

Florida Delegation to the ADA Job Description/Duties

Dentists and the public of the state of Florida are represented in the American Dental Association House of Delegates by the Florida Delegation, (the 17th District Delegation). The members of the delegation shall consist of those dentists elected or approved as ADA delegates and alternate delegates by the House of Delegates of the FDA and certified as such to the American Dental Association by the FDA. Being a member of the Florida Delegation is a commitment to your time, knowledge, and expertise. Below is a timeline of meetings and other information for those interested in becoming a member of the delegation.

January:

Organizational meeting of the Delegation held in conjunction with the FDA HOD. Typically, a 1-1/2 hour meeting, Current issues are discussed, reports are given by the ADA Trustee, and the election of Delegation officers is held. This meeting is only reimbursed if a delegate is not attending the FDA HOD in some capacity (trustee, district delegate, etc.).

June:

Meeting held in conjunction with Florida Dental Convention, usually scheduled on the Thursday of FDC. This is a 4-hour meeting to begin the planning process for the ADA Annual session in October. ADA President-elect candidates usually attend this meeting to present their campaign speeches to the delegation. Delegates may be asked to host a candidate to take them to various other convention events and take them to dinner. This meeting is not reimbursed, as most delegates are already there for the convention, however reimbursement is available for the hosting of candidates, as budgeted.

Fall Caucus:

A one-day (9 a.m. – 5 p.m.) meeting typically held in conjunction with the ADA Annual Meeting to discuss positions on resolutions to come before the ADA House of Delegates. Because of the volume of resolutions submitted, the ADA has four Reference Committees that review resolutions based on subject matter. They are Budget, Business and Membership Matters, Dental Education and Licensure, Dental Benefits, Legal and Public Affairs. Each delegate participates in one “reporting group” of the same name to review resolutions from that group. Delegates are expected to review the resolutions from their reporting group prior to the Fall Caucus and come prepared to discuss the pros and cons. Individual reporting groups may hold conference calls to discuss their assigned resolutions.

ADA Annual Session:

Typically, a four or five night stay in the location of the ADA Annual Session, held in various location throughout the country. All delegates are expected to attend scheduled delegation meetings, ADA House of Delegates sessions, and group meals/functions, if scheduled. Delegates continue to review resolutions from their reporting group for discussion. It may be necessary to network with other districts on issues, so it is very important that while attending the ADA meeting, to make new contacts and form solid relationships with delegates from other districts. Delegates are reimbursed as budgeted for travel, lodging, and meals.

Expectations

Delegates are expected to attend *all* meetings. There are times when additional conference calls are needed, and delegates will agree upon the time and date. It is also important to note that meetings are confidential in nature, and as a member you will be asked to sign a confidentiality agreement.

Objectives of the Florida Delegation (from the Delegation Operations Manual)

- To help shape, and, where necessary, effect change in ADA policy to better represent the positions of the membership of the FDA.
- To ensure representation on, and / or provide consultation to, ADA boards, councils, committees and commissions regarding any item of business before a session of the ADA HOD as it relates to 17th Trustee District positions;
- To network with other constituent and district delegations to provide information on 17th Trustee District positions relative to any items of business before a session of the ADA HOD;
- To establish viable contacts between individual members of the 17th delegation and key members of other constituent and district delegations to generate a coalition of support for ADA policies which would be beneficial for the 17th Trustee District and other trustee districts;
- To designate spokespersons; key delegation members who are expert in specific areas that will represent the 17th Trustee District at reference committees, special committees, and on the floor of the ADA HOD;
- To recommend 17th District Trustee delegation members who are well suited to serve on ADA Councils, boards, commissions, reference committees, and other bodies of the ADA including its affiliated companies.
- To organize the 17th delegation to disseminate information concerning the business affairs that will be considered by the ADA HOD in such a manner that all delegates and alternate delegates shall be well informed; and
- To strengthen the position of the 17th Trustee District to be recognized as a knowledgeable, capable advocate in national affairs and on all matters pertaining to the dental health and welfare of people in Florida.
- ADPAC membership is encouraged for all members of the delegation.