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# IDAA Word of Mouth Newsletter

2025 EDITION



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## President's Message

Dear Members,

As we embrace a new chapter in our profession, I am honored to share in the excitement and momentum building within our association and throughout Indiana's dental community. One of the most pivotal conversations currently taking place at the state level involves the possibility of formalizing a new role within our profession-The Oral Preventative Assistant. The potential legislation seeks to expand the scope of the trained dental assistant under the supervision of a licensed dentist. If passed, this legislation would open the door to new opportunities for growth, especially in expanding access to oral health care across our state-particularly in underserved communities.

I am thrilled to invite you to our 104<sup>th</sup> IDAA annual session General Assembly, where we will gather together to celebrate our accomplishments, learn from industry leaders, and shape the future of dental assisting together. This year's session promises professional networking and meaningful discussion about the path ahead-including the proposed legislation and how we can better support each other as professionals.

We are now back to meeting with the Dentists and the hygienists. In the spirit of growth, I want to emphasize the importance of collaborative relationships-not just between assistants, but among dentists and hygienists as well.

This year, let's take the initiative to improve communication, foster mutual respect, and share knowledge across roles. When we work in harmony, we enhance the care we provide and elevate the profession as a whole. Let's come together to learn, connect and grow.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to excellence in dental assisting. Whether you've been in the profession for decades or are just beginning your journey, your voice matters, and your presence makes a difference.

The future of dental assisting in Indiana is bright. We are at a pivotal moment where we can help shape how our profession evolves to meet the changing needs of dentistry. I encourage each of you to stay informed, stay engaged, and continue to support one another as we push for meaningful recognition and growth.

I look forward to seeing you at the Annual session and to standing beside you as we advocate for progress and unity in our profession.

With appreciation and respect,  
Marie J. Smiegal CDA,EFDA,CPT  
2024-2025 IDAA President

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**Indiana Dental Assistants Association**  
**104th Annual Session Program**  
**French Lick Springs Resort**  
**Thursday May 15, 2025**

<u>TIME</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
7:30 AM- 3:00 PM	IDA CE Opportunities	see program
3:00-6:00 PM	Market Place Opens	Exhibit Hall
5:00-6:30 PM	IDA Welcome Reception	Gardens
6:30-8:30 PM	IDAA Past Presidents Meeting	The Power Plant

**Friday May 16, 2025**

<u>TIME</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
9:00-9:30 AM	IDAA Registration	Roosevelt Room 202
9:30-11:00 AM	IDAA General Assembly	Roosevelt Room 202
11:00-11:30 AM	IDAA Balloting (if needed)	Roosevelt Room 202
9:00- 1:00 PM	Market Place Opens	Exhibit Hall
2:00-3:30 PM	IDAA General Assembly (if needed)	Roosevelt Room 202
6:00-9:00 PM	IDAA Dinner, Awards, and Silent/Live Auction	Roosevelt Room 202

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# Secretary

Hello everyone! The IDAA Annual Session will be May 16 and 17, 2025, in French Lick again this year! I look forward to seeing everyone.

This will be the first year IDAA will have a General Assembly instead of a House of Delegates. This means that any Professional, Life, or Special member can attend and vote on issues for the IDAA. All members are welcome but will still need to register to check on membership and provide a badge for the meeting. Please see the Registration form in this newsletter and plan to attend the General Assembly, dinner and auction.

You will be responsible for printing any materials and bringing them to the meetings (or bring on your computer). If you have issues please reach out to me at [cjrcda@aol.com](mailto:cjrcda@aol.com).

Also, please keep your email address and information up to date on the ADA website, [www.adaausa.org](http://www.adaausa.org), so we can get you all the information you need over the year. If you don't get the information, then check your ADA account to be sure it is accurate.

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# IDAA 103<sup>rd</sup> Annual Session Registration

## May 15-16 2025

### French Lick Springs Resort

IDAA Member Registration: <i>Registration includes all IDAA meetings and IDA events (This reservation does not include any CE, please register for any CE on <a href="http://www.indental.org">www.indental.org</a>)</i>	No Charge _____
Nonmember Registration:	\$35.00 _____
Students (Attending IDAA meetings and exhibits only)	FREE _____
Members, Student Members Dinner/Auction	\$50.00 _____
Nonmembers, Students, Guests	\$75.00 _____
	Total Paid: _____

**Registration deadline for meeting is May 10, 2025**  
**(late fee of \$20.00 will be imposed on ALL LATE registrations)**

Name:

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Email address:

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Please send this form and check or money order payable to IDAA:

Angie Swatts

6930 Antwood Ct

Noblesville, IN 46062

Any questions please email me at [Angela.swatts@voco.com](mailto:Angela.swatts@voco.com)

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IDAA 103rd Annual Session Registration  
May 15-16, 2024  
French Lick Springs Resort

Registration Information:

Hello all and Happy Spring!

