President’s Message

Hello everyone!

I am Amber Reap, your newly installed MDHA president. I want to start off by telling you a little about myself. I was pretty much born and raised in a tiny town in southwestern MT. I attended dental hygiene school in Sheridan, WY, graduating in 2010. After temping in the Billings area for about a year, I moved closer to home when I was offered a permanent position in a private office in Dillon, MT. I worked in this practice, that I loved, for about six years before I decided that it was time for a change. It was difficult to leave my patients that I had grown so fond of and coworkers that had become my best friends. However, I had the opportunity to gain my limited access permit and move my career path in a different direction. As a LAP, I started with the Ag Worker’s Health and Services providing care in the clinic in Dillon as well as on outreach trips. Prior to Covid, I was also seeing patients in our local nursing home and the SouthWest MT Community Health Center and I hope to be again soon. I enjoy the diversity of these roles and the focus of patient education and medical/dental integration. At ten plus years of hygiene, I still love my job!

I am honored to be your MDHA president this year. I was an active member of SADHA and have been an ADHA member since I graduated in 2010. I joined the MDHA board of trustees in 2014 as a co-trustee for the Butte component and have held several positions since, including membership chair and treasurer. My time on the board has helped me to see the true value of membership. For me, it’s not about the discount on my personal liability insurance or the deals on CE, although both are nice perks! To me, membership is about an organization that is supporting me as a professional. I see on a state and national level how our organization advocates for hygienists, whether they are working in private practice, public health, education or somewhere in between. ADHA is giving hygienists a voice at the table in many important discussions, especially in the midst of a global pandemic. The more members we have the stronger our voice! If you are a current member, I want to thank you. If you are considering becoming a member, I encourage you to reach out to your board of trustees or a fellow hygienist that you know and ask what membership means to them. We are stronger together!

This year will likely be challenging as we face continuing struggles with the board of dentistry, legislation, and figuring out how to come together in an era of social distancing. As I write this message, I am looking forward to the first step in these challenges. Our board of trustees will meet virtually in a little over a week to define our strategic plan. (By the time this article comes out, we will have it ready to share with you all.) This is our commitment to the profession and a roadmap to how we will focus our energy throughout the year to benefit our membership. This process started at the member meeting in October when the board listened to what our members are asking us to achieve. For the board to be successful in fulfilling our strategic plan we need the continued support of our membership in each of these endeavors that we strike forward. This support comes from being active in your local components. Speaking to your dentists and your legislators. Volunteering, whether it be within the MDHA board of trustees or local community outreach programs. We are not sure if Lobby Day will be able to happen this year or how the legislative process will work yet, but become active and stay informed. Big things are accomplished when we have lots of people each doing their part! I look forward to a great year serving as your president!

Amber Reap,
RDH LAP
MDHA President

President Amber Reap with husband, Rob, and fur baby, Konah.
During 2020, MDHA has participated in Board of Dentistry (BOD) meetings and advocated for the addition of guidelines in determining what a “public health facility” is as part of the Limited Access Permit (LAP) Statute, MCA 37-4-405. During the meetings, the Montana Dental Association (MDA) was opposed to setting guidelines, especially related to schools. At the last meeting and in testimony to a legislative interim committee, MDA indicated they are preparing legislation to exclude schools from the definition of “public health facility”, rather than leave the decision up to the board. Additionally, one BOD member expressed his desire to review existing public health facilities previously included in Rule (ARM 24.13.509) to determine if they are still needed.

MDHA advocates that, given the existing dentist opposition to adding public health facilities, dental hygienists are not treated reasonably in BOD decisions. The lack of additions and guidelines for high-need schools may be in violation of active supervision legislation (MCA 37-1-122) to “potentially unreasonably restrain competition in trade or commerce.” A letter to the Commissioner of the Department of Labor has been submitted on behalf of the profession. The next BOD meeting to continue the discussion on setting guidelines will be held Friday, December 4, 2020.

Additional BOD activities related to the COVID-19 emergency declaration included volunteer licensing changes, temporary licensing for 2020 dental hygiene graduates under direct supervision, and simulation testing for dental students, but not dental hygienists, through 2020.

