Board Resolution

From: WSDA Board of Directors
To: House of Delegates

September 2025

**HD-12-2025**

**Regarding Standing Committees, Task Forces, and Their Duties**

 **(Bylaws Amendment)**

RESOLVED, that the Section VII.A of the Bylaws be amended as follows:

A. Standing Committees. The WSDA Standing Committees are:

1. Nominations Committee. **The purpose of the Nominations Committee is to foster and develop the future leadership of the Washington State Dental Association and its affiliated entities.** The Nominations Committee is responsible for providing nomination recommendations for elected positions to the House of Delegates and for appointed positions to the President or Board of Directors as outlined in these Bylaws as well as Standing Rule. The House of Delegates and Board of Directors is not required to elect or appoint the nominees recommended by the Nominations Committee but each nominee from the committee shall be considered. The Nominations Committee may opt to provide more nomination recommendations than positions available in order to give the electing or appointing body more options.

The Nominations Committee shall be a committee of ten (10) members appointed by the Board of Directors. One position will be reserved for the Immediate Past President. One position will be reserved for an at-large Board member selected by the Board of Directors. The remaining positions shall be filled by members that are not currently serving on the Board of Directors. Term length shall be outlined in Standing Rule. Each term shall commence at the beginning of the Association’s fiscal year. The Board of Directors is charged with appointing a Nominations Committee reflective of the diversity of experience, geography, training, gender, and race/ethnicity of the Association’s members.

The full list of duties and expectations of the Nominations Committee shall be specified in Standing Rule.

1. Committee on Regulatory Affairs. **The purpose of the Committee on Regulatory Affairs is to advocate for Association members and their patients on all regulatory matters before the Washington Dental Commission and other pertinent regulatory bodies.** This committee shall be composed of the at-large members appointed by Board of Directors to terms specified in Standing Rule. The Board of Directors shall appoint members with experience and knowledge relevant to the ongoing work of the Dental Quality Assurance Commission and other government agencies identified in Standing Rule. Each year, the President shall designate the committee chair, who shall serve in this capacity for a period of 12 months. The committee chair is expected to regularly attend meetings of the Dental Quality Assurance Commission and perform other additional responsibilities as specified in Standing Rule.
2. Committee on Continuing Education. **The purpose of the Committee on Continuing Education is to oversee the Pacific Northwest Dental Conference and any other continuing education activities assigned by the Board of Directors.** The Committee on Continuing Education shall be a rotating committee of up to eleven (11) members comprised of up to eight (8) dentists and up to three (3) hygienists. The term of each committee member is four years. Persons shall be eligible for reappointment to multiple terms.

Each term of the committee shall commence on the last day of the Pacific Northwest Dental Conference of the year when the appointment takes effect.

Each year, the Committee on Continuing Education shall designate the committee chair and committee vice-chair, who shall serve in this capacity for a period of 12 months commencing on the last day of the annual Pacific Northwest Dental Conference of the year the appointment is made.

1. Dental Benefits Committee. **~~The Dental Benefits Committee is responsible for investigating and analyzing dental benefits related member issues, conducting outreach with dental benefits carriers operating in Washington, establishing a working relationship with the Office of the Insurance Commissioner, and collaborating on the substance and implementation of the Association’s dental benefits advocacy agenda.~~** **The purpose of the Dental Benefits Committee is to:**
* **Investigate and analyze dental benefits-related issues identified by dental offices.**
* **Conduct outreach with dental benefits carriers operating in Washington.**
* **Establish and maintain a working relationship with the Office of the Insurance Commissioner.**
* **Work in partnership with the Board of Directors and any designated Task Force to develop and implement the Association’s dental benefits advocacy agenda.**

The Dental Benefits Committee shall be a rotating committee of up to ten (10) members appointed by the Board of Directors. The term of each committee members is three years. Persons shall be eligible for reappointment to multiple terms. The Board of Directors may stagger the term length of committee members to increase continuity.

Each year, the Dental Benefits Committee shall designate the committee chair and committee vice-chair, who shall serve in this capacity for one year.

1. **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee. The purpose of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee is to improve the health of the public by:**
* **Recognizing that while talent exists universally, opportunities are not equally distributed. The Committee is dedicated to fostering a dental workforce that reflects the diversity of our state and sustainably thrives within our dental community.**
* **Focusing on expanding equitable access to mentorship, leadership, and professional development for all dentists.**
* **Promoting and sustaining a culture of inclusiveness within the organization, grounded in open dialogue, thoughtful reflection, and an assumption of good intent.**

**The Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee shall consist of up to ten (10) members appointed by the Board of Directors, with terms lasting three years. Members are eligible for reappointment for multiple terms. To promote continuity, the Board of Directors may stagger the term lengths of committee members.**

**Each year, the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee shall designate the committee chair and committee vice-chair, who shall serve in their respective roles for one year.**

**~~5~~6**. Service Lines Committee.  The **purpose of the** Service Lines Committee **~~is responsible for oversight of~~ is to oversee** the Association’s service lines that generate non-dues revenue, including service lines operated through business subsidiaries of the Association and service lines operated directly by the Association. The Board of Directors shall have the discretion to add or remove specific service lines from the Committee’s oversight responsibilities.  The Executive Director of the Association shall serve as one voting member of the Committee.  The Board of Directors shall specify the number, qualifications, and terms of the remaining Committee members, along with the full list of duties and expectations of the Service Lines Committee, in Standing Rule.

And be it further...

RESOLVED, that the following be added to the Bylaws as Section VII.C:

C. Strategic Review of Established Standing Committees and Task Forces. Every three years, the Board of Directors shall conduct a review of all existing Standing Committees and Task Forces to determine if their purpose, structure, scope, and existence are in alignment with the Association's Mission, Vision, and Strategic Plan. The Board of Directors shall bring forward recommended changes to enact findings of these reviews to the House of Delegates when necessary.

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