

## What is the tripartite membership system?

When you join organized dentistry, you are joining at the local, district, state and national levels. This arrangement allows you to receive membership services and benefits at all levels.

This tripartite membership system was developed as a means of conveniently and economically streamlining professional membership.

Even though belonging at one level requires membership at the other three, it is important to remember that each level of the organization has the freedom to determine its own dues.

## How do I know which membership category I qualify for?

Although each member is assessed dues at every level, different membership categories allow for exceptions for those who may be new to the practice of dentistry or who may be experiencing temporary financial difficulties.

## I am in a graduate or residency program. Do I pay full dues?

Members who are in a graduate or residency program receive a special reduced dues rate of \$0 for 2020 at the ADA, PDA and district/local society levels.

To take advantage of this reduced rate, recent graduates need only complete a membership application and provide confirmation of their advanced program enrollment.

## Graduated Dues Structure

Recent graduates receive four years of significant reductions in membership dues based on their year out of dental school or residency program.

The graduated dues structure is: 0 percent of dues in the first full calendar year following dental school or residency completion, followed by 25 percent, then 50 percent, then 75 percent and then 100 percent in the fifth year and thereafter.

Year Out	PDA	ADA	District/Local
2019	\$0.00 (100% reduction)	\$0.00 (100% reduction)	*
2018	\$176 (75% reduction)	\$139 (75% reduction)	*
2017	\$351 (50% reduction)	\$277 (50% reduction)	*
2016	\$527 (25% reduction)	\$416 (25% reduction)	*

*\*District and local society dues vary, but component societies are encouraged to follow the ADA and PDA dues equity structure.*

## What is an active member?

After completing the graduated dues structure, members become active members and pay full dues. An active member's dues statement will include \$565 for ADA and \$727 for PDA. District and local component dues will vary according to your practice location.

## I am retired. Do I pay full dues?

### Retired Members

When you no longer earn income from the practice (or teaching) of dentistry, even on a part-time basis, you qualify for retired status. To change status you must complete a retirement affidavit. The district component, PDA and finally, ADA must approve the affidavit.

Upon approval, your member status will be changed to retired, you will receive a confirmation letter from ADA and PDA and you will receive a revised invoice. *Retired members receive a 75 percent reduction in their dues.* The dues for a retired member include \$142 for ADA and \$182 for PDA. District and local dues vary.

### I have been a member for quite some time. Do I qualify for life membership? If yes, what would my dues be?

#### Life Member (Active or Retired)

To qualify as a valued life member, you must meet the following *three* criteria:

- You must be at least 65 years of age as of December 31, 2019.
- You must have 30 continuous years of membership or a total of 40 years of membership.
- You must be a member in good standing the year you turn 65.

**Active life members** meet the above criteria but still earn income from the practice or teaching of dentistry, either part time or full time. Active life members receive a 25 percent reduction in PDA and ADA dues. The dues for an active life member include \$424 for ADA and \$545 for PDA.

Members who meet the above criteria and who no longer earn income from the practice or teaching of dentistry qualify as **retired life members** and can maintain their membership for free.

## What are associate and affiliate members?

### Associate Member

An *associate member* of PDA is someone who is not eligible for any other type of membership; who contributes to the advancement of organized dentistry; and who has not met the education requirement for licensure as a dentist in Pennsylvania. Associate member dues are \$182.

### Affiliate Member

An *affiliate member* of PDA is an ADA dentist in good standing who practices in another state and who resides in Pennsylvania. Affiliate member dues are \$182.

## I am experiencing a financial hardship. Can PDA help?

A full or partial waiver is available to a member in good standing whose circumstances have resulted in a significant financial hardship including: disability, catastrophe, medical illness or parental leave, caring for a new baby or a severely ill family member.

To receive a financial hardship waiver due to disability, a member must complete an application containing a physician's statement describing the nature of the disability and detailing whether it is permanent or temporary.

Upon approval of the waiver form by the member's district/local component, PDA and ADA, a member's status will be updated to reflect the waiver. *Members who receive a temporary dues waiver receive a 50 or 100 percent reduction in their dues.*

Members who are granted a temporary waiver must re-apply on an annual basis if the waiver is needed for an additional year. Status is automatically updated to the previous dues rate. (Temporary waivers are granted for a maximum of three years.)

