



District of Columbia
DENTAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

August 2022, Vol. 68, No. 8



Dr. Ioana "Anna" Bettios

Letter from the DC Dental Society President Ioana "Anna" Bettios, DDS, MS, FACP, FICD, FACD

Dear colleagues,

I hope that everyone is enjoying their summer and taking time to relax and recharge before returning to our busy autumn professional and social schedule of events. An article in a recent issue of the *ADA Morning Huddle* that discussed the results of the [2021 Dentist Well-Being Survey Report](#) highlights the need to focus on well-being and mental health. According to the article, the survey found that "the percentage of dentists diagnosed with anxiety more than tripled between 2003 and 2021." Princy Rekhi, DDS, Chair of the ADA's Dental Wellness Advisory Committee noted the "sense of urgency" related to mental health and the continuing ADA efforts to cultivate a helpful lifeline for members. I hope our members take time off during the summer to enjoy time with families and friends despite the ongoing challenges of the global pandemic.

July has been a very productive month for the DCDS Board. The Board reviewed ongoing policy initiatives, including an effort to streamline the licensing process in DC and to secure an expansion of duties for dental assistants and hygienists. During its July meeting, the DC Board of Dentistry discussed recommendations from the DC Dental Society calling for an expansion of procedures allowed in DC and tasked the Board's Regulatory Affairs Subcommittee to review the recommendations ([read DCDS letter](#)). We continue the efforts for advocacy with the DC Board of Dentistry with Mr. Brett Greene on behalf of the Society. These efforts will ultimately improve access to care for our District patients and patients from surrounding areas by addressing the current challenges in attracting dental associates, hygienists, and staff members that are needed to meet the demand for oral health care. We continue efforts to align our programs with American Dental Association (ADA)

A Look Inside...

- Letter from the President1
- Join Marketing/Social Media Committee/Happy Hour.....3
- 2022-2023 Continuing Education Program4
- DCDS Advocacy and DC Government Updates5
- Grow with Mentorship6
- Answer the Call—Sign up for DC Dental Cares7
- SmileCon 20228
- Addiction Consultation Service.....9
- ADA News12
- DCDS Member Ads/Classifieds ...18

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Letter from the President—Continued on Page 2

Letter from the President—Continued from Page 1

with elected DC Dental Society members attending the Annual House of Delegates meeting during the ADA's SmileCon, October 15-18 in Houston.

The board also voted on the list of Chairs of our committees and subcommittees. Congratulations to all our appointed Chairs:

Awards & Nomination Committee, Dr. Pierre Cartier

Constitution & Bylaws Committee, Dr. Margot Culotta-Norton

Education Committee, Dr. Luke Schwartz

Finance Committee, Dr. Carol Blake

Membership Committee, Dr. Clare McGorry

New Dentist Subcommittee, Dr. Nina Latifi

Symposium Committee, Dr. Kim Menhinick

Professional Standards Committee, Dr. Jill Bruno

Public Policy Committee, Dr. Jessica Rubin

The Board accepted the President's recommendation to establish a new marketing and social media outreach committee to promote our efforts for our members to communicate, and expand the DCDS outreach efforts to new members as well as marketing our strategic initiatives, and improve the publication of our monthly events. We are looking for volunteers with great ideas for social media involvement to assist and participate in the new marketing and Social Media Outreach committee. I personally thank all the members who answered the call to participate and volunteer in organized dentistry and filled many open spots in our committees. We still have a few open spots in the Professional Standards, the Policy Development, and our new Marketing and Social Media Outreach committees. Interested members can contact the DCDS staff at info@dcdental.org to participate in our committees and subcommittees.

We are looking forward to meeting everyone at our upcoming monthly meetings and happy hours. The monthly meetings will continue to be offered in person and via live streamed webinars in the coming months to accommodate our members' schedules. Please check Page 4 for upcoming fall events. We are also supporting the development of future dentists and maintaining a strong DCDS for the future by engaging with Howard University College of Dentistry students. We will invite them to participate in DCDS activities to expand their career goals and mentorship with our members. Many DCDS members volunteered to assist with mock interviews for the fourth year dental students to mentor and prepare them for their interviews for post-doctoral programs and future careers. We continue to be one of the most diversified Societies, with ongoing efforts to mentor younger members and dental health care professionals in expanding their careers. We are all role models for our younger members with mentorship and to support diversity.

