



The SCOOP

The Newsletter of the Maine Dental Hygienists' Association ~ Summer/Fall 2007

August 2007 ~ Legislative Update

The 123rd Legislative Session completed its regular session on June 21, 2007. The Legislature issued a "Resolve, Directing the Commissioner of Professional and Financial Regulation to conduct a Sunrise Review of Oral Health Care Issues".

The Legislature wants this committee to conduct an independent assessment of the following oral health care issues: the proposal for expansion of the scope of practice of dental hygienists to create a mid-level dental hygiene provider category; a proposal to allow dental hygienists to practice independently, without the supervision of a licensed dentist in order to increase access to preventive dental care across the state; the proposal to expand licensing requirements to permit graduates of a foreign university to practice in the State of Maine if approved by the Board of Dental Examiners; and separating the dental hygienists and the denturists from the Board of Dental Examiners and placing us under the jurisdiction of a new board within the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation.

The Maine Dental Hygienists' Association responded to a list of thirteen questions in July. The next open session of the committee is Wednesday, August 29th, 2007 at 9 am.

The Legislative Committee is scheduled to report on the above issues to the Business, Research and Economic Development Committee no later than February 15, 2008.

The Governor is starting an Oral Health Task Force. We are anxiously waiting to see what form this Task Force takes.

This is a VERY exciting time to be a dental hygienist! Watch your website for the latest developments.

Respectfully submitted,

Beryl K. Cole, RDH, BS
Legislative Liaison

Committee Members
Nancy Bears
Catherine J. Kasprak

Scenes from the Scientific Session, June 2007



Visit www.adha.org for great information about the new ADHA brand pictured above (it's nicer in color)! You can also find information about the proposed curriculum for the ADHP and membership information.

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MDHA web address:

www.MaineDHA.org

ADHA web address:

www.adha.org

MDHA President's Message..

It is with great excitement and enthusiasm that I serve this year as President. With more than half our year behind us, MDHA members should take great pride in the activities of the organization thus far. MDHA is a professional organization to be respected and applauded for its efforts to empower, develop, and support you!

The executive board and committees have again had a very busy year. Our campaign to increase membership continues to be positive with over a dozen new members in June. Our efforts to help find a solution to the access to care issue in Maine has kept us very busy in Augusta with continued diligence from the legislative committee. Currently there is a bill that has combined several items that could affect dental Hygiene: a mid-level dental professional, independent practice for dental hygienists, and self regulation of dental hygienists. Please read the legislative update on page 1 in this issue of SCOOP for more details.

As the MDHA Fall Connection and the 81st Annual Meeting approach, you will find the registration included with this newsletter. The MDHA Annual Meeting is destined to be as successful as last year. The business meeting (open to all hygienists) will be the forum for officer elections, consideration for retired membership, proposed resolutions, the yearly MDHA update and the ADHA update from our District I Trustee, Bev Litchfield. Copies of the resolutions have been included in this newsletter. This will provide an opportunity to do any desired research to maximize the meeting potential regarding these issues. Take the opportunity to attend the Fall Connection and participate in the future of dental hygiene in Maine.

The Maine Dental Association (MDA) recently elected new officers at their Annual Meeting in June. I had the opportunity to meet with Dr. Mark Kajkowski, MDA President. I am optimistic about the possibility of both organizations working together. Please take some time to read Dr. Kajkowski's remarks. MDHA and MDA will make efforts towards open communication between our professions knowing that we can agree or disagree but have respect for one another's opinions. In our relationship with our patients, the public and our responsibility to our profession we must be self promoting, while recognizing that total oral health is accomplished through combined efforts of both dental hygiene and dentistry.

As an Association, one of the greatest assets we can provide to all hygienists statewide is



communication. As part of our goal to increase communication with all dental hygienists, MDHA is distributing this issue of SCOOP statewide. We also continue to have communication with the public as well. Reaching out to the public was accomplished by featured articles in newspapers, letters to the editors focusing on the access to care issue in our state and public water fluoridation. MDHA also participated at the Media Day at the State House in March. This was a great opportunity to unite many medical and dental professionals under one roof supporting public water fluoridation. We will continue to reach out to hygienists and the public through these means.

