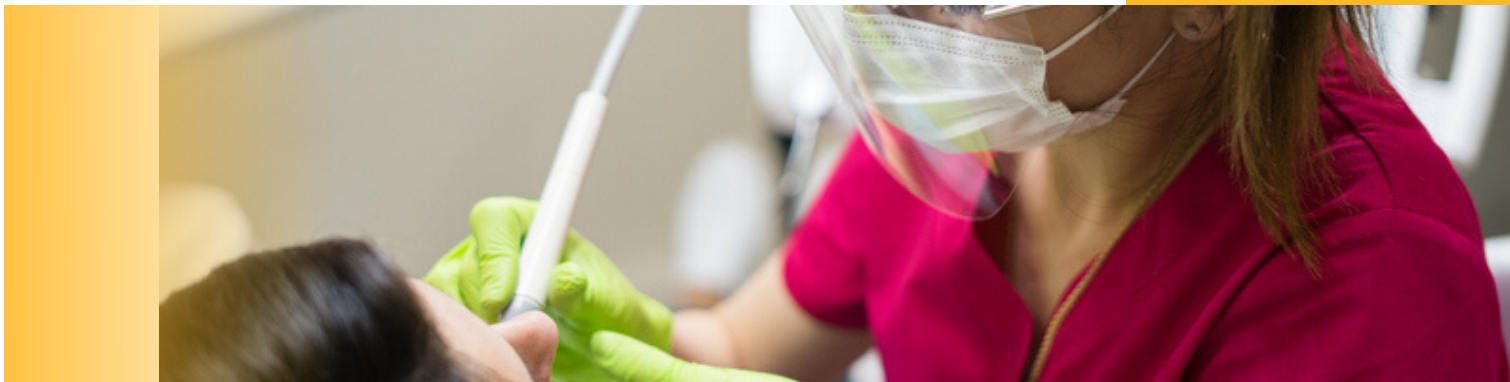


CONNECTIONS



MESSAGE FROM YOUR NDHA PRESIDENT

Jess Bolter, RDH NDHA 2022-23 President

ADHA and June mean two things: House of Delegates and Annual Conference! I had the honor to take part in both functions, and what I was able to take away from them was inspiring, to say the least.

This year's House of Delegates brought fewer proposed by-laws and proposed resolutions, but they were big in scope! The major issue was in regards to restructuring the national board. While I sat and listened to the debate, I thought about where these ideas are coming from, and why. At the end of those three days, a student delegate said some powerful words. She said that it is evident there is a need for change within our association, but that change won't occur until more members are willing to step outside their comfort level and think about the future.

Equity and inclusion have been on the forefront of conversations recently, and I had one CE course at ADHA22 relating to it. The group had a discussion at the end of the course about why there is a resistance to new ideas and including them in our education requirements. This is my thought: both of these issues are due to changes in the world. Older generations seem to want to stay stagnant, while younger generations want change. Big change. And somewhere in the middle is my group. I like to understand the historical reasoning, but I also have a strong desire for our association to stay relevant.

“One can choose to go back toward safety or forward toward growth. Growth must be chosen again and again; fear must be overcome again and again.” - Abraham Maslow
I love this quote for two reasons—the first being that as hygienists, Maslow's hierarchy of needs is crucial to our education, and because it really captures this moment in time. As we kick off a fresh year for ADHA, please congratulate Erin Haley-Hitz in her new role as ADHA Vice-President. She has served as our District VIII Trustee for the past 3 years and is doing her part to bring about change. We also welcome Christina Emmert as our new trustee. Both of these ladies are a light for us to follow.

July 2022 Newsletter Highlights

Message from Your
NDHA President

Legislative Committee
Update

Message from the
ADHA Delegate Chair

Panhandle Component
Update

Results of the
Statewide RDH
Professional Survey

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE UPDATE

Joey Enright, RDH and Deb Schardt, RDH
Legislative Co-Chairs



In April of 2022, a new status report was issued on the Nebraska Healthcare workforce. According to this report, in 2021 there was a noticeable decrease in the number of dentists in active dental practice, specifically in general dental practice. The number of dental hygienists was also down. As we know the pandemic has likely caused some of these changes with early retirement, etc. However, the report also stated that currently, 17 counties have no practicing general dentists; 17 counties have no dental hygienists. In 2017 and 2019, 15 and 16 counties did not have any general dentists, and 18 and 20 counties did not have any dental hygienists. Although there has been a decrease in dental hygienists in the state of Nebraska, they are reaching more counties which will bring about more opportunities to serve our communities. For more information, [click here](#).