DCDS Officers and Directors

Dr. Ioana "Anna" Bettios
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President-Elect

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Dr. Charles Coulter
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Dr. Aliya Kassam
Dr. Lucciola Lambruschini
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Executive Director

Maeceon Lewis
Education and Community Programs Senior Coordinator

Cheryl Michi
Membership and Operations Associate

Letter from the President—Continued on Page 3

Letter from the President—Continued from Page 2

We are also planning happy hours and other social activities, the next of which is scheduled for Thursday, August 18 at Lia's (4435 Willard Ave near the Friendship Heights Metro).

I want to wholeheartedly thank you for your ongoing support of our society and for being active members! I am looking forward to seeing all soon at one of our fall events.

Best regards,

Dr. Anna Bettios, DDS, MS, FACP, FICD, FACD
President 2022-2023

Join our Marketing and Social Media Committee

Are you interested in helping to market DCDS on social media? DCDS is forming a Marketing and Social Media Committee to help increase membership and membership engagement through social media outlets such as Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, Twitter.

Join our committee! Write to DCDS at info@dcdental.org or call 202-367-1163.



DCDS Happy Hour

August 18—5 p.m.

Join us and network with DC friends and colleagues

Lia's Restaurant

4435 Willard Avenue
Chevy Chase, MD

Nearby Metro Station: Friendship Heights

Mark Your Calendar: 2022-2023 Continuing Education Program

The 2022-2023 Continuing Education Program kicks off on September 13 with Dr. Prashant Verma's presentation titled "Managing Dental Trauma/Root Canal Treatments and Failures." This meeting features the CE program as well as dinner.

Twelve meetings are under development for the 2022-2023 term providing up to 30 hours of programming (22.5 clinical hours of CE). CE events are held the second Tuesday of the month unless noted otherwise. Watch for an upcoming announcement of CE events for January to December 2023.

Monthly meetings are included with DCDS membership. Throughout the 2022-2023 program year, many sessions are planned to be held both in person and virtually with online attendance. As space for in-person attendance is limited, members are encouraged to register as early as possible.

Date	Topic	Format	Speaker	Location
Sep. 13, 2022 5:45 p.m.*	Managing Dental Trauma/Root Canal Treatments and Failures	Live Lecture 2.5 CE Credits	Dr. Prashant Verma	DCDS HQ and Online
Oct. 11, 2022 5:45 p.m.*	Hypoplastic Maxilla, airway, occlusal and periodontal implications	Live Lecture 2.5 CE Credits	Dr. Marianna Evans	Online Only
Nov. 8, 2022 5:45 p.m.*	Practice Management—Topic To Be Announced	Live Lecture CE credits not offered	Dr. Suzanne Ebert ADA Practice Transitions	DCDS HQ and Online
Dec. 6, 2022 1st Tuesday 5:45 p.m.*	Implants and Full-Mouth Implant Rehabilitation and Implant Anterior Aesthetics	Live Lecture 2.5 CE Credits	Dr. Arun Garg	DCDS HQ and Online

* Monthly business meeting begins at 5:45 p.m. Educational session begins at approximately 6:00 p.m.

Register for Sessions

Thank you to our Partners



Continuing Education Disclaimer: The District of Columbia Dental Society is an ADA CERP Recognized Provider. ADA CERP is a service of the American Dental Association to assist dental professionals in identifying quality providers of continuing dental education. ADA CERP does not approve or endorse individual courses or instructors, nor does it imply acceptance of credit hours by boards of dentistry. It is the responsibility of each participant to verify the CE requirements of his or her licensing or regulatory agency and to contact them with any questions regarding licensing. The DC Dental Society designates each presentation noted above for 2.5 CE credits., except for the November 2022 CE program. Concerns or complaints about a CE provider may be directed to the provider or to the Commission for Continuing Education Provider Recognition at ADA.org/CERP.



