

THE DISCLOSER

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>High Desert DH So-</i>	8
<i>Institute of Oral</i>	8
<i>Leadership & You</i>	10
<i>Legislative Report</i>	2 & 3
<i>NMDA/NMDHA</i>	6 & 7
<i>President's Message</i>	1
<i>President Elect Mes-</i>	9
<i>Mid Year — 2006</i>	10

LOBBY DAY IN SANTA FE



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 05.05.06**
What: NMDHA MidYear CE & Meeting "High Risk: Is It Our Patients Or Us?" by Cheryl Thomas
Where: Indian Pueblo Cultural Center
Contact: Mary Kaye Vigil, 299-0297 marykayevigil@aol.com
- 05.12.06**
What: NM Dental Hygienists Committee/ Board
Where: Albuquerque, ClubHouse Inn, 1316 Manual NE
Time: 10:00 am
Contact: Glenelle Butler 883-7741 glenelle@comcast.net
- 05.20.06**
What: SOSS Summer Games
Where: UNM Sports Complex
Time: 9:00 am—3:00 pm
Contacts: loveyersmile@aol.com and kitty1rdh@aol.com
- 06.21-28.06**
What: ADHA Annual Session
Where: Orlando, Florida
Contact: www.adha.org

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE Kelly Valdez-Ayres, RDH, BS

It is hard to believe that Spring is here and marching toward Summer time and Midyear. Change is certainly one thing we can count on in our daily lives. I attended the ADHA Constituent's Officers' Workshop in Chicago, which is sponsored by GlaxoSmithKline. A series of seminars and discussions is presented to the representatives of the constituents or states. We were musing that prior to taking the office of president, much time is spent thinking of an appropriate symbol, and a not too trite theme for our presidency. During discussions though, the reality and purpose of being an officer were really setting in. The questions we pondered were how do we promote our profession, our professional association? How do we become autonomous and inspire our own direction? Many states have the same issues, and it is always surprising to see that a few states are still fighting perceptorship. New Mexico is one of the states in the forefront because of what the association has done. What you, and what we can do. You can pick up a dental hygiene periodical such as the ACCESS, and very often see NM mentioned in the legislative, education, and practice sections.



The Discloser, the Journal of the New Mexico Dental Hygienists' Association, is printed three times a year for members and once a year to all New Mexico hygienists. Submit suggestions, letters, or inquiries to: Linda Trujillo at 344-1704 trujilloabqbc@worldnet.att.net Glenelle Butler at 883-7741 glenelle@comcast.net

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LEGISLATIVE REPORT

**BY BARBARA POSLER, RDH
NMDHA, LEGISLATIVE CHAIR**



The New Mexico Dental Association (NMDA) and NMDHA have been exchanging articles in our respective Journals for the last two issues. It is hoped that this will help each group better understand one another's position on various topics of common interest. The last issue of the NMDA Journal focused on access to care and featured the following opinion on Advanced Dental Hygiene Practitioner. As part of the Point- Counterpoint, NMDHA's response will be published in the next issue as it follows here.

Point by Shelly L. Fritz, DDS published in NMDA Journal and reprinted here with her permission.

We know there are disparities in the provision for dental health care. New Mexican dentists are trying to address this huge long standing problem. The UNM Pre-Dental Club is developing a large mentorship program to get students to choose dental professions as careers. Our educators are filling our WICHE slots for the first time ever to provide more dental students. The Board of Dental Health is moving credentialing from a local to a national effort. The legislature is providing funding for more dental hygiene schools throughout the state. Underserved populations are not treated because there is no economic incentive to do so and they are hard to treat. Our legislature does not provide economic incentives for dentistry to serve underserved populations because it discounts fees for dental services via Medicaid. We are also failing to get people interested to treat a population that is difficult to work on.

I was talking to a dental hygiene graduate of two years who is working towards the current version of a Master's degree in Dental Hygiene to work towards a teaching career. I asked him what he thought of getting a Master's degree to become a ADHP. He had never heard the term. When I told him he could go work for underserved communities and clean teeth, do fillings and do "easy extractions" by getting grant money using government resources, he just stared at me like I was crazy. To end the pregnant pause, I asked would he be interested in doing that. He said that he might as well just go to dental school. Besides, who really wants to work on the elderly, disabled, mentally retarded, and those who live in the middle of nowhere.