The legislative committee has been meeting with some candidates that are submitting an RFP to discuss the public health dental hygienist's role in helping to meet the needs of the underserved. The request for proposal (RFP) from DHHS was issued on April 18, 2022. There are two rounds of questioning in this process before the final bids which are due on July 1, 2022. At that time, the proposals will be evaluated and the final awards will be made in the middle to end of August 2022. All of the new health plans will cover Dental health care as well as Medical and Behavioral. What this will mean for those who are Medicaid providers is there will now be three health plans, instead of just the one through MCNA. The good news is that they are working to be able to credential all of the contracted health plans through one shared vendor. This will help to streamline the process a great deal Starting July 1, 2022, there will be a 10% increase in dental rates. In addition, MCNA is extending the coverage of Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) for Nebraska network providers through December 31, 2022. This is a D1999 code that is reimbursed \$10 per patient visit.

REMEMBERING OUR ROOTS

Dental Hygiene dates back to over one-hundred years ago and has continued to change and grow over the decades. In 1907, Alfred Fones, a dentist in Connecticut, understood the importance of oral care to reduce the bacteria that caused caries.

As a result, he employed his cousin, Irene Newman, and trained her to perform dental prophylaxis on his patients. Irene Newman was the first "dental hygienist" to implement dental hygiene duties in a clinical setting. This precipitated America's first dental hygiene program established, in Bridgeport, Connecticut, by Dr. Fones in 1913.

To view the fee schedule , [click here](#). As the new health plans take over to cover dental care, Medicaid will be eliminating the dental benefits limit for adults! Again, this will be a very needed benefit for those enrolled in Medicaid.

The legislative committee has made a formal request of MCNA to include approximately 34 additional dental codes for preventive services that a public health hygienist performs in a health care facility or public health arena. Our goal is to increase the number of public health hygienists in the state and one way to make that happen is to lobby for reimbursement of these codes to pay for supplies, mileage, and an hourly wage to keep the preventive care programs sustainable. There is such a need for our services in our state!

If you are interested in learning more about how you can best utilize your public health permit, please reach out to one of our legislative committee co-chairs, Joey Enright or Deb Schardt.

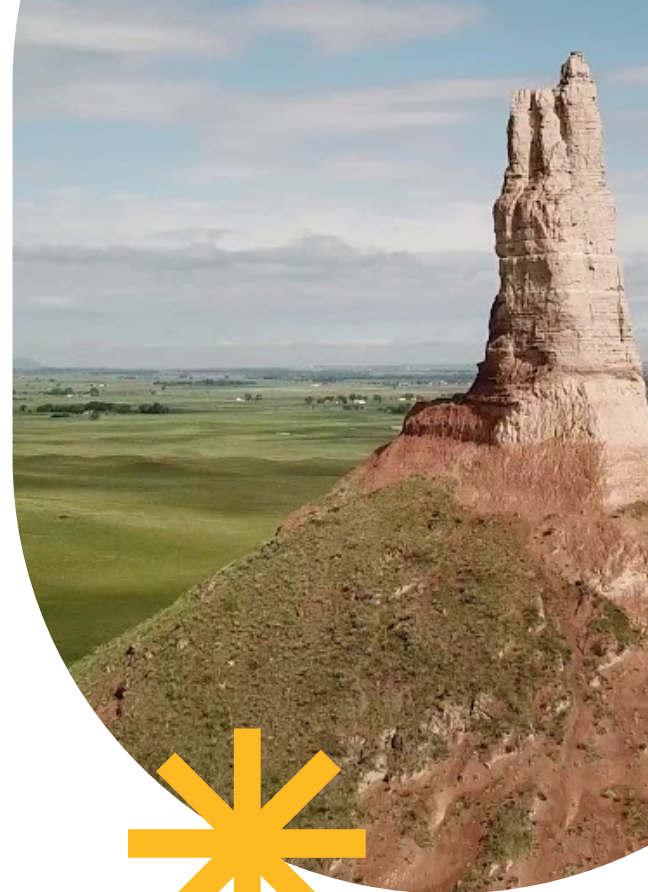
PANHANDLE COMPONENT

Shelbie Loutzenhiser, RDH, BSDH
Component Chair

In April we had our spring meeting and sadly said farewell to Nicole Benigno, and Brooke Banzhaf. Both served the component for multiple years, and we wish them the best of luck in their future endeavors. We therefore have added some new people to leadership roles, so it is an exciting time for our component.

Our spring CE was held in person in Chadron and was available on CE Zoom as well. Dr. Nehring from Dakota Regional Periodontics was our guest presenter. This was an awesome five hour course. We went over the periodontal classification and reviewed other topics, including tips on home-care after scaling, and root planing.

If anyone in the panhandle has ideas for topics/speakers for this next year please reach out to me. My email address is shelbierose91@gmail.com. I look forward to this next year and hope to have members gathered together in person for our next meeting and CE this fall!



CONGRADULATIONS !!

