

Massachusetts Dental Hygienists' Association

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President's Message

I am incredibly honored to be serving as MDHA president. I will strive to make it a productive and relevant year, confident in the knowledge that although there are many challenges to be met, there are also many opportunities to be seized. The challenge of unemployed and underemployed hygienists in this state is daunting but emphasizes the continued need to come together as friends, colleagues and professionals to create and promote opportunities for growth, education and support. The time to support your profession and ultimately yourself is now. Renewing your ADHA membership is key. The tangible benefits are spelled out in your membership; discounts on everything from CEU's to loops. The intangible but far more substantial benefit is that which allows MDHA the ability to protect the integrity of your profession and create opportunities such as local anesthesia administration and PHDH practice through passage of legislation. While not everyone has the time or desire to volunteer, your membership speaks volumes to our legislators.

We are beginning a new year having successfully hosted our annual Conference which continues to grow in size and scope. The addition of a vehicle for student participation was a huge success. Students not only took part in the Board Review but also attended classes, visited with the vendors and got a sense of what their association is about. Nancy Mann, as Conference chair, did a fantastic job but we must acknowledge the many Conference volunteers who donated their time and expertise to help make this Conference possible. By uniting as a Constituent (state) to host this Conference, we are creating opportunities for education, networking and growth both personal and professional.

It is in this spirit of unity that we reach out in order to grow and create new and exciting opportunities for our profession. We need to reach out to our educators who are guiding our students – the future and future leaders of our profession. As an association we must continue to welcome them, assist them and encourage both educator and student participation in their professional organization. The newly updated MDHA website has a section dedicated to our student members. We look forward to hearing of and sharing their trials and triumphs.

Our profession must be willing and capable of reaching out to other stakeholders, e.g. other healthcare providers and social service agencies, seeking to collaborate and communicate for the sake of our patients. We need to define but not limit who we are as well as understand and establish what our role is as oral health care providers for ourselves, our colleagues and the public.

I look forward to an exciting year. Please plan to join us at the State House for Lobby Day on February 28th, 2012. Members who put in a request to MDHA will be able to meet with their legislators to discuss their support of pending MDHA legislation. Check the MDHA website for more information.

“Continuity gives us roots, change gives us branches, letting us stretch and grow and reach new heights.” – Pauline R. Kezar. I hope to meet many of you in the upcoming new year. I wish everyone a wonderful holiday season and a happy and healthy new year.

Sandra Nicholas RDH
President



MDHA is on FACEBOOK...check us out and become a friend at www.facebook.com

**Thanks go out to
Corie B. Lewis, RDH
for being our Facebook Group Leader**

IN THE NEWS



Did you know that MDHA's own Robin Murch was the recipient of the

Yankee Dental Congress

2011 Auxiliary Volunteer Award

for her significant contribution to Yankee Dental Congress.

**Congratulations Robin
for a job well done!**

August 20, 2010 to Dental Regulations

Up-Dated Massachusetts Dental Regulations Issued on August 20, 2010

**Kathleen Atkinson, Executive Director
Massachusetts Board of Registration in Dentistry**

In an effort to assure the public that dental practitioners in Massachusetts are continuing to meet and comply with current national standards, the Massachusetts Board of Registration in Dentistry has issued an up-dated set of regulations governing the practice of dentistry, dental hygiene, and dental assisting. The Board is chaired by Dr. Mina Paul, and consists of 10 members (6 dentists, 1 dental hygienist, 1 dental assistant, and 2 public members) appointed by the Governor. Its mission and legal mandate is to protect the health of the public, and it carries out its responsibilities by:

- Setting the standards for the practice of dentistry, dental hygiene, and dental assisting;
- Licensing dentists and dental hygienists (plus dental assistants in the future);
- Issuing permits for anesthesia, sedation, and mobile and portable dentistry;
- Investigating complaint against licensees; and
- Enforcing the statutes and regulations pertaining to the dental professions.