With ADHA's new branding campaign underway, and seeing it personally at the ADHA's Annual Meeting, I am looking forward to incorporating the excitement and enthusiasm that was felt at Annual Session here in our state as we promote dental hygiene. I am encouraged about ADHA's reaffirmation of its commitment to our profession. Look for ADHA to be in the national media spotlight.

During the month of October we will celebrate National Dental Hygiene Month. MDHA will help you celebrate by inviting you to a free continuing education program during the month of October. There will be three locations to choose from and we hope you will join us.

I enjoy hearing from you and I hope your calls, e-mails, questions, and remarks will continue. I am also looking forward to seeing you at the MDHA Fall Connection. I can not end without sharing my most sincere thank you to all who have helped and who have been involved with MDHA as I have served as President.

I wish to express my appreciation for allowing me to serve as MDHA President.

-Michelle Gallant, RDH

A Message from the MDA President...

My name is **Mark Zajkowski**, and I am the newly installed president of the Maine Dental Association (MDA). I enter my office at a time of tremendous change in dentistry, both in the state and on a national level. Before I describe how I see events playing out in Maine for the next few years, I want to provide some frame of reference for my beliefs and principles.



I am a dual degree oral and maxillofacial surgeon who has a unique perspective of having one foot in dentistry and the other in medicine. I have seen the success of the fee-for-service model of dentistry (keeping patient and doctor autonomy relatively intact), while medicine looks back and wonders why they didn't choose a similar path. On the other hand, I see a "safety net" in medicine where the most vulnerable patients can find care, and we in dentistry only wish such a thing existed for our patients.

This is where dentistry is at a crossroads in Maine. In June, I had the pleasure of meeting with your current and future leadership, and it's clear to me that the MDA and the MDHA have much in common. We all want Maine citizens, especially children, to have access to quality oral health care in a timely manner. I believe that the MDA and the MDHA have a unique opportunity in the current legislative and social environment to make meaningful changes a reality for Maine people. I foresee a number of cooperative ventures in the year ahead to improve the oral health of our patients and expand access to care, including continued support of community water fluoridation activities, recruitment of more dental professionals to our State, and the creation of new models of providers to reach those Mainers who don't currently have access to dental care.

For too long, our associations have focused on our differences, not our similarities and depth of knowledge that each can bring to the table. Over the coming months, I predict that you will begin to see the fruits of a mutually beneficial relationship take hold. I have never been one to dwell on the past, but rather see how all communities of interest can work as one to make meaningful change. Your leadership is much the same, and I am confident that we will seize this chance to make a positive difference in the oral health of Maine citizens. I look forward to working hand-in hand with the MDHA to advance our mutual goals with a united front.

If I can answer any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at

mark@maineoralsurgery.com

Call for Nominations

The following are open positions on the MDHA Executive Board.

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT-ELECT

The office of the President-Elect will serve as an Executive Board member and attend all regular and special meetings and submit a report of activities and correspondence at the board meeting. The President-Elect will assist the President in any way delegated by the President. They will succeed to the office of President upon completion of one year as President-Elect without election. They will plan all activities for the Annual Meeting to include: accommodations, speakers, luncheon arrangements and registration.

OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT

The Vice President will serve as an Executive Board member and attend all regular and special meetings and submit a report of activities and correspondence at each board meeting. They will assist the President-Elect with regard to all activities of the Annual Meeting. This is a one year term.

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

The Secretary will serve as an Executive Board member and attend all regular and special meetings and submit a report of all official business conducted at constituent meetings, board meetings, and special meetings and then type and distribute copies of the minutes to all board members, committee chairs and the District I Trustee. The Secretary shall, under the President's direction, carry out official correspondence of the Association. This office is a two year term.

ADHA REPRESENTATIVES: TWO DELEGATES AND TWO ALTERNATE DELEGATES

- A. Qualifications. Delegates and Alternates shall be voting members of the Constituent they are to represent, and shall be selected by the voting members of that Constituent.
- B. Elections. Delegates and Alternates shall be elected by the voting membership at the Annual Meeting of the Constituent. The nominees receiving the highest number of votes shall be declared Delegates and Alternates.
- C. Vacancies. In the event of a vacancy among the Delegates, the Alternate Delegates receiving the highest number of votes shall be the first appointed to fill the vacancy; further appointment of vacancies shall be made in order of number of votes received.
- D. Duties.
 - (1) Represent Constituent at all meetings of ADHA.
 - (2) Keep the Constituent informed of ADHA activities.
 - (3) Assist the ADHA Officers and Central Office staff as requested.

RESOLUTIONS

Website Editor

Policy

1. Attend all constituent Meetings (at least our annual meeting)
2. Publish and update official website for MDHA monthly
3. Report, evaluate and update significant developments within MDHA as well as the dental hygiene profession as a whole as it pertains for Maine RDH's
4. Submit annual report to MDHA

Procedure

1. Collect and edit material for web publication
2. Establish and maintain current information relevant for website
3. Look to sponsorship for updated list of sponsors for website
4. Maintain current list of members and provide members with access to website members only material using log on capabilities
5. Communicate with MDHA Executive Board as well as members for comment and suggestions for website material
6. Liaison between Website Committee and MDHA Executive Board
7. Work in collaboration with webmaster and or media company facilitating website.

Website Committee

Policy

1. Attend all Constituent and Executive Board Meetings (same as all other committees presently in our P/P manual)
2. Submit annual report
3. Work in conjunction with at least three committee persons on specified committee
4. Maintain a file of all correspondence and submit to the President.

~continued on page 5~

The Hilton Garden Inn Auburn Riverwatch
is Proud to Welcome Back
The Maine Dental Hygienists Association's
Annual Fall Connection
Friday, November 2-Saturday, November 3, 2007

Discounted Room Rates are Available for the Conference!
*Call before October 1st and you will be entered to win an UPGRADE to one of
our Brand New Evolution Suites!*

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2007 RDH OF THE YEAR AWARD

Candidates for the RDH of the Year Award must possess the following qualifications in order to be nominated:

- Must hold current MDHA/ADHA membership.
- The candidate must be active in promoting dental health.
- Dedicated to the profession of dental hygiene in the state of Maine.

The RDH of the Year Award will be presented at the MDHA Annual Meeting, November 2, 2007.

The nominators must submit a nomination form and outline of the candidate's eligibility and contributions to the dental hygiene profession. The deadline for submitting applications is October 1, 2007. Mail to: Michelle Gallant, 37 Chickawaukie Pond Rd, Rockport, ME 04856

NOMINATION FORM - RDH OF THE YEAR - 2007

Candidate's Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone Number: work: _____

Nominator's Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone Number: work: _____



Please attach a brief outline of your nominee. *Deadline 10/01/07.*

Procedures (Website Committee, con't.)

1. Collect information for the current website.
2. Solicit advertising for website.
3. Maintain updated list of members for website.
4. Keep updated list of continuing ed on web site.
5. Keep all material current.

Other items on the agenda ...

RETIRED MEMBER CATEGORY: Retired members of ADHA/MDHA will receive the benefit of attending MDHA sponsored lecture continuing education programs at no cost. Retired members will be encouraged to contribute to the continuing education program she or he attends by helping with registration, room monitoring, distributing continuing education certification of attendance certificates, distributing handouts at the course or any other duty the Continuing Education Committee finds it needs assistance with during the program.

During the 2007 MDHA Scientific Session, MDHA held a Loupes Raffle. The MDHA Executive Board voted to contribute a percentage of the money raised to the National Children's Oral Health Foundation. MDHA members will be asked to determine the amount MDHA will donate to NCOHF (www.ncohf.org). The amount raised was \$570. Pictured are happy raffle winner Courtney Vannah, RDH with Kyle Bouchard of Orascoptic, donor of the loupes. Thank you, Orascoptic!



Meet your officers...

president

Michelle Gallant, RDH graduated from University of Maine in 1990. She works in private practice with Dr. Philip Higgins, Jr. DMD and the wonderful staff in Rockport. She is celebrating her 17th year in the practice. She lives with her family in Rockport. She is a ice hockey mom and enjoys golfing, hiking and biking.



Michelle (left) and Cathy (right)



vice president

Traci L Dempsey, RDH, BSDH, is a 1998 graduate of the University of Maine with an Associate degree in Dental Hygiene, and a 2006 graduate of the University of Maine with a BS in Dental Hygiene. Traci practices in a private practice in Rockport where she has

been for seven years and resides in Warren with her husband and many four-legged "kids". Her hobbies include gardening, fishing and four-wheeling.

treasurer

Melissa L. Chappell, RDH is the current Treasurer for MDHA. Melissa graduated from Westbrook College in 1994. She has worked in administrative positions in dental and medical practices throughout her career. She is currently employed by St. Mary's Regional Medical Center in Lewiston, Maine as a reimbursement analyst. She resides in Hartford, Maine. Melissa has been very active with ADHA and MDHA since her graduation in 1994. She was President of MDHA in 1997-1998.



president elect

Mary Lynne Murray Ryder graduated from UNE (formerly Westbrook College) in 1979 and continued to receive a BS degree through the 2+ you program. She has served two terms as MDHA president and is currently MDHA President-elect. "ML" sits on Prevention Partners Board, as well as serving as PP clinical director. Mary Lynne has served as MDHA SCOOP Editor, past Auxiliary Committee Member for the Academy of Laser Dentistry, past Editorial Board Member of *Contemporary Oral Hygiene Magazine*, and past ADHA Delegate/alternate delegate for Maine. She has practiced full time for 28 years with emphasis on systemic wellness.

Mary Lynne makes her home in Hermon with husband Pat and 2 fish *Marion & Julius*. "ML" relaxes in the garden, chills out with Christian rock, loves golfing with her husband Pat and geo-caching/waterfall hikes with special friends and family, while cherishing any time spent with her nieces and nephews.



See 'call for nominations' on page 3 ~ be a part of this exciting and important time for dental hygiene.

immediate past president

Catherine (Cathy) Kasprak, RDH, AAS is the immediate past president and is currently on MDHA's Legislative Committee. She graduated as an RDH from Pennsylvania College of Technology in Williamsport, PA in 1979 with an AAS, and earned her CDA (Certified Dental Assistant) from Boston University, School of Graduate Dentistry in 1976. Cathy has worked in general and periodontal offices in CT, NY, PA, MA, NH and ME. She has worked in public health in Maine and New Hampshire as Dental Program Manager for a community health center. She resides in Fryeburg. Cathy has been an active member of ADHA since 1979 along with the constituent and component associations and has held various positions in these organizations.



secretary

Bridget Conway graduated from Ohio State with Bachelor's in Business and a minor in Psychology. She also graduated from The Art Institute in Boston with a degree in Art History, and from University College in Bangor with an Associate degree in Dental Hygiene.

She is currently a Bachelor's Candidate in Dental Hygiene. Bridget lives in Rockport with her husband and two daughters, one of whom just started driver's ed :(She works in Public Health and is an educator for GC America. Bridget will be a speaker at our Fall Connection. Her hobbies include sailing, snowboarding, singing, word play, being a perennial student and of course OCD flossing!

Question: What is the difference between a Gazebo and a Pavilion?

This and That...

Premed Changes...

The American Heart Association recently updated its guidelines regarding which patients should take a precautionary antibiotic to prevent infective endocarditis (IE) before a trip to the dentist. The guidelines, published in *Circulation: Journal of the American Heart Association*, are based on a growing body of scientific evidence that shows that, for most people, the risks of taking prophylaxis antibiotics for certain procedures outweigh the benefits. These guidelines represent a major change in philosophy. Visit <http://www.americanheart.org/presenter.jhtml?identifier=3047051> for complete information.