DCDS Advocacy & DC Government Updates

Board of Dentistry Takes Up DCDS Recommendations on Scope of Practice

During its meeting of July 20, the Board of Dentistry discussed the [June 11 DCDS letter](#) calling for an expansion of the scope of practice for dentists and dental assistants. The Board voted to direct its Regulatory Affairs Sub-committee to explore adding to DC regulations:

- A new category for an Expanded Function Dental Assistant that would be authorized to apply pit and fissure sealants and perform coronal polishing.
- A new category for an Advanced Function Hygienist with the ability to prescribe certain non-opioid prescription drugs (e.g., high dose ibuprofen and acetaminophen).
- The ability of dentists to administer Botox, with certification, as part of a dental treatment plan.

The Board of Dentistry will recess for the month of August, therefore a report from the sub-committee on any actions taken is not expected until the September 21 Board of Dentistry meeting at the earliest. DCDS will continue to advocate for scope of practice expansion and a streamlined licensing process to improve the availability of dental staffing.

Bowser Administration Announcements

DC Department of Health Director Dr. LaQuandra Nesbitt, will be leaving her post on Friday, July 29. Nesbitt will be moving onto “new endeavors” outside of the District government. Dr. Sharon Lewis will serve as interim director effective noon on Friday. Dr. Lewis who is a registered nurse by profession, has worked at DOH for 36 years. Most recently she has served as the Senior Deputy Director of Health Regulation and Licensing Administration. In her role as interim director, one of Dr. Lewis’ priorities will be public outreach especially as cases of monkeypox surge, and the city attempts to stand up another vaccination program for eligible residents. A nation-wide search for a permanent director will begin in the fall.

DC Council Updates

The DC Council is currently on summer recess until September 15, 2022. While public hearings and legislative meetings do not occur and legislation does not advance during recess, the work of the Council continues throughout the recess period to allow for engagement in the community and deeper research, strategizing, and legislative brainstorming in the lead-up to the sprint that is the final few months of the current two-year Council Period concluding December 31, 2022.

DC Health Conducts Pulse Survey on Wellness, Capacity and the Impact of COVID—Closes Aug. 10

The DC Health Oral Health Program, in collaboration with the Board of Dentistry, has launched a Pulse Survey to understand workforce wellness, capacity, and the impact of COVID-19.

Your response will drive DC Health decisions on incentive programs and supports developed for the dental workforce, as well as programs to improve District residents' utilization of dental care and improve oral health outcomes.

The survey will take an average of 15 minutes or less to complete and will close on August 10, 2022.

To access the survey, please use the following link: [Dentist Pulse Survey](#).



The power of mentorship can shape your career. Read more about how your peers are engaging in mentorship and discover how coaching and mentorship can help you forge your own path to success.

A Mission to Mentor: Mentorship as a Tool to Increase Diversity

“Increasing the diversity in dentistry will positively impact both the lives of the dentists and the communities they serve,” explains Dr. Laila B. Hishaw, founder of Diversity in Dentistry Mentorships and member since 2002. Dr. Hishaw’s mission is to mentor young people of color to go into dentistry.

[Read more here](#)

Free CE: Cultivating Leadership Skills Through Coaching and Mentoring

Watch anytime

CE credits: 1

Included with ADA membership, \$69 savings

Discover strategies to seek the right mentors and coaches who can help you develop the leadership skills necessary to thrive in your professional journey during this on-demand webinar from your peer and fellow ADA member, Dr. Cathy Hung.

[Watch now](#)

How Your Peers Are Finding Success Through Mentorship

Dr. Hannah Morgan, member since 2022, was looking for a mentor to help her work toward practice ownership. “As a new graduate, I wanted to find a mentor in my employer,” Dr. Morgan said. “I felt I did not have the experience or confidence to go straight into ownership after graduation.”

Working with an ADA Advisor, Dr. Morgan was matched with Dr. Jennifer Knoll, member since 2002. Read how they found the right match.