Beginning 1995, the Board established several multi-disciplinary Work Groups to review and update the “old” regulations, and research and deliberate on the following:

- Purpose, Authority, and Definitions
- Licensure and License Renewal
- Practice of Dentistry, Dental Hygiene, and Dental Assisting
- Anesthesia and Sedation
- Mobile and Portable Dentistry
- Continuing Education
- Complaint Management

These work groups were led by Board members, and had representation from all the major stakeholder organizations and local experts in the field including MDHA, MDS, and MDAA among many others. The Work Groups made recommendations to the Board on how best to regulate each of these matters, and the final draft of the regulations was issued for public comment in 2009 after almost 10 years of work. All written and oral comments from the public were reviewed by the Board, the draft regulations were amended as necessary, and, following 90-days notice to the licensees and the public, the regulations went into effect on August 20, 2010.

With the exception of new provisions for the practice of public health dental hygiene and mobile and portable dental services, and an updated section on dental anesthesia and sedation, the regulations largely clarify long-standing laws, regulations, and policies of the Board. Among the highlights of the up-dated regulations are sections on:

- Responsibilities of office dental directors;
- Provisions for public health dental hygiene practice;
- Revised listing of delegable duties and level of supervision required for each;
- Elements of patient records and procedures for handling them;
- Mobile and portable dental services;
- Anesthesia and sedation;
- Office emergency protocols;
- Advertising;
- Ethics and professional conduct;
- Prohibited practices;
- Updated continuing education requirements; and
- How complaints against licensees are handled by the Board.

All licensees and dental office managers are advised to familiarize themselves with the Board’s up-dated regulations at www.mass.gov/dph/boards/dn (go to “Statutes, Rules, and Regulations” and click on 234 CMR effective August 20, 2010). Individual questions can be sent to the Board’s email at dentistry.admin@state.ma.us - staff will respond ASAP, and add the response to the Board’s Q&A on the new regulations also on the website. A link to the Massachusetts Department of Public Health’s Office of Oral Health can also be found on the Board’s website – it contains excellent oral health resources including a Toolkit for Public Health Dental Hygienists (click on “Dental Workforce”).

MDHA celebrated Dental Hygiene Month

at The Tower Hill Botanic Gardens in Boylston, MA

All attendees were greeted by our Event Coordinators Mary Kellerman & Susan Danskin at the Morgan Reception Gateway which is the primary indoor greeting/orientation point for the ever expanding number of visitors to Tower Hill. We were able to visit the Great Hall and Orangerie, Winter Garden, and Limonaia (Lemon House) before gathering for a delicious lunch and a tour.



Extra monies collected from this celebration were used to send flowers to MDHA Past President, Mary Dole who was in the hospital recovering from pneumonia.

A donation check was also given to Kim Todd, Executive Director of "Dress for Success" Kim spoke with us regarding "Dress for Success" and their Mission Statement: to promote the economic independence of disadvantaged women by providing professional attire, a network of support and the career development tools to help women thrive in work and in life.

After our event MDHA President, Sandy Nicholas was able to facilitate a conversation between Kim Todd, Dress for Success and Linda Boyd, the Dean of Forsyth School of Dental Hygiene at MCPHS which resulted in Dress for Success clients being given vouchers for free dental hygiene services at Forsyth. Many thanks to all who made this possible.

For more information check out their website at www.dressforsuccess.org/boston

"The beauty of the garden is equally derived from the quality of horticulture and fine architecture."



And The Winner Is!

*The Winner of the MDHA raffle and a new Nook was Susan Vallaincourt
Congratulations Susan!*



Dental Hygiene Oath

In my practice as a dental hygienists, I affirm my personal and professional commitment to improve the oral health of the public, to advance the art and science of dental hygiene, and to promote high standards of quality care.

I pledge continually to improve my professional knowledge and skills, to render a full measure of service to each patient entrusted to my care, and to uphold the highest standards of professional competence and personal conduct in the interest of the dental hygiene profession and the public it serves.

The Conference 2011

“Invigorate Your Career”

This must attend event is growing every year, and this year was no different! The Conference provides an opportunity for dental hygienists to not only enhance their professional skills but to mingle with friends and colleagues.

Mark your calendars now for The Conference 2012, September 21 – 23!



Membership Booth



Cutting Edge Classes



Annual Basket Raffle



Social Events

Student Board Review

Many Thanks to Sonya Salisbury and P & G for the opportunity to offer our second year hygiene students a

Dental Hygiene Board Review.

Students mark your calendars we hope to make this an annual event



A Moment of Silence

MDHA experienced a terrible loss this year. Past President Marybeth Languirand passed away on Sunday, July 3rd after a sudden illness. Her outgoing personality endeared her to many. Throughout her career, she tirelessly advocated for her patients. We will all remember Marybeth for her kind heart, generous ways and her willingness to help.



