Organized dentistry is your number one professional resource! You get a lot when you’re a member. Membership provides you with valuable tools, discounts, knowledge, services, support and resources to help you be successful in your practice and provide the best available treatment to your patients. This guidebook highlights ODA resources.

When you have a question or need something, look to organized dentistry first. Odds are the information you are seeking is available to you through membership.

Keep this guidebook handy and take advantage of the resources available only to members.
ODA Membership Saves You Money

Here’s a glimpse at what members get that non-members don’t!

- Advocacy protecting dentistry from unnecessary government and third-party interference
- Your name in the Find-a-Dentist directory on www.oda.org and www.mouthhealthy.org
- Assistance with third-party payer and insurance issues
- Insurance contract analysis service
- Labor posters for a minimal cost
- Answers to legal and regulatory compliance questions
- Access to the ODA Wellness Trust, a private, dentist owned, self-funded health benefit plan developed by member dentists for member dentists and their staffs to help battle the increasing cost of providing health care benefits
- Discounts on products and services available through ODASC
- Discounts on continuing education and registration fees at the ODA Annual Session
- Leadership development opportunities through the ODA Leadership Institute
- Up-to-date information through “ODA Today” and “NewsBytes”
- An ODA member logo available for download at www.oda.org
- Access to programs to give back to your local community including Give Kids a Smile
- Networking opportunities
- Media representation
Protecting the Profession

Members continually rate advocacy as one of the top member benefits. As one dentist, it can be difficult to effect change when it comes to legal and regulatory issues. If special interest groups and insurance companies with significant resources are in opposition to the profession’s best interests, one dentist alone doesn’t have much of a voice. But when the Ohio Dental Association represents a large percentage of dentists in the state, there’s power behind the association’s message. By joining dentists together with a collective voice, the association can advocate on behalf of dentists and their patients, fighting against unnecessary and burdensome regulations and protecting the sanctity of the dentist-patient relationship.

Ohio Dental Political Action Committee (ODPAC)

ODPAC is dentistry’s voice in the political arena and has a proven history of protecting dentists, patients and dental practices from unnecessary government interference.

ODPAC is a federally registered political action committee that advocates on behalf of dentists in Ohio. The political arm of the ODA, ODPAC advocates for the dental profession by supporting the campaigns of pro-dentistry candidates for office. ODPAC is funded through voluntary contributions made by members of the Ohio Dental Association.

Consider making a contribution to ODPAC!

Contributions can be made online at www.oda.org or by calling the Governmental Affairs department at 800-282-1526.
Promoting the Profession

The mission of the Ohio Dental Association is to improve oral health and strengthen dentistry in Ohio by supporting, protecting and advancing the interests of member dentists; providing resources to advance the dental profession; improving dental team skills; increasing public and professional oral health knowledge; and improving oral health through increased access to care.

ODA Radio Campaign

The ODA has partnered with the Ohio Society Association of Executives (OSAE) and the Ohio News Network (ONN) radio division on a public awareness campaign over the last several years. The primary objective of the ODA radio advertising campaign is to educate the general public on how dentists contribute to a family’s healthy life and to encourage patients to ask their dentists if they belong to the ODA. These on-air messages promote dentistry in the community and are focused on increasing awareness of the importance of seeing ODA member dentists as well as tackling dental health issues. Listen to these radio advertisements on the ODA website at oda.org/about-the-oda/public-resources.

Find-A-Dentist

The ADA consumer website (www.mouthhealthy.org) and the ODA website (www.oda.org) include a feature for the public to search for a dentist in their area. Only member dentists appear as options in the results. This Find-A-Dentist button reiterates to the public the importance of seeing a member dentist.

ODA Member Logo

Members can download a member logo that can be used on their website, electronic communications and e-newsletters to highlight their membership in the ODA. To download the logo, visit www.oda.org/account/logo.
Staying Informed

The ODA has spent countless hours gathering and organizing information for members so that they don’t have to. The ODA understands the value of time and as a result has collected and condensed information so that it is easy to find and read. From regulatory updates to legal and insurance information and practice management tips, the ODA provides members with information that can’t be found anywhere else and is relevant to all practice types. Best of all, members can choose the medium that best suits their needs.

“ODA Today”

The “ODA Today” is a monthly newsletter mailed to members to keep them informed of issues affecting dentistry in Ohio.