Preparations for the 67th Session of Montana Legislature have begun with a new lobbyist, Brad Longcake. MDHA membership decided at the Annual Meeting it is in the best interest of the public to propose legislation to add schools and medical settings to MCA 37-4-405. Bill language and messaging is currently being worked on by the Legislative Committee. If you are interested in participating in the Legislative Session please contact Tonette at holltone@isu.edu or (406)299-0826. Our theme this year is going to be “super fun” and it will make you smile according to our President. No hints just yet, but we look forward to your participation.

Tonette Hollingsworth, BOD & Legislative Chair

MDHA 2020-2021 Calendar

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>December 4, 2020</td>
<td>Board Of Dentistry (BOD) Meeting, Virtual</td>
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<tr>
<td>January, 2021 - TBD</td>
<td>Lobby Day at Capitol, if permitted</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 2021</td>
<td>Children’s Dental Health Month</td>
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<td>March 5, 2021</td>
<td>BOD Meeting, Helena</td>
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<td>April 2021</td>
<td>Oral Cancer Awareness Month</td>
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<td>April 17, 2021</td>
<td>Spring CE, Butte Copper King Hotel</td>
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<td>May 2021</td>
<td>GFC-MSU Pinning Ceremony, Great Falls</td>
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<td>June 4, 2021</td>
<td>BOD Meeting, Helena</td>
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<td>June 4-6, 2021</td>
<td>WREB Exam, Great Falls</td>
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<td>June 12-14, 2020</td>
<td>ADHA Annual Conference, Phoenix</td>
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<td>September 10, 2021</td>
<td>BOD Meeting, Helena</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 16-18, 2021</td>
<td>Annual Session, Missoula</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 2021</td>
<td>National Dental Hygiene Month</td>
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Save the Date!

MDHA Spring CE
Saturday, April 17, 2021
Copper King Hotel  Butte, MT
Jasmin Haley, RDH, MSDH, CDA

“It Takes a Village: Opioid Addiction & The Dental Professionals Role”

and

“The Inner Child: How Trauma Affects Susceptibility to Disease”

*may switch to virtual in case of Covid-19 restrictions.
HELENA
Due to COVID-19 concerns, many plans for our component have been put on hold. Our March 2020 component meeting was cancelled due to safety concerns of our members. We continued to plan for the 2020 MDHA Annual Session in Helena until it was transitioned to a virtual meeting by the MDHA Board of Trustees. Although we won’t be able to gather in-person this year for a Holiday Party, we collectively wish other members of the MDHA a happy and healthy holiday season!

Katie Glueckert, RDH, MSDH
Helena Component Trustee
katie.pottle@gmail.com

GREAT FALLS
Greetings from Great Falls! My name is Rosy and I am the new trustee for the Great Falls component. As you may expect, our component hasn’t been able to meet up since the COVID-19 pandemic found its way to our area. My goal over the next year will be to continue to build on the efforts of our last trustees, Risa and Ashley. I would love to plan some continuing education opportunities and social gatherings, but am well aware that our opportunities to do this may be limited over the next year. If any hygienists in the Great Falls area have any comments or concerns about our profession over the next year, please don’t hesitate to contact me. If I don’t know the answer, I’ll do my best to help you find it.

Rosaleen Handl, RDH, BS, LAP
Great Falls Component Trustee
mdhagfcomponent@gmail.com

BOZEMAN
Happy Fall from the Bozeman Component! I am looking forward to representing the Bozeman Component this year. We will try to plan a social event and CE as soon as appropriate. Until then I am going to be very active on the Bozeman Component Facebook page and add new hygienist around the area. I hope everyone enjoys the rest of this beautiful fall and is gearing up to play in the snow!

Lyndsey Jourdonnais, RDH
Bozeman Component Trustee

BILLINGS
Susie Rogge, RDH, LAP
Billings Component Trustee

EASTERN MONTANA
Seeking Volunteer!