Marybeth leaves behind her husband, Dave and their two beautiful children, Dylan, 11 and Morgan, 14. As you can imagine this is a difficult time for them. Many of you have asked if there is anything that can be done to help the family. In lieu of donating to an outside charity, we have set up a fund for Morgan and Dylan. Dr. Christine Ntapolis, a long-time friend of Marybeth's family, has graciously agreed to manage the fund for the children.

If you would like to contribute, please make checks payable to Dr. Christine Ntapolis and mail to:

Maureen Strauss; 223 Westford Street; Dunstable, MA 01827

Please mark the envelope "Marybeth"

Marybeth's family appreciates all of the caring and concern that our professional community has provided.

MDHA Constituent Hygienists' of the Year



Myrna Olderman, RDH

Myrna Olderman was born in Saratoga Springs, New York, and graduated from Saratoga Springs High School. She was accepted into the Dental Hygiene program at Long Island Agricultural and Technical Institute, as it was known then, and received a degree as an Associate in Applied Science. It was always a part of the State University of New York, and is now referred to as SUNY at Farmingdale, where a 4 year Dental Hygiene program, with a BS degree, was developed a few years ago.

After graduating from college, Myrna joined ADHA. Worked in Saratoga for 2 years, married her husband, Jerry, and they moved to Ohio where they lived and worked for three years. New Jersey was the next move and Myrna was a stay-at-home-Mom for 10 years, then took the Board, and worked for 7 years. Jerry's career required the next move, as did all the others. They moved to Illinois, and then took the Board during the Chicago blizzard of '79. Seven

years later, moved to California, passed the Board, worked and lived there for 7 years. Finally, came back east to Massachusetts, she took Board number 6, and has lived in Bedford for 18 years.

It took one invitation from Mary Kellerman to attend a meeting of the Middlesex Component, where Myrna was active as Membership Chair. A few years later, she became President of the Component and went on to represent Middlesex at the Board of Trustees for MDHA. Years later, she was voted to become an Alternate Delegate to the ADHA Annual Session in Washington, DC. Myrna said, "It was a wonderful experience meeting hygienists from all over the USA." She participated in other Annual Sessions, as a Delegate in NYC, Dallas and Orlando, FL. Myrna went on to become Vice President, President-Elect, and President of MDHA . 2004-2005, and finally Past President.

Volunteer work has been with the Freshman Dental Hygienists of MCC, who volunteered with Myrna at the Billerica Library every February, to pass out toothbrushes and teach the children how to brush and floss, with various videos and pictures to help. Myrna also volunteered, with her fellow Temple members, to visit American and foreign middle school students in Somerville, to aid them in doing their homework and understanding and reading English better. Attending Lobby Day every year, trying to convince the Legislators to do the right thing for the dental needs of the Commonwealth, has been Myrna's goal. Award's in the past have included Outstanding Hygienist of Middlesex Component in 1999, and Outstanding Hygienist of the Year in 2007, given by MDS at YDC.

With three married children and twelve grandchildren, Myrna and Jerry are kept very busy with all the activities in which the children participate. Flying to Chicago and California keeps them running to Logan a lot.

When asked what she thought of her career choice, Myrna said, " It's been a wonderful career choice and something i wouldn't have missed for anything, six Boards and all! The friends I have made, patients I have helped and the knowledge that I acquired, have made it all worthwhile. Thank you,one and all, for making my time here in Massachusetts, one of service, purpose, and friendship. You are the best!"

Congratulations Myrna!

Congratulations also go out to our Component Hygienists' of the Year.

Cape Cod Components Terry Beckloff, and Worcester Components Valerie Osborn.

To be featured in the next edition of The Bulletin

Meet your MDHA Officers

From Left to Right: Assistant Secretary, Cathy Mazzuchi; Delegate, Paula Morrison; Vice President, E. Jane Crocker; Speaker of the House, Katherine Pelullo; President, Sandra Nicholas; Assistant Treasurer, Colleen McKeon; President-Elect, Nancy Mann; Secretary, Kristine Henderson

Sitting: Treasurer, Gita Jozef

Missing from photo

Immediate Past President: Jamie Russell

Alternate Delegates: Aditi Purri, Peter Gangi, and Gail Weisberg.



