PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE . . .

As this MDHA season mellows a bit for the upcoming summer months, I look back at this past winter season and see the whirl-wind of goals we set out to attain. The MDHA board started with a get-together and board meeting in Great Falls in November. We first gathered at MDHA Secretary, Diedri Durocher’s home for an early dinner and for ice-breaker games. The majority of the group then headed out to participate in the Special Smiles Program at the Great Falls Fairgrounds that evening. This program was hugely orchestrated by Bozeman Trustee and Alternate Delegate, Crystal Spring. During the Special Smiles event, 32 Great Falls-MSU hygiene students also gathered to provide dental screenings and fluoride treatments for Special Smiles athletes. Once the MDHA members completed the event they headed to the Old Ursuline Centre in Great Falls where they were greeted by a spooky scavenger hunt through the old dormitory rooms at the Ursuline Centre before staying the night.

MDHA had a great turn-out for the following Saturday morning board meeting. President-Elect, Lorie Becker presented changes to the current MDHA Strategic Plan and helped set lofty goals to have us implement by Spring CE, 2014. Then the hard work began . . .

The first goal was to develop a research project that Great Falls-MSU students would conduct to identify health care facilities that would utilize a dental hygienist with Limited Access Licensure in their facilities. The initial target was nursing homes, assisted living facilities and retirement communities. The information gathered would then be presented by the students during a workshop that would coincide with Spring CE, 2014. Next, a complete “LAP” workshop needed to be put together. The goal was to provide a day of training where attending hygienists would learn how to obtain LAP licensure, understand equipment needs, insurance and billing processing, business-building practices, day-in-the-life of an LAP Practitioner, and an understanding of the overall need in this developing profession.

Also during the busy winter months, each MDHA component Trustee and Co-Trustee through-out the state worked to provide short CE courses and provide communication from MDHA with the hygienists in their areas.

Other goals MDHA is still working on are implementing a Dry Mouth Campaign. MDHA plans to partner with MDA and the Montana Pharmacy Association to provide literature to alleviate dry-mouth symptoms. We are also working on ways to develop relationships with our upcoming legislative members.

As this Spring CE drew near, Lorie Becker and Tonette Hollingsworth organized the professionals to speak during the LAP workshop and gathered the literature to provide to attendees. Tonette put together a workbook, and moderated during the workshop day. All was implemented as a two-day Spring CE event April 11-12, 2014. Tonette also organized the Spring CE day and had Pam Hughes, RDH, MS provided a course on Women’s Aging Complexities and the Oral Health Connection. Pam’s course was energetic, information-packed and coincided well with our LAP program goals.

We still have lofty goals to obtain as the 2014-2015 season approaches. MDHA continues to monitor issues affecting the hygiene profession, promote access to care, provide thought-provoking educational programs and maintain relationships with ADHA down to our local component levels. Next on the horizon, MDHA Delegates and Alternate Delegates will attend ADHA – CLL being held June 18-24, 2014. While there, they will have the opportunity to meet other delegates and learn about issues that affect dental hygiene from across the country; adopt policies, and elect new officers and ultimately plan for the future of the profession.

Once again, MDHA board members are changing out and there will be board positions open for the upcoming MDHA season. I ask you to please consider taking a position with the MDHA Board of Trustees. I think you know that it is through our combined efforts that we protect our great profession of dental hygiene in Montana the way we enjoy it today and at the same time, develop opportunities to expand our roles in the changing future of healthcare.

I want to thank Past-President Tonette Hollingsworth, President-Elect Lorie Becker and all of the other Officers, Committee Chairs, and Trustees for their devotion during this MDHA season. Through your vision and hard work, MDHA made significant strides we can be proud of in the years to come. This could not have happened without you! I look forward to seeing all of you in Great Falls at MDHA Annual Session in September!
A Message from the President-Elect . . .

Hola! A Margarita toast of appreciation to all who attended, spoke, and worked so diligently to organize the LAP and Spring CE workshops! It sounded like everything went well and was extremely informative. (I was in Mexico for a family wedding!) I’d like to publically thank all the MSU Great Falls Senior Dental Hygiene students for conducting the statewide nursing home survey. Furthermore a special thanks to Jessica Bamgarner, Nikki Whalen and Bethany Brooks for evaluating the data and presenting it during the LAP workshop. Jessica commented the work was worth it when she was able to share the list of nursing homes requesting on-site dental hygienists. She said it all felt “real.” It is real and the doors of opportunity are bursting open for Montana dental hygienists willing to take advantage of the opportunities as they come.