The ADHP curriculum pretty much mirrors the courses I took in dental school from the Practice Management and Public Health departments. I was chagrinned when I read the

Restorative and Uncomplicated Extraction course content. What is an uncomplicated extraction? I took out over 370 teeth in four days in Guatemala last year and I would say 10% were uncomplicated. The course content and objectives talk about operative dentistry not restorative. How many times have you followed decay to a pulp that ended in root canal therapy? So who is going to do root canal therapy? If the tooth is lost, who is going to replace it? There is no indication that these students will learn about occlusion and how their work will affect the rest of the oral musculature complex.

The problem with creating a hybrid dentist/hygienist is that nowhere do I see ADHA approaching ADA for their input. (They do say they are communicating with the oral health community). As an old hygienist who became a dentist I thought I knew it all. I was disabused of this defect in thinking in about two weeks into dental school. The biggest pitfall in trying to create something you are not is that you don't know what you don't know. So how can ADHA develop this person ignoring the deep inter-relationship between all facets of dentistry and pulling out two parts? Will they pull out another part and make an esthetic hygienist who just does veneers and bleaching? How about a prosthetic hygienist that makes dentures and partials or an implant hygienist? I don't understand how you tease out procedures without knowing the big picture. ADHA- How about this concept? Go to dental school so you can do it all. When you get out, like dentists, you can narrow down the procedures you want to do, get more education to do it well, and then go work for underserved populations. Where does this hubris come from that the hardest people to treat requires less education? Shelly L. Fritz, DDS

Counterpoint by Barbara Posler

The New Mexico Dental Hygienists' Association recognizes the disparities in the oral health care delivery system and we continue to work on solutions to improve the health of those in need. We agree that there are few economic incentives to treat the underserved population and applaud the efforts made to increase the number of dentists in New Mexico, in the face of a national shortage. However, the fact remains that too many New Mexicans have difficulty accessing oral health care services.

We believe that the creation of an advanced dental hygiene practitioner (ADHP) could be part of the solution in filling the gap in services. The concept of a mid-level

practitioner is certainly not new. In medicine, various professions have answered the unmet public health needs with nurse practitioners, certified nurse midwives, clinical nurse specialists, physician assistants and certified registered nurse anesthetists. Over forty countries successfully utilize mid-level dental practitioners such as dental nurses, aides or therapists.

The ADHP would work in public health settings, not in competition with the private sector. The ADHP would be another "rung" on the "career ladder" whereby dental hygienists could increase their education and skills to better serve those in need. The ADHP could refer patients to other health providers for further care, as is the common practice in medicine and dentistry.

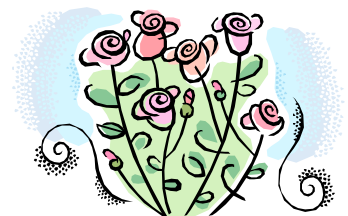
The American Dental Hygienists' Association (ADHA) is currently working to develop a curriculum that would prepare the ADHP to deliver quality services to the public they would serve. ADHA has invited input from the Academy of General Dentistry, the American Dental Association, and numerous other medical, dental and social service groups. These organizations are all involved in the discussion and planning process.

We all know that dental health is an integral part of total health. It is important to us that we can work with the dental profession and other health care professionals as an integrated healthcare team to meet the needs of the underserved and improve overall health. For this to occur, change is inevitable.

Beautiful hanging baskets just in time for Mother's Day!

