President’s Message . . .  

As we enter May, perhaps it is last safe to wish you all a “Happy Spring!” It is a season of new beginnings even though MDHA is halfway through its year. At this midpoint, I want to let you know what your association has been up to for the past six months, as well as our plans for the next six.

All that we do as the Montana Dental Hygienists’ Association is aimed at EMPOWERING YOU. To that end we have:

- Mounted a tremendous legislative effort to expand practice opportunities and autonomy for dental hygienists. SB2 would have allowed hygienists to provide sealant programs in schools. Twenty-five groups and individuals testified in support of SB2 and the Billings Gazette and Missoulian printed editorials supporting it. HB572 would have given hygienists and denturists equal representation with dentists on the Board of Dentistry. Unfortunately both bills died, as did nearly every bill related to health care. Thank you to all of you who repeatedly lobbied your legislators! The good news is that our message did not fall on deaf ears; although the bills failed, legislators recognized discrimination and suppression of fair trade by the Board of Dentistry.

- Supported SB 165 which did pass and states that a board cannot discriminate against any of the professions it regulates. Senator Balyeat sponsored this bill in large part to prevent dentists on the Board of Dentistry from discriminating against denturists and dental hygienists.

- Encouraged MSU-Great Falls College of Technology to explore the possibility of offering a baccalaureate completion program in dental hygiene. This is a very exciting development that could allow hygienists to get a BSDH through distance learning.

- Provided 7 CEUs of continuing education in Implant Therapy by Susan Wingo.

- Updated and amended MDHA Bylaws to comply with ADHA requirements. Our efforts are not over. MDHA and ADHA are well aware of the problems facing you and our profession as a whole. Unemployment is a significant issue in some areas and it is being fueled by a proliferation of dental hygiene programs popping up throughout the United States. These new programs are accredited by CODA, charge exorbitant tuition, and graduate hygienists in 18 months or less promising them incomes over $65,000 a year! This is what MDHA intends to do to protect your careers and empower you:
  - Write to CODA expressing concerns about the proliferation of dental hygiene programs
  - Support MSU-Great Falls College of Technology development of baccalaureate completion in dental hygiene
  - Provide 14 CEUs of continuing education at our Annual Session on October 6-8 in Kalispell
  - Work with partners to expand public access to oral health care, enhance the profession of dental hygiene and increase our autonomy
  - Explore working with DPHHS to obtain data for the National Oral Health Survey

We ask you to JOIN US in all of these efforts. Join MDHA/ADHA and get involved in your local component. Come to Annual Session in October for the fun, networking and educational opportunities. We are better together!

Colleen Grass, RDH, LAP MDHA President
In September 2011 the MDHA Board of Trustee will install the newly elected officers as well as reinstate continuing trustees. As president elect the incoming board will serve under my leadership. Just as in the Army “We Want You!” as a board member!

During the past Spring board meeting trustees asked the question how can we invite more people to join in and serve the association as a board member. You may ask who serves on the board, what are the expected duties? Let me assure you there is not secret pass word or secret hand shake to join the board.

The first requirement to serve on the Board of Trustees (BOT) is to be a member of ADHA/MDHA. After that, we welcome any state member who is interested and committed to the profession of dental hygiene. There are four meeting a year in which we ask BOT members to attend. The meetings are scheduled: Annual Session (Sept. or Oct.) Strategic planning retreat in October, Mid January and Spring CE (April).

There are a variety of positions where one can serve on the board; for example, Membership chair (recruit and retain members), Ways and Means (fund raising), local component chair (help plan area meetings), and delegates who attend the ADHA national meeting in the summer. Approximately twenty people serve on the board.

Participating at the state level as a BOT member has given me the insight into how our profession can be directed within our organization. We hear firsthand about state and national issues effecting dental hygiene. I just love being in the know!

I welcome a discussion with anyone who has questions about joining the BOT. Let’s chat!

Kim Dunlap, RDH, BS, LAP
MDHA President Elect
406-799-3876

MDHA BIdlaws Updated

The American Dental Hygienists’ Association (ADHA) required each state constituent to revise state Bylaws to be in compliance with the ADHA Bylaws passed in 2009. Some Articles MUST contain the exact verbiage of the ADHA Bylaws. They include:

- Membership -the portion that describes the different kinds of membership.
- Supremacy Clause.

