

Nebraska Dental Assistants Association

2026 Newsletter

A message from our President:

On behalf of the Nebraska Dental Assistants Association, I am excited to welcome you to the 2026 Annual Session at the Innovations Campus Convention Center in Lincoln, Nebraska!

This year, we are pleased to join our NDA colleagues for the Welcoming Keynote Address before transitioning into assistant-focused programming. Our morning sessions will include “Operatory Maintenance” and a social media breakout, “Conquer Instagram: Reeling into the Now.” The morning will conclude with an on-your-own lunch.

In the afternoon, we will begin with NDAA business, with the House of Delegates and the installation of new officers. We will wrap up the day with our final breakout session covering the required Infection Control, including the Bloodborne Pathogens speaker. As always, our assistant-specific sessions are designed to support the continuing education requirements for both CDA and LDA credentials.

I would also like to extend my sincere appreciation to our outstanding Executive Board for their dedication to the continued success of our Association. While this year may have felt a bit quieter, we accomplished meaningful progress, including important updates to our bylaws and manual of procedures to help modernize and strengthen our organization.

Let’s continue to grow, lead, and believe in the impact we make for our profession and for the patients we serve.

Yes, I still BELIEVE!

Thank you for the honor of serving as your NDAA President this year.

Best,

Crystal Stuhr

Crystal Stuhr, CDA, BS, LDA
NDAA President 2025–2026

NDAA Annual Session

May 8, 2026

Nebraska Innovation Campus Conference Center- 2021 Transformation Drive Lincoln, NE 68508

Parking and NDAAA Registration can be found online at nebraskadentalassistants.org

\$0 for NDAA members, \$100 for non-NDAA members, plus a \$20 lunch fee



Morning Session

7:30 AM - 8:45 AM Check-in (Between 8 and 8:30 AM, there will be a welcome and keynote address in the Auditorium)
8:30 AM – 9:00 AM Break
9:00 AM – 10:30 AM Session 3: Assistant CE “Operatory Maintenance” With Seth Thomas – Breakout Room C
10:30 AM - 11:00 AM Break
11:00 AM – 12:00 PM Session 5: Minal Sampat- “Conquer Instagram: ‘Reeling’ Into the Now”- Breakout Rooms A1-A2-A3
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM Lunch Break

Afternoon session

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM House of Delegates and Installation of Officers - Breakout Room C
2:00 PM - 3:30 PM Session 9: “Stop the Spread: Infection Control and Bloodborne Pathogens Made Practical” (Trudy McFadden – Breakout Room C
(See complete schedule online)

Nominated Officers:

The Nominating Committee submits the following slate of officers and their qualifications for election to the 2026-2027 Nebraska Dental Assistants Association Board:

President	Cindy Cronick
President-Elect	Angel Dean
Vice President	Renae Zarybnicky
Treasurer	Delores Heyen
Secretary	Amanda Skuban
Board Members	Brittany Greve Shannon Tschirren
Advisory Board	Crystal Stuhr

Qualifications:

I, **Cindy Cronick**, accept the nomination for the office of President. My qualifications include being a member of NDAA/ADAA for 53 years and a dental assistant for 54 years. Have attended 30 NDAA Annual Sessions, serving as a delegate 25 times. I have attended 10 ADAA Annual Sessions and served as a delegate 8 times. I am currently serving as NDAA Board President-Elect. I have served in all offices except for Treasurer for NDAA and all offices except Vice President for ODAS. I have served as the 8th District Trustee for ADAA. Additionally, I have served on numerous committees for ADAA, NDAA, and ODAS.

I, **Angelique Dean**, accept the nomination for the office of President-Elect. My qualifications include being a member of NDAA/ADAA for 15 years and a dental assistant for 18 years. I have attended 16 NDAA Annual Sessions and served as a delegate 11 times. I have attended 1 ADAA Annual Session and served as a delegate 1 time. I am currently serving as an NDAA Board Member. I have served as President, President-Elect, and Secretary for both NDAA and LDAS. Additionally, I have served as chair on several NDAA Committees.

I, **Renae Zarybnicky**, accept the nomination for the office of Vice President. My qualifications include being a member of NDAA/ADAA for 8 years and a dental assistant for 14 years. Have attended 10 NDAA Annual Sessions, serving as a delegate 10 times. I am currently serving as NDAA Vice President. I have served as a Board Member of NDAA. I have also served as President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer on LDAS. Additionally, I have served as chair of several state and local committees.