[ADAPT in Action](#)

Source: www.ada.org

Answer the call through DC Dental Cares, the new pro bono program of the DCDS Foundation

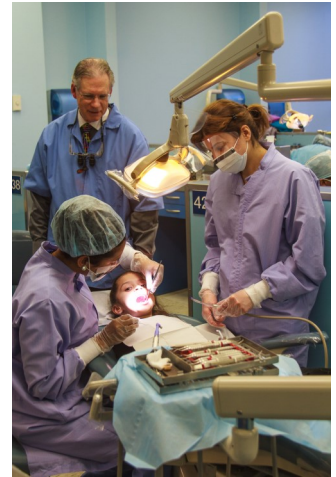


Did you hear that the DCDS Foundation has a new program to provide pro bono dental care to members of the Washington Community in need called DC Dental Cares? This program launched recently under a partnership with the Catholic Charities Health Care Network.

Through this program, DC dentists will be able to provide pro bono treatment for patients in their own office with no long term commitment. The type and amount of treatment rendered to these patients is entirely at the discretion of the dentist. Patients will be pre-screened for their eligibility for this program based on their economic status. Our member dentists will receive a referral, which outlines the patient's general oral health needs and their chief complaint.

Sign up to participate via a brief [online form](#) via the button below.

Photo features just some of the DCDS members who have given their time to provide free care to the DC community in recent years.

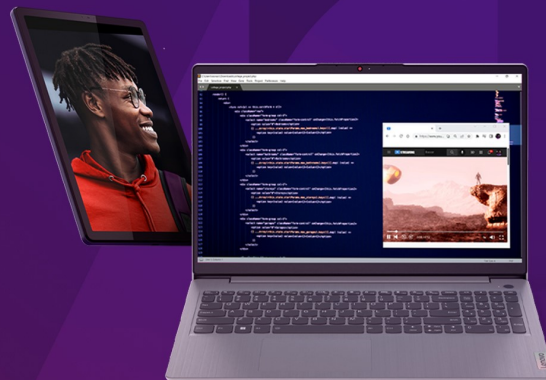


Sign Up for DC Dental Cares

Smarter is ready!
Save up to 70% off sitewide

While supplies last!

 Free Shipping



SmileCon 2022

SmileCon 2022 will be held Oct. 13–15 at the George R. Brown Convention Center in Houston, TX

Registration is Open!



[Register for SmileCon 2022](#)

Source: www.ada.org; www.smilecon.org

DACS

District Addiction Consultation Service

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prescribers
across the
District of
Columbia



District Addiction Consultation Service (DACCS)

DACS supports primary care and specialty prescribers in addressing the needs of their patients with substance use disorders and chronic pain management.

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Assistance in the identification of substance use and behavioral health resources and referrals

1-866-337-DACS (3227)

www.DistrictACS.org



Funding for DACS is provided by the District of Columbia Government, DC Health, Health Regulation and Licensing Administration (HRLA), Pharmaceutical Control Division (PCD).

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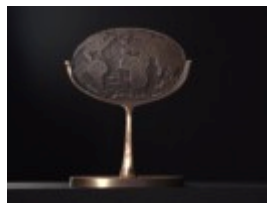
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Nominate a dentist making a difference for the 2023 ADA Humanitarian Award

ADA Morning Huddle, August 1, 2022



Help recognize a dentist you know for their humanitarian work by nominating them for the 2023 ADA Humanitarian Award by Sept. 1. This recognizes dentist members who have distinguished themselves by spending at least 10 years improving the oral health of underserved populations in the US. The winner will be recognized at SmileCon™ and receive \$10,000 for the dental charity/project of their choice. Anyone can nominate any active, life or retired ADA member in good standing.

[Submit a nomination online today!](#)

VETSmile pilot connects veterans with dental care

ADA Weekend Huddle, July 30, 2022

The US Department of Veterans Affairs Center for Care and Payment Innovation launched its VETSmile pilot program a year ago with the goal of improving access to dental care for veterans who are not currently eligible for dental care through the VA, and the effort has already met needs of 2,200 veterans who received care through nearly 5,000 patient visits. Chrystalla Orthodoxou, D.D.S., group practice director at NYU College of Dentistry, one of the program's partners, said it has been "an honor and a privilege to help improve the lives of those who have served and protected our country." The ADA is advising the VA's Center for Care and Payment Innovation on implementation of the program and collaborating to identify opportunities to expand and publicize it.

