



November 2011



MDHA President Brenda Marriott, RDH, BS was sworn into office during the third session of the House of Delegates October 16, 2011. You may find her acceptance speech with her goals and plans for her Presidential year on our website, [www.mdhatoday.org](http://www.mdhatoday.org).

Greetings from the President,

Our 87<sup>th</sup> Annual MDHA House of Delegates has concluded. I hope that the courses, the camaraderie and the continuity of leadership will transform all of you who attended professionally, personally, and purposefully.

I am honored to have been given this opportunity to serve MDHA as your 88<sup>th</sup> President. I choose for my theme “BELIEVE & ACHIEVE”, and the Cherokee symbol of joy, peace and transformation the BUTTERFLY.

Did you know the Zebra long wing butterfly feeds on passion flowers and hygienists are passionate about their work? Further, the passion flower is the same lavender color that we adopted as our color in dental hygiene. Color and passion aside, the butterfly, like our profession, is an agent of transformation. Just as the butterfly transforms during several stages to reach perfection, dental hygienists go through stages to become professionals. Like caterpillars browsing the leaves of a garden, dental hygiene students are nourished by dental hygiene programs that feed their appetites for learning on an abundance of didactic and clinical offerings. The students cocoon themselves in their final year preparing for the National and State Board Examinations. When they emerge, they are ready to face the professional world as colleagues in dental hygiene. There are so many ways we can transform ourselves and our profession. As oral health has become known as an integral part of total body health, it has become important for us to transform approaches to oral health care by collaborating with other medical professionals to adequately treat patients while educating them about the benefits of good oral health and the profound effects that poor oral health may have on the body.

In order to reach and teach patients, we must transform the culture that denies access to care to so many people. In Michigan there are numerous children, special needs adults and elderly in adult living facilities, assisted living facilities and/or nursing homes not receiving dental care even though there is a direct link between pneumonia and those who are being treated with breathing tubes.

There are so many people who can benefit from preventative oral health services, both young and old, whether those services are nutrition/dietary education, oral health education, screening/charting, prophylaxis, application of fluoride varnish, or application of dental sealants. In fact, evidence based research has established fluoride varnish and dental sealants as gold standards in the fight against dental caries. How can we transform health care so that more individuals are offered the gold standard?

As professionals we strive for better training and better education in our chosen profession. Many of us are transforming ourselves personally and professionally by returning to college for advanced degrees. Many of us are transforming ourselves purposefully by being involved in our professional association.

I urge all of you to get involved in your communities to educate others to the needs of the community. You are the leaders in your chosen profession. Who best knows how to educate about oral health than a dental hygienist?

I urge each of you to get involved in your component organization in a leadership role. We all have busy lives; getting involved helps us to grow personally, professionally and purposefully. As I said in my presidential speech, I had someone ask me if I thought they should run for office. My response to them and to you is: If not you, then who? If not now, then when?

TOGETHER IF WE BELIEVE WE CAN ACHIEVE!

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Congratulations to our newly elected 2011-12 MDHA Officers!

President: Brenda Marriott, RDH, BS

President Elect: Melanie Colbert, RDH

Vice President: Cheryl Bentley, RDH

Immediate Past President: Kathleen Inman, RDA, RDH, BS

Treasurer: Linda Guthrie

ADHA Delegates: Brenda Marriott, Melanie Colbert, Cheryl Bentley, Kathleen Inman, Melissa Rosochacki, Stacy Priem, (alt)

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The Summer/Fall edition of *the Bulletin* is available under Members section on our web site! Please visit our Michigan Dental Hygienists' Association Facebook page to view all of the pictures from the 2011 House of Delegates! It was a great meeting!

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Do you have any vintage clothing, caps, memorabilia, class composites, and/or tackle boxes from dental hygiene school? The MDHA 90th Anniversary Task Force is looking for such items.

Please contact either Sharon Libich 248-895-9822 [sharon.libich@gmail.com](mailto:sharon.libich@gmail.com) or Linda Plunkett 248-553-2690.

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**MDHA** will be visible in our communities this coming year with some unique fundraising opportunities. Mark your calendars and plan to volunteer for three (possibly four) Texas Hold 'em Fundraisers: Troy, MI April 20-23, Port Huron April 28-30, May 1, and Port Huron in November. Also MDHA will be looking for a number of volunteers to help with the "Warrior Dash" race in Flint, July 28-29, 2012! Your trustees will keep you informed!

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### **ADHA Seeks Historian, appointed by President for a two-year term**

The ADHA historian submits an annual report to the board of trustees summarizing the highlights of the previous program year. Applicants must: be an ADHA member; demonstrate writing skills; have an interest in the history of ADHA; possess a working knowledge of association philosophy, structure and objectives; analyze the past development of ADHA and relate/compare it to the association's present role. For consideration, submit a bio-data form to [KarenC@adha.net](mailto:KarenC@adha.net) no later than December 31, 2011.

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The Michigan Oral Health Coalition will present a free webinar on November 9, from 10-11am

#### **"Keys to Building a Successful School Dental Sealant Program"**

Lois Havermans, RDH, CHES

Oral Health Team Supervisor

Ottawa County Health Department

There is no fee to participate. To register, visit

<http://bit.ly/mohcdswebinar> or call us at 517.827.0466.

Registration Deadline: November 7, 2011.

The Michigan Department of Community Health Tobacco Section announces a FREE webinar on Tuesday, November 15, 2011 from 2:00 - 3:30 EST titled: "Michigan Tobacco QuitLine: Pregnancy and Postpartum Protocol." For more information contact [lyone@michigan.gov](mailto:lyone@michigan.gov).

The profession of dental hygiene is rapidly evolving. As a result, through generous support from Johnson & Johnson Healthcare Products, Division of McNEIL-PPC, Inc. and Premier Dental Products, ADHA has created a new workshop entitled, **Dental Hygiene in a Changing World: Leading and Developing Your Career**. This exciting new workshop is designed to assist dental hygienists in developing leadership skills and to prepare hygienists to use these new skills to navigate their changing professional landscape. The inaugural workshop will be held on Saturday, February 25, 2012 in Chicago. Visit [www.adha.org](http://www.adha.org) for registration information.

**Check the website for component activities and seminars on the MDHA Calendar! All of the registration information is available if you click on the event.**

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