



# Maryland

## Dental Hygienists' Association

Newsletter

Winter 2019



### **President's Pen:**

Happy New Year!

As we bring in 2019, I want to personally thank all of the members of the Maryland Dental Hygienists' Association! MDHA is so thankful that you recognize the value your membership provides not only you, but the under served citizens of our state. In addition to our members, I also want to thank our event attendees, vendors, and sponsors for your continued support of our organization.

The theme for my presidency is "Together Toward Tomorrow." I chose this theme because have seen firsthand what strength in numbers can do. Many other states are making huge moves with direct access and alternative care settings, new dynamic workforce models, and expanding their scope of practice. While we have had some recent success legislatively in expanding the scope of practice to allow dental hygienists in Maryland to provide local anesthesia to any patient in the dental office rather than just our periodontal therapy patients, and also changed nitrous oxide monitoring to administration, we still have a lot of work to do!

"Together Toward Tomorrow" is more than just a one-year presidency theme, it should be our permanent mantra. Together is the only way we can move forward to ensure a solid and strong future for the profession of dental hygiene in our state. MDHA has demonstrated a commitment to all dental hygienists in Maryland by increasing public awareness of who we are as part of the dental care team. We have also worked extremely hard on securing the best lobbyists to move our profession forward in Annapolis so that you can work to your full capacity!

Moving into 2019, we will be making some very big changes which will improve the way MDHA functions both at a state level and local level. While we are making some big and positive changes, I do want to be a listener for all dental hygienists in the state. I would like to invite you to please reach out to me and tell me what you want to see from us! As we make changes, I will be sure to update everyone and gain feedback.

Have a Happy and Healthy New Year,

*Jennifer Suminski, CPhT, RDH, MS*

MDHA President 2018-2019

jsuminski6@gmail.com



**We're looking forward to SPRING! How about you?**

**Join us at the 2019 MDHA Spring Scientific Session!  
Registration is OPEN!**

**Click to register:**

**[2019 MDHA Spring Session Registration](#)**

**CE**

**2019 Session Highlights:**

- NEW Location: Leisure World, Silver Spring Maryland
- ***A course on Hygiene Instrumentation!!***
- Great Speakers!
  - Tom Viola, R.PH, CCP
  - Linda Meeuwenberg, RDH, MA, MA, FADIA
  - Dr. Joy Void-Holmes, BSDH, MHSc, RDH, AADH



### **Dental Hygiene Advocacy Day in Annapolis**

**Thursday, February 28, 2019**

**Contact: Suzy Burgee, RDH, BS, [sburgeerdhbs@gmail.com](mailto:sburgeerdhbs@gmail.com)**

This 2018-2019 legislative session our committee is working on a number of different things. We have made effort to have live meetings and a few via Zoom including the conference calls with our lobbying firm.

As a committee, we have decided that the Advanced Dental Hygiene Practitioner/Dental Therapy bill is not supported well enough to attempt getting it passed this session. Instead, we are focused on rewriting and putting our support behind a Direct Access bill. This will create better access to care for those in need and perhaps give rise to more employment opportunities to expand our profession. It is our thinking that this will pave the way for direct Medicaid reimbursement for dental hygienists. Additional settings will allow for research and statistics which will provide a stronger argument for the Dental Therapy bill. Our President, Jenn Suminski, is currently working with committee members and our lobbying firm to edit and draft the new bill.

We have also discussed a bill providing for mandatory background checks for dental and dental hygiene practitioners, as they exist in most other states and the District of Columbia. As part of initial licensure in the state of Maryland, the practitioner would be required to be fingerprinted and complete a background check before the board would approve the license. There is a discussion about how often the background check should be revisited, for example, every 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> renewal, etc.

There has been discussion regarding the education, state board testing and licensure of CDA- certified dental assistants to monitor and administer nitrous oxide. There are a number of dental practitioners allowing CDA's to perform this function outside of their scope of practice. It seems through our discussion that for every DH that supports the bill there is a DH that does not. There are many CDA's that are experienced, knowledgeable and capable. Those that support the idea feel that allowing the CDA's the opportunity to expand their function. They feel it will eliminate the illegal administration of N2O and allow for advancement in their career with potential for higher pay; they say they have not had much change in their scope of practice for some time. At this time, many of the committee members report that we do not have the financial resources to support this during this session. We agreed as a committee that we will not be pursuing this at this time.

We made some human resource changes this past fall. We have hired a new lobbying firm, Harris, Jones and Malone, LLC. They are a team promising a "head lobbyist" assigned to us with a team approach to ensure we always have support, including a promise to always have someone in person available to us in Annapolis. They are knowledgeable of who and what we are, and eager to learn more. Their interest in us and our goals as an organization seem genuine and their efforts, thus far, have been satisfactory. At this time they are working on determining who will be best suited and willing to support our direct access bill. There have been some changes on the

committees and the next step will be meeting with specific committee members to seek their sponsorship.

