

VDHA Newsletter

Volume 1: Summer Edition 2017



Greetings!

Hope our newsletter finds you all well and enjoying the nice summer weather. Can you believe that it is half over? Over the last couple of months when I have been setting up appointments for January 2018, doesn't seem possible yet does it? So whether we admit it or not we are all forward thinkers. But I would like to take a few moments and let you know what has been going on in Dental Hygiene over the last 6 months or so.

This may have seemed like it was a quiet year for VDHA and to some degree it was on a whole, but after last year's passage of the Dental Therapy bill and having dental hygienists considered to receive direct reimbursement from Vermont Medicaid, it took many hours of behind the scenes efforts to put into place what we pushed so many years for and was hard to achieve. Dr. Ellen Grimes, RDH and Sheila Bannister, RDH have worked tirelessly on the promotion and the sustainability of the dental therapy program this year. There will be more to come on this as we have more information, keep your ears and eyes open. **(Intro from President Blair continued on pg. 2)**

Vermont Technical College is pleased to announce the hiring of Dr. Cheyanne Warren as the new Dental Therapy Program Director. Prior to her employment at Vermont Tech, Dr. Warren was a staff dentist at the Plainfield Health Center. Dr. Warren is tasked with developing the accreditation materials to be submitted to the Commission of Dental Accreditation and shepherding the program through the Vermont State college's new program proposal process. The position was made possible by a very generous grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. The current plan is to enroll students in the full-time four semester program in May 2019. Additional information regarding the program will be forthcoming in future VDHA newsletters. If you are interested in possibly enrolling in the program, please send your contact information to Dr. Warren at Cheyanne.Warren@vtc.edu so she can

Highlighted

Margaret Canavan graduated from Hudson Valley Community College in Troy, NY in 1985. She has been a member of our professional organization since she was a student. Margaret has been practicing hygiene for 32 years. She enjoys providing her patients with exceptional care. Margaret attributes her long career to her focus on physical health. She is involved



Dr. Cheyanne Warren

Updates from the executive

President Blair continued:

In recognition of the lack of access to dental care in public health settings the Vermont Health Department – Robin Miller, RDH helped to insure that dental hygienists would have the ability to become a Vermont Medicaid Provider and receive direct Medicaid reimbursement. This means that with a general supervision agreement, your own liability insurance and the proper paperwork, that a Registered Dental Hygienist has the opportunity to work in a nursing home, rehab facility, school, hospital or other public health setting and receive reimbursement for the services that they provide. To date, I know of only two hygienists that have applied for and received their numbers, myself and Tracy Tessier, RDH. We would like to see this number grow and I have attached a link to a Power Point that will walk you through the steps to become a provider. We have also been working on a VDHA policy & procedures manual, recreating older records (and we are in need of a volunteer to become our historian) and continuation of the ADHA Charter Agreement implementation.

So that was a brief look in our past, what does our future hold? Looking at what is going on across the country in dental hygiene, there is no doubt we are in changing times. There are going to be many employment opportunities for dental hygienists outside of traditional private practice. Please do not mistake this as a knock against the private practice dental hygienist, it isn't – I am one also. But there have been years when new graduates struggle to find work or more seasoned hygienists are phased out to make room for the less experienced, less expensive dental hygienist or sometimes we just need a change of pace. So looking forward – we may want to explore direct reimbursement from private insurance, we will want to tackle self-regulation – who should make decisions that affect dental hygienists? – a dental hygiene board, we may want to work toward license portability – are you always going to live in the same state, if not why shouldn't you be able to transfer your license? You have passed your boards, and lastly protecting our current scope of practice – it takes a lot of evidence to add new services, but what would it take to have services removed? I don't think we want to find out.

That being said, if you are a current ADHA/VDHA member THANK YOU! If not, consider this, if not you, who? We are taught at a young age, every person matters, and every vote counts. In our State and National organization every person matters, every vote counts and your voices have been heard. ADHA did a redesign of their website for easier navigation, they are offering a free monthly webinar, they offered a free CE on coding, which included the proper use of the new gingivitis code, and they have a Facebook page similar to VDHA in which they are constantly updating with relevant information for dental hygienists. At the recent ADHA Annual Meeting in Jacksonville, they had a representative from the Department of Labor come speak to us and provide information about legal employment practices (more info to come), they provided a document to help new dental hygienists navigate the “interview” with sample questions and what to look/ask for. They moved the ADHA office to a lower floor, less space and reorganized within to better utilize our money and provide the representation and information that we need and they are doing it! What is VDHA doing? We are trying to increase transparency and information sharing. We are investigating how we can better reach every corner of the state and hope to implement the ZOOM meeting technology for our monthly meetings and work sessions.

If you have been considering taking on a leadership role in VDHA, now is the time! We will have openings for the Secretary and Vice President positions. If you are wanting to be involved, but do not want the commitment of being an officer, all of our committees could use some supporting members – Continuing Education, Annual Meeting, Newsletter, Facebook – management (open), SMADHA mentors (not tutors) (working with the students-open), Legislation, Historian (open), Public Relations (health fairs, social event, - support), Membership, Liaison to the Board of Dental Examiners (attending the meeting and providing a report). Please let me know if you are interested in the open positions or joining a committee. We are all in this together in our dental hygiene family – let's support one another.

