

Report No.	25	New <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Substitute <input type="checkbox"/>	Amendment <input type="checkbox"/>
Submitted By:	Anthony Cuomo, President			
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Total Financial Implication:	None			
Amount One-time	None	Amount On-going	None	

President

1 Esteemed members, colleagues, and friends, Good Afternoon,
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 3 As I stand before you today, I am filled with a mix of emotions—gratitude, nostalgia, and
 4 a profound sense of pride. It seems like just yesterday when I embarked on this journey
 5 as your president, and now, as my term comes to an end, I am humbled by the
 6 opportunity to reflect on the incredible journey we have shared together.
 7 The journey began with the success that the New York State Dental Foundation has
 8 enjoyed over the past year. Under the direction of its Executive Director, Stacy Mcilduff
 9 and its Chairwoman, Dr. Maria Maranga, the Foundation is thriving and continues to
 10 grow under their leadership. The New York State Dental Foundation is committed to
 11 improving the oral health of all New Yorkers and supporting outreach to communities in
 12 need.
 13
 14 Advocacy, for many years has been the unsung hero not only for our patients but for our
 15 profession as well. Because Advocacy, lobbying, and political action committees are all
 16 interconnected in the realm of political activism.
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 18 During my presidency, NYSDA and EDPAC have collaborated to encourage and obtain
 19 more grassroots activity involving member dentists than at any time in the past. Over
 20 the past 18 months, both entities have undergone significant personnel changes and
 21 have redefined their approach to advocacy, producing results surpassing even my
 22 expectations.
 23
 24 Political action committees or PACs like EDPAC are organizations that raise and spend
 25 money to either support or oppose political candidates, parties, or legislation. PACs are
 26 focused on supporting political candidates and campaigns. They open the doors to the
 27 politicians’ office allowing lobbyists like those from our Governmental affairs team to
 28 educate and explain NYSDA’s position. During my term in office, approximately 50
 29 events occurred wherein dentists attended dinners and or receptions with key elected
 30 officials throughout the state. Twenty-three of these were private functions sponsored
 31 by EDPAC. The larger a member’s donation is the larger the Pac’s war chest becomes,

32 which makes it easier for NYSDA's lobby team to gain important influential access to
33 our NYS legislators.

34
35 Under the leadership of our new Director of Governmental Affairs, Briana McNamee,
36 our lobby team has been advancing NYSDA's agenda and advocating for the dental
37 well-being of all New Yorkers, as well as, ensuring that our Board of Trustees is
38 thoroughly briefed on prevailing legislation. NYSDA has surged into a new era of
39 proactive engagement in the advocacy arena.

40
41 Of course, no journey is without its challenges, and ours has been no exception. We
42 have faced our fair share of obstacles along the way—new workplace relationships,
43 logistical hurdles, and unforeseen crises—but through it all, we have remained
44 steadfast in our resolve. It is during times of adversity that the true strength of an
45 organization shines through, and I am proud to say that we have emerged stronger,
46 more resilient, and I believe more united than ever before.

47
48 I want to express my deepest gratitude to each and every one of you and especially to
49 your Board of Trustees for their unwavering support, dedication, and hard work. They
50 have been the driving force behind our organization's success over the past year.
51 Together, we have accomplished remarkable feats, overcome some unique challenges,
52 and forged lasting bonds that transcend mere professional connections.
53 However, I would be remiss not to single out those here who have been especially
54 helpful. First and foremost, I want to thank my wife Patricia who supported my decision
55 to serve and for agreeing to stand by my side during this journey. She allowed our lives
56 to be disrupted and at times even turned upside down. Pat, without your unwavering
57 love and support I would not be standing before you today. She joins us today with
58 some of my family. My wife is joined by three of our four children. My sons Anthony and
59 Christopher are here with my daughter Nicole and her husband Andrew. Joining them
60 are five of our twelve grandchildren, Kaylee, Ashley, Nicholas, Olivia and Lincoln,
61 I want to thank my component, the Ninth District Dental Association for having
62 nominated me for this position. I especially want to thank Gary Scharoff for all his hard
63 work as this year's House of Delegates program Chairman.

64
65 Throughout the weekend, as our time together progresses, you will see several
66 examples of his creative planning. Gary has some of his ideas classified as TOP Secret
67 and only those who have a NEED-TO-KNOW clearance or above are aware of what he
68 is planning.

69 Also, many thanks to Steve Ossen (the 9th district's Resident pro golfer) for his work in
70 planning this year's golf outing.

71 Led by our executive director, Mr. Gregory Hill, the synergy that exists among our
72 NYSDA staff cannot be overstated, there is not enough time today for me to
73 acknowledge the individual contributions of every staff member properly. But I would be
74 extremely remiss if I failed to personally mention and thank Michael Herrmann, Lance
75 Plunket, Patricia Marcucia, Jenna Bell, Grazia Yaeger, Mary Stoll, Briana McNamee,
76 Betsy Bray and all the staff in their departments for their years of dedication to NYSDA.
77 They are the ones who have our backs and maintain order at headquarters.

78

79 As I look around this dais, I am filled with a profound sense of appreciation for the
80 incredible team that I have had the privilege to work with. James Galati has been an
81 outstanding mentor. He also has this uncanny sense of telepathy. He always knew
82 when to call me in the middle of the night and offer some words of wisdom just when I
83 needed it.

84 I look forward to the years that will follow when Drs. Krishnan and Edwards serve their
85 respective terms as your president. NYSDA is well positioned to continue to be the
86 National leader that it is today.

87 Each of them has brought a unique set of talents, perspectives, and experiences to the
88 table this past year, and it is through our collective collaboration that we have been able
89 to accomplish as much as we have.

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91 To my successor, Dr. Prahba Kristnan, I offer my heartfelt congratulations and my full
92 support as you take on the mantle of leadership. You inherit a legacy of excellence, a
93 team of dedicated individuals, and a world of possibilities. Lead with courage,
94 compassion, and integrity, and I have no doubt that you will continue to steer our
95 organization towards a brighter future for all.

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97 As my time as your president comes to an end, I am filled with a sense of optimism for
98 the future of our organization. While my tenure may be drawing to a close, I have no
99 doubt that the foundation we have built together will serve as a springboard for even
100 greater achievements in the years to come. With its visionary leadership, innovative
101 thinking, and a continued commitment to our shared mission, I am confident that our
102 organization will reach new heights of success in the years ahead.

103

104 As we bid farewell to this chapter, let us remember that our commitment to oral health
105 transcends individual roles or titles. It is a collective responsibility—one that requires
106 unwavering dedication, boundless compassion, and a relentless pursuit of excellence.
107 As we look to the future, let us be guided by the words of Dr. Maya Angelou, who once
108 said, "Success is liking yourself, liking what you do, and liking how you do it." Let us
109 continue to strive for excellence in all that we do, knowing that our efforts today will
110 shape the smiles of tomorrow."

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112 In closing, I again want to express my deepest gratitude for the privilege of serving as
113 your president. It has been the honor of a lifetime, and I will forever cherish the
114 memories of our time together. As I bid farewell to this chapter of my journey, I do so
115 with a heart full of gratitude, a mind filled with memories, and a spirit filled with hope for
116 the future.

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118 Thank you, from the bottom of my heart