Several other articles are required to mirror the ADHA Bylaws. Since it was impossible to retain a consistent format with the ADHA Model Bylaws, the current MDHA Bylaws were integrated into the Model Bylaws format. The changes look significant due to the new format, but very few content changes were made to the current MDHA Bylaws. These changes were approved by the MDHA membership at the Spring CE business meeting. The MDHA Bylaws can be viewed on our website at montanadha.org.
Plans for the 2011 MDHA Annual Session to be held in Kalispell are under way! Please mark your schedules to join us on October 6, 7, and 8th at the Hilton Garden Inn. Our schedule begins with an MDHA Board of Trustees meeting on Thursday from 8am to 12noon. CE begins at 1pm with a presentation by Anne O’Kelley Wetmore, RDH, BSDH, MSDH, assistant professor at Eastern Washington State University, Department of Dental Hygiene. Her topic specifically addresses issues concerning women’s oral health, “Taking Care of the Girls and Their Moms.” This evidence-based program will provide information on women’s health from infancy through childbearing years. A hosted social event is to be held that evening when the Silent Auction begins.

On Friday, October 7th, CE will begin at 8am with a presentation entitled “You See What You Believe...What Do You Believe about the Future of Your Profession?” by Becky Smith, Ed.D, Chair of Vistage International. She believes we are all leaders and get to choose what is best for the future starting with ourselves. Leaders at all levels need to take responsibility for creating the story of the future. We as health professionals can no longer shape our future in isolation or focus on older models that are no longer relevant. Becky addresses what that means for each of us, our profession, and health system to which we belong. The midday session will highlight the President’s Lunch, the MDHA Business Meeting and MSUGF Dental Hygiene Student Table Clinics. At the late afternoon session, we will hear from Karen Hays, RDH, BS; “Aging Gracefully – Give Them Something to Smile About,” addressing the most recent statistics on aging and discussing the oral ramifications of the most common diseases and conditions related to the aging process. MSUGF Dental Hygienists Students will present another session of Table Clinics. All attendees will be offered the opportunity to attend the Installation of the MDHA Board of Trustees and the Officers of the Student Members of the American Dental Hygienists’ Association.

An MDHA Board of Trustees meeting is scheduled to be held on Saturday, October 8th at 7am to begin the activities of the day. CE begins at 8:30am with a presentation by Rita Lopez, MSN, APRN-BC, an Adult Nurse Practitioner, Board Certified with over 25 years clinical experience in acute and critical care and most recently occupational medicine. “Blood Borne Pathogens and Infectious Disease: Recognition and Recommended Actions” will be her topic title, which is intended to review the definitions, actions and evaluation of blood borne pathogens and the recommended care of the exposed dental professional. A review of common infectious diseases will also be reviewed for the dental professional which will include tuberculosis, pertussis, MRSA, influenza and other communicable diseases that we may encounter in the clinical setting.

At 11am, Karen Hays will address us with “Dental Caries: Advancements in Detection and Disease Management.” The course will address trends in caries epidemiology, describe new diagnostic technologies, and discuss minimally invasive approaches to managing this disease. The 2011 Annual Session of the MDHA will officially adjourn at 1pm.

Reservations can be made for the Kalispell Hilton Garden Inn by calling 406.756.4500 and mention the Montana Dental Hygienists Association to get the special rate of $95.00 per room. We look forward to seeing everyone in Kalispell in October!

Sandy Davis, RDH
2011 MDHA Annual Session Chair

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**MDHA AWARD NOMINATIONS**

Do you know of someone you would like recognized with an award from MDHA? Every year, we present awards at our Annual Session in the fall. If you would like to nominate someone for any of the following awards, please contact me by July 31, 2011:

- Employer of the Year
- Rookie Hygienist of the Year—must be a member of MDHA/ADHA practicing for less than 5 years
- Rural Hygienist of the Year—must be a member of MDHA/ADHA practicing in a rural area
- Component Award—each component gives an award to one of their members who has gone above and beyond.

Lisa Wordal, RDH MDHA Past President
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rdh1993@gmail.com

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**MAY is National Older American’s Month**

2011 Graduates!

Become part of the ADHA/MDHA network!

Visit [http://www.adha.org/news/studentconversion.htm](http://www.adha.org/news/studentconversion.htm) to convert your membership from Student to Active!
Membership Investment Opportunity

We all know that the country is in a state of economic recession. This means that we have to be smart with our money, right? Well ADHA/MDHA has a deal for you! In a recent newsletter, the ADHA encouraged dental hygienists to invest in themselves. The membership fees should no longer be viewed as dues but rather as an investment in ourselves and our profession. Every day the ADHA/MDHA works for all dental hygienists, members and non-members alike. They address employment issues, educational program regulations, practice act expansions, and many other important topics. They constantly promote us.

