

Ohio Dental Association: 150 Years of Excellence







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The Story of the Ohio Dental Association

Past, Present and Future

Since 1866, the Ohio Dental Association (ODA) has worked to advance the interests of the dental profession, dental patients and the public in Ohio. Below is a brief history of the ODA and how it has impacted dentistry in Ohio over the last 150 years.

THE PAST

The founding of the ODA

Back in 1866, dentistry was not well organized, and dental care was often provided by people with little or no formal training. For

too many, dental care meant "tooth pulling" by a barber or blacksmith. The tools were primitive and the science related to oral health was yet undiscovered.

But the dental profession changed when organized dentistry was born. Organized dentistry was the vehicle that transformed dentistry into a true profession, consistently pushing to modernize and



advance both the art and science of dentistry. Today, the ODA has more than 5,000 members who provide high quality dental care to millions of patients across the buckeye state. The dental profession thrives because it insists upon the highest standards of care, scientific-based training and professional ethics. The incredible advancements dentistry has made as a profession would not have been possible without organizations like the Ohio Dental Association leading the way.

On June 26 and 27 of 1866, 41 dentists met at Naughton Hall in Columbus and developed a constitution and bylaws around the goals of creating a statewide association for Ohio dentists. The purpose of this new organization was to advance the dental profession, protect the public, foster fellowship and encourage more formal



professional education for dentists. On those warm June days 150 years ago, Ohio's statewide dental association – then known as the Ohio State Dental Society – was born. And dentistry in Ohio would never be the same.

After adopting the constitution and bylaws, the leaders of the Ohio State Dental Society developed what is believed to be the first written code of ethics in dentistry. Ohio's code, which encouraged dentists to act professionally at all times and to treat patients with respect, was the model for the American Dental Association's code of ethics, which was adopted just a few months later. For more on the ODA's role in advancing dental ethics, see page 11.

Two years after that, in 1868, the Ohio State Dental Society worked to get the Ohio legislature to pass one of the first dental laws in America. The new law sought to ensure that dental care in Ohio was provided by qualified individuals who had sufficient training and experience in dentistry so that Ohioans could be confident that they were receiving quality dental care. Many of the leaders of the Ohio State Dental Society served on the original Ohio Board of Dental Examiners, which was created by the new law.

The profession advances education, prevention and science

Establishing formal dental education programs was another priority for the Ohio State Dental Society. In the 1800s, many dentists had no formal training and learned as apprentices. The Ohio State Dental Society, working with the board of dental examiners and established universities, sought to stabilize and formalize dental education to ensure the art and science of dentistry was being advanced and taught competently to students.

This effort led to the creation of the dental schools that currently

exist at The Ohio State University and Case Western Reserve University. Today, these institutions deliver world-class dental education to their students. And, along with others, their alumni make up the membership and the leaders of the Ohio Dental Association.

Ohio dentists have a long history of working for the underserved. In fact, in February of 1941, the first Children's Dental Health Day in America was held in Cleveland, and a week-long children's dental



health event was held in Akron that same year. These events were designed to draw attention to the importance of dental health for children. Following the examples set in Cleveland and Akron, the American Dental Association held the first national observance of Children's Dental Health Day on February 8, 1949, and it became a weeklong event in 1955. Today, the ADA recognizes February as National Children's Dental Health Month.

When scientific evidence in the first half of the last century showed that fluoride in drinking water prevents tooth decay, organized



dentistry responded. In 1950, the ADA passed a resolution encouraging water fluoridation, and over the next two decades, the ODA and local Ohio dental societies advocated to fluoridate water systems across Ohio. In 1969, the ODA successfully lobbied to have the state legislature enact a law requiring most municipalities to fluoridate their water systems unless they opted out via a local

ballot issue. Today, because of the efforts of the ODA, more than 90 percent of Ohioans live in communities with fluoridated water systems, which is well above the national average of 67 percent. Because of its positive impact on oral health, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention declared that water fluoridation is one of the top 10 greatest public health achievements of the 20th century. The ODA helped to make the promise of water fluoridation a reality in Ohio.

In the last half of the 20th century, advancements in research on infectious diseases and appropriate sterilization in the dental office led to a better understanding of how to protect patients and dentists and their staff. In Ohio, the ODA pushed for the adoption of science-based infection control laws, regulations and standards to ensure the provision of dental care in Ohio is the safest in the world. And today, Ohioans have complete confidence that the care they receive from their dentist is safe and effective.

As the practice of dentistry has changed, so has the role of the dental team. One hundred and fifty years ago, dentists provided their services with little or no professional assistance. Technological advancements and the expansion of dental assisting, dental hygiene, and EFDA education spearheaded by organized dentistry, have enhanced the dental team, making the delivery of care more efficient and effective.

THE PRESENT

ODA's subsidiaries provide dental practice resources and advance philanthropy

In 1984, ODA's leaders recognized that as the business and management of dental practices became more complex, a trusted source was needed to help make dental offices more efficient and effective. As a result, the Ohio Dental Association Services Corporation (ODASC) was born as a separate independent subsidiary of the ODA to assist member dentists with various aspects of running a dental practice.



Today, ODASC offers 12 different insurance plans, including health insurance, professional liability insurance and group-rated workers' compen-



sation coverage, and 10 different practice management products, including patient financing and sterilization monitoring. Nearly all of these products are offered at a discount and provide unique benefits that are not available elsewhere in the marketplace. Thousands of ODA member dentists utilize these products and services every year.

ODA past president and former ODASC board chair Dr. Tom Paumier explains "I utilize several ODASC products, including disability insurance, the website development program, sterilization monitoring and bleaching gel. I couldn't be happier with them and I appreciate that ODASC does the work to find the best products at the best prices and makes them available to me."

In 1995, the leaders of the ODA saw the need to create a philanthropic arm, so they created the Ohio Dental Association Foundation as an independent non-profit charitable organization. Through the generous support of the member dentists, the ODA Foundation awards grants to worthy programs that provide access to dental care to the underserved and scholarships to worthy students in dental school and in dental assisting and hygiene programs.

In fact, this year as the ODA celebrates its 150th anniversary, the ODA Foundation surpassed \$1 million in grants and scholarships – demonstrating the profession's commitment to the underserved in Ohio and the future of dentistry.

ODA's public service programs expand access to dental care

Today, ODA members also demonstrate their commitment to the underserved by directly providing much needed dental care. Through the Give Kids a Smile program, ODA member dentists



provide nearly \$1 million in free care to underserved children every year.

M e m b e r dentists also provide care to underserved adults through the Dental OP-TIONS program – ODA's innova-

tive public-private partnership with the Ohio Department of Health – whereby ODA member dentists provide free or reduced fee dental care to Ohio's working poor. Ohio dentists provide more than \$1 million of donated care every year to underserved Ohioans through the dental OPTIONS program.

From the early days of the association through today, the ODA and its members have demonstrated a commitment to Ohio's citizens. In fact, a recent independent survey shows that ODA members provide a total of more than \$40 million in donated care to underserved Ohioans annually. This commitment is one of the reasons dental patients and the public continue to trust and respect the dental



profession.

The ODA Annual Session

The ODA Annual Session is one of the longest running annual dental meetings in America and is an excellent source of information, resources and fellowship for Ohio dentists. Every year, dentists and their staff have access to the highest quality continuing educa-

tion from nationally known speakers who come here to Ohio. And dentists can shop for equipment, supplies and other dental-related materials in one of the region's largest dental exhibit halls.

The ODA Annual Session weekend also includes dental school receptions, specialty meetings and other opportunities for fellowship and reconnecting with colleagues. All this is why the ODA Annual Session continues to be one of the most popular state dental meetings in the county.

