



Executive Committee Short Answer Questions - Danielle Marciniak, Roseman '18

1) *What leadership experiences have equipped you for this national role?*

As an ASDA Chicago Administrative Extern, I spent four weeks rotating through all the departments at ASDA's central office and learning more than I could have imagined about ASDA and association management. With this deep and rare insight about the inner workings of ASDA, I will be able to hit the ground running on the Executive Committee.

As District 10 Communications Chair taught me the importance of listening to others. We are all from different schools and each have varied experiences and needs. Getting to know our membership empowers us to make more impactful decisions rather than just guessing. You must know others to serve others.

Long before dental school, I worked in research. Part of my job was to manage 10 undergraduates in a lab. Lab work, especially in horticulture, is not always fun or glamorous. My position taught me how to motivate and coach team members to do the uninspiring tasks to make our greater goals possible.

Serving as District 10 Trustee has given me knowledge of networking, contract negotiations, strategic planning, executive decision-making and so much more. A unique part of this experience is learning to be efficient in a boardroom setting, which is important in creating the new ASDA strategic plan. Making sure all voices are heard and a consensus is reached requires conciseness, passion and openness for differing opinions. I have learned that there should never be an individual voice louder than the others. Everyone and every thought should be represented with equality and respect.

2) *How do you work with or lead a team?*

When working with a team, it is important to know your role and what you are meant to accomplish. Every team is a puzzle, and every member must know where they fit to fulfill their purpose when called upon. Further, it is important to know when to speak and offer your opinion. It is equally important to know when to step back and rely on someone with greater expertise.

Leading a team, my first task is to identify and capitalize on the strengths of others. Give someone what they love to do, and they will surpass all expectations. To guide team members in this way, you must know them first—not just read their CV, but truly know them by listening and learning about them as human beings. Guiding team members to a role that fulfills their talents and passions makes a cohesive, efficient, and unstoppable team.

Whether working with or leading a team, maintaining a respectful environment is integral for collaboration. All ideas must be welcomed and listened to objectively. As soon as one idea or question is shot down, contention rises. An encouraging environment is especially important in a strategic planning year. All voices must be heard. All ideas must be discussed to form the best game plan and to create ownership and buy-in from every member of the group.

3) *Why are you interested in this leadership position and what skills do you possess that would benefit the association?*

ASDA has been a part of my life for the past six years. I have held positions at the chapter, district and national levels, and each position I have held has brought me greater knowledge of the importance of organized dentistry in the lives of every dental student. All my involvement over these six years has prepared me to serve on the Executive Committee. From beginning as a pre dental member to serving as District 10 Trustee, I have learned all that makes our association run, and I have sharpened my skills of leading many diverse teams. Anyone running for Executive Committee has a lot of the same skills and experiences, but my personal attributes set me a part.

I am a tireless worker who will put the welfare of over 20,000 dental students before myself. I have the knowledge of our association to be a spokesperson for it and create new initiatives. I understand the current environment of dental education to create policies for it. I have the compassion to listen to the struggles of others and a strategic mind to plan for a better tomorrow. I can speak and act tactfully with our own membership and leaders of other organizations. I abide by the duties of care, loyalty, and obedience. I have been an active ASDA member this long because I sincerely love this association and what it does for our profession. It would be a true honor to continue serving ASDA on the Executive Committee.

4) *What are 2-3 issues important to dental students and/or the position of president?*

Licensure Reform – Most students choose dentistry because it is a career that serves others; yet, we are forced to participate in an unethical licensing process, which causes harm to the very patients we aim to serve. Delayed care, stealing patients, exorbitant exam costs, extortion, and lack of psychometric validity are just the beginning of the unethical facets of patient-based licensure examinations, and they must be eradicated. ASDA has established the acceptance of alternative exams in a growing number of states. We need to promote the successes of these alternative programs, in partnership with our white paper, to our state licensing boards.

Student Debt – The debt of dental students is greater than any other professional student. The ADA has made strides toward alleviating some of our burden with refinancing options, but we still need to get to the heart of the problem. The high interest rates and the elimination of subsidized graduate loans must change. ASDA will continue fighting for the passage of the Student Loan Refinance Act and POST GRAD Act.

Millennial Awareness – Through working with leaders of other dental organizations, it is clear that we as millennials are an enigma to the other generations. Whether we contribute to our stereotype or not, the fact that people see us as “complainers” will continue following us until we educate others. We must

convey to the older generations that what seems like complaining is really our strong sense of justice for ourselves, for our peers, and for our communities.