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COMPLETE

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**Q1** Louisiana

Select your chapter.

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**Q2** District 5

Select your district

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**Q3**

Your Name

Katherine Burkett

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**Q4**

Chapter Position

President

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**Q5**

Your Email

kburk3@lsuhsc.edu

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**Q6**

Describe one member engagement and value event or chapter member benefit program aimed at increasing member engagement and value. (250 word limit. Responses longer than 250 words will be cut.)

Engaging members in auto-enroll chapters can be difficult. Recognizing a decline in attendance over recent years, our Louisiana ASDA Executive Council proactively addressed this issue by proposing a bylaw change to reinvigorate our members. We created a point system initiative to track and celebrate member involvement in our diverse programming. Members earn points through active participation in General Body Meetings, community service outings, Lunch and Learns, and other ASDA events. Points are tracked at every eligible event and updated weekly by the Secretary, with the help of the Class Representatives and Executive Council. Members earn two points for attending General Body Meetings and one point for every other event. Upon accumulating 12 points and attending three General Body Meetings, members achieve "Active" status for the semester. Active Members enjoy exclusive privileges. They can run for Executive Council or Committee Chair positions, apply for our NLC scholarship, and receive a distinguished Letter of Active Membership upon request. Also, they gain free admission to our end-of-the-year "Derby Days" social to show appreciation for their dedication to ASDA. In Fall 2023, 85 members reached Active Member status, an 189% increase from our trial run in the spring. This innovative point system has also resulted in an average 300% increase in participation this calendar year, demonstrating its effectiveness in fostering member engagement and commitment. Our members universally appreciate this initiative. The point system encourages increased involvement, strengthens our chapter's mission, and enables Louisiana ASDA to achieve more with our empowered group.

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**Q7**

Describe one chapter community service event that creates connections with our communities. (250 word limit. Responses longer than 250 words will be cut.)

To celebrate World Smile Day on October 6th, Louisiana ASDA's Philanthropy Committee ran a day-long fundraiser to support SmileTrain. This nonprofit facilitates corrective cleft lip and palate surgeries for children and aligns well with our mission to give back to those in need. We created an interactive photo booth with props to engage the student body. Students were encouraged to donate and post their smiles on social media to raise awareness. Over 40 LSU students posted on Instagram and tagged @lsuasda. As a token of appreciation, we recognized the D1 class for achieving the highest participation rate, celebrating their success with a cookie cake party. Our valued partners at Dentsply Sirona also donated several gifts to enhance the fundraising experience. For every \$1 donation, participants were entered into a raffle to win one of six gift baskets, each valued at over \$450. The fundraiser saw enthusiastic participation from 37 students, residents, faculty, and staff. Louisiana ASDA raised \$1,926 for SmileTrain - enough to cover the cost of four cleft repair surgeries for children in need. Our World Smile Day fundraiser spread smiles across LSU and social media, and, more importantly, will restore four children's functional and physical well-being through our successful partnership with SmileTrain.

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**Q8**

Describe one chapter advocacy event that educates and involves members in ASDA's advocacy and legislative priorities. (250 word limit. Responses longer than 250 words will be cut.)

Louisiana ASDA set out to increase our advocacy initiatives this year, dedicating concerted efforts to educate members on the crucial role of advocacy and inspiring them to champion our profession. Our Advocacy Committee sends a monthly newsletter that curates relevant information on legislative developments and highlights our advocating successes. The newsletter provides an in-depth overview of pivotal acts like the REDI Act and describes their impact on our profession in a way students can understand. To correspond with the newsletter, we hosted "Popsicles and Politics" to kickstart Advocacy Month. We encouraged students to actively participate by signing and completing pre-designed letters to their legislators. We facilitated the process by providing letter templates, stamps, pens, and envelopes, ensuring a seamless experience for our members. To empower students further, we distributed handouts outlining Louisiana's congress members and representatives based on their addresses. Our Advocacy Committee members assisted out-of-state students in identifying their legislators and ensuring comprehensive representation. In return, each participant received a popsicle. The result was outstanding — our members collectively mailed over 100 advocacy letters to legislators. This is a tangible and impactful example of our dedication to advocating for the dental profession. Popsicles and Politics informed and engaged our members and underscored our commitment to active participation in shaping the legislative landscape to benefit our profession and our patients.

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**Q9**

Describe one chapter wellness event that educates members and involves members in ASDA's Five Dimensions of Wellness. (250 word limit. Responses longer than 250 words will be cut.)

