



ASDA
American Student Dental Association

2025-26
ANNUAL
REPORT

FROM OUR PRESIDENT, PAYAL PATEL



Over the past year, ASDA didn't just grow; we reshaped. Chapters found new district homes, and we formed two brand-new districts. On paper, it looks like lines moved on a map, but in real life, it meant new relationships, new teams and a renewed promise that every student has a place that fits. And what I'm proud of most is this: we didn't let change divide us, we let it strengthen us. Because ASDA has never been defined by boundaries. It's defined by belonging.

Over this past year, I've been in awe of what happens when a community decides to truly show up for each other, and for the future of our profession. Because what we accomplished wasn't the result of one meeting or one idea it was thousands of students choosing to care, act, and lead. Even as our structure evolved, our mission stayed steady, and in many ways, it got louder.

ADVOCACY

When change hit fast, as it did when the One Big Beautiful Bill was signed into law on July 4, we didn't leave members behind. We responded quickly with education and resources, so students weren't left confused or unprepared, and no one felt like they had to navigate the impact alone.

- We signed 13 coalition letters and supported 21 bills, putting ASDA's voice behind what matters: the DOC Access Act, supporting the Dental Loan Repayment Assistance Act, defending water fluoridation, opposing cuts to oral health programs in HHS and protecting students' continued access to federal loans, including pushing back on harmful provisions in the One Big Beautiful Bill.
- Through the Advocacy Certificate Program, over 460 individuals across 43 chapters recorded 751 points of action.

- Through ASDA Action, 1,680 letters opposed student loan changes in the One Big Beautiful Bill, plus hundreds more supporting the REDI Act, Protect Our TEETH and ELSA.

COMMUNITY AND WELLNESS

- We strengthened Service Month, supported by PDS Health, grounded in “Service Starts Here” and built challenges that engaged members at the individual, chapter and community level.
- We launched AOD Week: bringing programming, engagement and action together to create real momentum.
- We centered our members through Wellness Month, because dentistry is demanding and the weight of school is real, and we refuse to let wellness become an afterthought.

EDUCATION

- We kept investing in leaders through the Chapter Leadership Academy, with 16 chapters completing all three sessions, an increase from last year.
- We expanded ASDA’s footprint through new and growing chapters, and we showed up across the country through chapter visits, supporting local leaders and learning from their successes.

MEMBERSHIP

- We kept our traditions strong through Fever Week, and the Gold Crown Awards, with representation from every district and 38 applications.
- Over 800 students and 73 chapters gathered at NLC.
- We brought back the district video competition, continued to grow the Tech Expo and created experiences that made innovation feel real.

GROWTH AND PARTNERSHIPS

- The Strategic Alliance Program welcomed four new corporate members, bringing the total to 10.
- We launched “The Graduate” newsletter for D3s and D4s preparing for life after dental school.
- We introduced Career Compass at NLC, a two-day experience with 11 organizations that helps students explore diverse career paths.

If this year has taught me anything, it’s this: when ASDA decides to show up, we don’t do it halfway: we show up with intention, with courage and with a commitment to something bigger than ourselves. And if there’s one thing this year proved, especially through redistricting, it’s that ASDA isn’t held together

by district lines or titles. It's held together by people who choose to show up, reach across, change and make each other feel like they belong.

THANK YOU, ASDA

To the ASDA members: Thank you for letting me be a small part of your lives while you became such a huge part of mine. I've had the privilege of meeting so many of you this year and every interaction reminded me why ASDA is so special. You didn't just show up to events; you showed up for each other.

I see you: the long nights, the meetings after exams, the fundraising, the advocacy, the service and the way you keep choosing to lead even when life is already full. I've been cheering you on from the sidelines because your passion is contagious and your effort matters more than you know.

Thank you for caring so deeply, for pushing this profession forward, and for reminding me that leadership isn't a title, it's a decision you make every day.