Jill Rethman, RDH, BA, Editor in Chief of ‘Dimensions of Dental Hygiene Journal’ April 2014 issue informs us of two very important reports that were recently distributed to the public. First, “The Role of Dental Hygienists in Providing Access to Oral Health Care” from the National Governors Association (nga.org) and the second, “Outlook Handbook: Dental Hygienists” from the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) (bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/dental-hygienists.htm). These two reports are spreading the word that dental hygienists are a vital and underutilized workforce capable to provide increased access to oral health care for underserved populations in atypical locations. Furthermore BLS states “employment of dental hygienists is expected to grow 33% from 2012 to 2022, much faster than the average for all occupations.” Jill’s “Editor’s Note” goes on to explain that due to the increase in aging populations, who are retaining their natural teeth, the need for dental hygiene care will continue to grow. Also as new federal health insurance laws extend dental insurance for children, request for sealants, prophies, and fluoride varnishes will become more prominent. Please join the Colgate Oral Health Network Webinar “Dentistry and the Affordable Care Act” Tuesday May 6, 2014 @ 6 p.m. Mountain Time,  1 Free CE is offered. Visit colgateoralhealthnetwork.com to register and see a full listing of webinars offered.

The future of dental hygiene nationally looks bright and I believe it looks pretty bright for dental hygienists in Montana too! Under the leadership of MDHA President Tracy Hull much progress has occurred. MDHA implemented research collaboration with MSU Great Falls Dental Hygiene Program. Research results were shared during the LAP workshop to encourage LAP licensure, increase LAP workforce and ultimately improve access to care. Research results were shared with Connie LaSalle, MT State Ombudsman. Connie is pleased with the progressive efforts of MDHA and looks forward to our ongoing relationship. The Area Health Education Center (AHEC) MSU Bozeman is very interested in collaborating with MDHA to stay abreast of the expansion of LAP activity in Montana as dental hygienists expand workforce statewide. Research results will be presented and shared during the Governor’s Conference on Aging May 8 in Bozeman and shared with Governor Bullock. MDHA will continue its research relationship with MSU Great Falls Dental Hygiene Department by introducing new research topics yearly. The implementation of a yearly research project truly makes MDHA a visible and progressive association in charge of its profession. President Tracy Hull also collaborated with the Montana Pharmacy Association and Montana Dental Association to develop a statewide dry mouth campaign. Implementation for this program will occur May 2015. We currently are seeking volunteers to serve on this progressive workforce. Please let myself or Tracy know of your interest. We need you!

(Continued on page 3)
CONGRATULATIONS
CARA RECK!

Cara was chosen from a list of ADHA members in Montana to receive a free XP Technology no sharpen instrument from American Eagle Instruments. American Eagle Instruments supports all dental hygienists’ but wants to recognize dental hygienists’ who support their professional association. ADHA’s mission is to advance the art and science of dental hygiene, and to promote the highest standards of education and practice in the profession.

Cara chose American Eagle Instruments XP Blackjack with a resin handle.

To learn more about American Eagle’s patented no sharpen XP Technology go to their web site: www.am-eagle.com

Thank you Cara Reck for supporting your association and thank you American Eagle Instruments for supporting dental hygienists’ in Montana!

(Continued from page 2)

Leadership is strong in MDHA and much more is to come for the members of MDHA. If you are interested in speaking opportunities, leadership positions on our board, or need help with an LAP situation or simply have a question or two…. I invite you to call or email myself or Deb Porter, Executive Director of MDHA (see the MDHA website). Deb or I will surely get you in contact with the right person!

ADHA Annual Session House of Delegates (HOD) will occur this June in Las Vegas. I look forward to representing you and learning as much as I can to bring back and share with you all! Please attend the conference if you can, if not this year perhaps next year or…. consider running for Delegate or Alternate Delegate for the 2015 year! Let me know prior to the September MDHA Annual Session Meeting! It’s an amazing opportunity and will surely light your fire for dental hygiene!

