

Manning for ADA President-Elect

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The Illinois Dental News recently sat down with Dr. Dennis Manning, candidate for President-Elect of the American Dental Association, about his reasons for running and goals if he becomes leader of the national organization.

Illinois State Dental Society member Dr. Dennis Manning of Libertyville, the American Dental Association Trustee for the Eighth District, is campaigning to be the ADA's President-Elect. That election will be held during the ADA's Annual Session in Orlando this October. If elected, Dr. Manning will immediately serve one year as President-Elect and then one year as ADA President beginning October, 2011.

We asked him about the reasons he wants to run for this position and what his goals are if he succeeds.

Why do you want to be President-Elect of the ADA?

Dr. Manning: The American Dental Association is facing many of the most difficult challenges in its history. We are besieged by problems with operational excellence, ethical dilemmas, board dysfunction, and many unhappy staff. To preserve and protect our association, our profession, and the patients we serve, we must not waiver to outside pressures to diminish our core values or allow the dilution of our standards.

As I met with ADA members nationwide throughout this year, I listened to their concerns. With this in mind, my major objective is to carry out their vision and the vision of the House of Delegates and our members. We must do what is best for our association. We cannot delay the much-needed corrective actions to make our ADA whole. It is imperative that the House and Board be unified in one voice for the benefit of our profession. I have the skill, motivation, and determination necessary to resolve our significant internal problems that can no longer be ignored so that we can be best positioned to address the external issues facing the ADA and our members.

What do you want to accomplish in that position?

Dr. Manning: If elected, first and foremost I will carry out the vision of the House of Delegates. I will implement a culture of ethics, integrity, and adherence to core values. I wish to obtain operational excellence through effective management while maintaining open lines of communication with the House and our membership. It is imperative that we restore unity and trust throughout the association.

Why do you think you are qualified to lead the ADA?

Dr. Manning: I have a history of loyalty and leadership as well as a willingness to take on hard challenges and achieve realistic goals. I am a proven leader. As ADA Audit Committee Chair, I implemented a corrective action plan to get our financial house and internal controls in order. I served as Chair of the Illinois State Dental Society's Allied Dental Health Personnel Committee when Illinois was in the midst of a dental hygienist shortage from the closure of Northwestern and Loyola University's dental hygiene programs. We succeeded in establishing six accredited dental hygiene programs throughout the state. As President of the Chicago Dental Society, the ADA's largest component organization, I managed one of the most prestigious major dental meetings in the world.

I am an effective manager. I served as President of the Illinois Lake County Board of Health and successfully managed a multimillion dollar budget while instituting excellent programs and providing service to the community. I am a career Naval Reserve Dental Officer. My military education, training, and staff and command responsibilities prepared me to effectively administrate the duties as Commanding

Officer of Naval Reserve Naval Regional Dental Center Great Lakes and Executive Officer of the Second Dental Battalion at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina during “Desert Storm.”

Additionally, as the Eighth District’s ADA Trustee, I served as liaison to the ADA Council on Communications, the ADA Council on Dental Education and Licensure, the ADA Political Action Committee, the American Student Dental Association, and the ADA Division of Publications and Publishing. I was also on the Board of Visitors of the Samuel Harris National Museum of Dentistry and the Board of the National Foundation of Dentistry for the Handicapped.

What do you think are the biggest issues facing dentistry today?

Dr. Manning:

1. Unwarranted intrusion of the federal and state governments and foundations into the profession relating to “workforce issues.”
2. The implementation of health care reform legislation and its effect on the dental delivery system.
3. All aspects of dental education including: predental curriculum, dental school curriculum, dental research, faculty recruitment and retention, dental licensure, and accreditation standards.

Is there anything else you’d like to add?

Dr. Manning: It will be my honor to represent you. In order to complete the daunting tasks at hand I need your support and your vote for President-Elect of the ADA.