“NewsBytes”

The ODA’s e-Newsletter called “NewsBytes” includes the latest information from the field, keeping members up to date on the ever-evolving profession of dentistry.

“generationD”

The ODA’s online resource for dental students and dentists in practice for 10 years or less! The articles and columns in “generationD” cover a variety of topics, all aimed at benefiting new dentists professionally and personally.

ODA Website

www.oda.org is always available and offers member-only information including handling patient records, terminating a dentist/patient relationship, working with dental insurers, regulatory compliance checklists, rules and regulations and tips on successfully managing a dental practice.

ODA Staff

ODA staff members are available by phone and email to answer questions. They can provide information on regulations, licensure, insurance matters, legal issues, starting a practice and more.
Continuing Education & Licensure Requirements

Interested in earning CE credits? Unsure of state requirements? In addition to providing you information about Ohio State Dental Board rules regarding CE, the ODA provides a number of courses to aid members and their staffs in their personal and professional development.

ODA Annual Session
Experience the best nationally-known speakers, the largest exhibit hall in the region, networking events, entertainment, and more at the ODA Annual Session. Members receive discounts on registration and course fees in addition to free CE opportunities. For more information on Annual Session and to see future dates, visit www.oda.org/news-and-events/annual-session.

Leadership Institute
The Leadership Institute is the ODA’s award-winning program developed to help all ODA members become more successful and effective leaders. Leadership Institute is a free conference for ODA members and dental students and is designed to meet the needs of all dentists, regardless of their type of practice, career path or stage of their career.

Local Dental Society CE
The ODA has 25 local dental societies that host CE courses throughout the year. Contact each local dental society for their local event schedule.

Answers to CE & Licensure Questions
Information members need about CE requirements for dentists and their staff, plus assistance with relicensure questions and guidance for those retiring.
Practice Management

Being able to be efficient and effective in a dental practice means having access to the right practice management tools to address professional, legal and ethical challenges. The ODA works hard to provide members practical advice and tangible resources.

Contact ODA staff
If a member is looking for answers to specific questions, the ODA staff is available by phone during regular business hours – free of charge. Staff members have more than 100 years of collective experience working with dental professionals.

Legal Information and Services
Members have access to ODA legal counsel to get information on legal topics and answers to legal questions specific to their situation.

Regulatory Compliance Information
The ODA is always tracking updates to regulatory compliance. If a new law or regulation goes into effect, the ODA notifies all members as soon as possible. Information on various regulatory compliance issues is also available on the ODA’s website in the resource library, found at www.oda.org/resource-library. In addition to that, members can call ODA staff to have specific questions answered about their circumstances.

Labor Posters
All employers are required to post numerous employment posters in their offices. The ODA can send all required posters to members for $6 plus tax, which covers the cost of printing and shipping.
**Insurance Contract Analysis**
The ODA offers a contract analysis service through the American Dental Association that will explain contract language in plain, clear terms and allow dentists to make informed, independent decisions. The ODA has many contract analyses already on file that can be sent to dentists immediately, and for those contracts not already on file the ODA will send them to the ADA for analysis and will return the analysis upon completion. Based on the estimated cost of an attorney, dentists could pay about $400 for this service, but the ODA provides it free to members.

**Classified Advertisements**
The ODA prints classified ads in the “ODA Today” each month, plus posts them online. The classifieds are available only to members, and are a great resource to dentists looking for an associateship position, a practice for sale, equipment for sale and more. The ads are also beneficial to people who would like to advertise the need for a new employee or who would like to sell a product or their practice and more. ODA members receive a discounted price to place an ad. To view the current classifieds, visit www.oda.org/classifieds.

**Insurance Programs & Practice Resource Products**
The ODA Services Corporation is a benefit of membership in the ODA that provides members with access to reduced rates and assistance on products and services. Most importantly, ODASC representatives are experienced and salary-based, so they have members’ best interests in mind. To learn more about ODASC, see page 12.
Peer Review
Peer review offers a non-threatening opportunity for dentists and patients to resolve disputes when they cannot do so on their own. Volunteer dentists make a decision in the mediation and clinical exam. Peer review is not a disciplinary body and does not have the authority or inclination to issue fines, take action against a dentist’s license or make public its findings. The only thing peer review can do is to find that a refund is in order or that any balance that is still outstanding be waived. The peer review process is an alternative avenue for patients and dentists to resolve issues outside of the traditional litigation or regulatory process.