Sigma Phi Alpha (SPA) will be selling hanging baskets at NMDHA's annual Midyear meeting on May 5th, 2006 to raise money for dental hygiene scholarships. We will feature 8" and 10" hanging baskets full of attractive pansies or begonias. These hearty plants are ready to enjoy and are provided by Albuquerque's own Agra Greenhouses. Our 8" baskets will sell for \$18.00 and 10" baskets for \$20.00. You may purchase your plants at Midyear, but we encourage you to purchase in advance to guarantee your hanging baskets. All orders will be available for pickup at the Midyear meeting even if you're not attending. Your order and check (made to Sigma Phi Alpha) can be sent to:

SPA
PO Box 3394
Albuquerque, NM 87190



SIGMA PHI ALPHA
DENTAL HYGIENE HONOR SOCIETY



SIGMA PHI ALPHA

Combine your shopping fun with your necessary continuing education hours and save time while helping educate the next generation of dental hygienists! Talk about multi-tasking! Buy a Mother's Day plant at the NMDHA Midyear Meeting on May 5th for your mother, yourself, your daughter who is a mother, or just your beautiful home. Sigma Phi Alpha is planning to sell beautiful, locally grown Mothers Day plants at the NMDHA Midyear Meeting at fantastic prices.

Sigma Phi Alpha would like you to also save your "high end" garage sale items for our summer garage sale to benefit the students. If you absolutely cannot store them, please contact Melissa Gutierrez, President, at melissaannt@netzero.net or Jamie Menees at jbmenees@hubwest.com. We also hope to see you there as a customer!

Your support is greatly appreciated to help benefit students like (senior) Shaliene Gray who received \$500, (junior) Holly Manzer who received \$250, and the Masters Students who received \$250 to benefit their Van Buren Middle School class project. With your help, we will be awarding more scholarships to deserving students at the NMDHA Scientific Session during the Fall of 2006.

If you would, please add the date and address of the garage sale. Saturday, June 10th from 8 AM to 3 PM. It will take place at Jamie Menees' house, in the 4200 block of Avenida La Resolana NE, which close to Constitution and Washington. Call 256-0504 or email for exact address.

President's Message

Continued from page 1

One of the ways of being successful is to have a strategic plan which is a roadmap of sorts, a guide along the pathway to possibilities. We can pave and guide our own path. The Strategic Plan helps keep us on course for establishing our goals and guides the use of our money; our budget.

Establishing the plan takes a series of steps and meetings. In January, about eighteen of our members gathered to do some brainstorming. A great big thank you to all of you who participated! Then editing and refining took place, to be followed by a review of the Finance Committee. The final step will be ratification of the Plan by the general membership (you) at our "May Day May Day" Midyear meeting.

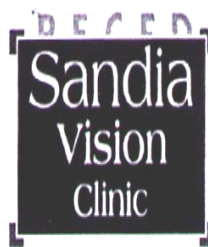
Your participation is important and I look forward to seeing all of you at our next General Membership meeting in Albuquerque, May 5.

Kelly Valdez=Ayres, RDH, BS

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Frank T. Chmisci, O.D.	Kay K. Puro, O.D.
David Magnus, O.D.	Kevin L. Morris, O.D.

In the Northeast Heights, at the NW corner of Eubank and Comanche

NEWS FOR COLLABORATIVE DENTAL HYGIENISTS

The Collaborative Dental Hygiene Practitioners from around the state are putting their heads together and getting organized. We are trying to meet every quarter to discuss issues of collaborative practice. We have a great lunch catered by Dawn Sanchez Creations, guest speakers to help answer questions about business, laws, regulations, medicaid and any current issues. Our April meeting was cancelled but we will meet May 12th at 11:00 am. Please RSVP on or before May 10th..

This meeting is for anyone who has questions about collaborative practice and is already certified or any of you that are considering serving the public of New Mexico using Collaborative Practice. Bring your questions and concerns and we will share experiences and ideas.

Please call: Elizabeth Ferrell at 505-379-2131 or email at smiles4milesnm@earthlink.net or Pam Grabowski in Santa Fe at 505-995-0595 or email at pamgrabowski@msn.com.

Latest Changes for ADHA Members



Real Time allows members to renew online quickly and efficiently.

Update contact information.

Pay ADHA dues and make contributions to the Institute for Oral Health & the PAC.

Register for ADHA conferences including ADHA's 83rd Annual Session in Orlando, FL.

View your ADHA profile.

