

Delegates, Alternate Delegates, Members, Administrative Team, Guests, Family and Friends of the Kentucky Dental Association:

My name is Mark Moats and It has been my honor to help represent the KDA as President over this past year as a member of the Green River Dental Society. As I began my journey as KDA President, I shared the words of wisdom offered by our ADA President Dr. Chad Gehani, "We Go Farther Together." I can say with certainty that the wisdom of those words is even more clear to me today. The events that we have experienced over the last year have indeed been remarkable. Although I am certain that none of us could have envisioned this challenge of COVID-19 to our profession, our practices and personal lives, I can say without question that I am forever grateful for the collaborative support that has been demonstrated by the outstanding volunteer leadership within the KDA. We have a rich tradition and history of passionate and experienced leadership. I am proud to say that tradition continues! Our KDA leadership and membership continues to Advocate, Serve and Support and Promote Dentistry across Kentucky and beyond.

Although this past year will be remembered for the challenges of COVID-19, it is these extraordinary obstacles that I believe will make us stronger. We have been forced to refocus and refine our efforts to continue to lead oral healthcare in Kentucky and continue to provide essential and elective care for our patients with our dental teams in a safe and efficient manner. As an Association, we have learned new and more effective ways to interact and communicate. We have been forced to adapt to many obstacles to share a common message and work together to carry out the Mission of the KDA to help Members Succeed and Serve.

We have learned and shared best practices from each other and the trusted resources provided through our relationships in organized dentistry within the KDA and the ADA and others. The Kentucky Dental Reopening Workgroup collaboration is a great example of how collaboration helped to frame and carry the message of dentistry to our policy makers to allow the decision to safely reopen dentistry in Kentucky well in advance of others states across our country.

I hope to also honor the dedicated members of the KDA that continue to lead advocacy efforts on a local level that allowed that message to be heard by our legislators. These personal relationships with our policy makers are critical to the success of our Advocacy on both a State and National level. I commend each member who gives of their time, talents and resources to be such a vital part of this process across KY, in Frankfort and in Washington, D.C..

We have also learned about new opportunities for growth and we are poised to continue to shore up those efforts to foster a foundation for success for the immediate future and for years to come. With the strong leadership of Dr. Darren Greenwell and the excellent KDA Team of volunteer leaders and administration that is prepared and committed to support him, there is no doubt that we can be successful in the days ahead.

I would also like to recognize the many members of our Association that are able to lead organized dentistry on a local, state and national level by service on a Council, Committee or Workgroup of the KDA and the ADA. We have many dedicated local leaders that carry out the work of the local components and strive to meet the needs of our members on a local level. We also have members that share their experience and expertise on a state level. Of course, we have members that serve our profession on the National level or even outside of the KDA. We are grateful for your dedication and service.

I would like share my deep gratitude and appreciation to the members of the Presidential COVID-19 Response Workgroup of:

Dr. Darren Greenwell,
Dr. Jonathan Rich,
Dr. Bill Lee,
Dr. Sharon Turner,
Dr. Fred Howard,

Dr. Garth Bobrowski,
Dr. Joe McCarty,
Mr. Rick Whitehouse and
Mr. Todd Edwards.

I am grateful for your endless energy and passion for the KDA. This year has truly been an example of leadership by committee.

I also recognize the dedication of our KDA Executive Board Members for carrying out the work of the Association. We are thankful for each of you and your representation for each of our component societies within our KDA. It was my honor to visit with many of you and our members during our KDA Leadership visits from Ashland to Paducah.

I also offer a heartfelt thank you to the OUTSTANDING KDA Administrative team of Janet, Melissa, Todd and Rick for what you do for each of us as members of the KDA.

Finally, I want to commend the KDA member dentists for standing strong and continuing to serve the needs of the patients of the Commonwealth throughout this crisis.

You ALL represent the Heart and Soul of the KDA.

To the leadership and membership of the Green River Dental Society, I thank you for the privilege of representing you as the President of the KDA over this past year. I also express my sincere gratitude for my dental team and my family, Carla and Andrew, for the time and support to allow me to be a part of the KDA in this way.

I would like to send a special thanks to my Mom, Sally Buchanan, who served as a dental assistant for over 40 years and demonstrated what real passion for dentistry looks like on a daily basis.

I would also hope to honor the memory of my Dad, George Moats. You see, as a plumber in a small town, my Dad taught me by his example that no matter what you do in life, do it well and do it with integrity. My Brother, Michael, proudly carries on that tradition today.

It has certainly been my goal over the past year to help carry out the Mission of the KDA: Helping Members Succeed and Serve! As we look to the future of dentistry in the Commonwealth, I hope to continue to work alongside you to help support that mission.

Most Respectfully,

Mark A. Moats, D.M.D., M.A.G.D., F.A.C.D.
President Kentucky Dental

Association 2019-2020

