

How will you save more than 3 million dollars?

Arizona dentists and dental hygienists will save a combined \$3.3 million in reduced and waived Board of Dental Examiners (BODEX) renewal fees between now and 2020 due to the combined proactive efforts of the Arizona Dental Hygienists' Association (AzDHA) and the Arizona Dental Association (AzDA) over the last year.

In the last year AzDHA and AzDA jointly requested BODEX to consider aggressive reductions in renewal fees after discovering that the Board was carrying a \$5 million balance in the Dental Board Fund. This surplus was more than 4 times higher than the Board's annual operating expense. As a result, the Board moved to lower triennial renewal fees to \$255 for dental hygienists (down from \$300 last year and \$325 seven years ago) and \$510 for dentists (down from \$600 last year and \$650 seven years ago).

Despite the reductions, the large surplus still remains.

AzDHA and AzDA opposed efforts that were being considered by BODEX to give Board funds away to charitable dental initiatives and insisted that the balance in the Dental Board Fund should become the benefit of licensees. A provision of Senate Bill 1362, which will go into effect on August 9, 2017, requires BODEX to waive triennial renewal fees for dentists, dental hygienist, and denturists for 2018, 2019, and 2020.

It is estimated that the combined savings (including this year's reductions) accruing to licensed dental professionals in Arizona will amount to over 3.3 million dollars. The waivers will still leave sufficient support for BODEX operations and still leave a surplus on the dental Board fund at the end of three years.