

**Application: CSDA Delegate for the American Dental Association**

**Applicant: N. Summer Lerch, DDS, FAGD, AAACD**

**Date: 20 January 2026**

As the current President of the Connecticut State Dental Association, I will be the Immediate Past President at the time of the 2026 ADA Annual Session. Just recently anointed a Life Member of the ADA, I bring a wealth of leadership experience and a deep commitment to the dental profession having served in many capacities, including as an alternate and a delegate over the past three years.

Last year something clicked - I "got" what our ADA House of Delegates was all about - how it worked, what the 4 different rooms were all about, how we worked together, and how one person could really make a negative impact and another person make a very positive difference. I also saw hardworking men and women committed to finding the "right" answers and understood when someone said "the House gets it right." I trust our process.

Further, over the past 10 years, I've served on our delegation to WDC / Lobby Days advocating for student debt relief, access to care issues, and national insurance reform among other things. Out of this advocacy, I have developed a special relationship with Representative Rosa DeLauro, my representative in WDC. I also have been heavily involved in our Council Government Affairs both testifying and writing letters in support of that which we are trying to get passed for the betterment of the business of dentistry and for the care that our patients deserve. I also have been Caucus Chair for District IV, Milford/New Haven, bringing our local leaders together to help drive meaningful change and advocacy for our collective interests at our own House of Delegates.

My involvement in these roles has provided me with a comprehensive understanding of the legislative landscape and the market/insurance forces that impact the business aspects of dentistry. I've assisted in navigating complex regulatory environments and have a proven track record of advocating for policies that benefit both practitioners and patients.

Moreover, my passion for the business of dentistry, along with my drive to bring people together ensures that I bring a balanced perspective to the table. I understand the economic challenges and opportunities that our profession faces, and I am committed to promoting sustainable growth and innovation within the dental community.

In summary, my extensive experience in leadership, legislation, and the business side of dentistry uniquely position me to serve effectively as a delegate for the American Dental Association. I am eager to continue advocating for our profession and driving positive change at the local, state and national level.

Respectfully Submitted,





**Nancy Summer Lerch, DDS, FAGD, AAACD**

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*Preferred name is "Summer"*

**Education**

Whitman College, Walla Walla WA, BS Biology 1978  
University of Washington School of Dentistry, Seattle WA, Doctor of Dental Surgery, 1982  
University of Connecticut School of Dental Medicine, Farmington CT, Family Dentistry  
Residency 1982-1984

**Board Certifications / Fellowships**

Fellow, Academy of General Dentistry, 1984  
Accredited, American Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry, 1990  
Fellow, Pierre Fauchard Academy, 2010

**Professional Memberships**

American Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry  
New England Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry  
American Dental Association  
Connecticut State Dental Association  
New Haven Dental Association

**AACD Involvement**

Board of Directors 1990 to 1992  
Editor of the Journal of Cosmetic Dentistry 1990 to 1994  
Accreditation Examiner 1990 to 2013  
Ethics Committee 2005 to 2007, Ethics Chair 2007

**CSDA Involvement**

Council on Legislation 2014-2021  
District IV Caucus Chair, 2017 to 2023  
District IV Delegate for CSDA HOD 2017 to 2023  
ADA Action Team Leader for Representative Rosa DeLauro, 2016 to 2024  
CODPAC Board Member 2018 to 2023  
CSDA Redistricting Ad Hoc Committee 2022 to 2024  
CSDA Vice President 2023 to 2024  
CSDA President-Elect 2024 to 2025  
CSDA President 2025 to 2026

**Volunteer Experience / Contributor**

Major fundraiser for The Hunger Project 1985-1990

Led Communication Courses for Landmark Education, 1990-1999  
Lions of Middlefield member and Past President (2x), 2003 to present  
Middlefield Youth Soccer Coach / Assistant Coach, 2006-2010  
Lions Club of Middlefield liaison to Troop 33 Boy Scouts 2008-2014  
Co-Chair, Parent Organization Green Mountain Valley School, 2012-2014  
Landmark Worldwide Seminar Leader, 2012 to present  
Global Investor, The Hunger Project, 2014 to present  
Sustaining Member, Middlefield Federated Church, 2015 to present

### **Work Experience**

Started my own dental practice by renting space at 375 Orange Street, New Haven, with a \$10,000 line of credit from Citizens Bank October, 1984.

Bought 2 different dental practices and now have one office, where Center for Esthetic Dentistry, LLC, a fee-for-service business model runs side by side with Orange Street Smiles, LLC an insurance-led business model, with a dedicated team of 7 highly trained dental professionals.

We are commencing our fourth year of work with Next Level Practice, an immersive people/team and total body health dental practice consulting group. Dentistry, communication, and people, in all aspects, is our passion. Our mission:

“Beautiful Smiles, Life Enhanced.  
Extraordinary Patient Satisfaction.  
A Dental Practice Where Honor and Dignity are Commonplace.  
Forever.”