How to use this new member benefit:

Go to www.adha.org and click on Real Time banner located in upper right corner.

Users will be prompted for a login and password.

- ◆ Effective **April 1, 2006**, ADHA will accept membership dues payments for the full amount of dues **only**. Dues payments may be made via check, money order or credit card. Members will continue to have four convenient ways to pay - online, fax, phone or mail.
- ◆ Effective **July 1, 2006**, ADHA will implement a \$15.00 (10%) increase in our national dues totaling \$170.00. This decision was made by the 82nd House of Delegates after the Finance Committee made a recommendation to the Board of Trustees for the increase.

ADHA is increasing its dues to take on a number of important projects in the coming years. These projects include but are not limited to:

- ◆ Development of an Advanced Dental Hygiene Practitioner, including the creation of an ADHP Advisory Committee, an ADHP Task Force and the distribution of subsequent clinical practice guidelines.
- ◆ Increased presence in Washington
- ◆ Development of a nationwide Public Relations Campaign
- ◆ Dental Hygiene Master File project to collect and analyze national dental hygiene demographic information and practice information.

ADHA has a strong base of committed healthcare professionals who recognize the important role the association plays in the healthcare industry. To continue to grow and serve as the authority of dental hygiene, ADHA needs resources available to meet the growing role of the association. It is the support of each individual that makes all this possible.

ADVANCING DENTAL HYGIENE
One Professional At A Time

New Mexico Dental and Dental Hygiene Liaison Committee

Last year the New Mexico Dental Association Board of Trustees invited the New Mexico Dental Hygiene Association to develop a committee of dentists and hygienists to encourage dialogue to prevent communication disasters and the distrust between the associations that have plagued us in the past. Representatives from each profession formed the Liaison Committee (LC) and met initially last fall and several other times this year. It turned out to be a lively group of people from around the state who met voiced their desires, frustrations and opinions and came up with some ideas and information to share with the dental community.

Fluoridation: Members of the committee have drafted a letter in support of fluoridation which is currently awaiting approval from the associations. This letter will be sent to component presidents of the dental and dental hygiene associations for distribution. It was the intent that the presidents of these components communicate together and submit a joint letter to the communities via their city councils to encourage the utilization of fluoridation in their respective local water systems; which is not occurring in many places throughout the state.

Sugar in Schools: The issue of snacks and sodas removal from schools was discussed and the LC suggested that our Boards write a letter to the Governor to mandate no sugary snacks and sodas in schools. In the meantime, coincidentally, an article from the ABQ Journal stated that the state might proceed with removing unhealthy snacks from schools. NMDA purchased posters supporting healthy snacks in schools and members took these for dissemination. State and local efforts are now underway to alleviate this problem which contributes significantly to dental disease.

Shortage of hygienists and dentists: The LC discussed the need for obtaining the demographic distribution of all dental health care providers. The Committee discussed that the existing and proposed new hygiene programs may result in an oversupply of hygienists because there are still a large number of dentists in the state not fully utilizing hygienists and there is a shortage of dentist employers. Therefore, knowing exactly where manpower shortages are and how best to fill them is critical in attempting to address dental health care provider shortages. The LC wants to develop an instrument to be utilized with license renewal forms from the Board of Dental Health Care (BDHC) to attempt to pinpoint shortages of dentists and hygienists. This initiative is currently being discussed with various commissions and boards. The LC discussed that a grant to encourage and train dentists and dental hygienists to work together more efficiently as well as a pilot project to place a dentist and dental hygienist in areas of dental need are of interest to members of the profession.

