



Mid-States Dental Leaders Conference

Thursday, August 6

- 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm Welcome Reception—Room: Drake Landing, St. Paul Hotel
Dinner and evening on your own
- <https://www.visitsaintpaul.com/eat-drink/>
 - <https://www.visitsaintpaul.com/>

Friday, August 7

- 7:00 am Registration—Promenade Foyer, St. Paul Hotel
- 7:30 am Breakfast Buffet—Promenade Foyer, St. Paul Hotel
- 8:30 am Welcome and Introduction—Promenade Ballroom, St. Paul Hotel
- 9:00 am State Issues Discussion
- Chad Olson, Senior Director, Department of State Government Affairs
Division of Federal & State Advocacy
- 10:30 am Break
- 11:00 am State Issues Discussion continued
- Open Forum
- 12:00 pm Lunch—Drake Landing, St. Paul Hotel
- 1:30 pm State of the American Dental Association
- Dr. Nader Nadershahi, Executive Director, ADA
 - Dr. Thomas Paumier, ADA President-Elect
- 2:30 pm Q & A with the ADA
- 3:00 pm Break
- 3:30 pm Fluoridation Update—Fluoridation Advocacy Tips and Talking Points
Dr. Liz Lense, DDS, MSHA, FAAOMP, Senior Scientist for population health programs
ADA's Council on Advocacy for Access and Prevention
- 4:30 pm Adjourn
- 5:15 pm St. Paul Saints Baseball at CHS Field in the *Star Tribune Skybox*. *Louisville Bats vs St. Paul Saints*
(*Triple-A affiliate of the Minnesota Twins*) (7:07 pm game time; doors open 5:30 pm; dinner 6:00
pm) –*Stadium is 0.8 miles from hotel. Shuttle from hotel will be available beginning at 5:15 pm.*
Return shuttle begins at 9:00 pm.



Mid-States Dental Leaders Conference

2026 Mid-States Dental Leaders Conference

August 6-8, 2026
St. Paul, Minnesota

Saturday, August 8

- 7:30 am Breakfast Buffet—Promenade Foyer, St. Paul Hotel
- 8:30 am The Latest in Dental Data Trends—Promenade Ballroom, St. Paul Hotel
Dr. Marko Vujicic, Chief Economist & Vice President
Health Policy Institute, American Dental Association
- 9:45 am Break
- 10:15 am Non-Dues Revenue Exploration
 - State Dental Society Insurance Agencies—Exploring a New Model
 - Sam E. Steinmetz, President, Professional Insurance Programs, Wisconsin
 - Other
- 11:15 am 2027 Mid-States Conference, KC, Missouri, Loews Hotel, August 12-14, 2027.
- 11:30 am Adjourn



Mid-States Dental Leaders Conference

Presenter Biographies

August 6–8, 2026 • St. Paul, Minnesota

Liz Lense, DDS, MSHA

Senior Scientist for Population Health Programs, American Dental Association

Elizabeth Carmen Lense, DDS, MSHA, FAAOMP, serves as senior scientist for population health programs with the American Dental Association's Council on Advocacy for Access and Prevention.

Dr. Lense attended Emory University School of Dentistry, graduating with highest honors. She completed an oral pathology residency at Emory, obtained a master's degree in healthcare administration from Georgia State University, and completed a residency in dental public health at the CDC in Atlanta.

Dr. Lense has served as director of a hospital-based pediatric dental program in inner-city Atlanta, the state dental director of Georgia, and associate professor of community dentistry at the University of Florida.



Nader A. Nadershahi, DDS, MBA, EdD

Executive Director, American Dental Association

Dr. Nader A. Nadershahi serves as Executive Director for the American Dental Association and previously as the ninth Dean of University of the Pacific's Dugoni School of Dentistry and Vice Provost of the San Francisco campus.

He is a fellow of the American College of Dentists, Academy of Dentistry International, International College of Dentists, and Pierre Fauchard Academy, and completed a fellowship in the ADEA Leadership Institute.

Dr. Nadershahi served on the boards of the Bay Area Council and the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce, and serves as Chair of the California Health Workforce Education and Training Council. He was chair of the ADEA Board and is VP of the Santa Fe Group, a national organization focused on catalyzing improvement of oral health. He practiced in Marin County, California, and has completed more than 140 presentations, 30 publications, five book chapters, and numerous abstracts and other publications.



