

Council on Professional Issues 2023-24 Annual Report

Members

Brandon Shim, Maryland '24, Chair; Tareina Rogers, Tufts '25, Board Liaison and District 1 Trustee; Gabriela Hunter Rodriguez, LECOM '25, Associate; Alizey Ayesha, Louisville '24, Associate; Abbie Treado, Staff Liaison and ASDA Membership Database Coordinator; and Sarah Murphy, Staff Liaison and ASDA Director of Membership.

Mission

The Council on Professional Issues serves the association as a resource on community engagement, dental outreach and other COVID-19 implications that may arise.

Council business

- **Communicating with chapter leaders**
 - The council focused on connecting regularly with chapter and district community service leaders via a GroupMe group chat.
- **Community Builder of the Year Award**
 - The council reviewed nominations and selected a recipient for the National Community Builder of the Year Award. This award recognizes an outstanding ASDA leader dedicated to dental outreach and community service.
- **Dentistry in the Community Grant**
 - The council reviewed applications for the Dentistry in the Community Grant and selected five chapters to receive the \$500 grant. This chapter grant is intended to support ASDA chapters in coordinating a program or event that focuses on prevention of dental disease and/or promotion of oral health for any underserved population within the community.
- **Service Month**
 - ***New:** The council developed a project proposal to extend Week of Service to Service Month. The council held ASDA's first-ever Service Month in January 2024.
 - Theme: Bridging the Gap.
 - The council created an Instagram Reel introducing Service Month to members.
 - ***New:** The council hosted a Service Month webinar with journalist Mary Otto, who discussed her book, *Teeth: The Story of Beauty, Inequality and the Struggle for Oral Health in America*.
 - For the second year, the council hosted a webinar with Dr. Alex Otto discussing the nonprofit mobile dental unit she founded and ways for students to give back.
 - Service Month offered three different levels of challenges:
 - Incisor-Level Individual Challenge: Individuals who signed up to receive information from a national or local volunteer organization were entered into a prize drawing.
 - Canine-Level Chapter Challenge: The chapter that collects the most clothing and non-perishable food items wins a custom award.
 - Molar-Level Chapter Challenge: Chapters were encouraged to hold community service events and post about the event on Instagram to be entered in a prize drawing.