

Hygiene Herald

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President's Message



Gaylene Baker RDH, BSDH, MBA



Greetings and Happy New Year! It is that time of year once again. A special time, smack-dab between Christmas and New Year's, that many, including myself, use for reflection on the year that was, and for contemplation on the year ahead. I have no doubt that 2016 will be a wonderful and prosperous year for the Dental Hygienists' of Illinois, and we will "Keep Moving Forward".

When I think of IDHA, it is obvious that an engaged membership is the most powerful resource we have. When we are able to tap into that potential, we do amazing things. We are a work in progress, and each member has a role to play in making IDHA the most successful association imaginable.

I must recognize and give gratitude for the members who stepped up and contributed, not only to the big events and projects, but to the day-to-day operations and the under-the-radar activities that keep us moving forward. I thank you for taking a chance by putting yourself out there, being more involved, and giving your time and effort to your association and the Dental Hygienists of Illinois. We are an association of volunteers trying to do our best amidst the priorities of work, family, and life in general. So, thank you to everyone who volunteered your time in any way last year. Whether it was to offer planning, attend a meeting, file an e-slip, visit the Capitol, visit Legislators, make phone calls, work health fairs, and on and on, you are the foundation of our organization.

As we begin 2016, it is with the realism that it will not all be smooth sailing for us as an association, or as individuals. But, we continue with the optimism that we can use our skills and abilities to overcome challenge and achieve greatness.

What does 2016 have to offer for Illinois RDHs?

An Educational Exchange

On September 14, 2015 the College of DuPage's Dental Hygiene Program welcomed Kobe Tokiwa Junior College's Department of Oral Health to campus. Kobe Tokiwa Junior College is located in Japan and was prompted by Hu-Friedy Japan to help with the educational exchange between the two colleges. The instructors of Kobe Tokiwa chose Chicago for several reasons; number one on the list was that Chicago harbors many dental supply companies, The American Dental Association and The American Dental Hygienists Association. Since the United States is the birthplace of dental hygiene, the instructors at Kobe Tokiwa thought it would be beneficial for their students to see first hand the differences in the dental hygiene curriculum.



While at the College of DuPage, the students of Tokiwa had the chance to observe a lecture and visit the lab and clinic in which the dental hygiene students attending the College of DuPage utilize for the majority of their requirements. One notable difference the students of Tokiwa noticed was the interaction between faculty and student. In Japan, the learning style is less active with faculty and more of being informed on what is expected of them. Among the differences observed while on tour of the College of DuPage's facilities, the students at Kobe Tokiwa learned that the students are motivated and are proactive in their learning. The student teacher ratio was much smaller at the College of DuPage as compared to Kobe Tokiwa. Kobe Tokiwa students also saw the difference in infection control and clinical care of patients, clinical care cannot be performed on external patients but only the students attending Kobe Tokiwa Junior College.

The students of Kobe Tokiwa and the students at the College of DuPage prepared presentations for each other to further observe the variance in curriculums. Presentations were prepared by both the students of Kobe Tokiwa and the College of DuPage to help create an educational exchange between each program and their outcomes. Notable differences the students at the College of DuPage learned were that the students at Kobe Tokiwa cannot scale subgingivally and they act as assistants to the dentist. They do value their elderly over younger individuals and have just started initiating oral hygiene instructions to children, focusing on whole body health called the 80/20 Campaign. The 80/20 Campaign is to encourage people to keep more than 20 teeth when they become 80 years old. Another major difference noted by not only by the Kobe Tokiwa students but the students at the College of DuPage was that in Japan they are not allowed to take radiographs on patients. They can do everything except push to exposure button, which in Japan the dentist has to push the expose button.

Educational Exchange Continued

The educational exchange between The College of DuPage and Kobe Tokiwa Junior College shared a few commonalities of the day and that was dental hygiene education and patient care. All parties involved showed knowledge and gratitude towards one another and took home so much more than what the day brought. A special thank you to the instructors at Kobe Tokiwa, faculty and students at the College of Dupage and Jill Walker (Hu-Friedy, Chicago) for bestowing all of us with this information and it's educational perspective.

(Stacy Castronova RDH, MSDH, Adjunct Faculty-College of DuPage, IDHA- Hygiene Herald Chair, WSDHS- Immediate Past-President)