I, **Amanda Skuban**, accept the nomination for the office of Secretary. My qualifications include being a member of NDAA/ADAA for 22 years and a dental assistant for 21 years. I have attended 20 NDAA Annual Sessions, serving as a delegate 19 times. I have attended 4 ADAA Annual Sessions and served as a delegate 4 times. I am currently serving as secretary for NDAA. I have served in several offices for NDAA and LDAS, including President for both. Additionally, I have served as chair on several NDAA and LDAS committees.

I, **Delores Heyen**, accept the nomination for the office of Treasurer. My qualifications include being a member of NDAA/ADAA and a dental assistant for 50 plus years. I have attended numerous NDAA Annual Sessions, serving as a delegate many times. I have attended 4 ADAA Annual Sessions, serving as a delegate 4 times. I have served in every office in the MSDAS and every office except Vice President in the NDAA. I am currently serving as NDAA Treasurer. Additionally, I have served on numerous committees in both MSDAS and NDAA.

I, **Brittany Greve**, accept the nomination for the office of Board Member. Qualifications: Member of NDAA/ADAA for 9 years, and a dental assistant for 20 years. Have attended 10 NDAA Annual Sessions, serving as a delegate 2 times. Have attended 1 ADAA Annual Session. Currently serving as NDAA Advisory Board. Have served as President, President-Elect, Secretary, and Board member on both NDAA and LDAS. Have served as Chair of several State and Local committees.

I, **Shannon Tschirren**, accept the nomination for the office of Board Member. My qualifications include being a member of NDAA/ADAA for 19 years, and a dental assistant for 19 years. I have attended 17 NDAA Annual Sessions and served as a delegate 12 times. I am currently serving as an NDAA Board Member. I have served as both President and President-Elect for NDAA and Vice-president for ODAS. Additionally, I have served as chair on several NDAA Committees for both NDAA and ODAS.

AWARDS

Aloise B. Clements Trophy for Achievement

Given to the Association in 1937 by Mr. Joe Ratner in memory of Aloise B. Clements.

It may be presented to a member who has provided outstanding service to the Association. Nominations shall be presented to the Awards Committee Chairman. The recipient will hold the trophy for a period of one (1) year. It should be engraved with the recipient's name.

Dr. Cecil Mueller Loyalty Trophy

It may be awarded to the member in attendance at the Annual Session who presents verification of the longest period of continuous employment with one dentist/employer. The applicants must submit a statement that includes: [1] Initial date of employment. [2] Verification of at least five (5) years of membership in the American Dental Assistants Association and the Nebraska Dental Assistants Association. [3] Verification of the dentist/employer. [4] Signature of the President of the NDAA. Nominations shall be presented to the Awards Committee Chairman before the Pre-Board Meeting for consideration. The recipient will hold the trophy for a period of one (1) year. It should be engraved with the recipient's name.

Student Award- R.E. Dooley Essay Award Trophy

Presented by Lettie Johnson to NDAA in 1970. Each Dental Assisting School will be notified in January of the award's requirements and the plaque will be presented at the NDAA Annual Session. In 2000, the original plaque was modified to become a separate plaque for each Dental Assisting Program (Mid-Plains, Central, Southeast, and Metropolitan). The name of the award-winning student essayist shall be engraved on a bronze plate to be mounted on the plaque of the winner's school. The contest is open to all student members of the NDAA. [1] Essays are to be original works of the student, 500-1000 words in length. [2] Essays are to be typewritten or word-processed on one side of the page only. [3] A bibliography must be included in the essay. [4] Essays must be submitted to the NDAA Awards Committee seven (7) days before the Annual Session. Essays will be judged on: Subject matter, Grammar, Spelling, Clarity of thought, and Professional Interest. Each school may submit three (3) of its best essays. The winning essay award is \$25.00 cash. The essay may not be material that was prepared for another purpose. [1] Proofreading, assisting in typing, etc. are not allowed by instructors of students submitting an essay. [2] Es-says received beyond the accepted date will not be considered. [3] Essays become the property of the Association and will not be returned. [4] Before judging the essays, each should be numbered by a non-committee member to keep the identity of the school and student unknown. All evidence of student/school name should be covered. A ranking order may be devised for scoring (i.e. scale of 1- 10). The highest total scores are 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners.