



Word of Mouth
enews from the
South Florida Dental Hygiene Association
September, 2007

Important Message from the FDHA President

As reported in this newsletter last month, the Florida Dental Association has requested that the Florida Board of Dentistry change board rules to allow dental assistants to probe and scale above the gingival margin. How do you probe above the gingival margin? The item is on the agenda for the meeting of the FL Board of Dentistry on Friday, September 14, 2007 at Paramount Plaza Hotel Suites, 2900 SW 13th Street, Gainesville, FL 32608, (352) 377-4000.

Some members of FDHA are planning to attend, and we urge all hygienists, members or not, to attend if able. Even if we prevail at the Board level, this attack on our profession will not end with the Board of Dentistry. We fully expect to be fighting preceptorship and other threatening issues in the legislature this session.

It takes money to defend our profession against hostile legal actions. If you would like to help, please send a \$35 check (or larger) made out to to FL HyPac, c/o Donna Wofford, RDH, FL HyPAC Treasurer, 2706 Clubhouse Drive, Plant City, FL 33566. If you are able to send more, **bless you!!!** Donations of \$100 or more (max \$500) require a notation of your occupation [ie. dental hygienist]. We will need support to launch our own legislative response on this latest attempt to make your license worthless.

If you send a donation check made out to FDHA, note *Legal/Legislative Fund* on the memo line and send it to Linda Lambert, RDH, FDHA Treasurer, 10112 Huntsman Path, Pensacola, FL 32514

What else can you do? You can spread the word of this latest threat and encourage your peers to join ADHA and FDHA. Our professional organization fights on the behalf of every registered dental hygienist in Florida to protect the public and our

profession. If you don't belong to the association and think you don't need to belong, think again.

In Alabama, where preceptorship is an accepted practice, "hygienists" salaries are notoriously low. Further, there are no longer any dental hygiene schools in that state. Finally, ask any dental hygienist working in Florida's panhandle to describe the periodontal conditions of patients who come from Alabama to have dental work.

Go online now to www.adha.org and join our merry band. If you can't figure out how to do this, got to fdha.org and download an application form. If you still can't figure it out, reply to this email and your editor will attach an application to you.

It's your profession. Support it now or lose it forever.

Your "protecting" rather than "trumpeting" President,

Cookie Martin, RDH

New Florida Board of Dentistry Members

Governor Crist appointed Dr. **Dan Gesek** of Jacksonville and Dr. **Wade Winker** of Eustis fill two of the vacant dentist positions. Ms. Elmira Gainey was re-appointed as a consumer member. This fills three of the four vacant Florida Board of Dentistry (BOD) seats. The FDA supported all three appointees

Other FDHA News

Hope to see you in Orlando on September 27-30th for the Florida Dental Hygiene Symposium. For more information on all these events and issues, go to www.fdha.org <http://www.fdha.org/>. At the symposium, you can earn continuing education credits, network with other dental hygiene professionals, and learn you what you can do to protect your license.

ADHA News

ADHA Podcasts...Your Professional Connection to Hygiene

ADHA and Colgate are pleased to announce a new partnership designed for busy dental hygiene professionals and students. 15-20 minute Podcasts featuring clinical and professional development themes can be downloaded to your MP3 player (such as an iPod) or they can be streamed live to your desktop computer. The second Podcast, "**Fostering Growth in Dental Hygiene Through Professional Roles**" is available now for free download. To access this new and innovative learning tool log onto the Member section of www.adha.org <<http://www.adha.org>>, click on the "Member Resources" tab, and scroll down to "Resources."

Continuing Education from SFDHA

On August 29, your component society presented a summer continuing education course featuring the dynamic **Tracey Jacobs**. The time just flew by. Afterwards a drawing was held and Carroll Cameron was the lucky attendee who won the new Sonicare toothbrush, complete with sanitizer. If you weren't there, you missed a good one.

Be sure to mark your calendars for January 25 and 26, 2008 when we will once again participate in Miami Winter Meeting. Our component has succeeded in securing

two excellent speakers for our Saturday morning program. We are scheduling one hour lectures followed by a discussion/question session.

Beginning at 9am, **Joe Garri, DDS, MD**, will lecture on Management of the Cleft Lip/Palate Patient. As medical miracles are advancing treatment for cleft lip/palate patients, we want to be on the cutting edge of oral hygiene management that optimizes the long term benefits of after care.

At 11am, **Michael Ragan, DMD, JD**, will present a course on Bisphosphonates and Systemic Manifestations of Periodontal Disease. Many seniors are currently taking bisphosphonates to improve bone density, and they have no knowledge of the effects these drugs can have on the periodontium. Who will tell them if not you? Learn to protect patients from the effects of drugs and other systemic assaults on their oral tissues.

Health and Welfare

Once again, Jonathan Amazon, Barbara's son is in the news. His class ranking for his freshman year at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute was Number **One**. This achievement led to an invitation into that prestigious college's PhD program. Congratulations, Barbara, for your son's outstanding performance.

The Federal Trade Commission issued a consent order charging the South Carolina State Board of Dentistry with unlawfully restraining competition in violation of the FTC act by adopting a rule requiring a dentist to examine every child before a dental hygienist could provide preventive care, such as cleanings, in schools. (<http://www.adha.org/news/07202007-ftc.htm>). This has no bearing on Florida law yet.

Reader's Corner

From Becky Smith:

What newly licensed GRADUATES need to do to join ADHA/FDHA/SFDHA is:

1. Login to www.adha.org <<http://www.adha.org>> *
2. Click on the "Convert Now" link
3. Complete the required information (which includes their new dental hygiene license number)

*Login = SADHA membership ID number

Password = first three letters of their last name followed by their SADHA membership ID number.

They can also convert by calling ADHA directly at (800) 243-2342, press 1 or by e-mailing their name, SADHA ID, license number and state of licensure (FL) to member.services@adha.net.

Active memberships status is valid through December 1, 2007. SADHA graduates will be bill for the 2008 year of membership dues during the winter billing cycle. Join now and get 2 months of **ACTIVE** ADHA membership for **FREE**.

Employment Opportunity

If anyone is looking for a full time job in Miami Shores, email Becky Smith at Beckucha@aol.com.

Dr. Nivaldo Morales has a dental hygiene position open for Mondays 7:30am - 6pm with the possibility of adding another day in the future. This office is located in

Coral Gables. RDHs must know how to use Arestin and SFDHA members are preferred. FAX resumes first to 305 448-1996 and then call to confirm it was received to 305 448-9996 and speak with Olga (office manager).

Reminder about the Newsletter Listserve

Remember, our listserv will be purged to remove the following people: those who block the newsletter, those whose mail boxes are full, those who have not activated their email accounts, and those who change their addresses without notifying the editor. Every month, we have had to take this action because a faulty email address can end up blocking the entire list. The editor's address is cameronc@bellsouth.net.

Be sure the editor's address is in your contact list. We will add names to the listserv only when an interested person emails us and notes that the editor's address has been added to their contact list. If you can't open the attachment, notify the editor and she will paste a copy in to the body of your email.

Once again, the success of this newsletter depends on you. Let's get the **Word of Mouth** out.

Carroll Cameron, RDH, EdD, Editor,
South Florida Dental Hygiene Society