

VDHA Newsletter

Volume 1: Winter 2016 Edition



Welcome!

The VDHA is excited to offer our first bi-annual newsletter! We hope this will serve as a way to keep you informed about events, policies, and community efforts that your professional organization is continuously working toward. Enjoy this first publication!

Meet the
VDHA
President!!!

Heather Blair, RDH, BSDH, MPH



It is 2016 and as the year changed over, with it brought change throughout our profession. 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 working toward development and implementation of a procedure manual.

Continued on Pg. 2



We have fantastic continuing education courses in store for 2016. See our CE flyer for exciting spring course offerings!

Also, mark your calendars for the VDHA annual meeting on Thursday, August 25th & Friday, August 26th

Don't miss these events!



"Like" us on FB and join our group. This is a great way for Hygienists' to network!

New look for the VDHA website!!!

You spoke and we listened! We will be making upgrades to our website in 2016. Visit our web page and see our fresh new look!!!

A message from the President Continued from page 1....

During our Annual meeting in August, we had our Mega Issues discussion. These 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. We have discussed having a grant writing course to help meet the needs of outreach efforts. 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. 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, CE, and social events. 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. Please e-mail me if you are interested in helping to let us know your area. 4 – Expanded Scope – We have discussed providing information about the Dental Therapist bill that is in the House. Sheila Bannister, RDH is our contact for this. If you are interested in helping to support legislative events in Montpelier or will contact your local representatives and would like some talking points, please let Sheila know. We have also surveyed hygienists across the state to identify interest in this provider. 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 – see enclosed flyer. We are working to developing and expanding membership benefits. If you are interested in working on this, please contact me. We would like to develop a welcome package for new members as well as providing beneficial forms on the website to members. 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 was all developed as a result of the participation in the Mega Issues Discussion at our Annual meeting. If any of these sparked an interested and you would like to help with the planning or participation in an event, please let me know.

Also, for all those that attended the Bridging the Divide meeting you understand the value of your membership in ADHA. For those that did not attend, I would like to share how your membership supports OUR professional organization. When VDHA was approached about granting credit for the meeting, we agreed to grant 6.5 hours of clinical/didactic credit. It seems that in addition to consulting with the VDHA the meeting coordinator also submitted a request to the Vermont Board of Dental Examiners. The BDE decided that because it was not a "hands on" course that they could only grant non-clinical credit. Being the "Board" their decision for credit usurped ours. Directly after the meeting, I had an e-mail exchange with the Secretary for the Board. We were unable to resolve the credit issue and she indicated it would need to be place on the Board's next agenda for a decision. On Wednesday, Dec 9, 2015, Heather Blair (President) and Ellen B. Grimes (Annual Meeting Planning Committee) representing the VDHA attended the Board of Dental Examiners meeting to follow up on the credit concern of some of our members. When this agenda item was brought up the consensus was that it should take about 8 minutes to decide the fate of the distribution of credit. In support of this change were Heather Blair (VDHA), Ellen Grimes (VDHA) and Vaughn Collins (VSDES). Please see our (dental hygienist) rules and regulations, rule 6.16 states: 6.16 Mandatory Continuing Education for Dental Hygienists. There was a 45-minute debate, in which VDHA reemphasized the importance a dental hygienist has in recognizing their role as part of the health care team. The responsibility they have in understanding HPV, pharmacology, the prevalence of caries throughout all stages of life, and communicating effectively with patients which were concepts presented at the meeting. The debate centered around whether or not the information presented had clinical application to what a dental hygienist does on a daily basis. The vote was far from unanimous and I am very pleased to report that we (dental hygienists) were granted 6.5 clinical/didactic credits from the Board of Dental Examiners.

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. VDHA needs your support by continuing your membership or if you are not a member to join your professional association.

We are planning for our future – NOW! I hope that you are having a happy, healthy, and productive New Year! If you have questions, comments, concerns or some great information that you would like to share with our fellow colleagues. Please know that I am always available to you through e-mail: hblairvdha@gmail.com.

Thanks for your support!!!

Student Members of the American Dental Hygienists' Association

Dental hygiene students at Vermont Technical College are all members of the American Dental Hygienists' Association. The student association at VTC has an executive board consisting of a president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer. Students elect their association officers on an annual basis; the current list of officers is posted on the VDHA website.

The purpose of the student professional organization is to provide community service, and to do fundraising for charitable donation through toothbrush and White Strip sales. Some of the fundraising proceeds are used for student attendance at the ADHA District I Student Meeting at Yankee Dental Congress. Twelve students attended their regional meeting in Boston this January.

