move forward together. We have chosen a beautiful profession, one where we have been relatively free to make our own choices on how, when and why we practice. But change is coming. There are many outside of our profession that wish to intrude and control the way we do business. We can be at the table, or on the table, the choice is ours.

Our primary legislative focus continues to be insurance reform and Medicaid, although other issues such as fluoridation and mid-levels providers will continue to be presented. We had a major victory in 2022 with the unanimous passage of HB370. We realize there are still issues with the lack of enforcement of this law, and this remains our constant daily focus. Please continue to reach out with the challenges you encounter, and file the appropriate complaints with the Insurance Commissioner as we continue to push for and effort the proper regulations to add the teeth to our law. The wheels are turning, frustratingly slow, but continual progress is being made. Stand your ground and stay strong, the law is clear and we are hoping for resolution before the end of the year.

Our legislative agenda for the coming session includes assignment of benefits, allowing patients to choose the provider of their choice and that provider be paid directly by third party payers. Limiting the acceptable time frame for retro-term denials and recoupments. We will be looking at Medical Loss Ratio, and possibly adding the legal requirement in addition to HB370 that third party companies be required to complete predeterminations when requested by patients or providers to further eliminate roadblocks and barriers to care. For your information, this law already exists in Kentucky on the medical side.

Medicaid remains on the front burner, and many things are currently swinging in our favor. I have high hopes for the coming session. Many of you may not participate in Medicaid currently, and that your right to make that decision. In fact part of our message is that in our rapidly changing world makes it very difficult for a small business provider to participate in a program that asks them to accept a third of their fee, therefore knowingly operating a loss. Our students are currently leaving school with an average debt of \$350,000 before deciding on a house, car, lifestyle, much less a mode of practice. It's easy to see why it may difficult to decide to participate in program that that starts at a negative. But understand over half of Kentuckians are under this program, as health care providers we can not ignore this population, We need to step up and help find a way to make this program viable for all. We are proposing radical changes, potentially to be funded with a soda or sugar tax. We are offering solutions and a funding method, we shall see where this leads. When we are successful, I am the optimist type, we also need you to give the program a new look, for if we are able to gain significant changes to improve the system for all involved, we need to have the manpower available to move it forward.

I'm passionate about Dentistry, I'm passionate about the KDA, I believe in this organization, and I firmly believe in our continued partnership with the American Dental Association. There is nothing more important

than the continuation of the Tripartite structure of the organization, and we need to do our part by finding a way to jump start the components, to get their activities ramped back up after our period for forced inactivity due to COVID. Our strength begins at the grass roots, our strength begins in our hometowns, and then as we come together through the KDA in Louisville and ADA in Chicago our voices and actions are amplified and heard. We are the voice of Dentistry, the proponent of oral health, the protectors of our patients, and we must make sure this continues.

I am Dr Stephen W Robertson, your Executive Director, and together we can do amazing things! Let's enjoy the ride!

**7. REPORT OF REFERENCE COMMITTEE.**

**KDA REFERENCE COMMITTEE**  
**Dr. Cliff Lowdenback – Chairman**

KDA Reference Committee, met Saturday, August 26, in the Clements Room of Galt House. Much discussion was received and considered.

**RESOLUTION 2023-101**  
**ORIGINATOR: KDA EXECUTIVE BOARD**

**BACKGROUND:** The KDA Executive Board reviewed and approved the 2024 Budget as developed by the Budget and Finance Committee. Therefore, be it

**RESOLVED,** that the proposed 2024 Revenue and Expenditure Budget be approved.

Mr. Speaker, I move for the adoption of Resolution 2023-101.

**ACTION: ADOPTED**

**8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS.**

**9. NEW BUSINESS.** There was no new business.

**10. INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS.** **Dr. Don Heine** officially installed the new officers of the Kentucky Dental Association. They are as follows:

**President – Dr. Cliff Lowdenback**  
**First Vice President – Dr. Matt Milliner**  
**Second Vice President – Dr Samantha Shaver**  
**Secretary/Treasurer – Dr. Kevin Wall**  
**ADA Alternate Delegate – Dr. Jonathan Rich**  
**ADA 6<sup>th</sup> District Trustee – Dr. Fred Howard**  
**Speaker of the House – Dr. H. Fred Howard**

11. **PRESIDENTIAL RECOGNITION.** **Dr. Mike Medovic, ADA Trustee** presented the Past President's Pin from the ADA to **Dr. Don Heine.** **Dr. Cliff Lowdenback** presented the KDA President's Plaque and Past President's Pin to **Dr. Don Heine.**

12. **ADDRESS OF THE KDA PRESIDENT.** **Dr. Cliff Lowdenback,** President of the KDA Association presented brief remarks to the KDA House of Delegates.

13. **ANNOUNCEMENTS.**

- House of Delegates Meeting  
**Speaker Howard** announced that the next meetings of the House of Delegates will be Saturday, August 24, 2024 at 2:30 PM and Sunday, August 25, 2024 at 10:30 AM.

14. **ADJOURNMENT.** **Dr. Barry Curry** moved to adjourn. **Dr. Fred Howard** adjourned the meeting at 11:15 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Kevin Wall  
Secretary-Treasurer