A year ago, when I stood before you as a candidate, I shared a message I believed in - that leadership isn't just about stepping up, it's about lifting others. Now, at the end of my term, I can say with certainty that ASDA has proven that to me in every way.

This term may be ending, but what we've built together will keep moving forward. The future of dentistry is already in this room. And if we keep choosing courage, compassion and community, there's nothing we can't build together - an ASDA that reflects every voice, breaks barriers, embraces opportunity and creates a brighter future.

So, from the bottom of my heart - thank you for trusting me and growing with me. It has been the absolute honor of my life to serve you, and I will always be grateful I got to lead alongside all of you.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Payal Patel". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending from the end of the name.

Payal Patel
2025-26 National ASDA President

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

FOR THE TWELVE MONTHS ENDING
DECEMBER 31, 2025.

THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS REPRESENT A
FORECASTED VIEW ONLY.

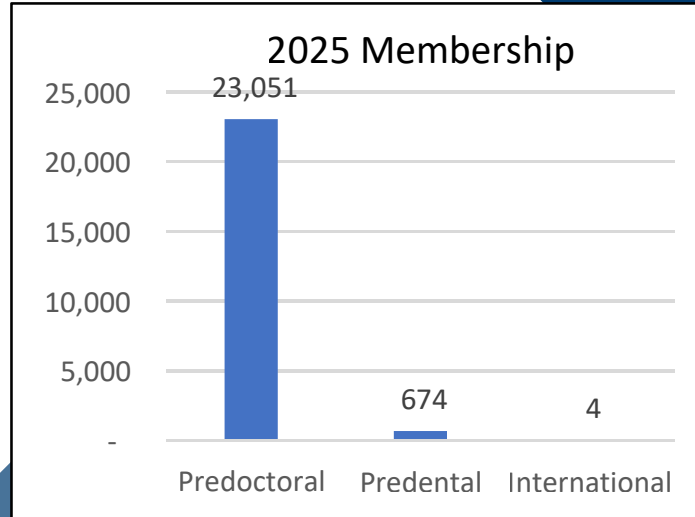
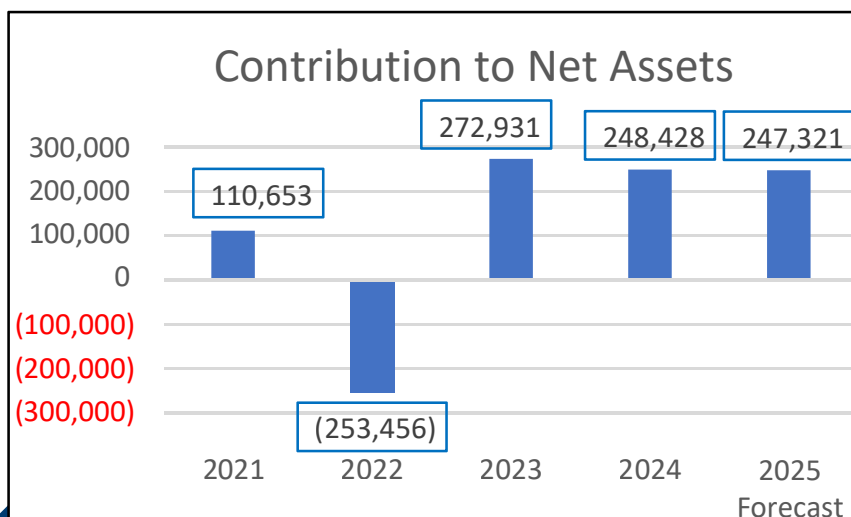
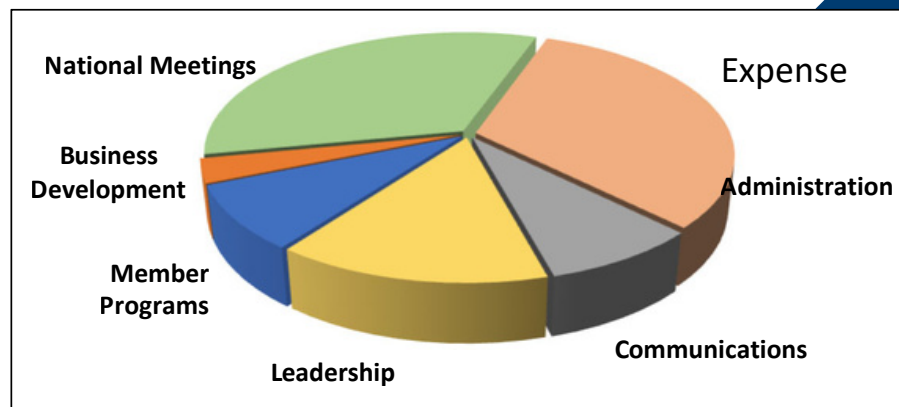
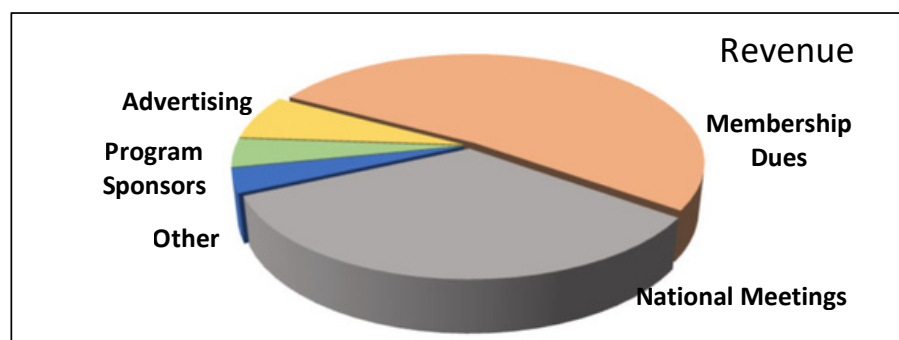
American Student Dental Association

