

## March 2019 BOT Connections

A Board meeting was held Saturday March 2, 2019 at Hawkeye College in Waterloo and included a legislative update from Lobbyist Tom Cope. We are starting to build our Slate of Officers for the year 2019-2020. We have several positions open. If you are interested in becoming an active member of the board, please contact us!

IDHA submitted a bill to the Legislature to remove the current settings that hygienists are limited to practice in to the Iowa Code Chapter 153.15. The Iowa Dental Board voted to submit a bill to the Legislature to allow expanded function dental auxiliaries (EFDA) who have completed only Level 2 training to be able to place sealants. Adding this procedure would have required legislative action to amend section 153.38 of the Iowa Code. There was also another part of the bill where Iowa Dental Association (IDA) wanted to give dental assistants the ability to scale calculus supra gingivally. The total bill, HSB153, was not passed this legislative session because between IDHA, IDA and the Iowa Dental Board, all three parties could not agree upon the language.

We need more members and active participation in our Association to preserve our profession and move it forward in a positive direction. Without these it could, at some point start affecting salaries and our importance in the workplace. This is starting to become a very strong possibility if we do not have the numbers in our membership to support what we want our voice to say. This being said, please seriously consider getting involved in IDHA at some level. We need you!! If you know someone who is not a member please encourage him or her to become a member of ADHA/IDHA, even if they do not want to be directly involved. IDHA has more presence with the legislature and legislators will take us more seriously if we have larger numbers in membership (like the dentists do) when we go in front of the legislature to lobby for what direction we want our profession to go or not to go in. I know that all of us spent a lot of time and effort getting our education to be in this profession and make the wages we make. We need to make sure that things only change for our profession for the better and in the direction we hygienists want it to go in. Please help protect the future of dental hygiene by helping us get as many members as we can and helping non-members to understand the importance of membership.

Our final board meeting for this fiscal year will be held Saturday, May 4, 2019 at the Hotel at Kirkwood Center at 12:30pm. We would be so happy to have you attend and are always looking for fresh ideas and welcome new faces and participation. If you are interested in attending, please email our Vice President Amanda Aunspach so that she can add you in on the lunch count at [amandaaunspach@gmail.com](mailto:amandaaunspach@gmail.com).

Warm Regards,

Jennifer Pierce

President Elect of the Iowa Dental Hygienists Association