Full Story: <https://www.ada.org/publications/ada-news/2022/july/vetsmile-celebrates-first-year?md5=6d82a1682331f6d929006a00ab33bc4a>

Improving Oral Healthcare for Older Adults Symposium

ADA Morning Huddle, July 28, 2022



Join experts from academia, government and different practice modalities at ADA headquarters in Chicago on Friday, Aug. 26, for a symposium exploring the issues that impact oral and systemic health in older adults. From Policy to Chairsides: Improving Oral Healthcare of the Aging Population, will engage attendees in a common purpose to serve this unique patient segment. The symposium is designed for all dental professionals and students regardless of career stage or practice modality. 6 CE credits (pending approval).

[Register today!](#)

Free Accelerator Series webinar: Say What You Mean in a Nice Way

ADA Morning Huddle, July 26, 2022



Join us at 7 p.m. CT on Aug. 31 for an upbeat and interactive webinar based on Sarita Maybin's new book *Say What You Mean in a Nice Way* to learn how to constructively communicate feedback and set boundaries in your dental office and beyond. Take away tools for communicating with compassion and kindness -- in person and online. Gain fresh insights on how to say what you mean and mean what you say in a nice

way. 1 CE credit (pending approval).

[Register today!](#)

ADA podcast explores ethical issues in dentistry

ADA Weekend Huddle, July 30, 2022



The ADA Council on Ethics, Bylaws and Judicial Affairs has launched "Dental Dilemmas," a podcast that explores ethical issues in dentistry in conversations with the authors of Ethical Moments articles in The Journal of The American Dental Association, ADA News reported. Orthodontist Alex Mellion, D.M.D., an ethics council member and a member of the ADA's New Dentist Committee, hosts the podcast, which will help communicate ADA Code of Ethics to members through a new channel. "As a council, we feel podcasts are a wonderful tool that dentists can use to consume information that they find important and in a means that is at their convenience and timeframe," Dr. Mellion said.

Full Story: <https://www.ada.org/publications/ada-news/2022/july/dental-dilemmas-podcast-debuts-to-explore-ethical-issues-in-dentistry?md5=6d82a1682331f6d929006a00ab33bc4a>

Jha: HHS may declare PHE due to monkeypox

ADA Morning Huddle, July 26, 2022

Ashish Jha, M.D., the White House COVID-19 response coordinator, said the Department of Health and Human Services may invoke a public health emergency declaration for monkeypox if current strategies to control the virus such as ramped up treatments, vaccinations and testing don't work, The Hill reports. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention data show the US had recorded 2,891 monkeypox cases as of Friday, and Jha said over 300,000 vaccines have been distributed to date.

Full Story: <https://thehill.com/homenews/sunday-talk-shows/3572064-hhs-could-consider-declaring-monkeypox-a-public-health-emergency-wh-official/>

Fall booster campaign could avert over 48 million COVID-19 cases

ADA Morning Huddle, July 29, 2022

An analysis from the [Commonwealth Fund](https://www.commonwealthfund.org/) estimates that implementing an early fall COVID-19 vaccination booster campaign in the US could save about 160,000 lives, avoid more than 48 million COVID-19 infections and avert more than 1.7 million hospitalizations if 80% of eligible people get booster doses, The Hill reported. Under the same scenario, the US could save more than \$109 billion in direct medical costs by March 2023.

Full Story: <https://thehill.com/changing-america/well-being/prevention-cures/3574970-%E2%80%8B%E2%80%8Bfall-covid-19-booster-drive-could-save-up-to-160000-u-s-lives-report/>

Full Story: <https://www.commonwealthfund.org/blog/2022/how-many-lives-could-fall-covid-19-booster-campaign-save-united-states>

ADA invites dentists to contribute to mental health "lifeline"

ADA Weekend Huddle, July 30, 2022

The ADA is inviting dentists to volunteer for its new Wellness Ambassador Program, which aims to help connect dentists who are facing mental health challenges with assistance. While participating dentists won't directly provide clinical support, they will serve as a gateway to resources, ADA News reported. The [2021 Dentist Well-Being Survey Report](#), which showed that the percentage of dentists diagnosed with anxiety more than tripled between 2003 and 2021, was eye-opening, according to Princy Rekhi, D.D.S., chair of the ADA's Dental Wellness Advisory Committee. "There is a sense of urgency in the message that mental health is an ongoing process deserving of sustenance, so assembling a team of wellness ambassadors is one way the ADA can continue to cultivate a helpful lifeline," Dr. Rekhi said.