Statement of Activities

For the Twelve Months Ending December 31, 2025

The financial statements represent a forecasted view only.

Revenue	
Membership Dues	\$ 2,168,955
National Meetings	1,394,833
Advertising	280,908
Program Sponsors	177,550
Other	148,914
Total Revenue	\$ 4,171,160
Expenses	
Administration	\$ 1,346,543
National Meetings	1,406,934
Leadership	604,780
Member Programs	359,843
Communications	351,000
Business Development	135,284
Total Expenses	\$ 4,204,384
Net Income From Operations	\$ (33,224)





2025-26

**COUNCIL AND
COMMITTEE
HIGHLIGHTS**

2025

ASDA introduces students to organized dentistry and provides opportunities to develop leadership skills. National leaders are responsible for furthering ASDA's mission and completing tasks aligned with the council or committee mission. ASDA currently has five standing councils and two committees

Below are highlights from each committee and council from the 2025-26 leadership cycle.

Board of Trustees

- Adopted interim amendment to ASDA's Current Statements of Position or Policy I-1 Fluoridation.
- Adopted new Council on Wellness mission statement.
- Adopted an amendment to the Standing Rules of the Board of Trustees Section 25 Sponsoring Resolutions.
- Approved revised governance structure to take effect in 2027-28 leadership term.

Council on Advocacy

- Six chapters were awarded \$500 grants out of 29 applicants to host advocacy events.
- Council members created virtual resources on Fluoride FAQs and changes to federal student loans passed in the One Big Beautiful Bill.
- Advocacy Month theme, "Closing the Gap: Ensuring Oral Health Care for All Communities," focused on empowering dental students to advocate for continued and expanded access to oral healthcare.
- Referred Resolution 402-2025 Addressing Climate Change and Sustainability in Dentistry through Dental Education and Practice.
- Reviewed ASDA's current policies relating to dental student debt. It submitted four resolutions to the 2026 House of Delegates.
- The Advocacy Certificate Program encourages and rewards members for getting involved with advocacy.