Our annual **MDHA Advocacy is scheduled for Thursday, February 28<sup>th</sup> with a snow date of Thursday, March 7<sup>th</sup>**. An email will be sent out with time, place and agenda details, inviting all those that wish to participate. We will again be putting together "goodie bags" for the legislators, so I ask that anyone who has oral care supplies to donate (toothbrushes, tubes of toothpaste, floss, Listerine or other mouth rinse samples, etc.) please contact me so that I may arrange for pick up or drop off.

With the hope that we will have appropriate sponsors for our bill, the time will come for the bill to drop, and our voices to be heard. Those of you who would like to support this bill, please begin putting together your written testimony now and contact me if you would like to testify in person with us. Moving forward with our direct access bill, we are looking forward to a more organized and productive legislative session.

Sincerely,  
Suzy Burgee, RDH, BS  
MDHA Legislative Chair  
sburgeerdhbs@gmail.com

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### **Student Corner**

It's Hygienic Competition - March 2, 2019 from 9:30am - 3pm.

Bertha Morgan Scholarship

Deadline to apply: February 20, 2018

Application: <http://www.mymdha.com/Bertha-Morgan-Letter-Application-2019.pdf>

Student Delegate to ADHA:

[https://www.adha.org/resources-docs/7314\\_Student\\_Delegate\\_Application.pdf](https://www.adha.org/resources-docs/7314_Student_Delegate_Application.pdf)



### **MDHA Symbol of Excellence Award**

The Maryland Dental Hygienists' Association is pleased to announce the open call for nominations for the Symbol of Excellence Award. The award was created to recognize those members who have provided exemplary service to MDHA and its components.

[Click here for the nomination form](#)

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### **Membership Update**



Membership recruitment and retention is a common theme among all associations these days. Professional associations are fighting to grab your time, attention, and financial support in the midst of family obligations, financial stress, and busy lives. Unfortunately, ADHA and MDHA are no exception. Membership is *the* foundation of a strong association. Without a strong membership, it's extremely difficult to pass legislation in our state - legislation that will ultimately advance our profession and expand access to oral health care.

ADHA has reported a current trend of 3% net decline in membership each year since 2011. I want to pose a question to you - what if ADHA did not exist? Can you imagine how quickly things could change for our profession? It's a scary thought!

We wanted insight into why some hygienists are members and why others are not. The most common responses among members were: networking opportunities, time to catch up with friends, and discounted CE's. For hygienists who were non-members, cost was the main concern, as well as inconvenient meeting times or location, or not seeing the value of their membership.

We listened to your responses. So, in 2019, we will be hosting a social event for hygienists to meet, mingle and have fun! We will also strive to keep members engaged and see the value of their membership by sharing the latest information on our Facebook page and Instagram. Other things planned for this year include offering discount codes for MDHA CE events and giving special recognition and appreciation to all our members. Thank you for your support! With that being said, please help us grow our membership in a big way by reaching out to your colleagues and encouraging them to join. EVERY MEMBER COUNTS!

Because we are better together,  
*Nancy An, RDH, BS & MiMi Truong, RDH, BS*  
Membership Co-Chairs



## ADHA IOH Fundraiser!

Help MDHA raise money for ADHA's Institute of Oral Health by purchasing one of the beautiful Rustic Cuff bracelets featured below. Shipping options are available!

[Click here to order your bracelet today!](#)



**MDHA Well-being Committee**  
1-800-974-0068  
[mdhaweell-being.org](http://mdhaweell-being.org)



## Monthly support meetings

### Kahler Hall in Columbia, MD

Every 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday from 7:30- 8:30 pm

We share thoughts and ideas with peers to help them work through difficult issues.

January 14, 2019

February 11, 2019

March 11, 2019

April 8, 2019

May 13, 2019

## You can contact us

We are here to assist hygienists and other dental support staff who are experiencing personal problems such as family stress, drug or alcohol addiction, financial pressures, etc. that are limiting their ability to perform at maximum efficacy. Our licensed mental health professional can help find the needed resources.

We will be hosting a student wellness day for dental hygiene students in Md and Dc Featuring *it's hygienic competition*

This year including a **GET FUNCTIONAL COMPETITION** for dental assistants

**March 2, 2019 at 9:30 am - 2:30 pm**  
**Health Sciences Building**  
**Howard County Community College**

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### Important Dates

February 28, 2019 - Advocacy Day in Annapolis  
March 29-30, 2019 - MDHA Spring Session, Silver Spring, MD

June 21-23, 2019 - ADHA's Annual Conference, Louisville, KY

October 18-20, 2019 - MDHA Annual Session 2019

March 27-28, 2020 - MDHA Spring Session 2020

October 16-18, 2020 - MDHA Annual Session 2020

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**The Maryland Department of Health is asking RDH's to help increase HPV vaccination numbers.**

**To read their letter to dental professionals, click [Here](#)**



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