Advocacy

Membership surveys regularly show that ODA's advocacy program is the most valued aspect of membership in the ODA. Over the years, ODA's advocacy has led to changes in Ohio laws that have

enhanced dental education, protected the sanctity of the dentist-patient relationship from unnecessary government and third-party interference, reformed the malpractice laws protecting dentists from frivolous litigation, and expanded



prevention and access to care. For more on the ODA's history of advocacy, see pages 14 and 15.

Dr. Mark Bronson, a past-ODA president and the 2016-17 chair of the ADA Council on Government Affairs, describes the impact of the ODA's advocacy efforts this way: "Due to the ODA's effective presence at the Ohio Statehouse and our strong political action committee, our lobbying efforts are very successful. Because of the ODA, Ohio's dental laws and regulations are based on sound science and good public policy. As a result, dentists can focus on providing high quality care to their patients without unnecessary interference from government or other outside third parties."

The ODA is a leader within organized dentistry



Today, the ODA is one of 53 constituent state and territorial dental societies of the American Dental Association, and Ohio has 25 local component dental societies. This tripartite approach of local, state and national membership makes organized dentistry unique and effective in advancing the dental profession. And



within this tripartite system, the ODA is recognized as a leader in advancing dentistry.

ADA President-Elect Dr. Joe Crowley, a general dentist from Cincinnati, recently summed up the ODA's impact on organized dentistry by stating, "at the ADA, the Ohio Dental

Association is well regarded as a leader in promoting the dental profession through its effective advocacy and its innovative programs. The ODA is truly a model for other state dental associations across the country."

Recent ODA Membership Surveys reveal that the ODA is an organization that is meeting its member dentists' needs and expectations at an amazingly high level. Members value the products and services offered through ODASC, the discounted CE opportunities offered through the ODA Annual Session and the leadership develop-

ment training offered at the annual ODA Leadership Institute. ODA's publications – both electronic and paper – rate as highly valued sources of important information to help members keep track of trends in dentistry and changes in dental regulations and the dental marketplace. The



ODA staff is a friendly and reliable professional resource providing accurate and up-to-date information when dentists need assistance on legal, regulatory or third-party payer issues.

THE FUTURE

ODA's past is the foundation for a bright future in dentistry

One hundred and fifty years ago, no one could have predicted what the future would hold for the ODA and the dental profession. This brief examination of the ODA's history demonstrates the amazing advancements dentistry has made in Ohio. Just as important, however, is what that strong foundation means for the future.

Dr. Lauren Czerniak, an ODA member dentist from Toledo who serves on the ADA's New Dentist Committee, discussed the ODA's role in directing the profession's future when she said, "I really appreciate the ODA and know that it has helped advance and protect our profession throughout its history. As someone just starting out in practice, I want the ODA to remain strong because I know with the ODA working on my behalf, the future of dentistry in Ohio will be bright and exciting, just like its past."



ODA's Founding

Events of June 1866 Changed Dentistry in Ohio Forever

In 1865, as the American Civil War wound down, some Ohio dentists thought that it was time to form a statewide dental society to organize and promote the dental profession and to protect the citizens from "quacks" and other unscrupulous providers of dental services.

A call was issued to as many of the approximately 500 dentists in Ohio as could be identified to assemble for a meeting dedicated to the formation of a state dental society. The call stated:

"The entire dental profession of the state of Ohio is hereby cordially invited to meet in mass convention in the city of Columbus ... on Tuesday and Wednesday, the 26th and 27th of June, 1866, to form a state dental society, and to devise and adopt such measures as tend to elevate and advance the interests of the profession."

Forty-one dentists showed up in Columbus near the end of June 1866 to join together to form a state dental society designed to promote and advance the relatively new profession of dentistry. Cleveland's first dentist, Dr. Benjamin Strickland, presided over the organizational meeting as chairman, and, as one of the first orders of business, a committee was appointed to devise a constitution and bylaws and present them to the entire group.

By the end of the first day, the group had approved a constitution and bylaws, which declared that the association "shall be called the Ohio State Dental Society" and that its "aims and purposes" were:

· "mutual fellowship and recognition,"

• "the promotion of honor, usefulness and interests of the profession,"

• "the advancement and cultivation of professional science and literature,"

• "the encouragement of a more thorough professional education," and

• "the protection of the public."

The constitution provided for four standing committees: an ex-



ecutive committee, and committees on membership, publications and ethics. The officers were to be "a president, two vice presidents, a corresponding secretary, a recording secretary and a treasurer, with each being elected annually by a majority."

A code of ethics was then drafted and presented to the entire group on the second day of the meeting and unanimously approved. This new code of ethics indicated that dentists should treat patients with respect, earning their confidence by being both "firm" as well as "kind and sympathizing" to them. The code directed dentists to show "respect" to their fellow dentists as well and cautioned against making "disparaging" remarks about, or claims of superiority over, other dentists. The code specifically limited a dentist's professional scope to the treatment of "diseases of dental organs and the mouth" and admonished that dentists must recognize the "superiority" of physicians over general health and that physicians should recognize the superiority of a dentist's knowledge of the mouth. The code also directed that dentists had a duty to "enlighten and warn" the public about the dangers of "quacks."

According to reports written at the time, it was believed that this may have been the first written code of ethics in dentistry as it preceded the Code of the American Dental Association by several months. At the next annual meeting of the Ohio State Dental Society in January 1867, the Committee on Ethics had "no special report to make" because "so far as the committee was aware all the members of the society have conformed with the spirit of the code." For more on the code of ethics, see page 11.

The participants at the founding meeting of the Ohio State Dental Society in 1866 included many existing and future luminaries and leaders in the dental profession. Dr. George Watt from Xenia was elected as the first president of the Ohio State Dental Society at that first meeting. Watt had previously served as president of the American Dental Association (known as the American Dental Convention at the time) in 1863 and participated in the founding meeting of the ADA in Niagara Falls, New York, in 1859.

Dr. George Keely from Oxford was elected as the first vice president of the Ohio State Dental Society in 1866. Keely also attended the founding meeting of the ADA and was subsequently elected president of the Ohio State Dental Society in 1871 and ADA president in 1877. Dr. Henry A. Smith from Cincinnati was elected as the Ohio State Dental Society's Recording Secretary at the initial meeting in 1866 and president in 1874. Smith was also at the founding meeting of the ADA in 1859 and was elected ADA president in 1882.

Jonathan Taft, who served on the committees that drafted the code of ethics and the constitution and bylaws in 1866, was elected president of the Ohio State Dental Society the following year. Taft also attended the founding meeting of the ADA and was subsequently elected ADA president in 1869.

It was fortunate that the Ohio State Dental Society had so many experienced organizational leaders because the new society and fledgling profession faced many challenges in those early days. Those issues included working to pass legislation creating the first state board of dental examiners to ensure proper standards of care were being met, creating more formal dental education programs to ensure dentists were properly trained and fighting against corporate patents that limited the ability of dentists to use vulcanized rubber as bases for their dentures. See pages 14 and 15 for more on ODA's legislative advocacy, pages 12 and 13 for more on the development of dental education in Ohio, and page 10 for more on the rubber denture patent issue.

Dr. Lucy Hobbs Opened the Door to Dental School for Women

The ODA's founding was not the only significant dental-related event that happened in Ohio in 1866. That same year, Dr. Lucy Hobbs became the first American woman to earn a dental degree when she graduated from the Ohio College of Dental Surgery.