Reaching Out to Northern Maine

MDHA was excited to bring a MDHA sponsored continuing education program to hygienists in northern Maine. The course was held at the University of Maine at Presque Isle on March 28, 2007. Dr. Philip Higgins Jr., DMD presented a course entitled: BOARD OF DENTAL EXAMINERS ISSUES IMPORTANT TO THE DENTAL HYGIENE PROFESSION. If you are interested in seeing this course come to your area contact MDHA!

Announcements and News-

Well, we don't have any yet, but we want to add some fun to the SCOOP! Send us any interesting news for the website and the next issue...degrees, births, promotions, marriages, travels, etc. Email to mgallant500@adelphia.net or mail to Michelle Gallant at the return address on this newsletter.

New Orleans Hosts the 84th ADHA Annual Session

by Mary Lynne Murray-Ryder, RDH, BS

New Orleans, the now infamous hurricane Katrina site (two years ago) is alive, but *hardly well*. Upon arrival at the very eerily quiet airport, a porter asked what brought me to the area. I proudly responded "the American Dental Hygienist's Association." I was met with a HUGE smile. The hygienist in me quickly noted a "long in the tooth grin" and #11 glimmered, bearing a gold crown. "How many y'all ladies might show up?", he quickly queried. "Somewhere between 1,000-2,000 when all is said and done", I replied, secretly wishing I could say 10,000! And so the whirlwind week unfolded!

ADHA held its 84th Annual Session on June 20-27 in New Orleans. I was humbled to have been selected as Maine's Delegate Chair and ADHA house floor teller. Michelle Gallant, MDHA President, Delegate and ADHA Reference Committee A Chair, represented Maine proudly. Traci Dempsey, RDH, BSDH, MDHA Vice President served eagerly as an astute, alternate delegate. Bev Litchfield, RDH, BS, and past MDHA President, now serves as a distinguished ADHA District Trustee, ADHA Hypac and Public Health Committee Chair.

Maine's attendee meetings included, but were not limited to: membership, mentoring, research, (Hypac...our ADHA voice in Washington, D.C., the dental hygienists' political action committee), perio, corporate, legislative and public health networking sessions, District I caucus (Maine, NH, VT, RI and MA), Student House of Representatives, communication, Student Poster Sessions, ADHA Exhibitions, lunch & learn presentations, professional issues forum, candidates forum, ADHA strategic planning (ADHA's financial and future goal bench marking strategies), the prestigious 84th House of ADHA (representing all 50 states), woven with reference committee proposal and by-law hearings. Our own Michelle Gallant, RDH, chaired Committee A, a most prestigious position on the House floor! Other meetings included the CODA standards of accreditation, clinical standards and ADHP, (an augmented advanced dental hygiene therapist professional to serve the underserved, bridging the gap of dentist provider services).

The House of Delegates voted this year to accept best current evidence as the clinical standard of practice, and to practice and support our role in cultural and linguistic diversity. Look for greater details of all passed proposals in upcoming issues of ADHA ACCESS magazine.

Not attending ADHA Annual Session for 6 years, feeling rusty, I was nervous about serving as District I Student Liaison. Aubrie Mazza, student delegate (RI Community College) and Lina Pagliuca, alternate delegate (Forsyth) were this year's student delegate representatives. They were selected from all New England dental hygiene student submissions. The essays were judged blindly by the New England state dental

hygiene Presidents.

I was in awe of "my kids" from the moment we began in New Orleans! Their insight, enthusiasm, passion and personal goals in regards to the profession of dental hygiene and the ADHA annual session experience was endless! Lina won the prestigious position of Student House speaker and Aubrie was a formidable student house page. I realized they had mentored me! I saw the future of dental hygiene soaring in their hands!