The Committee also invited Britt Catron, RDH, Dental Director of NM Medicaid, to several meetings to report on the state of Medicaid. She reported that the eligibility enrollment will be changed from 6 month to 12 month for certification of Medicaid benefits. Additionally, the Medicaid participant must renew and update their eligibility within the year to prevent automatic closure of benefits. She also reported that she has submitted a budget request to restore dental benefits cut in the 2006 budget and to provide two, instead of one, cleaning per year as well as to permit one exam per year for two different providers for participants. Britt and the Committee also discussed certification of providers treating the developmentally disabled (DD). The future of providing dental services for the DD may be changing soon because several care centers which provide services for the DD may be curtailing both the scope and number of dental services provided and there are several DD certified providers who do not accept Medicaid. Presently the certification process is being done at Los Lunas through Dr Ray Lyons. Britt recommended that maybe the process could be opened up to allow for

more sites and have a train the trainer program especially in the rural areas of the state. It was recommended that a broad base of dental and dental hygiene DD providers be certified and trained across the state so that services are available throughout the state from a variety of practitioners. To increase access to the certification program the Committee discussed the creation of a website for didactic instruction and that local DD certified individuals could perform the clinical hands-on training for certification. This along with the certification program for collaborative practice dental hygienists that UNM Dental Hygiene is developing could possibly improve access to this much needed program. Britt believed that it was essential that a dental assessment for the Medicaid DD Wavier programs be included as a requirement and that currently, there are not enough DD providers to meet this requirement. The Committee felt that it was imperative that more dentists, including collaborative practice hygienists consulting dentist become DD certified. The LC has also encouraged our respective associations to promote these concepts and the aforementioned changes in the Medicaid budget because a lack of access to care is associated with untreated dental caries and increased periodontal disease—which can create pain, failure to thrive, loss of work or school, and can have harmful effects on speech, nutrition, and self esteem. These actions are under advisement by both associations but no action has been taken to date.

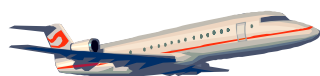
Lastly, the LC also discussed the need for each Association to share information related to their respective legislative activities with each other’s boards and provide information generated by the LC to our constituents through each Association’s newsletters. This is the first such sharing of this information. Members on the LC are hygienists Ermalinda Baca, Paul Edwards, Carol Hanson, Jan Walsh, and dentists Shelly Fritz, Linda Nichols, Julius Manz and Bill Valentine.

CONGRATULATIONS TO NEW MEXICO STUDENTS

Michelle Riggsby, a student from the University of New Mexico, and **Carrie Juckes**, a student from San Juan College were selected to represent District IX at the Student House of Representatives (SHOR) during ADHA’s annual session, as Student Delegate and Alternate Student Delegate. There are twelve districts in the United States, each with two student delegates. Students from New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas dental hygiene programs submitted essays describing the “qualities of a District Student Delegate for SADHA.” Michelle and Carrie both wrote outstanding essays, demonstrating leadership qualities and enthusiasm for their chosen profession. It has been a while since New Mexico has had the honor of representing our district, and this year we have *TWO* students! NMDHA is proud of and very excited for Carrie & Michelle, and we know that they will serve with “honor and dignity.” It will be great to hear about their experiences. Here’s to our future leaders and their success!!



Michelle Riggsby, UNM



Carrie Juckres, SJC



Dental Hygiene, a Health Care Science

Given the recent attention to dental care delivery and oral health, Americans are realizing that dental hygiene is in fact a health care science that is necessary in our health care system for the wellness of the population and for the prevention of diseases: Graduate level dental hygienists are needed to meet these issues!

The Master of Science in Dental Hygiene Degree Program at UNM follows a four semester, individually-designed, on-line graduate level curriculum which begins each year in the fall semester. Apply by April 15th!

Please contact:

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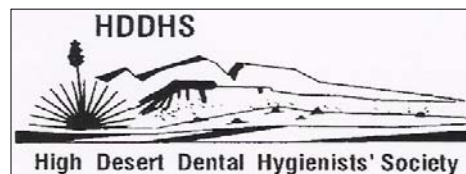
High Desert Dental Hygienists' Society

Thank you, thank you, thank you to the wonderful graduate students who shared their expertise with us this year. Lisa Esparza told us the latest information on oral cancer, Ani Dorgan-Humberson covered "HIV/AIDS" and Missy Plese was an excellent source of information about "Diabetes" We had an inspiring program on the "Special Needs Patient and the Carrie Tingley Dental Clinic: by Elaine Sanchez Dils RDH, MS on Tuesday, April 18th. The dinner was free so hope you came!