Hobbs' unconventional life began in upstate New York where she

was born in 1833. Her mother died when she was around 9 years old. Shortly after her mother's death, her father married his sister-in-law, who then died just two years later as well, in 1844. Throughout her life, Lucy believed that this experience of losing her mother and step-mother led to her strong independence. Lucy attended boarding school in New York between 1845 and 1849, receiving an education



sufficient enough to allow her to begin a teaching career at age 16. She moved to Michigan where she taught school for 10 years. While in Michigan, she developed an interest in medicine. At age 26, Hobbs moved to Cincinnati with the intent to study medicine at the Eclectic Medical College. She was denied admission because of her gender and was advised to consider a career in dentistry instead of medicine.

At the time, dental education usually began with a preceptorship with a dentist, followed in a minority of cases with enrollment in dental school on the recommendation of the preceptor. In 1861, there were only three dental schools in the United States: The Baltimore College of Dental Surgery, founded in 1840, the Ohio College of Dental Surgery, founded in 1845 in Cincinnati, and the Pennsylvania College of Dental Surgery, founded in Philadelphia in 1856. Many dentists entered practice only having completed a preceptorship, while others spent a term or less in a dental college without earning a degree. At the time, a significant minority of practicing dentists actually earned a dental degree.

Hobbs had difficulty finding a preceptorship as most male dentists felt it could be damaging to their careers if they were to take in a female student. She began studying under Jonathan Taft, who would later serve as president of the ODA and ADA and also served as dean of the Ohio College of Dental Surgery. After three months studying with Taft, she finally landed a preceptorship with Dr. Samuel Wardle, who was a graduate of the Ohio College of Dental Surgery.

Hobbs said of Wardle: "To him alone belongs the honor of making it possible for women to enter the profession. He was to us what Queen Isabella was to Columbus; may his name, like hers, be revered by every woman in the profession." While she was studying with Wardle, she paid her expenses by sewing clothes for others after hours. After several months studying and training with Wardle, Hobbs applied to the Ohio College of Dental Surgery but was denied admission because she was a female. Despite her rejection from the Ohio College of Dental Surgery, Hobbs was not deterred. Wardle encouraged her to open her own dental office, even though she did not have a dental degree. She opened her practice in Cincinnati in 1861. Her timing could not have been worse as the Civil War broke out just as she was opening her new dental practice. The following year, she moved to lowa to get further away from the war zone. She opened a dental practice there and quickly established a strong reputation as "the woman who pulls teeth."

Her practice in Iowa was successful, and in 1865, the Iowa State Dental Society changed its bylaws to allow women into membership. On July 19, 1865, Hobbs was elected into membership of the Iowa State Dental Society, becoming the first woman in history to become a member of a state dental society. At that same meeting of the Iowa State Dental Society, Hobbs was named as a delegate to the American Dental Convention, which met in Chicago later that same year. In Chicago, the Iowa State Dental Society's delegation made a strong push for the Ohio College of Dental Surgery to admit Hobbs into its program. It worked. The Ohio College of Dental Surgery accepted Hobbs, and she moved back to Cincinnati to enroll in November 1865.

Because of her years of study and practice, she was required to attend less than one year of classes. In 1866, she received her diploma from the Ohio College of Dental Surgery along with the 15 men in her graduating class, making her the first woman to receive a dental degree.

Hobbs impressed her teachers. Upon graduation, Dr. George Watt, who was the first president of the ODA and taught chemistry at the Ohio College of Dental Surgery, said of Hobbs: "She is a credit to the profession of her choice and an honor to her alma mater. A better combination of modesty, perseverance and pluck is seldom, if ever, seen."

Taft said that Hobbs "was studious in her habits" and "had the respect and kind regard of every member of the class and faculty."

Following graduation, Hobbs moved to Chicago where she practiced for a little more than a year. She then relocated with her husband to Lawrence, Kansas, where she had a successful dental practice for more than 40 years.

While dentistry remained a male-dominated profession for many decades following Hobbs' graduation, there has been a significant change in recent years. According to data collected by the ADA's Health Policy Institute, only about 1 percent of dental students were female in 1968. By 1978, that number had risen to about 15 percent, and today, almost half of all dental students in America are female. In fact, in 2016, a majority of the graduating class from the Case Western Reserve University School of Dental Medicine was female for the first time in the school's history.

Dr. Lucy Hobbs' trailblazing persistence 150 years ago opened the door to dental education for the thousands of women who followed in her footsteps.

The Battle Over Denture Patents

In June of 1866, a distinguished group of dental leaders gathered in Columbus and wrote and adopted a constitution and bylaws creating a statewide dental association for the first time in Ohio and also wrote and adopted what is believed to be the first written code of ethics in dentistry, which served as a model for the ADA's code of ethics adopted just a few months later.

The group that assembled on those two warm June days in Columbus faced many more issues than just creating the governance

documents and establishing a code of ethics. One such issue was the battle over the use of vulcanite rubber for denture bases.

Prior to the 1850s, dentures were often made with wooden or ivory bases. These dentures were hard, uncomfortable and often ill-fitting. They were also expensive to make. In the 1850s, vulcanite rubber was identified as a firm but flexible and durable material that was perfect for use as the base of dentures. The vulcanite rubber base could be molded to the patient's gums making the denture better fitting and more comfortable. The vulcanite rubber base also made it possible for dentists to make dentures relatively inexpensively, making dentures accessible to many more people who could now afford to have "false teeth."

The Goodyear Dental Vulcanite Company of Boston held the patent on the "improve-

ment in Artificial Gums and Plates" using vulcanite rubber. The Company enforced the patent by requiring all dentists who wished to utilize vulcanite rubber for dental prosthesis to pay for a license and also pay a royalty on each denture they produced. The company's treasurer, Josiah Bacon, enforced the patent with vigor. According to various reports at the time, Bacon was aggressive in harassing and threatening litigation against dentists who did not pay the license or royalty fees. Bacon utilized threats and intimidation to get dentists to comply with his demands. Apparently, one of his strategies included hiring a "beautiful young lady," giving her money and sending her into a dentist's office with orders to entice the dentist to make her a "rubber" denture. Once the dentist acceded to the patient's request, Bacon had the evidence he needed to go after the dentist for the license and royalty fees.

The Goodyear Dental Vulcanite Company would publish three different lists: those dentists who had purchased its license, those dentists who were under injunction to cease using vulcanite rubber in their dental prostheses, and those dentists who were being sued by the company for using vulcanite rubber.

In the spring of 1866, the founding members of the Ohio State Dental Society struggled with how to fight against the aggressive tactics of the Goodyear Dental Vulcanite Company. In fact, the group called a subsequent meeting in the fall to consider a plan of action. At the meeting in Columbus on Nov. 1, 1866, the members passed a motion stating that "the dentists of Ohio refuse to accede to the demands of the Goodyear Dental Vulcanite Company." The "Dental Times: A Quarterly Journal of Dental Science," reported at the time that "the feeling appears to be almost unanimous in the (dental) profession" that the actions to enforce the patent are "an attempt at wholesale swindle under the cover of law." Every member of the Ohio State Dental Society was asked to give \$10 to a fund that was

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set up to support dentists facing litigation from the Goodyear Dental Vulcanite Company and to support a lawsuit challenging the patent. The following year, in 1867, the Ohio State Dental Society pledged to raise \$800 to support a Massachusetts dentist who was engaged in litigation to "resist the unjust and extortionist demands of the Goodyear Dental Vulcanite Company."

One of the legal challenges to the patent made it all the way to the United States Supreme Court, which ultimately ruled in 1876 in favor of the Goodyear Dental Vulcanite Company finding that the patent was valid and enforceable.