I am looking forward to seeing everyone in French Lick next month! I wanted to let everyone know that since the IDAA Annual Session has now changed to a General Assembly there is no need for locals to vote on and send delegates to the General Assembly. Although, if you are planning on attending meetings of the IDAA YOU MUST STILL REGISTER with IDAA. Registration information, fees, etc is included in this newsletter. Please send me the names AND credentials of anyone that will be attending the IDAA GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

**Please have this information to me no later than  
Friday May 9<sup>th</sup>**

Looking forward to the General Assembly!!

Joann Gerike, CDA, EFDA

Registration Chairman

jojogerike@gmail.com

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## Hotel Options

The IDAA Annual Session and the 2025 Midwest Dental Assembly will be hosted at the French Lick Resort on May 16-17, 2025. Meeting attendees will be able to choose from two hotel options at the French Lick Resort-French Lick Springs Hotel (Host Hotel) and West Baden Springs Hotel. Most events and activities will be hosted at the French Lick Springs Hotel, but free shuttle service is available for those that wish to stay at the French Lick Resort's secondary property, West Baden Springs Hotel.

Our deeply discounted room block is valid through April 18, 2025 and you're encouraged to make reservations well in advance of this deadline as our room block will sell out. Copy and paste the website below to complete your online reservation or call (844) 241-6361 with event code 0525IDA.

### Reservation website:

<https://book.rguest.com/wbe/group/707/frenchlick/auth>

Due to the Resort's newly updated reservation system, upon going to the above link, you will be prompted to enter the Reservation Username: 0525IDA and Attendee Password: 0525IDA

**Important Note:** The hotel website defaults to May 13-18, 2025. If you manually change those dates to May 16 and 17 (or the dates you wish to be in French Lick), the hotel website will show a wide range of available rooms.

French Lick Springs Hotel (Host Hotel)  
8670 West State Road 56  
French Lick, IN 47432

West Baden Springs Hotel  
8538 West Baden Ave  
West Baden, IN 47469

Any questions let me know!

Angie Swatts

[Angela.swatts@voco.com](mailto:Angela.swatts@voco.com)

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# Calling all members to duty:



## **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**

As chair of the Nominations Committee, I am calling on you to help further our Association in 2025-2026 by serving as an officer. The current slate is as follows:

President: Vacant

President-Elect: Vacant

Vice President: Staci Schory

Secretary: Cathy Roberts

Treasurer: Willie Leeuw

Immediate Past President: Marie Smiegal

If you have any questions about what each office entails, I encourage you to reach out to me or the current officers. If you are interested, please bring your credentials to our General Assembly. Thank you for your consideration!

Respectfully,  
Angie Swatts

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# IDAA IT News

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## **TO ALL MEMBERS!**

Please keep your email and address information updated in your profile on the ADAA website [www.adaausa.org](http://www.adaausa.org). This is how we have your information. If your personal information is not current, you WILL NOT receive the updates from the ADAA and IDAA. Also, please use your home or personal email so if you are not in the office or you change employment, we can still reach you.

ADAA website: [www.adaausa.org](http://www.adaausa.org)

IDAA website: [www.indaa.org](http://www.indaa.org)

Cathy Roberts

IDAA IT Chair

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# **IDAA Financial Aid**

As the chairperson of the IDAA Financial Aid Committee, I am pleased to announce the winners of the awards. Each of the ten Indiana CODA-Accredited Dental Assisting programs were contacted by e-mail to submit the name of a student that they felt deserved the award. Each winner receives one full year of paid active membership to the American Dental Assistants Association (which includes the amount for State and Local dues). This membership will afford them with complimentary continuing education courses and loads of networking opportunities.

## **The winners are:**

Alyssa Alvarez- Indiana University Northwest  
Ashlyn Peach- University of Southern Indiana  
Olivia Reed- Ivy Tech Kokomo  
Amliza Zamora Mendez- Indiana University School of  
Dentistry Fort Wayne  
Scotlyn Weaver- Ivy Tech Lafayette

Best wishes to these winners. The IDAA extends regards to their continued success in school and throughout their career in dentistry.