FYI: Mexico with my family was wonderful. My sister-in-laws wedding was very beautiful. I sincerely apologize I was not present during Spring CE. So far I feel a bit MIA, but trust me I’ve been working like a beaver in the background for you. Even while on vacation I connected with a Washington D.C. lobbyist and gained a great friend and ally to help us here in Montana as needed! Also I will be attending a Denta Quest Foundation meeting May 19-21 seeking funding opportunities for Montana Dental Hygienists. I will keep you informed as opportunity continues to knock on our door. Our future looks bright!

lorie_becker@yahoo.com   406-224-0507

Lorie Becker RDH, MS, LAP
MDHA President Elect

(Continued from page 2)
HYGIENE BULLETIN

Sealants for Smiles Around Montana

It’s been an exciting year in Public Health in Montana!! The Montana Dental Association’s sealant program, Sealants for Smiles!, has been in full swing this year. The program partnered with several hygienists’, dentists, dental assistants and parent volunteers in 84 schools and screening approximately 8000 children across the state. In Billings, the SFS! along with the Billings Oral Health Alliance and its great group of volunteers saw over 1200 children and placed nearly 2000 sealants in the school district. What a great service to these children! A big thank you to all the volunteers across the state that helped make this program such a huge success.

MDHA held a Limited Access Permit informative workshop at Spring CE in April at beautiful Fairmont Hot Springs. The workshop was very informative for those considering the LAP.

Flathead Lake Dental Mobile Unit

The Montana Migrant & Seasonal Farmworker Council is looking for dental hygienists to work at the Flathead Lake Dental Mobile Unit starting around July 21st. The exact dates depend on the time of cherry picking. The Migrant Dental Mobile is 3 years old and has 2 dental chairs. The mobile unit is lovely to work in and the Flathead area is a spectacular place to be in July. The Migrant Council pays each dental hygienist $25/hour. It is possible that they might have a house provided to stay at but you will need to provide your own food. The day starts around 10:00 am and lasts till 5 - 7 pm depending on the need for services.

The average yearly income of these families is under $10,000, and most have no insurance. Some come from other states in the hopes of finding work picking cherries, while others have lived here all their lives. Most of the adults speak Spanish with the younger children interpreting for them.

I worked two days on the mobile unit last year and it was extremely rewarding. The ultrasonic unit was great and the staff was very helpful. The Migrant workers were very very appreciative of my services.

I would encourage anyone who wants a cultural dental experience to sign up with Vicki Thuesen (vthuesen@mtmigrantcouncil.org). If you have any questions for me please call or e-mail me. They are always in need of dental hygienists’ so if it’s possible for you to help out please do so.

Heidi Halverson, RDH
406-550-4482    hlhmontana@aol.com

What is QPP?

Quarterly Payment Plan is a way to pay your ADHA/MDHA dues in four payments throughout the year.

Pay only $51.75/quarter

ADHA members on the Quarterly Plan will be charged on the following dates:

**Winter Cycle**
- Quarter 1 payment – January 1st
- Quarter 2 payment – April 1st
- Quarter 3 payment – July 1st
- Quarter 4 payment – October 1st

**Summer Cycle**
- Quarter 1 payment - July 1st
- Quarter 2 payment – October 1st
- Quarter 3 payment – January 1st
- Quarter 4 payment – April 1st

Any existing, new or lapsed ADHA member may join the QPP at any time. Contact ADHA Member Services @ 312/440-8900 and press 1.
Limited Access Permit Update

April 11, 2014 MDHA sponsored a very successful training workshop for hygienists interested in providing LAP services to qualified facilities. Several speakers provided information to help perspective and current LAP holders to navigate the waters. This is a very exciting and forward thinking time for dental hygiene. The workshop was videotaped with the goal of uploading the session to the website for viewing by all interested parties. Presenters included:

- Danielle Wood of Xerox/MT DPHHS Medicaid - Medicaid Enrollment, Eligibility, Claims, Software
- Julie Jaksha of Headwaters Economic Resource & Development/Women in Business
- Great Falls College - MSU- presented research results: Mt Assisted Living Facilities
- MDHA board members - application, where to provide services, current LAP site examples

Congrats and Thanks!

MDHA Past President, Tonette Hollingsworth, RDH, of Butte, accepted a position with the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services as Oral Health Program coordinator, her e-mail is THollingsworth@mt.gov. This spring she also received her Masters degree.

Dianne Klemann, RDH of Billings accepted the appointment by the governor to the Board of Dentistry. Diane works full time in private practice and is a WREB examiner.

Thank you to Jen Porter, RDH for all your years of services on the Board of Dentistry.

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**Billings**
Hello and Happy Spring! I’m sorry to report that the Billings Component has been a little quiet since the fall. Our dreadful winter made it hard for people to want to get out and about. We did have a few great CE’s from Dr. Amy and Dr. Brian Fuller. They discussed topics related to periodontal disease and implants. They always do a great job of presenting and answering questions. We appreciate the time they spend with us.

