

Spring 2008 TDHA Trustee Report to BADHS

Member Services Council – Our state membership is currently 1,385, with 360 Winter Cycle nonrenewals. The numbers show that TX had 380 dental hygiene graduates last May (2007), who had until December 31, 2007 to make a transition in membership, from Student to Active. Their dues renewal would then be on the Winter cycle. 192 graduates made the transition, and 185 did not.

Kingwood College's dental hygiene program received Honorable Mention from ADHA for 83% conversion rate. Way to go!

If members want to be on Summer Cycle, they have the option of paying their dues in May. The only caveat is that if membership lapses, it may change a person's eligibility for any awards that call for a certain number of years of "continuous membership."

The deadline for applications for the Future Leader Award and for the Grassroots Member Award is May 31, 2008.

TDHA Annual Session – Annual Session will be September 25-28, 2008, in Austin. This is where we will discuss and vote on issues as a body of our association. The deadline for submitting Resolutions is September 17, 2008.

Professional Education Council – TDHA 3rd Annual Texas Sized CE Weekend will be held in Dallas August 8-9, 2008, at the Crowne Plaza Dallas near the Galleria. Room rates will be at a special room rate of \$93/night, taxes and parking not included, but ONLY until July 21st! Be sure to mention TDHA when you call. Earn up to 12 CEUs! 2 meeting rooms, 6.0 CEUs each room each day. Registration details coming soon.

Room #1: Friday, 8/8/08 – "Earth, Wind, and Fire: The View" featuring Debra Grant, RDH, CA; Beth Thompson, RDH, BS, FACE; and Shirley Gutkowski, RDH, BSDH.

Room #2: Friday, 8/8/08 – "Baby Boomers Coming of Age- The Hidden Epidemic" by JoAnn Scofield, RDH, MS; "Increased Caries in Adolescence," by Rene Stephenson, RDH, BSDH; "Culturally Related Oral Hygiene Devices," by Nahid Nikpour, RDH, PhD; "MRSA" by Children's Medical Center.

Room #1: Saturday, 8/9/08 – "Salivary Diagnostics in Detecting Breast Cancer" by Dr. Charles Streckfus, DDS, MA, FAOM, FAGD; "Snoring and Sleep Apnea from the Dental Perspective" by Dr. Chris Norton, DDS.

Room #2: Saturday, 8/9/08 – "You've Been Slimed! The Evolution of Biofilm Science" by Donna Brogan, RDH, BS; "Still Crazy After All These Years" by Lory Laughter, RDH, BS

Dental Hygiene Education - We know there are several new dental hygiene programs trying to open around Houston. Houston Community College has not yet begun its program but is trying to open this fall. Soon to follow will be Remington Program in/near the Houston area, as well as Weatherford College, 20 miles west of Fort Worth.

Lorie Jones, RDH, BSDH, is TDHA Immediate Past President, and DHE Chair. She reported that she has been, and continues to be, in contact with the Texas Higher Education Board about the curricula, accreditation, and the needs assessment of new programs in Texas. She also reports that while most programs do begin without accreditation status, they must achieve accreditation by the time of graduation of the first class; otherwise, those graduates may not apply for licensure to practice dental hygiene.

Helena Gallant Tripp, RDH, ADHA Past President, and Lorie Jones are both serving on the Advisory Board for the HCC program, and are continuing endeavors to try to serve on a Needs Assessment Committee for the Texas Higher Education Board.

Public Affairs Council – October 2-3, 2008 will be another joint effort between TDHA, TDA, and various other groups who want to address the lack of access to care with a project called Save Our Smiles (SOS). Six Head Start locations around Texas have been designated for this project. The closest one to our area is in Livingston, on a reservation called Alabama Coushatta. They are expecting to need 5-6 RDHs to volunteer for each site. Contact me, Olivia, if you can volunteer for a day.

Healthy Start for Texas Teeth continues to need volunteers to help adopt-a-center. All the tools are available, but there are not enough volunteers. Institute for Oral Health (IOH) also has grant money available to further fund fluoride varnish projects, but there are few to no applicants.

Another branch of Public Affairs Council is *Area Media Spokespersons*, whose members have decided to try to make two videos this year – “What is a Dental Hygienist?” will be aimed toward laypersons, and legislators, and dentists as well. “What is TDHA?” will be aimed toward our own members and/or colleagues who may be interested in learning more about how our state association is run. It should also clarify its makeup, such as the fact that TDHA has no office or headquarters in Austin with a staff of employees. All the Officers, Council Chairs and members, and Board of Directors are volunteers who chose to serve on our behalf, collectively. The video should also have a message of encouragement and motivation that will help inspire our colleagues to want to be involved in the process of progression.

