



Vermont

Dental Hygienists' Association

Executive Board

Annual Report 2016

As easy as it is to stay within our comfort zone, we must push ourselves to continue to move forward. Change is always occurring and to stay current and relevant we are changing too. The executive board has been busy reviewing the bylaws, reviewing and preparing for the charter agreement with ADHA and following direction received from the Mega Issues discussion at last year's Business meeting.

The Mega Issues discussions are such a valuable way to get member input and we listened! We went through each question and compiled the answers. We then had a very thorough discussion on how we can meet the needs of our members. 1 – Barriers to care: It was announced during annual meeting that Registered Dental Hygienists will soon be able to bill Medicaid directly. Once we have confirmation that this is a go, we will be offering a continuing education course on how to prepare to become an independent biller – Fall 2016. 2 – Current work force models: We also discussed having a future panel discussion on current workforce models for dental hygienists in Vermont – clinical, public health forensic aid, education, research, eldercare and sales – during a CE meeting next year? 3 – How can hygienists support their profession – We discussed course that bring the whole healthcare team together. November was the Bridging the Divide conference. VDHA will be updating our website to ensure that we can easily update it, provide the most current information and evidence-based research available, allow for online registration for continuing education and have it meet our needs for the future. Networking with other hygienists through mixers – work in progress, CE – Spring course offerings and Annual Meeting, and social events – Dirty Girl Run. We are looking for a representative from each county in to let us know what may be a good venue for a social event in your area. You don't need to plan just identify some locations for us. 4 – Expanded Scope – Passage of Dental Therapy legislation. We also recognize that not all hygienists are interested in this new provider and will continue to provide support to all hygienists where their interest is. 5 – VDHA support growth of our profession. We will continue to hold CE courses across the state – working toward different venues. We are working to developing and expanding membership benefits. We would like to develop a welcome package for new members as well as providing beneficial forms on the website to members (2016-17). Provide social events to enhance the comradery among our colleagues across the state (class reunions, soirees, etc..). Have on going CE through

local study groups. These were all developed as a result of the participation in the Mega Issues Discussion at our Annual meeting.

For any of you that have ever wondered what their membership in their professional organization does for them, this is the answer. When there are concerns that threaten the scope of our practice, it is YOUR profession's representatives that will continue to ensure that our license, scope of practice and our profession is represented.

We also made an effort to keep dental hygienists across the state informed about what was happening in Vermont and across the country through a variety of methods Face Book, E-mail, constant contact and direct mail.

This was a very productive year and looking forward to a great year ahead!

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Blair, RDH, MPH

President