

Delegates and Alternates to the Connecticut State Dental Association House of Delegates:

As a long term and quite active member of the Connecticut State Dental Association, I am entering my name for candidacy of President-Elect of the Connecticut State Dental Association.

Our great profession of dentistry has been and continues to be faced with some critical issues in the upcoming legislative session, the outcome of which has the potential to change the very way dentistry is practiced in Connecticut.

My primary focus for our Association is advocacy. I was quite concerned when the CSDA took the position to advocate and testify for Substitute Bill #7303, Public Act 19-72 which creates dental therapists in Connecticut, was passed by the state legislature 18 June 2019 and signed into law by Governor Lamont 8 July 2019. Not discussing nor communicating this with component leadership in our state for input is of great concern to me. This action now directly affects the manner with which dentistry will be practiced in our state and most directly affects those who are in the beginning stages of their careers.

I have been quite active on the legislative front, having been elected to the Town Council in Southington for three consecutive terms or six years. During that time, I have still been active within the Connecticut State Dental Association as President of the Dental Society of Greater Southington. Also within that time, the Dental Society of Greater Southington has had a legislative night each year, with the majority of those representing Southington (and in election years, their opponents) attending the evening. I reached out to these individuals themselves! I maintain a constituent relationship with these individuals and am able to reach out to them on pertinent matters. At a Dental Society of Greater Southington meeting, I distributed to members in attendance a list of methods to reach out to legislators on behalf of dental issues before our state legislature. In addition, I have attended Dental Day at the Capitol on a yearly basis.

There has also been a steady decline in membership of the CSDA and retired/life membership is on the rise. This will affect the voice of our profession in the state, as well as having a fiscal impact on our Association. New vibrant members are the key to the future of our Association. It is vital that their voices be heard and that proactive ideas and processes be incorporated into the workings of the CSDA. This can only be done with new, fresh voices that are, in the end, the future of our Association. By encouraging membership and not only membership, but an active participatory membership in the CSDA, can our organization survive and thrive.

Communication is also the key to active membership. Reaching out to non-members, students, members and leaders on all levels is key to recruitment and retention. By keeping the grass roots members apprised of goings on within the organization, the CSDA remains vital. Communication must be done not only through email and snail mail, but through the old-fashioned phone call, the newer fashioned text and just through saying "Hi" at a meeting or seminar. That's how one gets another involved. Several individuals whom I have in the past appointed to Councils and Committees have gone on to leadership positions within the CSDA. Some of those are continuing to serve on CSDA Councils and Committees. By personal contact was this done. Having individual members who are highly engaged in the CSDA will keep the CSDA a member driven organization and not become a staff driven organization. It is this hands-on approach that engages our grass roots members to become involved in their profession and in the organization that states that it is the voice for oral health care in Connecticut.

Our profession of dentistry is constantly changing, evolving and developing new techniques and methods to better our practice. This in turn provides the public we serve with treatments and methods that not only provide long-term function and stability, but through educating our patients, they can be proactive. With the issues facing dentistry in our state, our Association must be proactive and through education and participation of our grass roots members, we can do the same.

There is a passion to my statements. That is this: That we as dentists MUST maintain the highest ethics and standards possible to protect the public we serve and keep healthy.

Thank-you for your consideration.

I would encourage you to contact me with any questions or concerns at:

[saurillodspc@gmail.com](mailto:saurillodspc@gmail.com)

Mobile: 860.276.5693

Sincerely,

Stephanie A. Urillo, DDS

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**Stephanie A. Urillo, DDS**

**360-15 North Main Street**

**Southington, CT 06489-2503**

**B.S. University of Notre Dame**

**D.D.S. Georgetown University School of Dentistry**

**Member: American Dental Association, Connecticut State Dental Association, Dental Society of Greater Southington, Academy of General Dentistry (Fellow), American College of Dentists, International College of Dentists, Pierre Fauchard Academy**

**Offices Held: Dental Society of Greater Southington: Secretary 1989-1990 and 2001-2002; Vice-President 1990-1991, 2001-2003 and 2009-2014; President 1991-1992, 2004-2005 and 2015-2023; Delegate from the Dental Society of Greater Southington to the CSDA House of Delegates 1993-2003; Alternate Delegate 2009 to 2013 and 2018; Delegate 2019-2024; Delegate to the CSDA House of Delegates representing the New Britain Dental Society 2025; Delegate to the ADA House of Delegates 2002-2004; Delegate to the ADA House of Delegates 2003-2008; Board of Governors CSDA District III May 2003 to May 2007; Vice President CSDA 2008-2009; Board of Governors District III May 2013-2017; President AGD Connecticut, elected August 2021 for a two year term; Delegate to the AGD House of Delegates 2019-2023.**

**Council/Committee Member: Joint Dental-Pharmaceutical 1993 to its disbanding; Chair during this time. Represented the CSDA at the Connecticut Pharmacists Association Annual Session; Legislative Council 1993-1995; Council on the annual Scientific Session 1999-2003; consultant 2009-2013; Board Liaison to the Council on the Annual Session and the Continuing Education Council 2003-2006; Board Liaison to the Membership Council and the Insurance Council 2006-2007; Building Committee 2006-2009; Liaison Continuing Education Council, Council on the Annual Scientific Session, Legislative Council, Membership Council 2007-2008; Consultant to the Membership Council 2008-2013; Liaison to the students at the University of Connecticut School of Dental Medicine 2007-2013; Member, Ad-Hoc Committee for developing an Oral Health Curriculum to be used as a teaching tool in the statewide school system for grades pre-K to twelve, completed October 2008; Chair of the Ad-Hoc Committee to upgrade the Oral Health Curriculum 2014-2016; Member, Oral**

**Health Advisory Committee, Tunxis Community College 2008-2016; CSDA Personnel Committee 2008-2009; CSDA Communications Committee 2008-2009; CSDA Budget Committee 2008-2009; CSDA Awards Committee 2008-2009; Board Liaison to the Council on the Annual Scientific Session 2013-2017; the Legislative Council 2013-2017; the Governance Review Committee 2013-2017; the Leadership Development 2013-2017 and Qualifications Committee and the Task Force on Member Affinity Programs 2013-2017. Appointed to the Governance Review Committee for the CSDA January 2026.**

**Member Academy of General Dentistry Membership Council 2015-2022.**

**Outside of Dentistry; Member of Elks 1669 Southington; Chaplain 1996 to 2001 and 2004 to 2006; Lector Immaculate Conception Parish; Past member of the Parish Council, teacher of lecturing to the Confirmation Class 2000 to 2008, Member of the Parish Council of St. Luke's Parish (townwide parish since the merger of the existing parishes) 2023-2025 (the copastors disbanded this council 5 May 2025); Member of the Town Council, Town of Southington 2009 to 2015; Board Member of the Plainville-Southington Regional Health District 2009-2020; unanimously elected Chair December 2018-2020; Member of the Open Space Committee, Town of Southington 2009-2017; Chair 2013-2015. Member, Southington Republican Town Committee 2009 to the present. Member, Republican State Central Committee representing the 16<sup>th</sup> Senate District (Southington, Wolcott, Prospect and parts of Cheshire and Waterbury) 2017-2021.**