The battle over the patent, however, did not end there. At the 14th annual meeting of the Ohio State Dental Society on Dec. 3, 1879, the members passed a resolution calling for the statewide dental society to

"respectfully urge our Senators and Representatives in Congress to use all honorable means to prevent the reissue of the ... patent, covering the making and use of vulcanite plates for artificial teeth."

A perhaps more impactful action occurred earlier that year. Dr. Samuel P. Chalfant was a dentist from the state of Delaware who refused to pay the Goodyear Dental Vulcanite Company's license and royalty fees. Bacon brought action against Chalfant, causing him to flee Delaware and open a practice in St. Louis, and later San Francisco. In each location, Bacon followed and hounded Chalfant. It all came to a head in San Francisco, when, following another court action brought by Bacon, Chalfant went to Bacon's hotel room and shot him dead. Chalfant, who was hailed as a hero by some in the dental profession and as a "pirate" by the Goodyear Dental Vulcanite Company, was convicted of second degree murder and sentenced to prison.

Following Bacon's death, the Goodyear Dental Vulcanite Company was much less aggressive in enforcing its patent, and two years later, the patent expired. Dentists were then able to use the vulcanite rubber without paying Goodyear's license and royalty fees or fearing legal action and other harassment. The use of vulcanite rubber in dental prostheses was common for the next several decades until acrylic resins emerged as the preferred denture base for most dentists.

150 Years of the Ohio Dental Association



1827

Dr. John Harris begins instruction in dental surgery at his Bainbridge office, which later became known as the "cradle of dental education"

1866

(June 26) - 41 Ohio dentists meet to form the Ohio State Dental Society - George Watt is elected as first president

1866

Dr. Lucy Hobbs becomes the first woman to earn a dental degree, graduating from the Ohio College of Dental Surgery



1890

The College of Dentistry at the Ohio Medical University is founded. The Ohio State University takes over the College of Dentistry in 1914

1912

The Ohio State Dental Society becomes a constituent of the American Dental Association

1859

Twenty-six dentists meet in Niagara Falls, New York to form a national professional society for dentists and the ADA is founded

1868

Aimed at "doing away with quackery," the first Ohio law governing the practice of dentistry is passed, and many Ohio State Dental Society leaders serve on the original Ohio Board of Dental Examiners created by the law

1892

The Western Reserve University Dental School is founded in Cleveland

1866

(June 27) - On day two of the first meeting of the Ohio State Dental Society, the world's first known written code of dental ethics is created and adopted





1944

The Ohio State Dental Society and four Ohio components sell a total of \$10 million in war bonds resulting in four B-17 bombers being named after the societies

Case Institute of Technology and

1967

Technology and Western Reserve University federate to create Case Western Reserve University

1967

The Ohio State Dental Association shortens its name to Ohio Dental Association

1963

The Ohio State Dental Association

space for a small office at 40 S. 3rd Street in downtown Columbus

hires an executive secretary and rents

1969

The ODA works to pass a community water fluoridation law that results in a significant expansion of water fluoridation across the state



1938

The Ohio State Dental Society purchases the house where John Harris practiced and taught in Bainbridge

1947

The Ohio State Dental Society changes its name to the Ohio State Dental Association

1927

The first edition of the Bulletin of the Ohio State Dental Society was published

1921

The Ohio State Dental Society committee on legislation introduces a bill to legislate the practice of dental hygiene

150 Years of the Ohio Dental Association



1995 The ODA creates the ODA Foundation as charitable arm



1987 Dr. Marvin Fisk serves as the first African American president of the ODA

1984

The ODA forms the ODA Services Corp. (ODASC) to offer services and products to support members' dental practices



1975 ODA offices are relocated to the Neil House at 41 S. High Street

1981

The ODA home quarters are moved yet again to 33 N. 3rd Street

1974

Ohio becomes one of the first states to allow dentists to employ and supervise Expanded Function Dental Auxiliaries

1987

The ODA headquarters moves to 1370 Dublin Road in Columbus, where it remains today



Ohio becomes one of the first states to have mandatory infection control rules for dental offices





1999

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention names community water fluoridation as one of the 10 greatest public health achievements of the 20th century

2003

The ODA works to pass a law creating the Ohio Dentist Loan Repayment Program



2003 The ODA holds its first Give Kids a Smile Day. Today, through GKAS events, ODA members provide nearly \$1 million in free care to Ohio children annually

2014

The ODA works to pass the Ohio Dental Care Modernization Act revising Ohio's dental laws related to access to care, supervision and licensure

2002

Dr. Jeanne Nicolette serves as the first female president of the ODA

1997

The ODA forms a partnership with the Ohio Department of Health to create the Dental OPTIONS program providing care to the underserved





2010 The ODA receives an ADA Golden Apple award for its Good DEED environmental stewardship program 2016

The ODA Foundation surpasses \$1 million in grants and scholarships awarded

> 2016 The ODA celebrates its 150th anniversary



150 Years of **Professional Ethics**

At the same time that the ODA is celebrating its 150th anniversary, the American Dental Association is celebrating the 150th anniversary of its code of ethics. Interestingly, these two seminal events are closely tied together, as the dentists at the Ohio State Dental

Society's founding meeting in 1866 wrote and adopted what is believed to be the first written code of ethics. The Ohio Code of Ethics became the model for the ADA's Code of Ethics, which was adopted just a few months later.

At the founding meeting of the Ohio State Dental Society in June of 1866, 41 dentists arrived in



Columbus to create a statewide association for dentists in Ohio. By the end of the first day, the group had approved a constitution and bylaws. Then, a committee on ethics was appointed, and on the second day of the meeting the group unanimously adopted the code of ethics drafted by the ethics committee. According to reports at the time, the society's code was believed to be the first written code of ethics in dentistry.

Article I of the Ohio State Dental Society's code dealt with the professional responsibility that dentists have to their patients, stating that the dentist should:

"Manifest kind and sympathizing disposition, combined with a firmness in doing that which is right. He should exercise proper authority as far as his knowledge and judgment will warrant ... His deeds, rather than his tongue should declare his ability ... He should be in good physical health."

Article II of the code dealt with the maintenance of professional character and the need for the dentist to "respect his fellow dentists. especially his seniors." It cautioned dentists not to make "disparaging remarks" regarding a patient's family dentist or to claim superiority over other practitioners.

Article III of the code specifically limited a dentist's scope of practice to the treatment of the "diseases of dental organs and the mouth" and admonished dentists to recognize the "superiority" of physicians over general health and that physicians should recognize the superiority of a dentist's knowledge of the mouth.

Article IV directed that dentists had a duty to "enlighten and warn" the public about the dangers of "quacks" in dentistry.

The Ohio State Dental Society's code served as the model for the ADA's code of ethics, which was adopted just a few months later. In fact, the structure and certain passages of the ADA's code are identical to the original Ohio State Dental Society's code of ethics.

Article I of the first ADA code of ethics dealt with the "duties of the profession to their patients" admonishing the dentist to "be firm, yet kind and sympathizing so as to gain the respect and confidence of his patients" and to be "temperate in all things, keeping both mind and body in the best possible health."

Just like Article II of Ohio's code, Article II of the ADA code dealt with "maintaining professional character" and directed that young dentists "should show special respect to their seniors" and "when consulted by the patient of another practitioner the dentist should guard against inquiries or hints disparaging to the family dentist."

Article III of the ADA code dealt with the "relative duties of dentists and physicians," declaring that "dental surgery is a specialty in medical science." It also provided that "the dentist is professionally limited to diseases of the dental organs and the mouth" and that dentists should recognize the "superiority of the physician in regard to diseases of the general system." Article III also provided that the physician should recognize the dentist's "higher attainment in his specialty" of dental surgery.

