Dear Members and Affiliates,

Anniversaries are a valuable opportunity to evaluate and reflect on the progress of our organization. I could not be more proud as we celebrate my first anniversary as Executive Director of the AADB. Time flies when you have a job that you enjoy! It was an honor to be part of the transformation of the AADB into the power player we have become in the world of oral health.

Our Members are our strength and I would like to say “thank you” for making this first year of transition a success. We have made unprecedented gains in our work, both in the ambitiousness of our goals and in our determination to succeed. Many of our Members have stepped up to provide leadership and expertise, which has been instrumental in our triumph. Due to the size of this paper, I cannot acknowledge everyone, but please know that I am appreciative of the countless hours dedicated to the long meetings that usually occur after hours.

This benchmark also has me thinking about everything the Board of Directors has accomplished over the last 12 months. In particular, I want to recognize Dr. Frank Recker, who has been instrumental in the smooth changeover of AADB leadership. Additionally, Ms. Laura Richoux has provided her leadership on countless committees while serving as Chair of the Membership Committee. Mr. Brian Barnett also serves on numerous committees and adds his valuable perspective as an Administrator while leading as Chair of the Finance Committee. Furthermore, Ms. Yvonne Bach provides valuable feedback from the corporate sector as the Public Member to the Sponsors, Nominating, Finance, Membership, and Revenue Generation committees. Dr. Cliff Feingold has also devoted numerous hours to multiple committees while recruiting record-breaking numbers of exhibitors as Chair of the Sponsor Committee. Moreover, Dr. Bruce Seidberg commits hours to ensure the AADB spending is fiscally responsible as Treasurer and part of the Finance Committee while serving on several committees. Likewise, Dr. John Carbery has worked tirelessly to guide numerous initiatives while working on the Bylaws, Program, and Finance committees. Similarly, Dr. James Sparks has embraced his role as President-Elect. In addition to leading as Chair of the Program Committee, he is dedicated to the success of the Nominating, Finance, Membership, and Sponsor committees.

This past year, we have proven that we can accomplish great things together. This would not be possible without the leadership of our President, Dr. Robert Zena. Just this week he is busy preparing for a meeting with the Center for Disease Control and responding to communication with the National Governor’s Association and it is only Monday! Our groundbreaking health and safety work is unparalleled thanks to President Zena.

Speaking of Central Office business, I cannot overlook the dedication of Stephanie, Maricarmen, and Bianca who have responded to COVID-19 changes without missing a beat. On this milestone, I want to thank you all again for everything we have been able to accomplish together—from the big wins, to the pivotal, one-on-one discussions that led to positive outcomes for the AADB. I’m looking forward to the next year. Let’s keep the momentum moving forward.

Sincerely,

Tonia M. Socha-Mower

Ms. Tonia Socha-Mower, MBA, EdD (c)
Executive Director
211 E. Chicago Avenue Suite 760
Chicago, IL 60611
312-440-7464
tsochamower@dentalboards.org

211 East Chicago Avenue, Suite 760 • Chicago, IL 60611 • Tel. 312-440-7464 • Fax 312-440-3525