Wilhemina R. Leeuw, MS, CDA  
IDAA Financial Aid Chair

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# Indiana Radiology Program

The Indiana Radiology Program from the ADAA continues to be a very successful program for assistants who need to obtain their Radiology License and are working on the job or moving into the States. The assistant can join the ADAA and take the Indiana Radiology courses at no additional fee. It is a win-win as the ADAA/IDAA has new members and the assistant can take the Radiology courses at the membership fee. This is very cost effective for the most dental assistants. information is on our IDAA website [www.Indaa.org](http://www.Indaa.org) and our ADDA website, [www.adaausa.org](http://www.adaausa.org). It is very important for the assistant to read all of the information about the program and follow instructions. If you have any questions on the Indiana Radiology Program, please e-mail me at [cjrcda@aol.com](mailto:cjrcda@aol.com) or cell (812) 320-5437.

The ADAA has a management company, Kellen Company. The Education Director is Holly Lundgren and is the person that needs to sign the Provisional Permit applications. She is at ADAA Central Office and her email is [infor@adaausa.org](mailto:infor@adaausa.org). ADAA will have the Provisional Permit signed and returned within 2 business days. The Indiana State Department of Health Radiology Licensing Coordinator is Michele Stakey. She can be reached at [mstarkey@health.in.gov](mailto:mstarkey@health.in.gov) or (317) 233-7565.

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Cathy Roberts  
IDA Radiology Chair

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# Anna Marie Dixon

## New Member Involvement Award

The Anna Marie Dixon New Member Involvement Award shall be presented to a member who has shown the most outstanding achievement in promoting the objectives of this association and furthering the profession of dental assisting.

### Qualifications:

- Shall be an active or federal services member of the Indiana Dental Assistants Association
- The Nominee must have no more than five (5) consecutive years of membership with the Indiana Dental Assistants Association.
  - Shall not have been a previous member.
- Shall have excelled in our motto of 'Education, Efficiency, loyalty and Service', during years of active membership.
- Shall have participated on local, state, and/or national offices, Federal Services level and/or IDAA Council or IDAA Special Committee
  - Shall have excelled in services above and beyond expected duties.
    - Shall not have been a previous recipient of this award.
    - Shall not be an employee of ADAA.

### Procedure:

1. The candidate's name and qualifications shall be submitted by a member electronically via email using Microsoft word v. 98 or later to the email address of the Vice President Staci Schory at stacischory@gmail no later than 30 days prior to Annual Session. All electronically submitted documentation must be typed.
2. It is the responsibility of the individual who is submitting the nomination to confirm the receipt of the nomination if a confirmation email is not received stating the nomination was received.
3. The IDAA Vice President will verify date of membership.

### Voting:

- Nominees' application shall be electronically sent to the Vice President. The Vice President shall forward all applications to the members of The Executive Committee for review of each applicant's application and qualifications.
- Voting shall be by email ballot of the Executive Committee.
- The candidate receiving the majority of vote's casts shall be the award recipient.
- The name of the recipient shall not be revealed until the time of the presentation of the award.

A certificate, award and a \$75.00 check shall be presented during Annual Session.

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# Vera Hewins Loyalty Award Nomination Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Employer: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of years in dentistry: \_\_\_\_\_

Currently certified: \_\_\_\_\_

Personal Information: \_\_\_\_\_

## OFFICES AND COMMITTEES

National: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_

Local: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of national meetings attended: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of state meetings attended: \_\_\_\_\_

List community activities during years in dentistry:

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We would also like you to write a short explanation of why you feel this candidate is deserving of this award. (This should be written by an officer of the component sponsoring the candidate and should be typed on an additional sheet of paper and sent with this form electronically) Nominee's employer may wish to send a letter or recommendation as well.

Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Ramona Gunstra Award Nominations

In 1987, the IDAA instituted a new award, The Romona Gunstra Outstanding Service Award. Ramona was our IDAA president in 1971-1972 and she continued to give of her time and talents to the IDAA. To this date, only 20 IDAA members have been chosen to receive this prestigious award.

I am so honored to be one of the chosen to receive this award. Ramona was an inspiration and mentor to all of us. It is important to keep her enthusiasm and tradition of service alive for our newer members.

Please read the following criteria and nominate a candidate who you believe is worthy of this award.

1. Must be a former IDAA President
2. Must have a minimum of 15 years of productive membership to the IDAA
3. Must be a former recipient of the Vera Hewins Award and have remained active in services to the association since receiving the award.

For a nomination form, please contact me at [saclancy@msn.com](mailto:saclancy@msn.com). The deadline for submission is May 3, 2024.

All former recipients who are attending the IDAA Annual Session will meet briefly on May 17, 2024, in the pre-session boardroom 15 minutes prior to the meeting time to discuss the nominations.

“There are big ships and small ships. But the best ship of all is friendship.”

Anonymous

Sincerely,

Sheila Clancy, MBA, CDA Emeritus

Ramona Gunstra Award Recipient 2020