

I wish to take a point of personal privilege for this President's Report and bring to your attention some important statements that have been made by leading dental organizations in this state and our nation. The National Dental Society, the American Dental Association, the Old North State Dental Society, and the North Carolina Dental society have all recently published statement denouncing acts of racism and violence in our country. These important professional organizations have at their heart the promotion of dentistry as a profession, the protection of the public, and service to a common good. They join with thousands of organizations and many millions of individuals worldwide in pledging to combat the brutal ugliness and injustice of racism wherever it may be found.

I want you to know that as President of your Board of Dental Examiners, I support these efforts and join with all those committed to combating acts of racism in our state. While I recommend to you each statement published by these organizations, I believe the ADA statement provides some very clear guidance on what each one of us can do:

“This is the moment to unravel from whatever personal biases we may harbor. To become allies. To have the hard conversations. To listen to voices that have long gone unheard. To speak up for those who have been disenfranchised. To commit to empathy and understanding. To be forces of change. To be agents of harmony. To call out wrong when we see it. And to do what's right when we can.”

Only by keeping such lofty goals ever before us and working together to achieve them will we be able to move our country toward a “more perfect union” where all people are created equal and, likewise, all are treated with equal justice.

[Delivered by Dr. Merlin Young, NCSBDE Mtg., 12 June 2020]