Subcouncil on Dentists Concerned for Dentists
The ODA’s Subcouncil on Dentists Concerned for Dentists (DCD) is here to help Ohio dentists grappling with chemical dependency and alcoholism addictions. DCD is charged with acting as a guide for a dentist battling a drug or alcohol problem. DCD will help an impaired dentist accept that there is a problem and work with them to get into a state Dental Board-approved treatment facility for help. Anyone who has questions or concerns may call the ODA. All information will be held in strict confidence.
Ohio Dental Association Services Corporation (ODASC)

From insurance coverage to whitening gel to credit card processing systems and more, the Ohio Dental Association Services Corp. (ODASC) has researched and endorsed products and companies to help dentists save time and money. ODASC helps dentists save money by securing discounts on products and services available exclusively for ODA members and by finding products and services that provide the best value for the price.

**Insurance Products**

ODASC offers discounts on a variety of insurance products for members, their staff and their family. Visit www.odasc.com to learn more about products that have been specifically targeted to assist dentists.

**Health Care Plans**

ODASC provides members a one-stop health insurance solution that allows individuals the ability to control and manage benefits specific to their current needs. To learn more, visit www.odawt.org.

**Practice Resource Products**

ODASC has researched and endorsed products and services that will benefit dental practices. Each endorsed product provides members with unique benefits not offered to other dentists and individuals outside the association. Visit www.odasc.com to learn how to save time and money with ODASC-endorsed products.

**Contact ODASC staff**

A team of ODASC staff members is also available to help member dentists purchase products and decide which will be a good fit for their practices. ODASC representatives are experienced and are not paid through commissions, so their only interests are making sure dentists’ needs are met.
ODA Foundation

The Ohio Dental Association Foundation is the philanthropic arm of the ODA, committed to a mission of improving the oral health of the citizens of Ohio and enhancing the dental profession in the state. Members’ support helps the foundation continue to make a difference by funding grants and scholarships.

Raffle

The annual ODA Foundation raffle is one of the primary sources of funding for grants and scholarships. To learn more about the raffle and how to purchase a ticket, visit www.oda.org/community-involvement/oda-foundation/odaf-raffle.

Make a Difference

While planning for the future, consider the ODA Foundation as a preferred charity. Dentists can preserve their impact upon the profession in Ohio and in their communities by continuing to support the ODA Foundation through general donations, participating in the annual raffle fundraiser and planned giving. Whether establishing a legacy such as a designated fund or donating because they believe in the foundation’s good work, the ODA Foundation can help dentists meet their financial giving needs now and for the long-term.

Some other forms of giving include:

- IN MEMORY OR RECOGNITION OF ANOTHER
- LISTING THE ODAF IN YOUR OBITUARY
- YEAR END TAX-DEDUCTIBLE DONATIONS
- ESTATE PLANNING

Make a donation to the ODA Foundation online at www.oda.org or call 800-282-1526.
Community Involvement

The ODA’s commitment to community involvement is evident in both its many community programs and the generosity of the ODA Foundation. The ODA implements several community programs designed to improve oral health in Ohio through increased access to and education about dental care.

Community Programs

Operation TACTIC
TACTIC is an educational program to prevent use of smokeless tobacco.

Smiles for Seniors
This program is designed to improve the oral health of older adults by educating caregivers and health professionals.

Access to Care

Give Kids a Smile
This initiative benefits children in need of dental care across Ohio.

Dental OPTIONS
A partnership with the ODA and the Ohio Department of Health, this program benefits adults in Ohio that are in need of dental care.

Ohio Dentist Loan Repayment Program
This program increases access to dental care in underserved areas by assisting new dentists that practice in those areas with the repayment of their dental student loans.

For more information on all of these programs and to get involved, call the ODA’s Department of Public Service or visit www.oda.org/community-involvement.
Supportive Network

The ODA connects members to more than 5,000 other dentists throughout Ohio providing a supportive network for the life of membership. Visit the ODA’s online member directory at www.oda.org/account/members.

Ohio Local Dental Societies & Subdistricts

ODA component societies are one part of the ODA tripartite structure. There are 25 regional component societies that serve all 88 Ohio counties. A dentist’s membership in a component society is based on the county where the dentist is engaged in practice or resides.