

DUM VIVIMOS SERVIMOS



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**Fulfill your
inner desire to
serve and give
back to the
organization
that has given
you so much!**

Dum Vivimos Servimos literally means “While we live, we serve!” I am proud to say that my college alma mater, Presbyterian College in Clinton, South Carolina, has this as their school motto. From the beginning of my freshman year in 1982, this has been sewn into the fabric of my very being. It’s more than words or a fancy phrase. It’s a way we should all strive to live our lives, both personally and professionally.

As dentists, we all have the gift of service innately built into our character. There’s just no way possible that we can ignore this desire to serve and help others. Our biggest problem is that we get so busy with the daily grind of life that we often times feel overwhelmed. Work, the demands of being the perfect parent, or the hundred other things that fill our waking hours are part of the “services” we perform day in and day out. We can’t help ourselves, that’s just the way we are. Most of us are over achieving perfectionists that consider ourselves failures if we don’t live up to a standard that is more often than not, beyond our ability to achieve. But we still forge ahead. I understand this perfectly. Then, when someone asks us to add more things to this already over packed existence, we can only smile and politely say, “maybe later when I have more time.”

Dum Vivimos Servimos—While we live, we serve. It’s one of those things that, when you said it or thought it enough, you just can’t get it out of your head and you certainly can’t escape it. So, what do we do?

Well, I’m sitting here writing this editorial wondering how in the world I thought that I was going to have enough time to add this job to my already very busy lifestyle. The answer is simple. We all have to carve out a little time for all the important things in our life. I intentionally placed work as the first demand in the previous paragraph. Work can usually be the one thing that we can easily put in a box that we open when we get to the office, and close when we turn the lights out at the end of the day. I get it! But, if we are going to continue to serve our patients to the best of our ability, we need to remember to serve the organization that allows us to practice in this fashion. Now I’m not suggesting that we all run for state officer chairs, or even for district offices, but what I am saying is that we all have a role to play in this great organization, and there are a lot of roles to choose from.

Our immediate past President, Dr. David Bradberry, went to great lengths to map out volunteer job opportunities with full descriptions and the time demands that those jobs would require. I’m sure we can all spare at least an hour or two every couple of months to work on a committee or task force, or at the very least show up to district meetings and perhaps invite a colleague who may or may not be a member. You can even go the extra mile and pick them up and drive them to the meeting.

Yes, we all lead very busy lives, but if we fail to serve the organization that has given us so much, we will have sealed our own doom, and become a shell of what we were intended to be, ending up like many other dysfunctional associations.

There’s a place for everyone and everyone has a place. Don’t you think it’s time for you to find your place to serve? Fulfill your inner desire to serve and give back to the organization that has given you so much!

Dum Vivimos Servimos! 🙏

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Job descriptions and time commitments can be found at www.gadental.org/member-services/leadership-resources.

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