When the end of the semester comes around, students find themselves engrossed in the demands of lab work, practicals, and final exams. Louisiana ASDA's Wellness Committee set up a Hot Cocoa and Apple Cider Stand to offset the high-stress level associated with this challenging period. Our comforting initiative invited students to garnish and enjoy a warm drink and fall snacks. Students could take a moment away from their busy schedules and indulge in the wellness stand with their classmates. We served 120 cups of hot cocoa and apple cider to over 100 students. Our stand featured an array of hot cocoa flavors, complemented by a diverse selection of toppings tailored to individual tastes. Students were encouraged to unleash their creativity as they adorned their drinks, fostering engagement and boosting morale. Laughter and camaraderie echoed throughout the beautiful New Orleans autumn as students decorated their drinks and forged connections with classmates. Beyond providing a delicious beverage, the stand celebrated emotional and intellectual wellness, creating a supportive environment to ease the pressures of final exams.

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**Q10**

Describe one chapter communication (such as an enewsletter, the chapter website, or chapter social media campaign) that keeps members informed about ASDA. (250 word limit. Responses longer than 250 words will be cut.)

Louisiana ASDA made efforts to create our inaugural website and provide additional communication for our members. As a centralized hub, louisianaasda.com helped us increase transparency within the chapter. Since its debut in mid August, over 627 people have visited our website. We also promoted our Webmaster to the Cabinet so that he can collaborate with Cabinet members to ensure weekly updates. The teamwork helps guarantee that our website is a dynamic and responsive platform. A striking "LSU ASDA" banner overlaying drone footage showcasing our campus captures your attention on the home page. As members scroll down, they encounter a concise explanation of ASDA's mission, vision, and ways to get involved. The toolbar guides visitors to various resources, including tabs for Pre-Dental students and Vendors interested in visiting campus. Our Pre-Dental Committee presents a video tour, an interview with our Dean of Admissions, and helpful links. We have made connecting with our chapter leadership easy through the "About" page. A Google form is available to share any comments or concerns with our Executive Council. We also have our Cabinet Members' headshots, roles, and emails to communicate specific inquiries. Fulfilling our members' request, they can also easily track points and their progress toward Active Member status on the website. They can view the newsletters created by our Advocacy and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committees and our most recent calendar with upcoming events. Louisianaasda.com displays the vibrancy of our chapter, captures our chapter's achievements, and incorporates valuable insights from our dedicated members.

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**Q11**

Describe one chapter event that develops professional and leadership skills of chapter members. (250 word limit. Responses longer than 250 words will be cut.)

Responding to the specific need voiced by our members in a survey conducted earlier this year, Louisiana ASDA launched a strategic initiative to enhance professional development for those aspiring to pursue residency programs. This effort culminated in our Residency Seminar, a highly anticipated event that exceeded our expectations. The seminar provided valuable insights into dental specialties. It featured a 1.5-hour resident panel with nine current LSU residents representing orthodontics, pediatric dentistry, endodontics, prosthodontics, oral surgery, periodontics, and GPR. The residents answered crowd-sourced questions and offered valuable advice. Members gained firsthand knowledge about the challenges and triumphs of these programs and developed a deeper understanding of the rewarding journey toward specialization. In addition to the panel, attendees benefitted from a curated lecture titled "How to Build a Successful Residency Application," delivered by a fourth-year dental student and future resident. This informative session equipped participants with key strategies to strengthen their residency applications, navigate the ADEA PASS, and prepare for the Match. We provided dinner for all 61 attendees and our ten speakers, creating a relaxing atmosphere for engaging conversations. Following the seminar, we sponsored a tab at a local wine bar to facilitate meaningful interactions between students and panelists. Louisiana ASDA's Residency Seminar offered an enriching professional development and leadership platform. It also serves as a testament to our commitment to member experience and is a tradition we plan to uphold next year.

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**Q12**

Submit your chapter's YouTube video link.

[https://youtu.be/W6FJM9Y\\_U-A](https://youtu.be/W6FJM9Y_U-A)

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**Q13**

Submit your chapter's Google Drive or DropBox video link.

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/11eFE2JW0srpbPq-Af-u9Dxx7N34lbGWh/view?usp=share\\_link](https://drive.google.com/file/d/11eFE2JW0srpbPq-Af-u9Dxx7N34lbGWh/view?usp=share_link)

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