Remember that the program on Special Needs Patients was necessary for you to attend if you want to get CE credit for volunteering at Special Olympics.

2005-2006 HDDHS President, Judy Pederson thanks its members for the great attendance this year. We would also like to hear from you if you would like to help your component in any way. We have elected officers for 2006-2007 and committee members for Albuquerque Day, 2007. Please lend them a hand and share your talents! Call Lisa Esparza at 858-3193 or email her at loveversmile@aol.com

Watch for the 2006-2007 schedule which will be mailed out late summer and watch NMDHA's web site for other meetings and CEs.



ADHA Institute for Oral Health

"Leading the way through professional excellence in dental hygiene education and research."

ents! Over 50 scholarships totaling approximately \$70,000 were awarded to dental hygiene students throughout the nation. If you would like to learn more about IOH scholarships visit the Institute Website at: www.adha.org/Institute.

If you will be attending ADHA Annual Session in Orlando, I would advise you not to miss the IOH Gala on June 23! A fitting theme, Mad Hatter Tea Party, begins with a silent auction and dinner, and ends with dessert and fireworks! Hope to see you there. Last years event raised over \$14,000 for scholarships, research grants, and community service grants.

Thanks to all who have donated to IOH! If you have any questions, would like to make a monetary donation or donate an auction item, please call me at 898-6074.

Carol Hanson, RDH, BS
ADHA IOH Liaison

I am pleased to inform you that two UNM graduate students, Lisa Esparza and Tamara Donald, are 2005-2006 IOH scholarship recipients.



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT-ELECT

By Cindy Purdy, RDH, BS

It seems as though every slice of our life requires or demands more personal time and energy from us. With all of this depletion, where will we ever get revitalized? A long day on the ski slopes (not likely in New Mexico!)...A spa...a vacation to Bonaire?? Well, I recently got my boost in my very own living room.

The Council on Administration put out a Call to Arms for New Mexico hygienists whom might be interested in assisting with NMDHA's Strategic Planning for 2006-2009. The response could not have been more stimulating. The surge of energy was astonishing. Dedicated and concerned hygienists from across the state forfeited most of their precious Friday to share their ideas, hopes and dreams for the future of their profession. I find it difficult to fully express the appreciation of the executive officers for the eager and enthusiastic contributions from all of the members that day. We are on the verge of experiencing the power and success of grassroots initiatives.

This power and pride is being felt across the country. I recently had the fortune of spending a weekend in Connecticut with few very formidable dental hygienists: Leslie Andrews, RDH, MBA-President of Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association, Sandra Stramoski, RDH-Trustee and Chairman of Membership for Connecticut Dental Hygienists' Association and Anne Guignon, RDH, MPH from Houston, Texas. These ladies are sensing the same energy and fielding the same concerns from their membership. Every state is passionate that they would be the ideal testing ground for the Advanced Dental Hygiene Practitioner. I say let the competition begin! Any dental hygiene advancement in any state will champion access to care for more of the underserved population.

And, any amount of participation is a portion of the whole process. Now that the Strategic Plan brainstorming is completed, there is typing, organizing and financial considerations. **Please do not be tentative or hesitate.** There is always room for each of us to partake and allow our talents to shine. Leslie Andrews said it best in her Presidential inaugural address. "When you look back on these times, won't it be wonderful to say, 'I was there. I was a part of it. I con-

Hello from San Juan College!

Our names are Josalyn Sewell and Jordanne Nygren and we had the opportunity to attend Dental Hygiene Day at the Legislative Session on January 27th in Santa Fe. The day started bright and early at 7:30am at the Capitol Building with the meeting of UNM students and members from the NMDHA. Lucky for us Cher LeFebvre took us under her wing and showed us the ropes as we went to each of our Senators and Representatives offices to discuss dental hygiene issues. We then had the privilege to attend the Senate meeting, it was exciting to see the inter-workings of our state. The best part of our day was lunch with members of NMDHA after the meeting.

We learned so many valuable lessons that day. Not only do we need to know about the political issues of our profession but we need to have our voices heard. The only way to do this is to get out and get involved. We also learned the importance of converting from SADHA to full ADHA membership by the amazing examples set for us during our time with the NMDHA members. We are the future and we want to see the dental hygiene profession advance in the right direction!!