Students are currently planning community service activities such as providing oral health education in elementary schools, and sealant placement for children. At the end of the academic year, students will use the remaining fundraising proceeds to make a donation to a charitable organization of their choice.

Tina Marshall, RDH, M.Ed.
Advisor, VTC SMADHA

Dirty Girl Mud Run



Join our team for the annual Dirty Girl Mud Run on **Saturday July 9th, 2016** in Killington, Vermont.

This is a fun filled day for women **ONLY**. This event includes a 3.1 mile obstacle course for all ages and athletic abilities. This will be a great opportunity to connect with other hygienists and just have fun!

Registration is \$65/person before 4/25/16 and \$75/person after.

Contact Brittney Gendreau if you are interested in participating!!!
brittneygendreau@gmail.com

Visit <http://godirtygirl.com/about/> for more event info

Member Spotlight

Meet our featured hygienist:



Amra Heco, RDH, EFDA, CDA

Graduated AS in 2009, BS in 2011
Employed part time in private practice in Essex
and full time mom!

I love that as hygienists we have so many opportunities to grow and expand. We can be amazing clinicians, searchers, product developers, sales representatives, community representatives, business owners and so much more.

I am a VDHA member because I am proud of the dental hygiene profession and everything it takes to become a dental hygienist. I hope that through membership, we can unite on a national and state level to not only protect our value as dental hygienists, but expand our roles in the dental field.

I would like to see dental hygienists have the ability to expand their clinical scope of practice. There are a lot of states, including Vermont, that are trying to advance the capabilities of the dental hygienist. We are well educated, competent and in a great position to add even more value to how we can treat our patients.

I am currently exploring the opportunity to become a business owner. Being an expert in my field has given me the confidence to expand my horizons beyond the clinical field. I have focused on clinical expansion in the past, including EFDA training in 2008, laser certification and an ample amount of CE. I would love to be part of first class of graduating dental therapists when (not if) it passes.

Beyond being a dental hygienist, I am a mom to and amazing 2 year old boy and expecting another boy in March.

What's New at Vermont Tech Dental Hygiene



In the fall of 2014 the VTC Dental Hygiene program made a major curricular change. Due to the increased amount of current knowledge and information that needs to be included in the dental hygiene curriculum the faculty changed the length of the program from two years to three. After three years of clinical education students will receive an associate in science degree and then they can opt to complete their baccalaureate degree by taking one more year of online coursework. A survey of students indicated that the majority will be completing their degree either full or part-time. In the fall of 2016 we will have all three classes enrolled simultaneously.

Due to the new curricular format the department will be adding two new part-time faculty in the spring semester. The new faculty are Brittney Gendreau and Laura Putnam. They will be joining the current staff of myself, Leslie Hills, Tina Marshall, Sheila Bannister, Michelle McKay, Heather Blair, Mary Lew, Tracy Tessier, and Amie Lloyd. The department will be seeking additional baccalaureate educated faculty for the 2016 academic year. The faculty are very excited about the new curriculum and the addition of new faculty.

Since 2007 we have been offering a totally online Bachelor of Science degree completion program for students who earned an associate in science dental hygiene degree and wish to complete their baccalaureate degree. Coursework can be completed either full or part-time. Courses include Evidence Based Decision Making, Contemporary Issues in Dental Hygiene, Advanced Periodontics, Education Leadership, and Practice Management. If you are interested in the program please contact Ellen Grimes (egrimes@vtc.edu) and she can provide you with additional information.

For the past several years Dr. Renay Ivens has been providing restorative care for many of our clinic patients at a reduced cost. Patients must lack a dental home, lack dental insurance, have limited financial resources and be compliant. Currently, second year dental hygiene students are assisting Dr. Ivens in order to gain cross-training as a dental assistant and to learn more about the dental materials used in the restorative process. The program has been incredibly successful.

Three faculty have earned their Master's degrees in the last few years. Congratulations to Sheila Bannister, Amie Lloyd and Heather Blair on their accomplishments.



Legislative Update

We are gearing up for the upcoming 2016 legislative session! Bill S. 20 allows Dental Therapists to practice in Vermont. This is based on a licensed dental hygienist with additional training to provide a larger scope of therapeutic dental services. The VDHA has been working with coalition leaders to prepare for the final steps toward passage of the bill in 2016. But WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT! Please help be the voice of moving our profession forward. Speak to your local representatives in support of this bill. If you would like more information regarding the Dental Therapist Bill, please email Sheila Bannister: sbannister@vtc.edu