Finally, just like Article IV of Ohio's code, Article IV of the ADA code stated that "dentists are frequent witnesses, and at the same time the best judges, of the impositions perpetrated by quacks, and it is their duty to enlighten and warn the public in regard to them."

It has been 150 years

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since these first codes of dental ethics were adopted and much has changed. Research has demonstrated the interconnectivity between oral health and overall health making interdisciplinary interaction between dentists and physicians much more common and necessary. Professional regulation and other statutes protect dental patients from unsavory practitioners that were once known as "guacks."

Today, the "ADA Principles of Ethics and Code of Professional Conduct" deals with many more and different issues as dental



care has dramatically advanced from what it was 150 years ago. Today's ADA code has sections on patient autonomy, nonmaleficence, beneficence, justice and veracity. But one thing remains constant just as it was 150 years ago: organized dentistry continues to be committed to the promotion of professional ethics and the advancement of dentistry.

Ohio: The Cradle of Dental Education

The story of dental education in Ohio begins with John Harris. Harris was a native of Pompey, New York, who came to the village of Madison (now known as Madisonville, a neighborhood in Cincinnati) to practice medicine in the 1820s.

In 1826, John Harris moved to Bainbridge, Ohio, and set up his practice in a small brick house on the main street of the town. In 1827, Harris took out an ad in the local newspaper announcing that he was

starting a school of instruction for those who were interested in learning the profession of medicine. At the time, dentistry was done by a variety of different professions, including itinerant physi-



cians, barbers and silversmiths.

One of John Harris's first students, James Taylor, wrote that Dr. John Harris "turned his attention to the practice of Dental Surgery" and that Harris had "acquired considerable reputation as a general surgeon" and was "a skillful and ready operator." John Harris's success in the practice of dentistry caught the attention of his brother, Chapin, who while studying medicine then followed in his brother's footsteps into dentistry as well.

John Harris worked with Taylor and Chapin extending their practice of dentistry to adjacent towns and villages where their careers in dentistry, according to Taylor, "expanded and strengthened, till it culminated in a rich stock of dental knowledge, for the good of the profession."

By 1830, John Harris moved to Chillicothe and made several itinerant trips to Kentucky and elsewhere where he would deliver lectures on dentistry to students. Harris died in 1849 in Hartford, North Carolina.

While little is known as to why John Harris pursued the practice of dentistry with such zeal, the resulting influence of his preceptorships and instructorships on dentistry and dental education is undeniable. Taylor wrote that "Dr. Harris and myself had many protracted discussions on the importance of a medico-dental education, and the best method of securing it." Taylor noted that Chapin also participated in some of these discussions and their first idea was to ensure that medical colleges would have dental surgery departments attached to them. However, they eventually concluded that this approach might lead to "dabblers" in dental practice but few students would become "proficient in dental science." Ultimately, they reached the conclusion that dentistry ought to be taught at a college level program separate from medicine.

These discussions had a profound impact on dental education. Chapin moved to Baltimore and was the co-founder and first dean of the Baltimore College of Dental Surgery in 1840, which was the first dental college in the world. Taylor settled in Cincinnati in 1842 and, with two other local practicing dentists, organized an effort to create a dental college there. Taylor wrote that they were "determined to apply to the legislature for a charter for this school, hoping to afford in the future the students of dental surgery the same facilities for knowledge as is enjoyed by those studying medicine." Because of Taylor's efforts, the Ohio College of Dental Surgery – the second dental college in the world – was chartered by the Ohio legislature on January 21, 1845.

In 1938, the Ohio State Dental Society (as the ODA was known then) purchased the small house where more than 100 years earlier, Dr. John Harris had his practice and where he inspired and passed on his knowledge of dentistry to many others, including Taylor and Chapin.

The ADA, in official session in Milwaukee, in 1939, passed a resolution that noted "it is an established historical fact that doctors Chapin A. Harris and James Taylor who cooperated in the founding of the first two dental colleges in the world, the Baltimore College of (Dental) Surgery, 1840, and the Ohio College of Dental Surgery, 1845, received primary dental instruction under Dr. John Harris, in the town of Bainbridge, Ohio."

In 1940, "the office and school of John Harris" in Bainbridge was dedicated as "the cradle of dental education." Today, the building is listed on the National Registry of Historic Places and still stands as the Dr. John Harris Dental Museum – an appropriate tribute to a man who many regard as the "father of dental education."

Establishing formal dental education programs was a priority for the Ohio State Dental Society from its beginning. In the 1800s, many dentists had no formal training and learned as apprentices.

In the decades following the creation of the Ohio College of Dental Surgery in 1845, other dental schools were established in Ohio. By 1900, there were five dental schools in Ohio: two in Cincinnati (including the Ohio College of Dental Surgery), one in Columbus, one in Cleveland and one in Miami. Nearly all of these schools struggled financially in the late 1800s and early 1900s.

The Ohio State Dental Society, working with the board of dental examiners and established universities, sought to stabilize and formalize dental education to ensure the art and science of dentistry was being advanced and taught competently to students. In





1915, the Ohio State Dental Board revised its regulations to favor dental colleges that were affiliated with degree-granting institutions. This effort led to the dental schools that currently exist at The Ohio State University and Case Western Reserve University.

The Miami Dental College closed in 1901 due to financial hardship. The two Cincinnati dental schools met similar fates. The Cincinnati College of Dental Surgery closed in 1929. The Ohio College of Dental Surgery, which was the world's second dental college and temporarily affiliated with Lebanon University and later the University of Cincinnati, closed its doors in 1926.

The Cleveland dental school that was established by Western Reserve University in 1892 had run into financial difficulties and was sold to Dr. Henry M. Brown of Ashtabula and Mr. A.M. Pearson of the Cogswell Dental Supply Company in 1906. In 1916, Western Reserve took the school back over and it has been in continued existence ever since.

The Columbus dental school that was affiliated with the Starling-Ohio Medical College merged with The Ohio State University in

1914, creating the Ohio State University College of Dentistry.

Today, The Ohio State University College of Dentistry and the Case Western Reserve University School of Dental Medicine deliver world-class den-



tal education to their students and provide critical dental services in their respective communities.

Since its inception, the school now known as the Case Western Reserve University School of Dental Medicine has awarded more than 6,600 students their DDS or DMD degrees. The school graduated its first female dentist in 1910, and the 2016 graduating class was the school's first class to be made up of a majority of women. Today, the school has a commitment to research, global collaborations and interprofessional education. Areas of research focus include microbiology/immunology, clinical research/disparities, oral health and general health, human evolution and imaging. The school's global work on education reaches to Saudi Arabia, Egypt, the UK, China, Israel, Dominican Republic, Mexico, and the Netherlands.

The school is also active in the Cleveland community. For example, since 2000 Case dental students have provided sealants to children in schools throughout the Cleveland Municipal School District through its Healthy Smiles Sealant Program.

In 2006, the Case School of Dental Medicine began using a new curriculum, the REAL (Relevant, Experiential and requires Active Learning) Curriculum. The school received the American Dental



Education Association's William J. Gies Award for Outstanding Innovation by an Academic Dental Institution for the curriculum in 2009.

The Ohio State University College of Dentistry is now the fourth largest public dental school in the nation, with more than 11,000 living alumni across the world. Graduates of the college prac-

tice in every state of the U.S., and they serve as faculty members at every research-intensive dental school in the country. Students and faculty members also participate in the college's own clinical and laboratory research in areas such as dental materials science, oral and maxillofacial pathology, hard tissue biology, microbiology, neuroscience and immunology.

