



January 2026

Dear Colleagues,

As I conclude my term as President of the Seventh District Dental Society, I want to take a moment to reflect on what has been a meaningful three-year journey. Serving first as Vice President, then President-Elect, and finally President has been an honor and a privilege.

During this time, I have witnessed remarkable leadership, collaboration, and growth within our organization. I am deeply proud to have contributed to a district that truly serves both our dentists and our community. Together, we implemented initiatives that strengthened who we are and what we do—including the mentorship program, member spotlights, and our outreach efforts through participation in community health fairs.

Despite the many challenges facing organized dentistry, I am encouraged by the fact that our District currently has its largest membership in 40 years. That achievement speaks volumes about the strength, relevance, and commitment of our members.

As I reach the point where I am no longer considered a “new” dentist, I am reminded of how essential it is to continually bring new voices into leadership. I hope our newer dentists recognize the value of involvement, mentorship, and service, and feel encouraged to step into roles that will help shape the future of our District and our profession.

Nationally, declining membership remains a concern. I firmly believe in the value of organized dentistry, yet I also recognize the challenges facing our profession—particularly for younger dentists navigating the rising costs of living and tripartite membership. Additionally, moments of dysfunction at the state and national levels have at times been discouraging and have contributed to broader uncertainty.

Even so, our District stands as a beacon of hope. We exemplify leadership, unity, and resilience during a turbulent time for organized dentistry. We should all be immensely proud to be part of a district that continues to lead by example.

It has truly been my pleasure to serve on this board. Thank you for the trust you placed in me and for the opportunity to serve. I look forward to continuing to support and serve our organization in the years ahead.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Matto Valerio'.

Dr. Matto Valerio
2025 President
Seventh District Dental Society