It has been my honor and privilege to serve as the Vermont Dental Hygienists Association President the last two years. I hope that you will attend our Annual Business meeting on Friday, August 25th to welcome Brittney Gendreau, RDH, BSDH as our new president and support her and the board as you did for me.

See you in August!

Heather

Heather Blair, RDH, MPH
VDHA President

Brittney Gendreau: President elect:

Brittney graduated in 2010 with an associate degree, and in 2012 with her bachelor's degree in Dental Hygiene, Brittney is currently working on getting her MBA at UMass Lowell. She has been part of the VDHA since she started as a student in 2010. In 2014, she became the president elect of the VDHA.

Brittney has enjoyed her position as president elect and is ready to take on her new responsibility of president of the VDHA. She is excited to lead the VDHA during this exciting time of transition. She is enthusiastic to see what the future holds for the hygienist of Vermont. You can contact Brittney if needed by emailing her at: bgendreauidha@gmail.com.



Student

Section

Vermont Tech's graduating class of 2017



Jade Piette:

Vermont Tech had a District 1 Student Delegate this year! Jade Piette just finished her first year at VTC. She was selected as the District 1 Student Delegate at the ADHA annual meeting in Jacksonville, FL. She had the opportunity to participate in the House of Delegates meeting.

SMADHA Community Service

Harwood Union Middle School and Crossett Brook Middle School held Career Day in April. There were about 20 careers represented at the event. The VDHA was represented with the help of VTC students. Approximately, 300 7th and 8th grade students were at the event. One of the activities was mapping out the different career paths that can be achieved with a degree in Dental Hygiene. The students were interested and asked many great questions.

-Submitted by Tammy Valadakis, RDH

On May 20, 2017 the VDHA partnered with other medical professions, the Department of Health, and legal aids to help the Mexican Consulate for Migrant Farm Workers. We conducted oral screenings, making referrals to the closest participating dentist in the area they live in. We also reviewed brushing, flossing, diet and xerostomia with each person and gave out toothbrushes and toothpaste. It was a very rewarding experience!

-Submitted by Tammy Valadakis, RDH

On Saturday June 3rd, 18 student volunteers and potential future members of VDHA came together with other dental professionals to support the VSIDS: NE Delta Dental and Special Olympics. The event was held at UVM Patrick Gymnasium. With the assistance of VSIDS; home care instructions were given to over 200 Special Olympic athletes of all ages. Toothbrushes, toothpaste and floss (courtesy of NE Delta Dental) were distributed to all participants. It was a very successful day.

-Submitted by Linda Retchin, RDH

SMDHA

Vermont Technical College dental hygiene students had a busy and productive year as members of their professional association.

The students raised \$3,000.00 through toothbrush and tooth bleaching strip sales during the 2016-2017 academic year, and voted to donate \$1,500.00 each to two organizations: the dental clinic at the People's Health and Wellness Clinic in Barre, Vermont, and Red Clover Family Dentistry in Bristol, Vermont. The Barre clinic provides free services to the public, and the Bristol clinic in a non-profit organization.

The following students have been elected to the 2017-2018 Student Executive Board: Brigit Beaucage, President, Emily Heywood, President Elect, Jaimie Olsen-Waggoner, Secretary, and Jade Piette, 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

VDHA Annual Meeting



Mark your calendars for the 11th Annual Vermont Oral Health Conference! Taking place Thursday evening August 25th & Friday August 26th at the Hampton Inn located in Colchester, Vermont.

Early Bird Registration: 8/8/17

We have gone green! You will not receive a course registration flyer in the mail this year. To register for CE courses and/or the VDHA business meeting & luncheon, please visit our website www.vdha.org. We have great raffle prizes and exhibits. We hope to see you there!

The VDHA annual meeting will take place during the lunch hour at the meeting. Please join us to be aware of

Courses:

Thursday Evening:

Course C1: "The Dental Hygienists' Guide to Caries Management"

OR

Course C2: "Oral Pathology and the Assessment Process: It's Risky Business"

Friday Morning:

Course C3: "Infection Prevention and Control 2017: Ensuring Safe Care In Your Practice"

OR

Course C4: "From the Cradle to the Grave: Oral Pathology Through the Life Span"

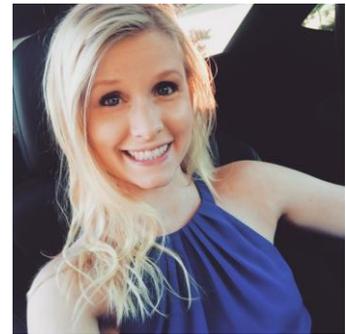
Friday Afternoon:

Course C5: "Medical Emergencies for the Dental Professional"

Vermont Dental Hygiene Association Membership

The VDHA would love to highlight a member each newsletter. Please let us know about the dental hygienist near you that are being active in their community.

Newsletter organized by Charity Enman, RDH. If you have news you would like to submit for the newsletter, please email Charity at cparker8492@gmail.com



The VDHA is looking for new hygienist to fill several positions on the executive board. There are many opportunities to be part of the VDHA movement even if you cannot commit to a position on the board. If you would like to be help or become a member please email the membership coordinator Casey Black, RDH at cblackvdha@gmail.com.