Jordanne and Josalyn with mentors Kelly Valdez-Ayres, President, NMDHA and Barbara Posler, Legislative Chair, NMDHA

Leadership in Dental Hygiene

I wanted to continue my ranting and raving about membership...this month we held a strategic planning meeting for the future of New Mexico Dental Hygienists and we missed you if you did not attend. We had several dental hygienists who have not attended a strategic planning session before (me included) and it was so great to have so many new ideas on how to better plan and insure the future of our profession.

I really cannot stress how important it is for all of us to become educated about the issues on the horizon. New Mexico has always been in the forefront of change and expansion of dental hygiene practice thanks to Glenelle and Barb and many others. Please join us and learn about your possibilities.

Ginny Berger, RDH

Vice President, NMDHA

NMDHA MAY DAY CONTINUING EDUCATION

MAY 5, 2006

INDIAN PUEBLO CULTURAL CENTER

2401 12TH STREEET, NW

12TH STREET AND I-40

ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO 87104

- 7:30 –8:00 AM REGISTRATION and BREAKFAST BUFFET
 8:00 –9:00 AM NMDHA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
 9:15-12:30 PM KEYNOTE SPEAKER: “High Risk – Is It Our Patients...Or Us?”
 by Cheryl Thomas, RDH
 12:30-2:00 PM LUNCH: ASSORTED SANDWICH BAR
 Lunch and Learn Topic: “Dental Applications of Acupuncture”
 Speaker is Marcy B. Zweiback, DOM, MPH, RDH
 2:00 PM to ?? CPR Re-Certification by Don Rogers

Councils on General Membership Meetings, Education and Research have been working very hard to bring you the best “May Day” Continuing Education Seminar to date. The speakers are going to be both educational and entertaining, the topics are not the average dental hygiene topics but very applicable to our dental hygiene careers.

Please join us at the General Membership Meeting to keep in touch with what your association is doing for you. We are always working hard for all New Mexico Dental Hygienists, topics at this meeting include the new scope of practice ADHP Hygienist, and an association dues increase.

This year we are pleased with our new location at the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center. The setting is beautiful, educational and historic. There are many things to do and see at the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center from the Art Gallery, Photo Gallery and Gift Shop. The center is offering NMDHA Seminar Attendees a 10% discount at the gift shop and 50% off the admission fee at both Galleries.

I hope that you take time after the Seminar to visit and take advantage of the discount offers made by the people involved with the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center. There will also be plants available for sale, what a nice Mother’s Day gift, provided by Sigma Phi Alpha. This will not only be a wonderful way to get those needed CE’s but a chance to enjoy good food, visit with friends and enjoy all the wonderful things the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center has to offer.

I am looking forward to seeing you there.

Mary Kaye Vigil RDH, BSDH

Chair NMDHA Council General Membership Meetings

FLYERS WERE MAILED OUT EARLIER

Alaska Native Dental Health Initiative

At a media conference held Jan. 31 in Anchorage Alaska, ADA President Dr. Robert Brandjord announced the ADA, the Alaska Dental Society and several individual dentists have filed suit in Alaska Superior Court, seeking an order that dental health aide therapists stop performing irreversible surgery.

We are taking this action as a last resort, only after two years of unsuccessful attempts to negotiate a reasonable settlement with the Tribal health authorities. We support every facet of the Dental Health Aide program, except for allowing non-dentists to perform surgery for which their training is inadequate.

Even with this action pending, we will continue to work with all stakeholders to implement our alternative proposal for improving dental access for Alaska Natives. If at any point the defendants agree to stop the irreversible surgery, we will drop our suit and add those resources to the considerable investment we already are devoting to improving oral health care for Alaska Natives.

Visit: <http://www.ada.org/goto/alaska> for a full report on ADAs views on the lawsuit and the media conference. Also visit www.adha.org for another perspective on this issue.