Full Story: <https://www.ada.org/publications/ada-news/2022/july/ada-wellness-ambassador-program-to-help-dentists?md5=6d82a1682331f6d929006a00ab33bc4a>

Transform dental education to achieve oral health equity

ADA Weekend Huddle, July 30, 2022

Oral Health in America: Advances and Challenges, a report from the National Institutes of Health's National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research, found that while progress has been made, significant inequity persists, and better collaboration between dental and medical care providers would be a step in the right direction, write R. Bruce Donoff, D.M.D., M.D., and Lisa Simon, M.D., D.M.D. However, dental education must be adapted to prepare dentists for the collaboration and change needed to support health equity. Drs. Donoff and Simon urge dental educators and policymakers to focus on three key advances: Dental education should focus as much on scientific, social and structural competencies as on technical skills; it should align with other health profession education and provide more real-world health care experience; and it should prepare students for a diversity of dental practice settings.

Full Story: [https://jada.ada.org/article/S0002-8177\(22\)00269-0/fulltext](https://jada.ada.org/article/S0002-8177(22)00269-0/fulltext)

Administration proposes expanded anti-discrimination rule

ADA Morning Huddle, July 28, 2022

The US Department of Health and Human Services has proposed a rule that would protect gay and transgender people from discrimination by health care providers that receive federal funding after a rule finalized in 2020 modified anti-discrimination protections. Section 1557 of the Affordable Care Act prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex, national origin, age or disability, and the proposal would define "sexual orientation and gender identity," in the definition of "sex" after the prior rule stated that gender identity was not included, Bloomberg and The New York Times reported.

Full Story: <https://news.bloomberglaw.com/health-law-and-business/biden-hhs-moves-to-resurrect-lgbtq-bias-shield-in-health-care>

ADA urges lawmakers to expand Medicaid dental coverage

ADA Morning Huddle, July 27, 2022

The ADA, along with other stakeholders, wrote a [letter](#) urging US lawmakers to support the Medicaid Dental Benefit Act and the Medicaid Dental Benefit Act of 2021, which, if passed, would mandate that adult oral health services be covered by state Medicaid programs and boost funding to states, Dental Tribune reported. According to the letter, the COVID-19 pandemic exposed gaps in social safety net programs, especially in oral health care. "Poor oral health creates social and economic barriers that prevent many low-income adults from economic advancement," the ADA Health Policy Institute said, and the HPI noted that better coverage of oral health care through Medicaid programs can save on downstream costs and inappropriate use of care settings, such as hospital emergency departments for pain associated with preventable oral health issues.

Full Story: <https://www.dental-tribune.com/news/american-dental-association-backs-medicaid-bill-that-would-extend-dental-care-to-millions/>

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Classifieds

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Contact: Anwar Salha | 703-623-3896 | columbiadental@aol.com

DC Oral Health Program Seeks Program Manager

The Oral Health Program is located in the Department of Health (DC Health) and is responsible for assessing and promoting oral health with emphasis on access to and utilization of high quality, patient centered oral health services for all District residents. The Program Manager is responsible for overseeing all activities related to program development, implementation and evaluation, including strategic planning. A Masters in Public Health, Public Administration, Health Administration, or Public Policy, or equivalent degree, or clinical dental degree are strongly preferred.

To Apply:

1. Visit the [DC Government Career Opportunities website](#).
2. Search for “Program Manager (Oral Health)” and click on listing.
3. Review the job description and hit the Apply button to begin your application.
4. The **deadline to apply is August 13**. Late applications will not be accepted.

DCDS Member Ads

FREE Employment Ad for DCDS Members. DCDS members who are seeking employment or who have open staff positions can place a classified ad at no charge. Click on the link below to get started.

Advertise with DCDS

Classified ads in the DCDS Newsletter are easy. Simply submit your ad through [the DCDS online form](#). We will then send you a payment link. Payment must be received prior to publication.