ADHA President Jean Connor (MA) hosted an informal get together for all. Giggles were shared with hygienists from all states, including past ADHA presidents Helena Gallant Tripp (MA), Pat Ramsey (MA), Maria Perno (CA), Ann Battrell, RDH, MSDH(c) ,(SC) and now ADHA Executive Director and the infamous Dr. Esther Wilkins. Esther boogied the night away (amazing considering she broke her hip last fall and just celebrated her 90th!) I thanked her for her contribution to the National Museum of Dentistry in Baltimore, Maryland where dental hygiene is proudly displayed.

ADHA launched its new branding campaign, from logo to goals to attitude! I felt reborn, re-energized with our profession! Now you may say, oh my word, how CORNY!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Try not to judge until you see the results. Look for ADHA in *Time*, *Newsweek*, *USA Today* and beyond! Currently ADHA is holding nation-wide focus groups with consumers, seeking opinions regarding the dental hygienist's role in their lives. Previous focus groups hosted ADHA members, non-members and dentists.

ADHA is adamant about becoming ALL-inclusive, to members, non-members, students, dental auxiliaries and dentists. Those in attendance share the vision of one VOICE!

Back to *New Orleans, an old friend fallen upon tough times*. I first visited in 1998 upon becoming MDHA-VP. New Orleans has lost close to half of its population. The workforce is stressed. When dining out, be patient and expect delays. Many shops, homes and restaurants remain closed. Despite the pervading sadness, everywhere we went residents were kind, joyful and hopeful. Some of us were blessed to attend Sunday service, and we were HALLELUJAHING at the top of our lungs, and clapping and shouting AMEN often! Katrina took away "their stuff", but not their NEW ORLEANS LOVE, SPIRIT, PRIDE, & HOPE! **Now say it with me sisters and brothers...Hallelujah! AMEN!**

We represented Maine proudly while New Orleans provided us with the unexpected opportunity to take stock of our values, our families and friendships; often overlooked in this fast paced, get-ahead world. We pray loudly for the victims of hurricane Katrina for a brighter future.

Should the opportunity arise to visit New Orleans, America spend your dollars to restore that old friend's sweet New Orleans voice. (FY: Much of Mississippi ,as well, remains in complete ruin. Many towns have no inhabitants and residents are completely displaced.)

MEMBER PROFILE



*Katherine "Kitty" Peasley, RDH
Brooksville, Maine*

My alma mater is:

University College in Bangor, Maine (RDH, 1996)

I wanted to be a dental hygiene professional because:

I first saw a dental hygienist about 30 years ago (she was wonderful) and knew immediately I wanted to be a dental hygienist. I had to put it off for many years because I was raising my family but finally received my degree.

Current position as a dental hygienist is:

In general practice in Blue Hill working four days a week.

The thing I enjoy the most about being a dental hygienist is:

"I like it all!" I like the people, the patient contact, helping people take care of their health.

My most gratifying accomplishment as a dental hygienist:

Whenever I can get people to floss!

Some of the individuals I admire within the dental hygiene profession:

My University College dental hygiene instructor, Diane Bearor. She is a wonderful person. She is a complete package in all aspects of life.

Outside of work, I enjoy:

Playing with my grandchildren, all eight of them at the same time is the best!

Catherine Haegerty Memorial Scholarship ~ 2007 Recipients:

Janet Morneault - University College

Janelle DeNormandie - University of New
England

Maine Dental Hygienists' Association

Upcoming Events & CEU's for 2007/2008

Check at MaineDha.org for updated information and registration forms.

October 24, 2007- Bangor- Stannous Fluoride, What's Old is New

October 25, 2007-Augusta- Stannous Fluoride, What's Old is New

October 26, 2007-Portland- Stannous Fluoride, What's Old is New

November 2-3, 2007- MDHA Fall Connection

January 30-February 3, 2008- Yankee Dental Congress

May 8, 2008- Dana Center, Portland- Continuing Education, to be announced

June 20-21, 2008 MDHA Scientific Session, Rockport

June 18-21, 2008- ADHA Center for life Long Learning, Albuquerque, NM

June 22-25, 2008- ADHA 85th Annual Session, Albuquerque, NM

November 2008 MDHA Fall Connection (dates to be announced)

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