In 2004 the college launched the Oral Health Improvement through Outreach (O.H.I.O) Project, a community-based educational service experience for fourth-year dental students funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Through the program, fourth-year dental students spend 50 days providing care in community clinics throughout Ohio under the direct supervision of associated faculty. In 2005 the college launched its dental H.O.M.E. Coach, a mobile dental clinic that provides care to children and at-risk populations in the Columbus area.

As part of the ODA's sesquicentennial celebration, the Callahan Memorial Award Commission gave Ohio's two existing dental schools the prestigious Callahan Memorial Award in recognition of their outstanding contributions to the art and science of dentistry, research and dental education.

"As the ODA celebrates its 150th anniversary, the Callahan Memorial Award Commission wanted to join in the celebration by honoring both Ohio dental schools with the Callahan Memorial Award," said Dr. Joe Mellion, a past ODA president and current chairman of the Callahan Memorial Award Commission. "Both schools embody what the Callahan Memorial Award is about – providing profound and impacting contributions to the art and science of dentistry, and their hard work, dedication and genius have improved the oral health of

the public. This is the first time the award has been given to institutions instead of an individual, and the commission thought this was a fitting year to honor both dental schools for the contributions they have made to the profession of dentistry."

The Callahan Memorial Award Com-



mission was established in 1920 by the Ohio State Dental Society (as the ODA was then known) to honor the work of John Ross Callahan, one of Ohio's noted dental researchers and a leader in organized dentistry.

150 Years of Advocacy

According to membership surveys, ODA members greatly value the advocacy efforts of organized dentistry that help to protect the interests of dentists and their patients and to promote strong oral

health. The history of organized dentistry in Ohio effectively advocating for dentistry goes back to the ODA's founding 150 years ago.

In June 1866, when 41 dentists met at Naughton Hall in Columbus to



form a statewide association for the dental profession, their goals were "mutual fellowship and recognition, the promoting of the honor, usefulness and interests of the profession, the advancement and cultivation of professional science and literature, the encouragement of a more thorough professional education, and the protection of the public from empiricism." One way the newly formed Ohio State Dental Society (as the ODA was then known) achieved these goals was through advocacy. In fact, legislative advocacy was on the agenda of the inaugural meeting in 1866, immediately following the adoption of a constitution and bylaws and the development of a written code of professional ethics.

The attendees at that first meeting discussed legislation to prevent "quacks" from practicing dentistry in Ohio. This proposed legislation was designed to create a state board of dental examiners, the members of which would be elected by the members of the Ohio



State Dental Society. This new state dental board would have the authority to give annual examinations and to certify those dentists who passed the exam. The members of the dental society actively lobbied the legislature to pass the legislation, which became law in 1868, making it one of the earliest state dental laws.

In 1892, Ohio's dental law was amended to give the governor the authority to appoint the members of the state board of dental examiners and to give the state board more widespread powers to govern the practice of dentistry. In 1914, the legislature again amended the dental practice act by giving the state board of dental examiners additional authority over dental education. This led to the recognition of the dental schools at The Ohio State University and Western Reserve University and to the closure of private proprietary dental schools, which were poorly financed and had spotty performance in training dentists. This

movement toward more formal dental education was one of the priorities of the ODA as it worked to ensure patients received quality oral health care services and that the profession maintained the highest standards. When scien-



When scientific evidence in

the first half of the last century demonstrated that fluoride in drinking water prevents tooth decay, organized dentistry responded. In 1950, the ADA passed a resolution encouraging water fluoridation and over the next two decades, the ODA and local Ohio dental societies advocated to fluoridate water systems across Ohio. In 1969, the ODA successfully lobbied to have the state legislature enact a law requiring most municipalities to fluoridate their water systems unless they opted out via a local ballot issue. Today, because of the efforts of the ODA, more than 90 percent of Ohioans live in communities with fluoridated water systems, which is well above the national average of 67 percent. Because of its positive impact on oral health, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has declared that water fluoridation is one of the top 10 greatest public health achievements of the 20th century. The ODA helped to make the promise of water fluoridation a reality in Ohio.

In the last half of the 20th century, advancements in research



on infectious diseases and appropriate sterilization in the dental office led to a better understanding of how to protect patients and dentists and their staff. In Ohio, the ODA pushed for the adoption of science-based infection control laws, regulations and standards to ensure the provision of dental care in Ohio is the safest in the world. And today, Ohioans have complete confidence that the care they receive from their dentist is safe and effective.

As the practice of dentistry changed, so did the role of the dental team. One hundred and fifty years ago, dentists provided their services with little or no professional assistance. Technological advancements and the expansion of dental assisting, dental hygiene, and EFDA education spearheaded by organized dentistry, have enhanced the dental team. Through the ODA's advocacy, Ohio's dental laws were amended to permit dentists to better utilize the skills of the dental team, making the delivery of care more efficient and effective.

In the 1980s and 1990s, runaway litigation led to a malpractice crisis in Ohio where health care professionals regularly faced the threat of frivolous lawsuits and malpractice insurance premiums experienced double-digit increases on an annual basis. The ODA's advocacy team formed a coalition with other health care groups to reform the dental and medical malpractice laws to ensure dentists and other health care providers were treated fairly, including putting time limits on liability and caps on damages. These reforms improved the ability of dentists to provide the care their patients need free from the fear of unfair and unnecessary litigation.

The ODA has a long history of working to ensure third parties do not interfere with the dentist-patient relationship, including passing prompt payment laws ensuring insurance companies pay claims in a timely manner and mandating streamlined credentialing processes.

Throughout its existence, the ODA has led the charge on access to dental care initiatives, including reforming the dental Medicaid program, ensuring continued dental Medicaid coverage for adults, creating loan repayment programs and other incentives for dentists who serve in underserved communities, providing immunity from lawsuits for volunteer care and many other initiatives to ensure Ohio's most vulnerable citizens continue to have access to high quality dental care.

Today, the dental profession continues to thrive because dentists practice independently, free from unnecessary outside interference so they can focus on providing care to their patients. And Ohioans have access to the highest quality oral health care in the world. All of this is because of the ODA's 150 years of advocacy promoting the dental profession, dental education and oral health.

Hs Hdopted by the Ohio House of Representatives

13 1st General Assembly Regular Session 2015-2016

H. R. No. 331

ARESOLUTION Honoring the Ohio Dental Association on its One Hundred Fiftieth Anniversary.

WHEREAO, The members of the House of Representatives of the 131st General Assembly of Ohio are pleased to congratulate the Ohio Dental Association on the auspicious occasion of its One Hundred Fiftieth Anniversary: and

WHEREAD, Recognition of this prestigious milestone is a fitting tribute to the Ohio Dental Association, for since its establishment in 1866, it has attained a remarkable record of service to the State of Ohio. The association has more than five thousand members who provide quality care across the state, and it has vigorously supported the dental profession in promoting the provision of quality oral health care for all Ohioans. The accomplishments of the group are a justifiable source of pride and an outstanding reflection not only on the ODA itself but also on its astute management and hard-working staff, for these individuals have distinguished themselves as conscientious Ohioans; and

WHEREHS, Due to the tremendous effort and initiative it has displayed, the Ohio Dental Association has grown significantly during the last one hundred fifty years, and this noteworthy organization is certainly deserving of high praise. This special anniversary offers a unique opportunity to reflect on the association's tradition of success and to look with optimism to the future: and

WHEREAS, We are certain that as the Ohio Dental Association maintains its dedication to service, it will carry on the tradition of excellence that has long been its hallmark. We are proud to note that it is through the unceasing efforts of agencies such as ODA that the State of Ohio continues to prosper and remains a pleasant place in which to live and work: therefore be it

RESOLVED, That we, the members of the House of Representatives of the 131st General Assembly of Ohio, in adopting this Resolution, commend the Ohio Dental Association on its One Hundred Fiftieth Anniversary and extend best wishes for the years to come: and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the House of Representatives transmit a duly authenticated copy of this Resolution to the Ohio Dental Hisociation.

