

FDA Trustee Application

Name Merlin Ohmer

Email mpohmer@aol.com

Please upload a photo of yourself. A professional headshot is preferred.



Please list your qualifications for this position. (Leadership roles, experience, etc.)

30 year Active Duty Navy Career
Director of 15 dentist clinic
Board of Directors of three different navy medical/dental commands
COO Navy Medicine Hawaii
Florida AGD Board member, Vice President, President-Elect and President
AGD Regional Director
AGD Trustee
AGD Vice President, President-Elect and President.

Please list any boards, committees or other groups you currently or previously have served on (dental or non-dental) along with years of service.

As listed above.
Board of Directors in the Navy 2002-2011
Florida AGD Board 2014-2019
AGD Board 2019-present
AGD Committees 2007-2021
Northshore Condominium Board 2018-present

Please share any accomplishments while serving in other leadership positions.

As outlined above.

Have you participated in continuing education or training programs in leadership? If yes, please share your experience.

Numerous military leadership courses. Each experience opens new doors and provides new opportunities to learn and implement ideas in leadership.
Multiple AGD leadership training programs.

Do you think there is value in the tripartite membership structure (ADA/FDA/Component)? Why or why not?

Yes, I support the tripartite structure. After spending many years in AGD leadership positions, the value of the layered membership becomes very obvious. I liken it to government in the country with federal, state and local legislative bodies. It would be difficult for the Jacksonville City Council to run all programs for the city without the Florida and U.S. government assistance.

The mission of the FDA is to "Help Members Succeed". Do you feel that the association is fully utilizing its resources to fulfill this mission? If yes, share why. If no, what additional actions would you propose?

The FDA is very successful in this mission. Is it perfect? No, nothing ever is. There is always room for improvement and modifications to enhance the mission. Times change, needs change and any organization needs to change to remain relevant. Our newer members have a different mindset and a different set of needs than our older members do.

What are the biggest challenges you see for the FDA as an organization in the coming years and what are ways you suggest the FDA can meet those challenges?

I see membership as the biggest challenge to organized dentistry presently and into the future. Our newer grads are not seeing the value as most older ones did in their career. In general, their desires are different. To remain relevant the FDA needs to make themselves desirous and relevant to the new dentist. Make CE events more fun, create an aura of FOMO, modify CE opportunities to shorter segments to hold the attention of new grads.

Please provide any additional information you would like to share.

Thanks you for this opportunity to continue my involvement and dedication to organized dentistry.