You probably became a dental hygienist because you wanted to help people. Well let us not forget to care for ourselves and to keep our profession strong and healthy too. To our current members, we thank you for your continued support. To non-members, we ask that this be the year that you consider joining with us at ADHA/MDHA. From free publications to professional discounts to safeguarding your future, your ADHA/MDHA membership investment will surely yield nothing but big returns. If you have any questions or concerns about membership, please feel free to contact me.

Jolynn Orth, MDHA Membership Chair
jolynnorth@yahoo.com 406-207-1916

We got together with our “old and new” friends and colleagues for a fun and educational weekend (7 CEUs) at Fairmont Hot Springs Resort. Susan Wngrove, RDH, FADIA presented "Optimal Peri-Implant Therapy; Science, Systems and Success!", sponsored by Paradise Dental Technologies. We gained an understanding of the science of implant dentistry along with the placement, restoration and maintenance of implant dentistry. We learned the verbal skills to confidently present implants in order to gain case acceptance from our patients. This course combined clinical knowledge with a system for successful peri-implant maintenance, assessment, instrumentation and monitoring for all the challenges of implantology. We are lucky to have Susan living in Missoula now; so we will see her more often. Next year we will be in Great Falls for Spring CE.
BILLINGS TRUSTEE: Shasta Jiracek, RDH

I want to thank all the hygienists who helped with the Oral Screenings in the elementary schools for the 2010-2011 year. This would not be possible without the dedication of the volunteers and I look forward to your continued support. We had a component meeting in February with guest speakers Daryl Galbavy and Karlene Bostick from Straumann speak on “Regeneration VS. Repair” and how Emdogain makes a difference in that process. One CEU was awarded to those in attendance. Normally we have a Spring Social but things get to be so busy with the end of the school year and Memorial Day so look for an email regarding a Summer Social. In September we will resume with Component Meetings and guest speakers. If anyone has topic suggestions please let me know my email is hastabe_shasta@yahoo.com. Have a wonderful summer.

HELENA CO-TRUSTEES: Desiree Sehr, RDH and Amy Eikomstead, RDH

I hope everyone is getting a piece of sunshine! We have had a busy, busy winter/spring here in Helena.

First of all, a special thanks to all the hygienists who participated in Lobby Day on January 21st. We were blessed to have the ADHA President, Caryl Loftis Sohle, RDH here with us offering support. Also, a shout out thank you for everyone who volunteered their time to visit schools and Head Start programs in our area for National Children’s Dental Health Month.

Dr. Nick Smith, a Chiropractor at Active Life Chiropractic Centre was generous enough to speak with us in February. This meeting had a great turnout and 1 CEU was given to those who attended.

Like last year, our component set up a booth for Heart of the Matter at St. Peter’s Hospital. This was a great opportunity to educate the public. We provided brochures, toothbrushes, toothpaste, and floss.

We hope to see you all at Race for the Cure this year on May 21st! If there are any new hygienists in the area we would love to hear from you. Amy Eikomstead Desiree Sehr a_gott@hotmail.com desireesehr@hotmail.com

BOZEMAN TRUSTEE: Erica Hagen, RDH

Greetings all! The Bozeman component started off the month of December with the Adopt a Family project through the Salvation Army. Thank you to all those who donated, as everything on the family’s list along with a little extra was able to be gifted! In February, several hygienists volunteered their time to participate in Children’s Dental Health Month. Several hygienists took it upon themselves to personally contact the local schools where they provided oral health education and/or dental screenings. Your dedication and volunteerism is appreciated. Also, we are pleased to announce that our study club has reconvened. In March, nineteen hygienists assembled to meet our newest local oral surgeon, Dr. John Holtzen. Dr. Holtzen presented a one hour lecture refreshing us on Managing Medical Emergencies. While at the meeting, several participants offered valuable suggestions for future CE topics. In May, we have one final study club meeting planned before disbanding for the summer. Susan Wingrove, the MDHA Spring CE speaker and Missoula’s newest resident, has graciously agreed to be our guest lecturer. The presentation will be Thursday, May 19th at 6:45pm at the Cosmetic Surgical Arts Centre. The lecture topic is still being determined. If there are any hygienists new to the area or who want to be on the email list, please contact us. Thanks and Happy Spring!

Tracy Hull 406-240-7723 Jolynn Orth 406-207-1916 fullhull@msn.com jolynnorth@yahoo.com

MSU-GF DH Class of 2011: Kim Dunlap, RDH Student Liaison

MSU-GF Award Presentation
Kim Dunlap—MDHA President Elect
Rachelle Racine—Association Membership Award
Colleen Grass—MDHA President
Amy Brown—Association Scholarship Award
Jason Olson—Student President Recognition

White Coat Ceremony
Students reciting the “Oath of Dental Hygiene”

Can you remember the stress, frustration, challenge and rewards of hygiene school. Well 16 new graduates can now say remember when…..

