

1 Resolution No. New Substitute Amendment

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3 Date Submitted: **March 2023**

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5 Submitted By: **Detroit District Dental Society**

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MDA Strategic Goal: Define and deliver exceptional member value

Staff Implications:

Ethical Implications: None

Estimate of Financial Implications (cite a range if more appropriate)

Individual Dentist:

Direct Costs \$0

Set-up Costs \$0

Ongoing Costs \$0

MDA:

Direct Costs \$0

Set-up Costs \$0

Ongoing Costs \$0

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WORKING LIFE MEMBER DUES

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11 **Background:** The level of Michigan Dental Association dues for working life members has been
12 addressed multiple times since 1999, setting the dues and assessment for life members who are
13 not retired at levels that varied from 50% to 100%. The definition of a “life” member was
14 traditionally established as a dentist who is over age 65 and had 30 consecutive years of
15 membership or 40 years of total membership, for those who had a break in their membership
16 history. The 2021 MDA House of Delegates removed the age requirement, and in the same year,
17 set the level of dues and assessment for working life members at 100%. Members who had
18 financial issues continued to be eligible for waivers of 50% or 100%, and those who were
19 working part-time continued to be eligible for the limited time practice category at the 15% rate.
20 The limited-time practice category was eliminated by the MDA House of Delegates in 2022 and
21 the 108 members in this category were offered waivers.

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23 Currently, Detroit District has 14% of its membership as Working Life members. With the recent
24 changes, some members have been calling the District Office about increases in Dues and
25 Assessments since last year. Some have indicated that they believed that after age 65, they
26 would be exempt from paying dues and assessments. Members stated their dues and
27 assessment have doubled from last year, and questioned the value of keeping their
28 membership. Some do not wish to support the PR/education program to build their practices,
29 since most of their referrals are word-of-mouth. Also, many are not working so many hours or
30 produce the same income.

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33 Detroit District recognizes the value of maintaining these members. They have contributed
34 through their dues and assessments, mentored others, been active in their local societies,
35 communities and many on the state level, advocated for dentistry, held leadership positions,
36 answer our questions for trends and history of dentistry, and represent diversity and inclusion.
37 Losing some of these members would be a huge loss for our Michigan Dental Association in
38 knowledge and commitment to dentistry, and would have a negative impact on the MDA market
39 share. Detroit District believes that we need these older dentists for the strength of the
40 professional organization. The dentists who maintain their membership as working life members
41 and transition to retired life membership also support organized dentistry; 30% of DDDS
42 membership is retired and they still participate to see their friends, learn and support dentistry.
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44 Detroit District would like to see the MDA re-evaluate the level of working life dues and
45 assessment, and believes that working life members should no longer have to pay dues or
46 assessments. It would be appropriate for them to be assessed a fee to receive the MDA Journal,
47 printed or emailed and pay for attending dental meetings.
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49 **Resolution**

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51 **___.** **Resolved**, that the MDA House of Delegates urges the MDA Board of Trustees
52 to evaluate the dues and assessments for the Working Life Members with a report to the
53 MDA 2024 House of Delegates
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56 **VOTE REQUIRED:** **Majority of delegates present and voting.**
57 **VOLUNTEER RESOURCES:** **Dr. Susan Carron, Detroit Delegation Chair**
58 **STAFF RESOURCES:** **Karen Burgess, MDA Executive Director**
59 **Angie Kanazeh, MDA Director of Membership**
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