

South Dakota Dental Foundation

Friday, May 15, 2026 2:30 p.m.
Sheraton Hotel
Sioux Falls, South Dakota

Dr. Jay Crossland, Vice Chair, called the joint membership and board of directors meeting of the South Dakota Dental Foundation to order at 2:35 p.m.

PRESENT: Dr. Jay Crossland, Vice Chair
Ms. Laurie Mikkonen, Secretary-Treasurer
Dr. Mark Bierschbach
Dr. Monty Bechtold
Dr. Thane Crump
Dr. Amber Determan
Dr. Michael Frankman
Dr. Bryan Johnson
Ms. Jennifer Heiman
Dr. D'Jonna Sewell
Dr. Nathan VanLaecken
Dr. Andy Wiswall
Ms. Tia Hertel, Membership Manager
Mr. Paul Knecht, Executive Director

ABSENT: Dr. Melissa Gibson
Dr. Jason Aanenson
Dr. Jaclyn Schuler
Ms. Melissa Afdahl
Ms. Amy Petersen-Kolb

GUESTS: Dr. Rick Fuchs
Dr. Jeff Wiswall
Ms. Mary Wolf

Moved (Johnson/Bechtold) to accept the minutes of the May 16, 2025 membership meeting and the November 4, 2025 Board of Director's meeting. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the operating account balances and fund balances. No action taken.

Moved (Mikkonen/Bechtold) to accept the 2024-2025 reviewed financial statements provided by CLA. Motion carried.

Moved (Bierschbach/Determan) to file the 2025 IRS Form 990. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

- Review of Fundraising Events:
 - Golf Tournament: The tournament was held at the Elmwood Golf Course in Sioux Falls. The new venue worked well and is in close proximity to the Sioux Falls Convention Center. There were 56 golfers.
 - Best for Last Raffle: Tia reported that 134 tickets were sold and the event netted \$8,885. The Board agreed to continue this fundraiser. All ticket sales were done in advance. The pot was split two ways.
 - Lucky Chance Box Raffle: Tia reported that 166 mixer tickets were sold and the raffle netted approximately \$20,700. Jan and Mark Bierschbach will chair the raffle again in 2027 and 2028. With the responsibilities for chairing the event being turned over to Angela Crossland and Diana Reth after that.
- Wellbeing Program: Mary Wolf provide a report on the Be Well Program, with more than 75 individuals receiving counseling from Mary during the first five years of the program.
- Dental Workforce Solutions: Paul reported that the SDDA had receive an application for dental workforce solutions funds from Western Dakota Technical College (WDTC), but rather than fund the project, the SDDA intends to communicate that those funds would be available for WDTC if their project were unsuccessful in obtaining funding through the Rural Health Transformation Initiative. Paul reminded the group that last year the Foundation had agreed to grant \$10,000 per year, for five years, to the SDDA in order to support the dental workforce solutions fund.
- Estate Gift Awareness: The Foundation has begun promoting the idea of members including the Dental Foundation in their estate plans. The Board agreed that the Foundation should make experts (an accountant and attorney) available during the 2027 Annual Session via a booth or CE session.
- Sioux Empire Smiles: The one-day event will no longer be hosted by the Southeastern District Dental Society. It is being replaced by a year-round referral program for underserved children. There is approximately \$3,100 left in the Sioux Empire Smiles endowment fund. The Board agreed that the funds should be used to support the new year-round referral program and then the fund could be closed.

REPORTS

- Gift Disbursement Committee Report: Two grant applications were reviewed by the committee. Moved (Sewell/Bechtold) to fund the applications for the South Dakota Head Start Association for \$2,500 and the SDDA Wellbeing program for \$10,000. Additionally, the following scholarships should be supported:
 - Western Dakota Tech Scholarship, two at \$1,000/ea.
 - Lake Area Tech Scholarship, two at \$1,000/ea.
 - Southeast Tech, two at \$1,000/ea.
 - USD Dental Hygiene Scholarship, two at \$3,000/ea.

Additionally, Delta Dental will make a contribution to recognize Delta participating dentists on their years of being enrolled with Delta and those funds will be used toward these scholarships.

- Dental Student Scholarships: Paul reported that eight applications have been received and the review committee has awarded a scholarship to all eight applicants. It was agreed to grant up to \$1,000 to the South Dakota Community Foundation to supplement the awards for this year's dental student scholarships so they can all be \$5,000 awards.
- Foundation Award: The Board agreed that the Foundation should discuss a Foundation award recipient during the fall board meeting and that the nominations committee should bring forward names for consideration.

ELECTIONS

- Election of Directors: Dr. Crossland reported that the Nominating Committee is recommending Dr. Rick Fuchs, Dr. Cory Peterson and Dr. Jeff Wiswall to fill the seats being vacated by Dr. Monty Bechtold, Dr. Melissa Gibson and Dr. Jackie Schuler. Drs. Jason Aanenson, Nathan VanLaecken, Mark Bierschbach, Thane Crump, Bryan Johnson, and Andrew Wiswall will renew their terms on the board for another two years. It was moved (Crump/VanLaecken) to elect the nominated Board Members.
- Election of Officers: Motion (Crump/VanLaecken) to approve the current slate of officers for another term: Dr. Jason Aanenson as chair, Dr. Jay Crossland as Vice Chair, and Laurie Mikkonen as Secretary-Treasurer. Motion carried.

APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES

- Dr. Crossland shared Dr. Aanenson's committee appointments which are posted on the Foundation board zone.

NEXT MEETING DATE

- The Board agreed that the fall meeting will be held on November 3, 2026 via Zoom.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Paul Knecht

Executive Director