Pinning ceremony for the class of 2011 was held May 6th. In attendance to present awards on behalf of MDHA was President Colleen Grass. Kim Dunlap, MDHA President-Elect was selected by the students as guest speaker.

More in student news, this year an additional computer exam was added to the WREB. Effective January 2011, the WREB Dental Hygiene Examination is a two-part exam: Clinical and Process of Care. The Dental Hygiene Process of Care Exam is an interactive computer exam that simulates the process of dental hygiene care in a clinical setting. The patient-based exam begins at the initial assessment phase of dental hygiene care and continues through the outcomes phase of treatment.
GET TO KNOW ANDREA

Name and Credentials: Andrea Anderson, RDH, BA

I live in: Stevensville, MT. I am married to Bob Anderson (34 yrs. now!), and we have one son, Dane, who is 27 and is a Respiratory Therapist in Bozeman, and we have a basset hound, Quincy. Bob is currently working as the Director of YouthBuild at MSU Northern in Havre.

New Favorite Motto: Existing in continuous creative response to whatever is present

Hobbies: Griz Football (north end zone crazy), rafting, yoga, golf, nutrition/cooking (I am a Weight Watcher Leader also)

I attended dental hygiene school at: University of Detroit. I completed my BA in sociology at University of Montana.

My current position as a dental hygienist is: I retired from private practice hygiene after 30 yrs. to pursue other interests, which included owning and managing a Juice and smoothie bar in Flagstaff, AZ while also teaching in the Dental Hygiene Program at NAU for 3 yrs. Upon moving back to Stevensville, I helped create, and now teach, the Chair Side Dental Assisting Program at Dickinson Lifelong Learning Center in Missoula, as well as teaching a Dental X-ray Certification Exam Prep Course, Medical Terminology, and Anatomy and Physiology courses.

Things you most enjoy about being a dental hygienist: The ability to utilize my knowledge, skills, and experience in so many ways. Over the years, I have been a WREB Examiner, a clinician, worked in Public Health, a DH teacher, and Past President of MDHA. I also found it rewarding to be able to make a difference in peoples’ lives health wise, as well as helping them to overcome their fear of dentistry.

Most gratifying thing that I have accomplished as a dental hygienist: Teaching is my passion, and it is gratifying to help others to accomplish their goal of achieving a rewarding career in the dental field.

Mentor(s) and why: My Dad, who taught me the value of a job well done. Also Fumiko Saito, who founded the DH Program at Carroll College and gave me my first DH teaching position, because she was such a well-rounded, intelligent, interesting person who saw no limits to what she could do or learn about in life.

I believe the dental hygiene profession should concentrate the biggest part of its resources on this goal: Providing access to quality dental care to all people—indigent, rural, children, elderly, etc.

How do you balance work and personal life: Trying to carve out some “me” time each day, especially for some type of activity such as yoga or walking to counter stress.

The most important thing ADHA membership has done for me: Keeping me abreast of new scientific information/procedures, and fighting for the advancement of Dental Hygiene as a profession legislatively on both state and national levels.

Which one is she??

This one is easier!!
A NOTE FROM THE TRUSTEE

I recently returned from the ADHA Winter BOT meeting in Chicago. Preparations for that meeting were extensive and exhausting. ADHA staff is working diligently to assure that vital programs and services are funded and that ADHA remains at the front of emerging trends regarding DH.

NEWS REEL

Wm Wrigley/ADHA Grant

Congratulations to Judy Harbrecht on receiving a grant for her Golden Oldies Clinic and PACE program. I am very happy to have such a worthy program addressing access to care receive one of the awards in our District.

ADHA Brand Update

Thank you to the Constituents who have increased the use of the ADHA logo in co-branding. As I told Wyoming DHA... I am NOT asking constituents to change their logo. The ADHA Brand is so much more than just a logo. Utilization of the branding material by constituents creates a connection with ADHA among the membership.

What is a Brand?

Is it a brochure? A Web site? An ad? A brand is really none of these things. A brand is essentially an image, but more importantly a PROMISE (Access, 2007). It is what we are to our members and what we have to offer potential members.

(Sharma, 2007)

Tonette Hollingsworth, District X Trustee
tonette.trustee@gmail.com (406)723-8286.
MDHA MISSION STATEMENT
The mission of the Montana Dental Hygienists’ Association is to advance the art and science of dental hygiene by improving the public’s total health through: ensuring access to quality oral health care, awareness of cost effective benefits of prevention, promotion of the highest standards of dental hygiene education, licensure, practice and research; and provide representation, promotion, and preservation of the interests of dental hygienists.