

BOT Connections October 2018

The Fall Event/Student Faculty Conference this year was held on Friday September 28th at the DMACC FFA Center in Ankeny, Iowa. We had a very successful event this year and would like to extend our heartfelt thanks and gratitude to all of the attendees and volunteers who helped with the event this year. We could not do any of this without all of you!

Brenda Platz gave us the component merger update: The Articles of Merger have been filed with the State of Iowa to merge components into the Iowa Dental Hygienists' Association. Although there are no longer local components in Iowa providing CE, any IDHA member can suggest or organize a continuing education program or study group in their area (must be an Iowa Dental Board approved topic). Want to host a local event but not sure where to start? Contact iowadha@gmail.com and an IDHA member in your area can help organize your event.

Nancy Miller, Legislative chair and Iowa Dental Board liaison, discussed recent Board actions and bills to be presented to the 2019 Iowa Legislature. The Iowa Dental Board voted to submit a bill to the Legislature to allow expanded function dental auxiliaries (EFDA) who have completed Level 2 training to place sealants. Adding this procedure requires legislative action to amend section 153.38 of the Iowa Code. Lobbyist Tom Cope told us the dental hygienists on the Board want additional language added to this bill making sure that the removal of plaque and stain can only be removed by toothbrush, floss, or rubber cup coronal polish. They also want nitrous oxide administration added to the list of functions a dental assistant cannot perform.

IDHA will also submit a bill to the Legislature to add "nursing facilities" to the Iowa Code Chapter 153.15 as a setting where dental hygienists can provide services. This setting is stated in the rules but not in the Code. Lobbyist Cope suggested IDHA also include the clause "or any other location authorized by rule by the board." If this was added then every time a new setting is considered, it wouldn't require legislative action. Cope told us that the IDA concurs with our adding nursing facilities but at this time they could not support the added clause. A meeting is planned with IDA and IDHA officers to discuss this and other issues.

Recent rule changes which are now adopted were discussed, and articles explaining these new rules can be found on the IDHA website. Mary Kelly, dental hygienist serving a third term on the Iowa Dental Board, attended this meeting and answered questions from members about recent board actions.

That is all for now. Our next board meeting will be held Saturday January 19th at Hawkeye Community College in Waterloo. Please feel free to check out the rest of our meeting dates on this website and attend a board meeting. We would be so happy to have you attend and are always looking for fresh ideas and welcome new faces and participation.

Warm Regards,

Jennifer Pierce

President Elect of the Iowa Dental Hygienists Association