**Save the Date and Join MDHA for
Dental Hygiene Day at the State House**

**February 28, 2012
10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**

**Keep the legislative ball rolling at this year's
Dental Hygiene Day at the State House**

Join dental hygienists and oral health champions from around the state to celebrate passage of last year's historic legislation, creating public health dental hygienists within Massachusetts. But don't forget – our work is not done! We have exciting legislation in the pipeline this year, to expand the number of hygienists on the Board of Registration in Dentistry and to improve the existing public health dental hygienist legislation.

Lobby Day is a wonderful opportunity to work with your legislators to promote the education and abilities of dental hygienists and garner support for unfinished work that needs to be done to advance our profession.

This event has been a great success in years past – don't miss out on making this year's event an even greater success! The day includes an exciting panel of speakers, the chance to provide oral health screenings, and opportunities to speak with your individual legislators.

We're happy to offer free CE credits to those who attend, so mark your calendars and plan to join us on

Watch for more details to come!



Join MDHA for Lunch at Yankee Dental 2012

Infectious Diseases and the Risks We Take as Professionals

Saturday, January 28, 2012	11:30 AM - 1:30 PM
Course Code: 655SL	\$40
Room Location:	2 CE Hours



Kate Soal, RDH is adjunct clinical faculty at Quinsigamond Community College.

This course will contain an overview of current infectious diseases, their clinical presentation, treatment, and prevention. Recommended vaccinations and testing for the dental health care provider, along with an overview of disease statistics, will also be discussed.

Learning Objectives:

- » Become aware of infectious diseases to which dental professionals are exposed
- » Discover updates on infectious diseases, transmission, and prevention
- » Learn the current statistics associated with infectious diseases
- » Assess risk factors associated with treating patients

Free lunch open to the first 100 MDHA members to register.

Preregistration prior to December 1, 2011 is highly recommended.



at <http://yankeedental.com>

Other Events at Yankee Dental Congress

Be Sure to visit the MDHA Hospitality Booth on the Exhibit Floor

Thursday, January 26 & Friday January 27		9:30 am – 5:30 pm
Saturday, January 28		9:30 am – 4:00 pm
Wednesday, January 25	Opening Awards Ceremony Seaport Hotel	6:00 – 8:00 pm
Friday, January 27	ADHA District One Meeting Westin Waterfront – Webster Room	1:00 – 3:00 pm
	MDHA Presidents Reception Westin Waterfront- Commonwealth C	6:00 – 7:30 pm
Saturday, January 28	New England Educators Meeting Westin Waterfront – Alcott Room	1:30 – 4:30 pm



MDS Hygienist of the year Award

Barbara Dawidjan, RDH

Barbara Dawidjan has been a full-time dental hygiene professor at Quinsigamond Community College since 2000, in addition to a hygiene career in private practice spanning three decades. She spends time volunteering in central Massachusetts at free medical/dental clinics and homeless shelters, working as a Massachusetts Head Start Cavity Free Trainer, taking part in the CHIPS and Special Smiles Special Olympics programs, and is a student advisor for the Student American Dental Hygienists Association. Ms. Dawidjan started and organized the sealant program for second graders in Lowell and helped coordinate the sealant program for Worcester public school children. She is also a past president of the Massachusetts Dental Hygiene Association.

This award is presented by the Massachusetts Dental Society in recognition of ones accomplishments and contributions to the advancement of dentistry.

MDHA Board of Trustees Meeting Schedule

MDHA Board of Trustees Meetings

2011-2012

Location: Quinsigamond Community College
670 West Boylston Street
Worcester, MA 01606
Room 107, Administration Building
Time: 7:30 pm

Date of Meeting
November 7, 2011
December 5, 2011
January 27, 2012 - District I Meeting at Yankee Dental Conference
March 5, 2012
May 7, 2012
June 2, 2012 – District I Meeting, location to be determined
June 4, 2012
August 6, 2012

All are welcome, please join us!

Deadline for The Winter Bulletin is:

February 10, 2012 please submit all articles and pictures to

Editor, E. Jane Crocker at ejane1@comcast.net

The Bulletin

A publication of the Massachusetts Dental Hygienists' Association a constituent of the American Dental Hygienists' Association

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