Chad Olson

Senior Director, State Government Affairs, American Dental Association

Chad Olson is Senior Director, State Government Affairs at the American Dental Association, where he directs state-level advocacy strategy and provides guidance to state dental societies on legislative and public affairs matters.

He leads work on issues such as prior authorization, retroactive claim denials, and medical loss ratio (MLR) legislation through the ADA's Fight Insurer Interference Strategic Task Force. Chad previously worked with Delta Dental Plans Association and has spent much of his career in ADA's State Government Affairs department.

He holds a B.A. in Russian, Summa Cum Laude, from Arizona State University, and is based in the Oak Brook, Illinois area.



Thomas M. Paumier, D.D.S.

President-Elect, American Dental Association

Thomas M. Paumier, D.D.S. is the President-Elect of the American Dental Association (ADA). Dr. Paumier is a general dentist in private practice in Canton, Ohio.

Dr. Paumier has served the ADA in multiple leadership roles throughout his 35 years of service, most recently as Vice-chair for the Strategic Forecasting Committee and as an Advisor to the ADA Budget Committee of the Board of Trustees. Previously, he also served as Chair of the Council on Members Insurance and Retirement Programs and the Board of Trustees Committee on Budget and Finance. He was on the ADA Covid Recovery Task Force and has served on two Council on Scientific Affairs expert panels that developed clinical practice guidelines related to antibiotic use.

Within the Ohio Dental Association, Dr. Paumier has held several key positions, including Treasurer and President. He served as Chair of the Annual Sessions Committee, Chair of the ODA Services Corporation, and is the current Chair of the Ohio Dental Association Wellness Trust. He is a past president of the Stark County Dental Society in Ohio.

Dr. Paumier is a Fellow of the American College of Dentists, the International College of Dentists, and the Pierre Fauchard Academy. He is Chair of the Cleveland Clinic Mercy Hospital Board of Trustees and a past Chair of the Cleveland Clinic Mercy Hospital Development Foundation. He is on the faculty of the "Thomas M. Paumier DDS General Practice Residency" at Cleveland Clinic Mercy Hospital and also lectures at Case Western School of Dental Medicine and the NEOMED Bitonte College of Dentistry in Ohio.

Dr. Paumier earned his D.D.S. from Ohio State University College of Dentistry and resides in Canton with his wife Christy.



Sam E. Steinmetz

President, Professional Insurance Programs — Wisconsin Dental Association Insurance & Services Corporation (WDAISC)

As President of the Wisconsin Dental Association Insurance & Services Corporation (WDAISC), Sam provides strategic leadership while helping guide the organization's continued growth and success. Drawing on his background in personal and commercial insurance, he understands the evolving needs of the professionals and organizations WDAISC serves.

Sam is committed to strengthening relationships, expanding innovative insurance solutions, and delivering exceptional service. His collaborative leadership and client-focused approach help ensure WDAISC remains a trusted partner for members across Wisconsin.



Marko Vujicic, PhD

Chief Economist and Vice President, Health Policy Institute, American Dental Association

Marko Vujicic, PhD, serves as Chief Economist and Vice President of the Health Policy Institute at the American Dental Association, where he oversees the Association's policy research activities.

Prior to joining the American Dental Association in 2011, he was Senior Economist with The World Bank in Washington, D.C., where he directed the global health workforce policy program. He was also a Health Economist with the World Health Organization in Geneva, Switzerland. He is a visiting assistant professor at Tufts University in Boston.

Dr. Vujicic obtained his Ph.D. in Economics from the University of British Columbia and a bachelor's degree in Business from McGill University in Montreal.



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Attendee Directory (August 4, 2026)