Building Our Future

While the ODA's 150 year history of achievements is impressive, it is also significant for what it means for the future of organized dentistry and the dental profession. The ODA continues to be a dynamic association that evolves along with the dental profession so that the ODA is always at the cutting edge of providing benefits to its member dentists.

The ODA is a leader in health care in Ohio and a national leader within dentistry.

That leadership was recently recognized when, on Monday, Oct. 24, 2016, the American Dental Association's House of Delegates elected Dr. Joe Crowley, a general dentist from Cincinnati, to be ADA's president-elect.



Crowley has a long history of holding lead-

ership positions within organized dentistry. He served as president of the ODA in 2006 and served on the ADA Board of Trustees for the four years prior to his election as ADA president-elect. He received the ODA's highest honor, the ODA Distinguished Dentist Award in 2013 and is a past president of the Cincinnati Dental Society and a past chair of both the ADA's Council on Government Affairs and the Ohio Dental Political Action Committee.

2017 ODA President Dr. Kevin Laing, a general dentist from Van Wert, said that "Dr. Crowley's focus on the future of the dental profession is exactly what we need right now. Joe is willing to break the mold and innovate, and this leadership style is what is going to drive the ADA to greater relevance for the membership and greater success in achieving the mission of the ADA."

Crowley emphasized during his campaign that "the status quo is not acceptable in light of the changes we are facing as an association and as a profession." Crowley concluded that "we must be committed to take action so that our members understand that we are working on their behalf to make every member succeed."

Following the election, which was held in Denver at the ADA annual meeting, Crowley was sworn in as ADA president-elect, a position he will hold until he is sworn in as the 154th president of the ADA in Atlanta on October 23, 2017.

Dr. Thomas Paumier, a general dentist from Canton, past ODA president and chair of the Crowley Campaign Committee, said that "Joe won the election because his passion showed through. He will be a passionate advocate for our members, our profession, and our association."

Dr. Joe Mellion, a past ODA president and an orthodontist from Akron, who coordinated campaign activities in Denver, said that "it has been an honor to work with Joe and to call him my friend."

The ODA has a long history of producing ADA presidents. In fact, in the first three decades of its existence, six Ohio dentists served

as ADA president. However, it had been more than 80 years since the last dentist from Ohio served as ADA president. Below is a list of ADA presidents from Ohio:

George Watt	Xenia	1862-63
Jonathan Taft	Cincinnati	1868-69
George Keely	Oxford	1876-77
Frederick Rehwinkel	Chillicothe	1877-78
Henry Smith	Cincinnati	1881-82
Charles Butler	Cleveland	1888-89
Homer Brown	Columbus	1913-14
Lafayette Barber	Toledo	1916-17
Frank Casto	Cleveland	1934-35
Joe Crowley	Cincinnati	2017-18

ODA Executive Director David Owsiany said "it is fitting that Dr. Joe Crowley was elected ADA president during the ODA's 150th anniversary year because he exemplifies all of what we have stood for throughout our history, including a commitment to ethics and professionalism and passionate advocacy for dentistry."

Dr. Dale Anne Featheringham, an orthodontist from Mansfield/ Westerville and a member of the Crowley Campaign team, agreed saying that "Joe is the right person at the right time to lead our profession. He will be a great ADA president."

With Joe Crowley being elected president-elect of the ADA, Ohio will have its first ADA president since Dr. Frank Casto of Cleveland who served as ADA president in 1935. However, Crowley is not the only ODA member serving in a leadership role at the ADA. Dr. Ron Lemmo, a general dentist from Cleveland and past ODA president, is serving in his second three-year term as the ADA's Treasurer and Dr. Billie Sue Kyger, a general dentist from Gallipolis and past ODA president, succeeded Crowley as the ADA Seventh District Trustee. That means there are three ODA members on the ADA's 23 member Board of Trustees.

Laing pointed out "it is really unprecedented for the ODA to have three of its members serve on the ADA's board at the same time and each of them – Joe, Ron and Billie Sue – bring strong leadership qualities to the ADA. We are very proud of each one."

Owsiany said that "Ohio has such great leaders at the national level because of our talented volunteers, aided by the ODA's really strong commitment to leadership development though our Council and Committee system and our Leadership Institute and Executive Committee retreats. By the time our leaders are serving at the ADA, they have had a significant amount of leadership training and experience."

Paumier agreed, saying "I appreciate the ODA's commitment to ensure all volunteers have the opportunity to hone their skills and develop into leaders in their practices, in their communities and within organized dentistry. It really sets us apart."

The ODA's commitment to leadership development ensures that organized dentistry in Ohio continues to have well-prepared leaders to address current issues and anticipate future challenges and opportunities.

With the ODA, dentistry in Ohio is truly in good hands.

Remarks Commemorating the ODA's 150th Anniversary

On Friday, Sept. 16, ODA Executive Director David Owsiany delivered the following remarks to the ODA's House of Delegates commemorating the ODA's 150th anniversary.

I would like to take a few minutes to reflect on our sesquicentennial. I know that many of you are well aware of the issues facing dentistry. You know them from your own experience practicing dentistry. And you know them from your involvement in organized dentistry.

You know that the dental profession has been called a profession in transition.

The issues we face include:

- Workforce changes
- · Practice consolidation
- Student loan debt
- Demographic changes in the dentist population and the patient
 population
- Reduced reimbursements
- · Increased regulatory burdens

There seems to be a never ending set of challenges on the horizon. And, of course, the ODA and the ADA will work on these and other issues as we always do.

But I would like to place these issues in the context of our 150 year history. As Dr. Connell mentioned yesterday, when 41 dentists gathered at Naughton Hall just a few blocks from here 150 years ago to form a statewide association for dentists, dentistry was not the profession it is today.

The art and science of dentistry was yet undiscovered and dental services were being performed by just about anybody – from blacksmiths and barbers to traveling physicians who came through town offering tooth-pulling services. Dental education was not formalized, with many dentists training as apprentices or going to proprietary dental schools where the quality of instruction was not necessarily



very strong.

Despite these challenges, organized dentistry – even in its infancy – was not deterred. Those early leaders had a vision. Organized dentistry in Ohio spent its first few decades working to transform dentistry into a true profession. They worked with the state legislature to enact



laws to set standards for the practice of dentistry in Ohio and they worked to create more formal dental training programs that led to the dental schools we now have at Case Western Reserve University and The Ohio State University.

In fact, throughout

our history, organized dentistry has faced significant challenges and always responded to ensure the interests of dental patients and the dental profession persevered.

• In the late 1800s and early 1900s, we faced the vulcanized rubber patent battle where the Goodyear Rubber Company limited the ability of dentists to utilize rubber bases for their dentures

We faced battles over the science related to amalgam fillings
 and water fluoridation

- We faced the crisis related to preventing the spread of AIDS and other infectious diseases in the dental office which led to the development and adoption of universal precautions and infection control procedures that protect patients, dentists and their staff
- We staved off a potential PR nightmare by responding to sensational news stories about lead in dental crowns with science-based information about the safety of dental prostheses

In the face of every potential crisis, organized dentistry has responded to ensure the interests of dentists and their patients are well served. We have done that since our inception.