Our Component is taking a break from CE meetings for the summer. However, keep an eye on your email for a social event sometime this summer. Please contact me at the below email if you need to be added to the email list. We will start up with some meetings again in the fall. I have a few ideas in mind for those meetings, but if anyone is interested in something specific, please let me know.

Billings Component members have also been very busy with the School Screenings and Sealant program.

I have had great experiences at the two schools I worked at. It has been a lot of fun providing such a needed service to these kids. I would like to extend a big Thank You to all who volunteered this year. I’ll be looking forward to seeing you all at the Summer Social!!

Suzie Rogge, RDH  MDHA Billings Trustee  suziesun@hotmail.com

**Bozeman**
The Ski Resorts are closed for the season and we are ready for Spring!!! We have had a fabulous winter. January 21st Dr. Steven Helm of Bozeman Periodontics provided continuing education on Oral Pathology. We had a large turnout for the event. We had a fun time trying to figure out “Oh my, What is that?” on his oral pathology slides. This was a great review for everyone. And we would like to say a special thanks to Dr. Helm and his wife Colleen for all the wonderful professionals in our community who donate their time to present to us.

In March we held an Oral Cancer Screening in association with Bozeman Deaconess Hospital and the Oral Cancer Foundation. This was a wonderful opportunity to work together with other healthcare professionals in our battle against oral cancer.

We are looking forward to listening to our very own Bonnie Young, RDH present at our next CE on June 5th at 6:30 pm (location to be announced). Bonnie will be presenting "Sugar, its not just about cavities".

Happy Spring Everyone!!!

Lorie Becker RDH, MS, LAP

**Butte**
We’re slowly creating a more cohesive hygiene community in the Butte area by keeping each other more aware (through mass emails) of area CPR classes, substitution possibilities, office vacancies, etc. This has proved helpful to several area hygienists already, from a few seeking extra work to others seeking substitutes.

At 6:30 on June 18, a Wednesday evening, we have an hour presentation planned by Jennifer Workman, our Sales Rep for Philips Oral Healthcare who is based in Spokane. She will be covering all of the Sonicare oral health aids as well as products such as PerioRX, Fluoridex and BreathRX, etc. Participants will be able to order professional trial Sonicare brushes, and get a bite to eat as well. We plan to have it at Drs. Stephen Walters and Jaden Erwin’s periodontal office at 25 Discovery Drive in Butte. More details to come as the date approaches.

Also, periodontists Dr. Walters and Dr. Erwin have generously offered to sponsor a lecturer on the subject of periodontics for area hygienists for sometime in the future. They have asked that we make the decision on who we would like to have give the presentation. Please send any suggestions you have to me and I will submit them to the periodontists for their final approval. Thank you!

Wanda Haller, RDH
MDHA Butte Trustee  wandakp@hotmail.com  491-3013

**Helena**
The Helena Component has had a fun and educational year. In November, we were lucky enough to have Yvett Worman, RRT, RPSGT from Sleep Diagnostics in Helena offer 1 CE on Sleep Disorders. We had our annual Christmas ornament gift exchange party in December and also collected gift items and donations for our “adopted” Christmas family. In January, Dr. Roger Kiesling, DDS, presented on Bite Splints and everyone received 1 CE for attending. We also held a component meeting in April and had Dr. Juden Erwin, DDS, MSD present on “Updates in Periodontics” and offered 1 CE. We are very thankful for all the wonderful professionals in our community who donate their time to present to us.

May 9th, we visited the Florence Crittenton Home to speak to the Parents As Teachers (PAT) group. We educated mothers with children ages 0-3 about nutrition, home care instructions, and what to expect at their first dental visit.

For all you Helena area hygienists, be checking you emails for details on upcoming meetings and events! If you are new to the area or not receiving our emails please contact us.

Amy Ekonomstead, RDH  aekonomstead@gmail.com
Cara Reck, RDH  cara.reck@gmail.com
MDHA Helena-Co Trustees

**Kalispell**
Well hello from the great NW part of the state! The snow is melting and people are out hitting golf balls, fishing and just enjoying the sparse sun that we’re getting this spring. We’ve had some great meetings up here; Alisha and I want to thank the wonderful ladies that have come and supported our local component. To start the beginning of the year, we had Dr. Kyle Tubbs, ENT come and speak about HPV and oral lesions. A big thanks to Dr. Bax and Dr. Bauman who could join us at that meeting; we’re always glad to have dentists come and share in the learning. March was National Nutrition Month so we had Holly Nickels a Nutritionist at The Summit come and share with us information pertaining to healthy eating and effects of poor eating habits on dental health. As Alisha and I have been facilitating these local meetings we have seen a great increase in attendees. Thanks to all the wonderful hygienists, assistants and dentists in the Flathead who come out and support our continuing education!

