

By [Eme Augustini](#) , DEI Task Force Member

The DFWAE Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Task Force continues its work to analyze DFWAE governance and activities in light of the Association's statement and commitment to DEI:

*People feel a sense of belonging when differences are embraced and valued. DFWAE is dedicated to nurturing equality by creating spaces for the voices least heard, providing educational opportunities to grow leaders, instilling a greater understanding of diverse and equitable environments, and expanding opportunities to collaborate with one another to ensure DFWAE is reflective of the larger, richer community of association voices. We commit to raising awareness and cultivating an atmosphere and culture that is inclusive for all.*

The Task Force meets monthly and organizes its efforts into several workgroups:

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Data collection: To assess DFWAE's currently available demographic information, design information collection processes, and consider benchmarks related to DEI.

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Bylaws/policy review: To review the DFWAE Bylaws & Policies and whether they cultivate and support a culture of DEI.

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Website/marketing review: Review the DFWAE website and marketing to determine if they support inclusion and reflect the DEI Statement.

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Education/resource development: To recommend DEI education and resources that should be developed for members and the organizations they support.

Two additional workgroups related to Nominating Process Review and the DEI Statement have concluded their work.

The Task Force and four Workgroups listed above are open to new members. Contact [Janet Kane](#) if you are interested in volunteering.

Please stay tuned—the Task Force will keep DFWAE members apprised of its activities and share DEI-related resources in future newsletters.

*Eme Augustini is the executive director of the National Association of Dental Plans.*