KALISPELL
** ATTENTION ** Flathead Valley Hygienists! Have you been thinking of getting involved with MDHA? I have the perfect opportunity for you! I have been elected President Elect and Alternate Delegate for 2020-2021 year. I am looking for a new component trustee for our area. This is the perfect opportunity for you to get involved in a "no pressure" position with a few simple tasks. If you are interested PLEASE let me know ASAP and I can get you more information about this new open position. What a crazy year it’s been for the world. Here in the Flathead Valley winter is well on the way and we are ready for a fresh start in 2021!! Like all of you around the state, our CE’s have been over zoom or online, but we are THANKFUL to have those. At the end of October, RDH on Demand hosted a wine and cheese social at a local winery where they introduced their business to our valley hygienists and were welcomed with open arms. This will be a great service for the state of Montana!

Don’t forget to join our local Facebook page; search for "Kalispell Dental Hygiene Component" where you can find and post local requests, announcements, and informative articles.

Have a fantastic winter and make lots of memories!

Ellie Bicha, RDH, LAP
President Elect, Alt. Delegate, Flathead Valley Component Trustee

MISSOULA
Hello from the Missoula Component. Unfortunately we have not met as a group since Covid-19 hit us in March. I hope to do a Zoom meeting in the near future so we can all reconnect with each other.

As Chairperson of MDHA 2021 Annual Session I’m happy to report we’re on schedule with the planning so far. I will be reaching out to our local Hygienists in early 2021 to help plan for an amazing event. We had so much fun the last time we hosted it here. Thanks to those who have already volunteered to help!

Karen Thomas, RDH, LAP
Missoula Component Trustee

BUTTE
Hello All! We had a CE in January 2020 and I was planning one for later on and then COVID hit. I am hoping to plan something in the future. If anyone has any ideas let me know. I am also debating on starting a Butte Component Facebook page, and will send out invites for that to area hygienists when I get it going.

Maggie Matteson, RDH
Butte Component Trustee
magzmax@yahoo.com (406) 208-2480
To Be...or Not To Be...That is the Question
Guest Column by Past Presidents Judy Harbrecht, RDH & Patti Conroy, RDH

Don’t let organized dentistry dictate “who we are”. If it were not for Montana hygienists stepping outside the comfort zone of their operatories to promote and defend our education and licensure you wouldn’t have:

- Dental hygienist members on the Board of Dentistry
- Language in the Practice Act to fortify accreditation standards and protect your education as a requirement to provide your services
- Mandatory CE and CPR certification
- General Supervision
- Local Anesthesia Administration
- Limited Access Permit with proper credentials and reasonable parameters for its use
- Prescriptive Authority for Fluorides, subgingival medications and antibacterials
- Definitions and rules for the use of emerging technology
- Cooperative relationships with other health professional and public health organizations
- Recognition as a public health advocate amongst consumer and education groups

What we know:
- There is a continued lack of access to affordable and available oral health care.
- Dental hygienists are underutilized in the delivery of care.
- Organized dentistry (not necessarily your employer) attempts to restrict extended opportunities for hygienists, while supporting greater responsibilities for unlicensed personnel (dental assistants and other auxiliaries).
- These issues are not just a Montana problem, they are nationwide.
- Montana Dental Hygienists have always been on the leading edge of improvements to the health and safety of the public’s oral health.

What you can do:
- Stand up and be counted!
- Support your profession and your public voice (MDHA).
- Become an active participant in the legislative process (yes, 2021 is a legislative year in Montana). Please join our MDHA Legislative chair by serving on the legislative committee. Look at this as a great opportunity for growth, and volunteer!
- Monitor legislation and provide testimony (both written and oral) as it is vital to our efforts. We have truth and knowledge on our side which goes a long way with legislators. MDHA has been perceived for over 40 years of legislative involvement to be honest, forthright, altruistic, and on the right side of issues in the public’s best interest. We can help you perfect your skills in this arena.
- Write or call your legislators.

We Can Do It!

Sincerely,
Judy Harbrecht, RDH and Patti Conroy, RDH
Congratulations!

