

MESSAGE FROM CARYN SOLIE, ADHA PRESIDENT

Happy New Year! The beginning of a new year puts us in a frame of mind for reflection on the past's successes and challenges, inspires us to a greater engagement in the present and provides hope to envision the future.

In just two years ADHA will mark the 100 year anniversary of our profession. In fact, the planning for our centennial celebration in Boston, June 19 - 25, 2013 is already underway. As ADHA members we have more reasons than ever to be grateful for our past, committed to the present and excited for the future of dental hygiene and dental hygienists.

Last fall ADHA Executive Director Ann Battrell, MSDH shared that, based on the hard work that we have done over the past few years, she believed that we have reached a new "tipping point" for ADHA and our profession. A few of the reasons for our optimism are:

- Recently ADHA has been acknowledged by several organizations and agencies as having a rational and collaborative approach to oral health workforce challenges.
- ADHA policies and opinions are finally being recognized as important and relevant to ongoing oral health discussions by the federal government, foundations, and related dental organizations.
- The ADA is no longer being thought of as the sole leader and voice of the dental industry.
- Discussions about the dental hygiene workforce and scope of practice are now being held with many stakeholders at the federal and state level. In addition, discussions are occurring at meetings such as the ADEA Dean's Conference, The Dunning Symposium and ADA Council on Dental Practice.
- Total overall ADHA membership numbers increased this past year.
- ADHA is dedicated to increasing employment opportunities for dental hygienists whether within a traditional dental practice or in one of many exciting new practice settings that are opening up for licensed dental hygienists.

Your needs are at the center of all of our programs and member benefit offerings as we are clearly focused on Developing, Empowering and Supporting you in all of our endeavors. You and thousands of ADHA members just like you all across the country have played a key role in making our success possible. Your decision to become a member, remain a member and mentor a member is what makes us a professional organization that is built on being "Better Together." None of us alone can achieve as much as we can together, we are united to accomplish our goals. All of the progress that ADHA has achieved to date is due to the commitment, support and hard work of dental hygienists just like you.

As you renew your membership for this year please remember that our goals for the future are big and will affect the way you are able to practice in many ways. Your continued ADHA membership and your support of grants and scholarships through ADHA's Institute for Oral Health (IOH) are truly appreciated and needed to continue to forge a bright future for our profession.

I would like to thank each one of you for all that you have given to our profession and our association. I wish you well in the year to come and hope to see all of you at the Center for Lifelong Learning at the 88th Annual session in Nashville.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Caryn Solie, RDH". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Caryn Solie, RDH, ADHA President