In fact, in the year of our inception, the founding of the ODA was not the only significant development in dentistry in Ohio. That same year, Dr. Lucy Hobbs became the first American woman to receive a dental degree when she graduated from the Ohio College of Dental Surgery. So we are especially pleased to have Dr. Carol Summerhays here with us to celebrate not only the 150th anniversary of the founding of the ODA but also the 150th anniversary of Dr. Lucy Hobbs' trailblazing achievement, which occurred right here in Ohio.

Earlier this year, Dr. Summerhays spoke at the Case Western Reserve University School of Dental Medicine's graduation where a majority of the graduating class was female for the first time in Case's history. I think 42 of the 66 Case graduates were female in 2016. And as I look out at the delegates here today, the growing diversity of the dental profession is apparent, and we celebrate that diversity as we work as an organization to remain relevant to all dentists, regardless of gender, race, religion, ethnicity, age or practice type.

The ODA has been a leader in dentistry since its founding and throughout its history. At that founding meeting in 1866, those 41 dentists wrote and adopted the first known written code of ethics in dentistry. Just a few months later, the ADA would use Ohio's code of ethics as a model for its own Code of Ethics.

Today, nationally, we celebrate February as Children's Dental Health month – but did you know that the first children's dental health day was held in Cleveland 75 years ago? Ohio led the way in drawing attention to the importance of children's oral health.

Today, more than 90 percent of Ohioans live in communities with fluoridated water, which is well above the national average of 67 percent. Why? Because the ODA worked to pass a law way back in 1969 on community water fluoridation. Think of all the tooth decay that we've prevented through our advocacy.

Our public services programs like Give Kids a Smile and the Dental OPTIONS program provide millions of dollars of donated care to thousands of Ohioans every year. The ODA Foundation just surpassed one million total dollars in grants for access to care programs and dental student scholarships.

We are rightfully proud of our long history of promoting oral health, expanding access to care, and supporting dental education. We should also be proud of our work to protect the dental profession from unnecessary interference so that dentists can continue to practice their craft, run their businesses and provide care to their patients as they see fit.

Today, there are more than 7,000 licensed dentists and more than 4,000 dental practices in Ohio. These dental practices are significant employers and engines of economic activity in our state. In fact, more than 20,000 Ohioans work in dental offices statewide. The typical dental office generates more than \$1.3 million in economic activity in terms of salaries paid, taxes paid and the purchase of equipment, technology, supplies and services. Dentistry is a driver of economic activity in every community in Ohio. No one could have imagined the economic impact dentistry would have in Ohio when the ODA was founded 150 years ago.

And the association itself has been transformed since its founding. Think about this – the 41 dentists who came to Columbus on those steamy June days in 1866 came on horse drawn carriages, on passenger trains and on horseback. The ODA was a small volunteer organization for many years. We didn't hire our first staff person until

1963. At the time, the association rented a small office in the back of one of its members' dental practice. Today, we own our building and have 20 staff members who serve each of you providing products and services that range from health



insurance and workers' compensation coverage to award winning publications, regulatory compliance and third-party payer assistance and advocacy. We have become a full-service organization, and our membership surveys regularly show that our members greatly value the services we provide.



Think of all the companies and brands that have come and gone since the ODA was founded. When I was young, at this time of the year, my mother would take me and my siblings shopping for school clothes and supplies at stores like Montgomery Wards and Woolworths. We would ride in my father's Oldsmobile. Years later when I took my first airplane trip, it was on TWA. And we all remember going to Borders Bookstores and Blockbuster Video, right? None of these iconic companies and brands are around today.

But the ODA – which was founded long before all of those companies – is still thriving. And that's because of the dedicated volunteers like all of you who care enough about your profession to stay involved.

So despite all of the challenges we currently face, it is important for us to remember and appreciate how far we've come. In fact, if you haven't done so, for those of you who have registered for the meeting, you should visit the membership booth in the Exhibit Hall. We have a timeline documenting the significant events in Ohio dentistry over the last 150 years – with display cases showing artifacts from our history.

On this significant anniversary, it is a good time to stop and smell the roses and reflect on our legacy. A legacy that includes the fact that we have taken dentistry that had no standing at the time of the ODA's founding and helped turn it into the respected and trusted profession that it is today. We helped to transform dental education to enhance the art and science of dentistry. Our public service and prevention programs have extended access to dental care to all Ohio communities and populations. Our advocacy efforts and support for dental practices have allowed dentists to practice independently and provide the type of care their patients need and deserve free from unnecessary interference. Today, the ODA still boasts a membership market share near 70 percent, which is the envy of practically every other statewide professional association in Ohio. And "US News and World Report" still rates dentistry as the number one job in America.

This is not an insubstantial legacy for organized dentistry. In fact, it is a very significant legacy.

So as we celebrate our past, we must remember that it was the vision and proactive engagement of those ODA leaders that went before us who enhanced and protected the dental profession to get it to where it is today. And now it's our turn.

So here is my message to you. This 150 year legacy that we celebrate does not just tell us about our past. It provides a strong foundation for us to build upon. Let's take the lessons we've learned and the credibility we've gained from this illustrious history to build an even brighter future for organized dentistry and the dental profession in Ohio. Thank you.

Ohio Dental Association Presidents 1866-2016

1868 Dr. 1869 Dr. 1870 Dr. 1871 Dr.	George Watt Jonathon Taft William Horton Frederick Rehwinkel George Keely
	Bryon Spelman Lewis Buffet
	Henry Smith
	Charles Butler
	Calvin Taft
1877 Dr.	Israel Williams
1878 Dr.	John Whinnery
1879 Dr.	David Jennings
1880 Dr.	Frank Hunter
1881 Dr.	Chester Harroun
1882 Dr.	Allen Emminger
	John Lyder
	Archibald Berry
	Charles James
	Frederick Rehwinkel
	Henry Harrison
	Jeremiah Robinson
	Cyrus Wright
	William Sedgwick
	Edward Betty
	John Callahan
	George Wilson
	Charles Welch William Todd
	Henry Barnes
	Levitt Custer
	G. Molyneaux
	Louis Bethel
	Lafayette Barber
	Herbert Harvey
	Otto Arnold
	Jacob Beauman
	John Stephan
	Stewart Ruggles
1906 Dr.	Henry Ambler
1907 Dr.	Homer Brown
1908 Dr.	Charles Keely
	William Whitslar
	Mordecai Fletcher
	Albert Ross
	Charles Converse
	Weston Price
	James Douglas
	Edward Mills
1916 Dr.	T. Irving Way

1017	Du Frank Casta
1917	Dr. Frank Casto
1918	Dr. Zachariah Wright
1919	Dr. W. Howard Hayden
1920	Dr. Charles Mills
1921	Dr. Harry Semans
1922	Dr. Carlos Schott
1923	Dr. Edward Pettibone
1924	Dr. Harry Cope
1925	Dr. C. Stanley Smith
1926	Dr. Charles Strosnider
1927	Dr. James Gentilly
1928	Dr. J. Walter Hartshorn
1929	Dr. Earl Braithwaite
1930	Dr. Dick Snyder
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1933	Dr. Alden Bush
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Acknowledgments

ODA's 150th Anniversary Planning Task Force

- Dr. Chris Connell, chair
- Dr. Greg Beten
- Dr. Kevin Laing
- Dr. Matt Messina
- Dr. Thomas Paumier

Ex officio members:

- David Owsiany, executive director
- Jackie Best, managing editor
- Michelle Blackman, assistant to the executive director
- Suzanne Brooks, director of Meetings and Conventions
- Peg Cissell, director of Finance
- · Karli Hill, director of Marketing and Membership

"Ohio Dental Association: 150 Years of Excellence" Contributors

- · David Owsiany, executive director
- Jackie Best, managing editor



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