MDHA 2020 Rookie of the Year
Rosy Handl, RDH, BS, LAP

Dentsply Sirona
Today’s RDH 2020 Honor Award Recipients
Crystal Spring, RDH, BS, LAP & Heidi Halverson, RDH, BSDH, LAP

Strategic planning, held Saturday, Nov. 7th, went virtual for 2020. Thanks to the BOT for the many hours of hard work! Thanks to Tonette for the fantastic pictograph (left) summarizing our goals for this next year!
Hi, my name is Beth Graham and I am the new Public Relations Chair for MDHA! I graduated from Great Falls College-MSU Dental Hygiene Program in 2018 and live in Helena. I am excited to interact with and get to know my fellow hygienists throughout the state! Let me know of any activities, awards, or exciting events going on in your community so I can share them with others. Keep in mind that National Children’s Dental Health Month is coming up in February! Get involved with your local schools, Headstart programs, etc., and get kids excited about going to the dentist! I look forward to serving MDHA! Please feel free to contact me at bethsanders12@hotmail.com.

Beth Graham, RDH  Public Relations

Happy Fall-Winter everyone! Our first (and hopefully last) virtual Annual Session was a success! We had over 200 attendees, some from other states. Our speaker Dr. Tieraona Low Dog was amazing! One of the interesting things I took from her presentation was the importance of Vitamin D in our diets. Dr. Low Dog presented us with so much interesting and relevant information. If you ever have to opportunity to attend one of her dental presentations, I hope you take it, as she is worth the listen.

Unfortunately, we have all had important events and functions cancelled this year. The Montana Special Olympics had to cancel their 2020 Summer Games in Great Falls this past May. Fingers crossed, the 2021 Summer Games will be held in Bozeman, May 12 – 14. The Special Smiles discipline of Healthy Athletes will be there offering free screenings and dental education to the Athletes. This is a great opportunity for dental hygiene students, hygienists and dentists to participate together in a community event. We have so much fun at these events. If you are interested in volunteering and would like more information, please contact me at annmmagill@msn.com.

2020 has been a challenge in so many ways for all of us. My heart goes out to everyone! I think it is safe to say we would all like to see this year behind us. As we continue to face uncertainty, it is so important to be flexible, patient, and kind to one another as we work through these trying times.

Blessings,

AnnMarie Magill, BAS, RDH, LAP  Treasurer

Hello everyone! I am Lyndsey and this is my second year as Membership Chair! My first year was interesting to say the least. If anything, 2020 has shown me how important this association is to our careers as hygienists. Having an association to advocate for us and guide us through these unknown times has been priceless. I have learned a lot from veteran board members and plan to keep learning. Thank you to all our members and I hope to see all your faces at Spring session.

Lyndsey Jourdonnais, RDH  Membership

Hi Everyone! I am Lyndsey and this is my second year as Membership Chair! My first year was interesting to say the least. If anything, 2020 has shown me how important this association is to our careers as hygienists. Having an association to advocate for us and guide us through these unknown times has been priceless. I have learned a lot from veteran board members and plan to keep learning. Thank you to all our members and I hope to see all your faces at Spring session.

Lyndsey Jourdonnais, RDH  Membership

In collaboration with the American Dental Hygienists’ Association, the ADHA Institute for Oral Health provides thousands of dollars each year to advance the profession of Dental Hygiene through scholarship, research and community service.

IOH is the midst of its Fall Giving campaign. This is a great organization for the advancement of dental hygienists and has supported several Montana hygienists, including myself, through their Wrigley Grant program. Each donation, no matter the size, helps Montana reach its fundraising goal of the year.

Montana’s goal this year is $1,578.13

For more information and to donate online please visit: https://mymembership.adha.org/Members/Fundraising/State_Giving_Pages/Montana_State_Giving.aspx

Thank you, Amber Reap  IOH Liaison

Hello my name is Melissa Kjos-Peterson and I have been a dental hygienist for over 25 years now! I live in Kalispell and am also a Certified International Health Coach. I am passionate about education as related to oral health. I currently am the Northwest Director of Smiles Across Montana and am very blessed to be serving the public through this amazing organization. As the LAP Liaison, I am committed to sharing all the legislative news and direction that our Montana Dental Hygienists will be experiencing in the year to come.