Erin Haley-Hitz, RDH, BSDH, MS of Lincoln, Nebraska, recently was elected as the 2022-2023 Vice President of the American Dental Hygienists' Association (ADHA).

A Nebraska native, Erin graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene from the University of Nebraska Medical Center, College of Dentistry, in 1995 and later earned a Master of Science in Health Promotion and Human Resource Management from Nebraska Methodist College in 2002. She has completed additional education in myofunctional therapy toward earning a certification in myofunctional therapy and lifestyle medicine at Wellcoaches School of Coaching.

Erin's membership in ADHA/NDHA spans her 28 years of practice. During this time, she has held numerous leadership positions within the Nebraska Dental Hygienists' Association (NDHA), including a term as president and delegate. Recently she served as ADHA District VIII Trustee served on the Executive Committee, Board Governance Committee, and Board Minutes Review Committee.



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2022 NDHA
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MESSAGE FROM THE ADHA DELEGATE CHAIR

Carrie Graves RDH, PHRDH, BSDH



It is a busy time for the Delegates. I just realized that I'm supposed to write an article for the association newsletter about what's going on in delegation world. So here goes!

On May 5th of this year we received our House of Delegates manual and Candidates Corner material. How many pages you ask? 109 pages for the delegate manual and 17 pages for Candidates. It seems daunting, and I thought that my first year. However, I believe that now in year three of serving as a delegate and now the Delegate Chairperson, it isn't as hard as I first thought.

Our association is this entire country. What we decide not only affects Nebraska but every state. Do we all have the same problems and obstacles? Sometimes yes and sometimes no. We as delegates represent ALL of you! We try to think about the decisions we make to be as broad as possible so that we are not too narrowly focused. As your elected members of Nebraska's delegation, we are part of District 8, which includes Iowa, Kansas, Illinois, and Missouri. We have a lot of expertise in District 8. I am continually learning from the others in this group. These women know the ADHA Policy Manual forwards and backwards. They are some of the best "wordsmiths" I've ever encountered.

One Proposed Resolution this year that I am eager about is to have ADHA advocate (which means "spend monies on") for an oral assessment of patients entering and residing in long term facilities by a licensed dental professional. As we all know this population is underserved throughout the entire United States and has been for some time. If this passes in the House of Delegates it could help create another avenue for a Dental Hygienist to gain employment through these facilities. Just imagine how impactful that change could be in our society. We also will be voting to give two members lifetime membership in the association. These two individuals were vetted by the Board of Trustees to have completed the required "checklist" to apply for this category. They have also brought forth a Proposed Bylaw to change the "Senior Status" membership category to a "Retired Members" category. It would also change the definition of this voting member category to include that the professional member be at least 62 years of age, be fully retired from the dental hygiene profession or only working 10 hours or less per week. The justification from the Board of Trustees was that they have seen a decrease in our "Senior" members retention and are hoping to remove barriers by reducing the restrictions originally in place.

These are just a few of the "tidbits" for House of Delegates this year. It is a very interesting process that our association maintains to conduct the business of our association. I can admit that years ago I just paid my dues and expected everything else to just fall into place. I know now that it does take a little work, focus and determination to accomplish all that is set forth for us as Delegates. I am confident that our fellow HOD members across the country will succeed in our work that lies ahead. Now I am heading back to my delegates manual and other materials to study, wish me luck!





2022 STATEWIDE RDH SURVEY RESULTS

John Roberts, MA NDHA Executive Director

In April of this year, the NDHA Executive Board conducted a survey that was sent to all the registered dental hygienists' in the State of Nebraska. It was the largest and most comprehensive survey of its kind for the NDHA. Here are some of the results and insights from responding hygienists:

01 → **241 RDHs from all across the state participated in the survey.**

02 → **Participants: NDHA Members - 32%
Non-Members - 68%**

03 → **The survey results were used by the NDHA Executive Board to craft the 2022-23 NDHA strategic plan.**

62% of those responding believe strongly that their scope of practice is at risk of being scaled back or taken over by other members of the dental team.

71% believe that the NDHA does a very good job at protecting their scope of practice.

What survey respondents would like to see ADHA/NDHA prioritize in the next 5 years?

- Expanding or improving continuing education
- Expanding scope of practice
- Expanding use of mid-level providers (i.e. dental therapists or expanded practice RDH)
- Self-Governance for Dental Hygienists
- Social Events/Networking

61% believe that the NDHA supplies continuing education that meets their professional needs.

78% Would like to see NDHA provide additional coursework on personal growth or professional development?

TOP REASONS FOR BECOMING A NDHA MEMBER WERE:

1. Access to Continuing Education,
2. Advocacy,
3. Networking,
4. Professional Responsibility and
5. Member Discounts