Prefix	First Name	Last Name	Position	Dental Association
American Dental Association				
Dr.	Manish	Chopra	7th District Trustee	American Dental Association
Dr.	Monica	Hebl	9th District Trustee	American Dental Association
Dr.	Fred	Howard	6th District Trustee	American Dental Association
Dr.	Liz	Lense	Senior Scientist for Population Health Programs	American Dental Association
Dr.	Randall	Markarian	8th District Trustee	American Dental Association
Dr.	Nader	Nadershahi	Executive Director	American Dental Association
	Chad	Olson	Senior Director, Department of State Government Affairs	American Dental Association
Dr.	Thomas	Paumier	President Elect	American Dental Association
Dr.	Allen	Reavis	12th District Trustee	American Dental Association
Dr.	Sara	Stuefen	10th District Trustee	American Dental Association
Dr.	Marko	Vujicic	Chief Economist & Vice President, Health Policy Institute	American Dental Association
Illinois State Dental Society				
Dr.	Doug	Chang	President	Illinois State Dental Society
	Eric	Larson	Executive Director	Illinois State Dental Society
Dr.	Paul	Palliser	President Elect	Illinois State Dental Society
Dr.	Vishruti	Patel	Vice President	Illinois State Dental Society
Dr.	Ron	Waryjas	Treasurer	Illinois State Dental Society
Indiana Dental Association				
	Doug	Bush	Executive Director	Indiana Dental Association
Dr.	Lorraine	Celis	President	Indiana Dental Association
	Mont	Annis	Guest of Lorraine Celis	Indiana Dental Association
Dr.	Will	Hine	President Elect	Indiana Dental Association

Prefix	First Name	Last Name	Position	Dental Association
	<i>Michelle</i>	<i>Hine</i>	<i>Guest of Will Hine</i>	<i>Indiana Dental Association</i>
Kansas Dental Association				
Dr.	Mariah	Frazier	Vice President	Kansas Dental Association
	Kevin	Robertson	Executive Director	Kansas Dental Association
Dr.	Kate	Stanley	President	Kansas Dental Association
Kentucky Dental Association				
Dr.	Stephen	Robertson	Executive Director	Kentucky Dental Association
<i>Dr.</i>	<i>Gina</i>	<i>Davis</i>	<i>Guest of Stephen Robertson</i>	<i>Kentucky Dental Association</i>
Dr.	Samantha	Shaver	President	Kentucky Dental Association
Michigan Dental Association				
Dr.	Melanie	Mayberry	President	Michigan Dental Association
<i>Dr.</i>	<i>Maria</i>	<i>Manautou</i>	<i>Guest of Melanie Mayberry</i>	<i>Michigan Dental Association</i>
Dr.	Chris	Smiley	President Elect	Michigan Dental Association
<i>Dr.</i>	<i>Colette</i>	<i>Smiley</i>	<i>Guest of Chris Smiley</i>	<i>Michigan Dental Association</i>
	Bill	Sullivan	Interim Executive Director	Michigan Dental Association
Minnesota Dental Association				
	Whitney	Bey	Director of Convention Operations	Minnesota Dental Association
	Carmelo	Cinqueonce	Executive Director	Minnesota Dental Association
	Dan	Murphy	Director of Government Affairs	Minnesota Dental Association
Dr.	John	Noack	President Elect	Minnesota Dental Association
Dr.	Aruna	Rao	1st Vice President	Minnesota Dental Association
Dr.	Loren	Taple	2nd Vice President	Minnesota Dental Association
Dr.	Scott	Wagnild	President	Minnesota Dental Association
Missouri Dental Association				
Dr.	Amanda	Fitzpatrick	President Elect	Missouri Dental Association
	Vicki	Wilbers	Executive Director	Missouri Dental Association
Nebraska Dental Association				
Dr.	Donal	Scheidel	President Elect	Nebraska Dental Association
	Lisa	Sypal	Executive Director	Nebraska Dental Association
Dr.	Todd	Wragge	President	Nebraska Dental Association
Ohio Dental Association				
Dr.	Kyle	Bogan	President	Ohio Dental Association
	David	Owsiany	Executive Director	Ohio Dental Association

Prefix	First Name	Last Name	Position	Dental Association
Dr.	Kelly	Roth	Speaker of the House	Ohio Dental Association
Oklahoma Dental Association				
	Lynn	Means	Executive Director	Oklahoma Dental Association
	Andy	Means	Guest of Lynn Means	Oklahoma Dental Association
Dr.	Nicole	Nellis	President	Oklahoma Dental Association
	Stephen	McCollam	Guest of Nicole Nellis	Oklahoma Dental Association
South Dakota Dental Association				
Dr.	Bryan	Johnson	President Elect	South Dakota Dental Association
Wisconsin Dental Association				
Dr.	Cheska	Avery-Stafford	President Elect	Wisconsin Dental Association
	Brenna	Sadler	Executive Director	Wisconsin Dental Association
Dr.	Rachel	Steele	President	Wisconsin Dental Association
	Sam	Steinmetz	President, Professional Insurance Programs	Wisconsin Dental Association