

Membership in Your Professional Association: An Important Step

When you join the American Dental Hygienists' Association, the Michigan Dental Hygienists' Association and your local component, you take an important step. Through membership, you assure your professional stature. You are represented on a national and state level, and you are provided with exclusive membership services. Dental hygienists are committed, caring individuals, and have found this tripartite professional membership an ongoing, invaluable resource.

Professional Contacts – As part of your dues, you automatically become a member of the national, state constituent and local component organizations. These groups sponsor meetings and activities for your personal and professional benefit. By attending local, state and national membership functions, you have the opportunity to form new friendships and develop professional contacts.

Security – Our legislative efforts monitor and impact government activities that influence the practice of dental hygiene and protect your role as a provider of oral health care. Through membership, you will help to secure a future for dental hygiene. ADHA and MDHA are working to protect the value of your educational credentials and preserve the integrity of your license. Only through uniting in one voice can we continue to represent the dental hygienists effectively.

Access to Information – Members receive a subscription to the *Journal of Dental Hygiene* and *Access*, ADHA's official publications that bring you scientific and technical articles on clinical practice, research, and education. In addition, members receive *The Bulletin*, MDHA's association magazine that helps you stay on top of the issues that are important to dental hygiene and the state of Michigan.

Continuing Education – Membership offers you a discount on continuing education through self-study courses, the ADHA and MDHA Annual Sessions, and Constituent and Component continuing education functions.

Insurance – Your membership will provide you with the opportunity to apply for several types of insurance such as professional liability, disability, and major medical at competitive premiums.

Recognition – You can make contributions to your community's oral health standards through professional activities with your local association. Professional membership builds an identity for you and the dental hygiene field. You can also become a role model for recruiting candidates into the dental hygiene field.

Employment Assistance – Members benefit from state employment job referral services, national classified advertising, and employment reference materials. ADHA is your professional partner, supplying you with foreign employment contacts, conformation on state licensing authorities, lists of accredited dental hygiene programs, and details on research grants and scholarships.

Collective Clout – ADHA is the largest association that represents the interests of the dental hygiene profession. Your association recognizes you as a provider of quality oral health care and represents you in the professional community. It is a strong, united organization that guides the development of dental hygiene practice and helps enhance and protect your status as an oral health care provider. Through your association, you can achieve goals that you could not achieve alone.

Visit our Internet website at <http://www.mdhatoday.org>