A message from the president: Heather K. Blair, RDH, BSDH, MPH

Can you believe we are half way through the summer? Time is whizzing by. We have had a busy year so far and just in case you hadn’t heard, Vermont is the 4th state in the country to have had legislation passed for a mid-level dental provider – the Dental Therapist. Vermont is also the 18th state in the country to have the ability for a Licensed Dental Hygienist to have the opportunity to bill Medicaid directly. It was not just the executive board of the Vermont Dental Hygienists Association, it truly was YOU, the many dental hygienists across the state that were essential to helping make these changes happen!

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Dental Therapist Bill Passes In Vermont!
A message from the president continued...

We couldn’t have done it without the leadership from Sheila Bannister, RDH, M.Ed. and Ellen Grimes, RDH, MA, MPA, EdD that led the VDHA charge for the Dental Therapist legislation. It was Robin Miller, RDH, MPH that introduced and pushed for the dental hygienists to be recognized as treatment providers eligible for direct reimbursement through Vermont Medicaid. However, this was all made possible through the support of over 40 partner organizations. Both of these changes will expand the employment opportunities and future growth of the dental hygiene profession, while increasing access to care for the underserved populations within our state.

Thank You!

ADHA CLL Annual Meeting

Brittney and I had the opportunity to attend the ADHA CLL Annual Meeting in Pittsburg, PA in June. We participated in the Volunteer Day that focused on Oral Health – through a health fair at one of the Mercy sites in Pittsburg. This is an amazing organization that provides services including oral health care, medical care, mental health care, and rehab (drug & Alcohol) (in and out patient). This was a truly incredible day. We participated in the “In Motion: 5K Run, Walk, Fun” that was the principle fundraiser for the Institute for Oral Health. I believe that the funds raised during the week totaled over $63,000 that will be awarded in scholarships and community service grants. We also took many continuing education classes, attended many social networking events, and grew our desire to lead our professional organization during the two plenary sessions. More importantly, we were present for the CODA meeting, Association Updates, and House of Delegates. We also participated in the passing of many policies/bylaws and represented Vermont in voting the new ADHA leadership into office. We also shared in the Governance design round table discussion, the “Transforming the Profession for the 21st Century” discussion and the membership discussion. We came back ready and willing to continue our leadership for another year.
Vermont Technical College dental hygiene students had a busy and productive year as members of their professional association. In April 2016, several students organized and provided oral health education to elementary school students at the Allen Brook Elementary School in Williston, VT.

The students raised $2,500.00 through toothbrush and tooth bleaching strip sales this past academic year, and voted to donate the entire amount to the Ronald McDonald House Charities Care Mobile dental van in Vermont.

On June 4, 2016, several students participated in the Special Olympics event in Burlington, VT, distributing toothbrushes and providing oral health instruction to event participants. Beginning with the 2016-2017 academic year, a President Elect position will be added to the student executive board. The following students have been elected to the board: Bailey Carter, President, Brigit Beaucage, President Elect, Emma Budine, Secretary, and Daisy Giroux, Treasurer. The Vice President position will be filled by a first-year student entering the program in the fall.

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

Thank you to the ladies who joined in for the “Dirty Girl Mud Run” in Killington on July 9th, 2016. This event was a blast and we hope to see you there next year!
Featured Hygienist

Kelly Ebert, RDH, CDA

Kelly is a recent graduate from VTC and is employed at Brigham Dental Care where she is the Practice Manager and part-time Registered Dental Hygienist/Certified Dental Assistant. Kelly is also a Tooth Tutor for Stowe and Morristown Elementary Schools, and a full-time mom to three beautiful children.

The best part of being a hygienist to Kelly is helping people. Kelly believes that helping or supporting people is the foundation of life. It means being knowledgeable, accessible and open to anyone she meets in her daily journey wherever. Kelly wholeheartedly believes that if we support each other we can achieve the impossible.

Kelly is a member of the VDHA because she feels that as a member, she is supported as a dental hygienist and also to give her support when needed. Membership also keeps Kelly connected to other dental hygienists, and it allows her to save money on essential continuing education credits.

Kelly feels that education is essential for the delivery of safe, effective, high quality patient care, and is excited about continuing her education.

Kelly is hopeful that in the future, Vermont dental professionals will work together in order to bridge the gaps and provide the best quality care to all of Vermonters!

VDHA ANNUAL MEETING

It is our pleasure to extend a personal invitation to you to attend the Tenth Annual Oral Health Conference – Excellence in the Advancement of Oral Health. Our meeting will take place on Thursday evening August 25th and Friday (all day) August 26th at the Hampton Inn in Colchester, VT. The VDHA Annual Meeting Committee has coordinated a remarkable continuing education program with courses and activities that will interest all members of the dental team. Attendance and participation during our Annual Meeting provides an excellent opportunity to network with fellow dental colleagues and increase your knowledge on current oral health information, research, and events. This has been an exciting year of change and we have only just begun to explore our future potential. It truly is unlimited. This year we will be having a special celebration during the business meeting and hope that you will plan to join us to celebrate our decade of excellence!

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU ALL IN AUGUST!!!

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