Several of our local hygienists donated their time helping out with the various scheduled days of Sealant Day. One particular day held at Elrod Elementary they saw 98 kids, placed 186 sealants & 97 applications of fluoride varnish. Way to go ladies for helping our local children and teaching healthy habits! Ruder Elementary school also had several local area hygienists there applying fluoride varnish and sealants.

Shepard’s Hands is a local organization in the Kalispell/Whitefish area providing dental help to those with low income qualifications. Several hygienists and dentists in the area have been volunteering their time and efforts to reach out to those who need better access to dental care. It continues to grow and provide treatments to those who are in desperate need so if you are willing or interested in knowing more about this or would like to help by offering your time, please contact Carol McGuire for more information. Alisha was there Monday night April 21st and
helped by triaging patients, administering anesthesia and helped with emergency extractions. Kaylin Just and Angie with Dr. Clark’s office were also there helping alongside Dr. Buffington, Dr. Clark, and Dr. Lindeman.

Hopefully those that attended Spring Session in Fairmont had a wonderful time. I heard the LAP session was terrific! I wasn’t able to attend but Alisha was present and representing our wonderful component at the MDHA BOT meetings. With the new year for MDHA starting in September I’d like to extend an invite to anyone who would be interested in serving on the MDHA board as a component trustee for the Flathead/Kalispell area. If you are interested feel free to contact Tracy Hull, thrdh20@outlook.com or Lorie Becker, lorie_becker@yahoo.com.

Hope everyone makes it through the wet spring to enjoy the warm summer months ahead! I know I’m definitely looking forward to the sunshine and hot days on the lake! Take Care and Happy Brushing!

Shawna Kugler, RDH shawna_kugler@yahoo.com
Alisha Moberley, RDH moberley_a@hotmail.com
MDHA Kalispell Area Co-Trustees

Missoula
Happy Spring from the Missoula Component! It’s been a busy year so far. We started out the year with several hygienists participating in Missoula’s Annual Project Homeless Connect, offering dental screenings, cleanings and oral hygiene instruction to those in need. Then, for February’s National Children’s Dental Month, Give Kids a Smile Day was hosted at several local offices where local hygienists’ helped provide dental screenings and care for children. In February and March, two local orthodontists hosted separate continuing education classes on lingual orthodontia and Invisalign. Back by popular demand, hygienists’ volunteered at Sentinel High School’s Career Days, where high school juniors were given education on possible careers in the dental field. A special thanks to Noel Paschke, RDH, MS for giving our study group an interesting and interactive education course on Pacemakers and Dental Ultrasonics! We are so lucky to have her in our area! Then in April, several hygienists’ attended an interesting continuing education course on dental implants while enjoying dinner and wine provided by Missoula’s delicious restaurant, The Silk Road. Planning has begun; Missoula will host the 20015 Annual Session, so mark your calendars for September 17-19, 2015. Another busy fall and year is planned and we would love to see you at all our functions! Please contact me with any suggestions on subjects or speakers you may have for future meetings. I would love to hear from you!

Jenny Hawthorne, RDH MDHA Missoula Trustee
Jmms6181@hotmail.com

SMADHA
Congratulations to the Class of 2014. At the Pinning ceremony junior student, Katie Muehlberg was awarded the $1000 MDHA scholarship. Senior student, Natalya McLees was recognized by her peers and awarded her first year ADHA Membership.

Vanessa J Rocheleau RDH, CDA
MDHA SMADHA Liaison

Bachelor Degree Completion
This is designed for students who are graduates of Associate of Applied Science degree programs in Dental Hygiene which are accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation of the ADA.

Bachelor of Applied Science with a Thematic Concentration in Dental Hygiene

Complete 15 credits in Advanced Dental Hygiene and 15 credits in Health Administration or other supporting coursework.

New Cohort starts Fall 2014

To apply for Acceptance: Call MSUB’s Transfer Learner Specialist at (406) 657-2208 madeline.goalswyk@msubillings.edu
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.

Classy & Sassy
2014 MDHA Annual Session

Sept. 25-27
Great Falls, MT

Karen Davis, RDH, BSDH
Think Out Side the Mouth
Pathways to Health

Marge Foran, RDH, BA
Myofunctional Therapy

Edie Gibson, RDH, BSDH
Peri-implant Therapy
Generation Rx

Dr. Amy fuller, D.D.S.
Treatment of Moderate to Advanced Periodontitis
Oral Pathology