Council on Communications

- Promoted NLC with reels featuring the Executive Committee. The content captured increased impressions on the @dentalstudents Instagram profile by 421.2% compared to the previous week's stats.

- Council members gathered content from various chapters that highlighted summer ASDA events.
- Worked with the Council on Professional Issues to create branding for the first ASDA Access, Opportunity and Diversity in Dentistry (AOD) Week in October.
- The 2025 Chapter Wellness Grant applications were reviewed, and the council selected chapters to receive funding.

Council on Professional Issues

- Selected a recipient for the National Community Builder of the Year Award.
- Selected five chapters to receive \$500 for the Dentistry in the Community Grant.
- The council investigated the feasibility of establishing a community service certificate program modeled on the ASDA Advocacy Certificate Program.
- Launched the first AOD Week in October that included an Instagram Live session, a webinar, a video challenge highlighting Disability Awareness Month and an ASDA Action campaign for the Ensuring Lasting Smiles Act.

Governance Committee

- Reviewed the Standing Rules of the Board of Trustees and is proposing the following amendments:
 - Amendment to Section 25 Sponsoring Resolutions
 - Amendment to Section 2.1 Standing Committees
- Reviewed and approved the Standing Rules of the House of Delegates.
- Proposing amendments to the following policies at the 2026 House of Delegates: B-11 Oral Health Literacy
- The Committee reviewed and approved the Bylaws.

Editorial Board

- The 2025-26 issues of Contour covered a variety of topics, including career opportunities in dentistry, the mysteries of teeth, disability awareness and advances in dental technology.
- Contributing Editors recruited dental students nationwide to write for Contour.

Committee on Sessions

- Selected the 2026 Annual Session theme, “Currents of Growth,” to commemorate the meeting location, Minneapolis, MN and recognize advancements of the association and individuals at the event.
- Vetted keynote speakers for Annual Session and selected ASDA alumnus Dr. Justina Anigbo to deliver the 2026 address.
- Identified opportunities to promote member wellness throughout the event, including attendee giveaways, a reflection activity and trivia questions.
- Adopted resolutions 307-2025: National Conferences Holding Presidential Leadership Training, and RC308-2025: Capping Conference Registration Fees for Two Years, along with historical data.

Council on Membership

- To address resolution 306-2025: Improving Chapter Readiness through Distributing Key Operating Materials to Chapter Leaders, the development of the Comprehensive Guide for chapter leaders was supported.
- To support resolution 305-2025 Support for Dental Student Members Experiencing Poverty, brainstormed member benefits, including establishing a possible partnership with Uber Eats and Hello Fresh to address this need and provided a member voice to the discussion.
- Supported the Chapter Leadership Academy, Predental Month, Chapter Leader Speed Networking and the National Leadership Virtual and in-person meetings.
- Awarded the Membership Outreach Grant in October 2025.
- Awarded the ASDA Fever Week Challenge and Fever Week Video Competition winners in October 2025.
- Awarded the Gold Crown Award winners in January 2026, with winners announced during the Annual Session in February 2026.

Your 2025-26 National Leaders



Editorial Board



Board of Trustees



Governance Committee



Council on Professional Issues



Council on Communications



Council on Membership



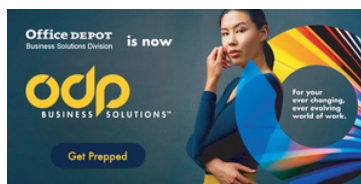
Committee on Sessions



Council on Advocacy

DEALS AND OFFERS

ASDA collaborates with businesses and organizations to offer our members benefits and savings to make life a little more affordable while in dental school. Access them at asdanet.org/index/join/Member-Benefits/deals-and-offers.



**A SPECIAL
THANK YOU TO
THE 2025-26
VOLUNTEER
LEADERS FOR
MOVING THE
ORGANIZATION
FORWARD.**