Members may obtain a dues waiver application by contacting the PDA Central Office at (800) 223-0016.

## What are my payment options?

### Monthly payments via Credit Card, Debit Card or Bank Account

PDA automatically debits your designated account in 12 equal installments, January through December. To complete an *eDues enrollment form*, please contact PDA staff via email at [membership@padental.org](mailto:membership@padental.org) or call (800)223-0016.

### Online Payment

Full dues payments can be made online. Simply sign in [www.padental.org](http://www.padental.org) and click "Renew" in the upper right side of the screen. Your payment screen will reflect a summary of your dues and any partial payments received to date. All online transactions are conducted through a secure server and the database is automatically updated to reflect your payment.

### Pay by Check

Members can pay their dues with a personal or business check. When paying with a business check, please include the remittance stub of the dues invoice and print the name of the member clearly on the front of the check. Please make the check payable to PDA.

### Partial Payment

PDA accepts partial payments made by credit card or check, which will be reflected on subsequent invoices. However, members are not considered current and in good standing, and dues are not forwarded to ADA or district and local constituents, until dues are paid in full.

If you would like more information on payment options, please contact the PDA Central Office at (800) 223-0016.

### Pre-Payment Program

Members in good standing are permitted to pre-pay their dues. Pre-payment coupons are mailed in late May to allow monthly payments from June to October. In the past, the recommended pre-payment amount has been \$225 per month.

Members can pre-pay their dues with a check or credit card.

The intent of the pre-payment program is not to pay the dues in full but to provide members with greater flexibility with dues payment. The initial dues invoice, mailed in November, will reflect pre-payments received and the correct balance due.

## Can I pay by credit card?

Yes. More members are paying their dues with their credit cards than ever before. PDA accepts Visa, MasterCard, American Express and Discover. Call the PDA Central office at (800)223-0016.

## What is the deadline for submitting dues payments?

The PDA Central Office must receive your dues payment by close of business on December 31, 2019.

## My dues invoice lists many items. What do they mean and what must I pay for?

PDA breaks down your dues statement into the following individual sections:

- **ADA Dues** – These are your dues for the American Dental Association.
- **PDA Dues** – These are your dues for the Pennsylvania Dental Association.
- **District Dental Society** – This is your district dental society. *The Fifth District* is an example of a district dental society.
- **Local Dental Society** – This is your local dental society. An example of a local dental society is the *Lancaster County Dental Society*.

To raise funds for the *Pennsylvania Dental Association Political Action Committee (PADPAC)*, the 2020 dues invoice includes a voluntary contribution to this fund.

## **PADPAC**

You can support PDA's participation in the political process by contributing to PADPAC. PDA continuously faces significant and well-funded opposition from insurance and other lobbies. Your contributions to PADPAC will ensure that organized dentistry has a strong voice in Harrisburg. To make a contribution online visit [www.padental.org/padpac](http://www.padental.org/padpac).

## **Pennsylvania Dental Foundation**

PDA's philanthropic and charitable organization enhances health by securing contributions and providing grants for sustainable programs in education, access to care and assistance for Pennsylvania dentists and their families in need. Contributions to the foundation are tax deductible.

## **Ways to recoup some of my dues**

Many members have recouped the cost of dues by participating in insurance programs and other programs endorsed by PDA. *The Pennsylvania Dental Association Insurance Services, Inc. (PDAIS)*, offers a full line of competitively priced malpractice liability, compensation and group disability coverage. PDA non-dues income programs also provide discounts on a variety of endorsed programs, including credit cards, electronic prescriptions, dental supplies, patient payment plans, scrap metal recovery, dental office website design, internet marketing, patient communications and sharps disposal.

## **Is there someone I can talk with about my dues?**

Yes! Call the PDA Central Office toll-free at (800) 223-0016 and ask for Mary Donlin (ext. 131), Andrea Castilow (ext. 123) or Michelle Miller (ext. 121). PDA office hours are 8:30 a.m. until 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.



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