



## **Membership FAQs**

These questions and answers cover some of the most-asked topics about the WDA, ADA, and local component dues. As you'll see, there are many different membership categories, as well as payment options.

If you have other questions, please contact the WDA at 414-276-4520 or [membership@wda.org](mailto:membership@wda.org).

### **When will my membership lapse?**

Memberships cover the calendar year. Members are encouraged to renew by the end of the year but are given a grace period through March 31, after which member benefits are discontinued. Payment plans are available and may extend after March 31.

### **What are my payment options?**

There are several: You can pay with an e-check or credit card online or by telephone, or with a check via U.S. mail. We offer six- and 12-month installment plans when paying by e-check or credit card. We accept VISA, Discover and MasterCard, with a one-time, \$25 convenience fee for credit card payments. To pay by phone, call the WDA at 414-276-4520.

### **I'm a recent dental school graduate. When do I pay full dues?**

We recognize that recent graduates need some time to get settled into the profession. You'll owe no dues the year you graduate and the first year after that. You'll enjoy reduced dues (50%) your second year after dental school, elevating to full dues in year three.

If you attend a dental graduate program, your reduced dues will start after you complete the graduate program, as long as you maintain continuous membership.

### **What does each line item on my statement mean?**

The WDA breaks down your statement into individual sections. They are:

- **American Dental Association:** This item represents your ADA membership.
- **WDA:** This represents your WDA membership.
- **Local Component:** This represents your local dental society membership. Remember, membership is tripartite. That means you belong to your local dental society, the Wisconsin Dental Association and the American Dental Association.

- **Wisconsin Dental Association Foundation:** This optional tax-deductible contribution supports the Wisconsin Dental Association Foundation, a 501(c)(3) philanthropic organization aligned with the Wisconsin Dental Association. Its mission is to improve the oral health and overall well-being of Wisconsin residents while supporting the needs of the dental community.

### **I'm retired. Do I get a discount?**

If you are fully retired (not earning any income from the practice/knowledge of dentistry), you are eligible for ADA and WDA retired status. That means a 75% ADA discount and WDA dues of \$125. Component dues for retired members vary.

Fully retired dentists who have also earned life member status (30 consecutive years of ADA membership or 40 total years of membership) do not pay dues.

To obtain retired status, you must sign an affidavit stating you are fully retired. The affidavit is available by contacting the WDA at 414-276-4520 or [membership@wda.org](mailto:membership@wda.org).

### **I only work part-time. Do I qualify for a discount?**

If you are earning a net income less than \$50,000 a year from your practice or knowledge of dentistry, you qualify for the WDA limited practice category, with a discount of 75% off WDA and local component membership. To obtain limited time practice status, you must contact the WDA at 414-276-4520 or [membership@wda.org](mailto:membership@wda.org).

### **Are reduced dues available if I take an extended leave due to a family situation, illness or injury?**

If you are earning a net income less than \$50,000 a year from your practice or knowledge of dentistry, you qualify for the WDA limited practice category, with a 75% WDA and local component membership discount. You may also qualify for a partial or full dues waiver. For waiver information, contact the WDA at 414-276-4520 or [membership@wda.org](mailto:membership@wda.org).

### **Is there someone I can talk with about my membership?**

Yes. Contact the WDA at 414-276-4520 and ask for a member of the membership team, or email [membership@wda.org](mailto:membership@wda.org).

### **Your estimated dues**

Tripartite membership means support from a local component, state society, and national association. Each level sets dues independently, and belonging to all three protects dentists and the public. Use the estimator below to gain an understanding of what membership may cost you.

Pro-rated dues, reductions for new dentists, and other special promotional rates also may be applied to your membership. Additionally, members have the option to make a voluntary contribution (\$100 is suggested, but any amount is welcome) to the Wisconsin Dental Association Foundation, a 501(c)(3) philanthropic organization whose mission is to improve the oral health and overall well-being of Wisconsin residents while supporting the needs of the dental community.

| <b>How 2023 Dues Rates are Calculated</b>       |                          |
|---|--------------------------|
| ADA dues  | \$600                    |
| WDA dues  | \$865                    |
| Local dues (varies by component)                | \$0 - \$180              |
| <b>TOTAL (without optional Foundation gift)</b> | <b>\$1,465 – \$1,645</b> |

To obtain a more detailed dues estimate, contact the WDA’s membership team by calling 414-276-4520 or emailing [membership@wda.org](mailto:membership@wda.org).