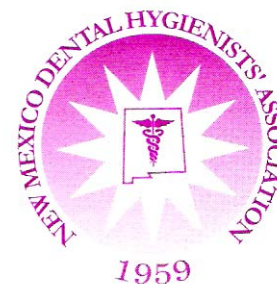
**The Bubbling Brook Would Lose Its Song If
You Removed The Rocks.**

ADHA LOBBY DAY

District IX members who attended the ADHA Lobby Day on March 21, 2006 were Barbara Posler, Kelly Valdez-Ayers, Glenelle Butler, Alicia Grant, Sandy Tesch, Lorie Jones, and Nancy Garrett. They were among 170 hygienists in attendance. We were very pleased to have representative from Senator Bingaman's office welcome us to Washington DC. Barbara, Kelly and Glenelle were able to present an ADHA award honoring Senator Bingaman for his leadership in advancing health care issues. At the reception in the afternoon, Senator Susan Collins attended (an honor for ADHA) and received an award for her work in health care issues. The day was an exciting one for all of us.

The message we delivered was four fold:

1. Highlight the importance of oral health to overall health and general well-being,
2. Explain the silent epidemic of dental disease and the nation's tremendous unmet dental needs,
3. Explain that ADHA is committed to improving access to oral health care by developing a new oral health care provider – the Advanced Dental Hygiene Practitioner,
4. Requesting the legislator to contact HRSA urging action on the ADHP report language.



COMPONENT CORNER

NORTHERN

Billie Driscoll is President. If you would like to become involved in planning with the Northern Component give Billie a call, 984-1464. Cher LeFebvre is the Northern Trustee. Phone numbers are: 429-2902 & 435-6677

Her email is: chersage@mindspring.com

CENTRAL (HDDHS)

Lisa Esparza will be serving as President. Give her a call 858-3193. Trustees are: Joyce Horn, Ann Scott, Norma Sommers and Lisa Snyder. A flyer will be mailed out with the meeting dates and topics. If you misplace yours t go to the website for NMDHA (address below).

SOUTHERN

Carmen Hernandez was elected recently to serve as Trustee. She can be contacted at 526-1621. Another contact person for this component. Doris Baker can be contacted at 522-2745 and dobaker@zianet.com Officers are currently being organized. **Volunteer to help!** Watch website for meetings.

EASTERN

Cindy Lakin is President, you can contact her at 762-4833 (Clovis) email celestialcin@3lefties.com. Other Eastern contacts are Jo Marquez, 891-3449 (Hobbs) email vimarq@aol.com and Becky Fierro, 885-5981 (Carlsbad). Tammy Teague, 399-2088 (Hobbs), serves as Eastern's Trustee. When a meeting is scheduled you will receive a flyer in the mail AND it will be on the web site.

Component meetings will be posted on our Web Site **if you notify us**. So visit:

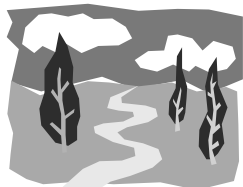
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c/o Charlene Schuyler, RDH
505-884-5543

NMDHA
Phone: 505-332-1370
Fax: 505-883-7741
Email: glenelle@comcast.net

Check out the colored edition at
www.nmdha.org

PAVING A
PATHWAY
TO POSSIBILITIES



Special Olympics

2006 Special Olympics Summer Games

Where: University of New Mexico Track & Field
(Old location, back on grassy field)

When: Saturday, May 20, 2006

Time: 9:00 am—3:00 pm

What: Need Volunteers ~screeners, recorders,
Counselors, escorts, and cheerleaders ~
The More the Better!!

Contact Lisa E. 259-1068 and/or Kitty 833-3763

Enjoy great competition & FUN

Promote Oral Health! Wear sunscreen and Join Us!



COME JOIN OUR TEAM!

We have opportunities in private and mobile dental settings.

ACC provides dental care throughout New Mexico.

Our benefit plan includes:

Flexible scheduling, Health Insurance, Disability Insurance, Paid Continuing
Education, Paid Vacation, Preventive Dental Benefits and 401K.

Remember, we offer confidential permanent job placement at no cost to you.

Relocating to New Mexico? We can help!

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