Governmental Affairs Council – The next Legislative Session will be in 2009, and the GAC team is already looking ahead to the next plan for success. One of the strategies to be set in motion for the off-year is to have more grassroots efforts going on in the district offices. It has been suggested that each component should have a Legislative Chair but also that chair should designate a “point person” for each district, or a “district liaison”

that the GAC team can guide into a pre-planned schedule of district office visits in 2008, with a recommended protocol. Let me know if you are interested in helping with this!

Our 2009 Legislative Priorities will be (1.) administration of local anesthesia under supervision, and (2.) to improve access to long-term consistent oral healthcare by expanding Section 262.1515, by (a.) increasing locations dental hygienists can enter to include all Head Start centers, community health centers, and any other Texas State Board of Dental Examiners approved facility, and (b.) increasing the number of visits a dental hygienist can provide preventive services to a patient for up to one year.

Excellent news – our Local Anesthesia bill will be filed by Senator Leticia Van de Putte, and also by Representative Myra Crownover! Our Access to Care bill will be filed by Senator Van de Putte as well!

The GAC has recently implemented a new strategy to make our collective priorities and intentions very clear to everyone, including the opposition that has faced us in the past. They have sent letters to all dentists in Texas, an open letter for any and all to read, that plainly states we are not seeking Independent Practice. We are not operating with a “hidden agenda.” This effort was intended to ensure that our voice is being heard by more than just a core group of people. President Stewart has received a lot of positive response from individual dentists, and is very pleased with the ongoing communication.

Legislative Awareness Day (aka Lobby Day) will be February 22-23, 2008. Hotel details are still being worked out.

TEX HYPAC - Encourages members to be aware of Allied memberships in other associations without their knowledge or consent. Apparently this has happened to many hygienists who found that their employers have listed an entire office staff as Allied members to other associations of the employer’s choosing, in order to increase the perceived membership database. Some state dental associations claim that their member services will fill all our needs from low-cost CEs to various journals, and fair representation for the whole dental team. ADHA is the largest professional association representing the interests of all dental hygienists. Also remember that in any association, Allied members have no voting power.

Students Affairs Council – TX SADHA Annual Session (soon to be known as ADHA Student Annual Session) was a success in February, with participation by 17 schools. Next year’s ADHA Student Annual Session will be February 5-7, 2009 at Omni Houston West. TDHA volunteers are needed to attend this session to help guide students’ understanding of the process.

Ways and Means – Contact one of the delegates to buy your raffle tickets! All the prizes are cash prizes! The 1st prize is \$1,000.00, the 2nd prize is \$500.00, the 3rd prize is \$250.00, and the 4th prize is also \$250.00. Tickets are \$5.00 each, and donations are not tax deductible. The drawing will be held September 28, 2008, at Annual Session in Austin. You need not be present to win.

Publications – Any pictures or articles that we have of our component’s activities that we would like to go into the next issue of TDHA Times should be submitted to Jan Smith by the deadline of July 1st.

Website Committee – We always have the opportunity to advertise our CEs on TDHA’s website (www.texasdha.org), but it has been suggested also to take advantage of summer time to hold CE’s and to advertise state-wide for greater attendance. Summer is also a critical time to reach out to new graduates to let them know we are ready for them to join with us in our component’s activities. Lorie Jones is the current contact person for these updates.

Corporate Relations – We are asked to remember our corporate sponsors when we are given samples or donations for use in our community service events by giving them due recognition in whatever press or media is generated by newspaper, radio, TV, etc. Likewise, when we give a “goodie bag” of oral hygiene products to legislators or other colleagues, and they have been donated to us by a corporate sponsor, it keeps a very good relationship if we have given credit for that generosity and have let the recipient know exactly the source of kindness.

News from ADHA – If you have special interest in the pursuit of the Advanced Dental Hygiene Practitioner (ADHP), you may consider donating to the ADHA HYPAC. You will need to contact any one of your delegates who will be going to represent you from Texas. As your Trustee to TDHA from the Bay Area component, I am available to help put you in contact with any of the delegates.

Also, raffle tickets are available for the 2008 Institute for Oral Health “Sky’s the Limit” Raffle.” The Grand Prize is \$2,500.00 cash, the 2nd prize is \$1,000.00 cash, the 3rd prize is \$500.00 cash. The ticket cost is a \$2.00 donation per ticket. The drawing will be June 20, 2008 at the ADHA Annual Session in Albuquerque, NM. The winner does not need to be present to win.

“Unleashing Your Potential” is the focus of the new Branding Campaign! With a new logo and a new slogan, ADHA is driven to reach out to all dental hygienists and to attract new members with professional and emotional needs. ADHA strives to reflect the current “face of dental hygiene” today, and so realizes that RDHs need an association that caters to all their needs as individuals as well as communities. Check www.adha.org for tools and resources to use at our component level, or simply to purchase your own ADHA accessories.

Always remember to check www.texasdha.org and www.adha.org for the latest information.

Respectfully Submitted by –
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