Melissa Kjos-Peterson, RDH, LAP, CICH  LAP Liaison

Pamela Magill, BAS, RDH, LAP  Treasurer

UNABRIDGED
Happy fall to all of you amazing hygienists out there! I just want to take a moment and thank you for doing your best at continuing to provide oral healthcare during this Covid year! This year has definitely been one for the books, and I am proud of each and every one of you for persevering. Although 2020 has proven to be a tough year, please keep in mind that the legislative session is right around the corner. We are only as strong as our membership, and we would love to have your support. Please reach out if you are interested in getting involved with the legislative process. I would also encourage all of you to consider a position on the MDHA Board of Trustees. Even though we just recently held our annual meeting and elected our 2020/2021 officers, it is never too early to start thinking about a position in leadership for the 2021/2022 year. I hope y’all stay healthy and safe through this Holiday season.

Kelley Oakes, RDH, BS  Immediate Past President

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**2020-2021 Board of Trustees**

**Elected Officers**

- President: Amber Reap
- President Elect: Ellie Bicha
- Past President: Kelley Oakes
- Secretary: Katie Glueckert
- Treasurer: AnnMarie Magill
- Delegate: Cara Reck
- Delegate: Amber Reap
- Alt. Delegate: Ellie Bicha
- Alt. Delegate: Karen Thomas

**Component Trustees**

- Billings: Suzie Warren
- Bozeman: Lyndsey Jourdonnais
- Flathead Valley: Seeking Volunteer!
- Helena: Seeking Volunteer!
- Butte: Maggie Matteson
- Missoula: Seeking Volunteer!
- Great Falls: Rosaleen Handl
- Eastern MT: Seeking volunteer!

**Standing Committees**

- Annual Session 2021: Karen Thomas
- BOD Liaison: Tonette Hollingsworth
- Spring CE 2021: Amber Reap
- Public Health: Debbie Blauvet
- Historian: Maggie Matteson
- Legislative: Tonette Hollingsworth
- Membership: Lyndsey Jourdonnais
- Public Relations: Beth Graham
- Student Member Liaison: Julie Barnwell
- Limited Access Permit: Melissa Kjos-Petersen
- ADHA District X Trustee: Crystal Spring

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Flexibility and creativity are the two words I would use to describe GFC MSU’s dental hygiene program. Right now, we are excitedly awaiting for construction workers to finish our new clinic. For anyone interested in seeing our new dental clinic, you can take a virtual tour of our building here: [http://www.gfcmsu.edu/dentalclinic/](http://www.gfcmsu.edu/dentalclinic/). We cannot wait! In the meantime, last summer we met with Cascade City County Health Department to devise a plan to prevent patient-to-patient contamination. Besides requiring masks to be worn by everyone in clinic at all times except patients seated in our operatories, we have completely enclosed each operatory in the clinic with sheets of plastic from floor to ceiling, preventing any aerosols from moving around the clinic. Each night the walls are sprayed with hospital grade disinfectant to further reduce the spread. We also have adopted a no “aerosol producing procedures” protocol in our clinic but hope to reintroduce cavitrons on patients this spring once CCHD gives us the thumbs up. Let’s just say our seniors are very good with hand instrumentation. Overall, I have to say these juniors and seniors have just been amazing throughout this COVID themed semester with their positive attitude and flexibility.

Julie Barnwell, RDH, M.Ed  Student Member Liaison

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**Montana Dental Hygienists’ Association**

78 Sun River Road
Great Falls, MT 59404
406-256-7384

Website:  [www.montanadha.org](http://www.montanadha.org)
Email:  montanadha@msn.com
Facebook:  Montana Dental Hygienists’ Association
Instagram:  ADHA-Montana

**Important Tax Information:** Because MDHA sponsors activities designed to represent and protect members’ professional interests before the Montana Legislature, no portion of your annual MDHA constituent dues in the amount of $20.00 can be taken as a business or charitable deduction on your federal or state tax returns.