North Carolina Dental Assistants Association Spring 2013



Greetings from Your President

I am so excited to have been elected to the North Carolina Dental Assistants Association as your president for 2012-2013. The installation ceremony was held at our Annual Session in Myrtle Beach, S.C. I choose a lighthouse theme for the installation ceremony. I've always loved lighthouses and what they represent. They helped ships find there way up the intercoastal waterway and I feel as dental assistants we should help new assistants find there place in our profession. Nanette Hill did the installation and did a great job. She has been my lighthouse and helped guide me into the role I have as your president.

We held our first committee and board meetings on August 18, 2012. It was held at Dr. Bobby Elliott's office in Cary, N.C. Dr. Elliott was also our guest speaker. He spoke on "Tricks and Design Layout for Seeing Younger Patients in Your Office." He did a great job as always.

October 18-20, 2012 we had 6 delegates attend the American Dental Assistants Association Annual Conference in San Francisco. This meeting is held in conjunction with the American Dental Association. There were alot of exhibitors and CE classes for us to attend along with the meetings of ADAA.

On November 16, 2012 will we held our next NCDAA meeting and CE at Rowan Cabarrus Community College in Salisbury, N.C. Our speaker was Linda Kamp. This was a 6 hour "Spice" class. It was open to all members and to the area dental office staff. Our next meeting was February 22, 2013 at Rowan Cabarrus Community College. This was a 3 hour "Forensic Dentistry" class with Dr. Samuelson.

NCDAA has been participating in the MOM's Projects in N.C. I hope everyone helped in at least one of the projects this year. There are so many needy people in the state and it is so rewarding at the end of the day just knowing you have helped put a smile back on someones face.

I'm looking forward to working with all the officers and the local societies this year. My goal is to increase our membership this year by inviting e-members to become full members and to encourage students to join. I really hope each local will make it a point to contact e-members in their area and encourage them to become full members. Instructors I encourage you to have your students join ADAA and become a part of their professional organization. I think if we can get everyone in the mind set that dental assisting is a profession and not just a job they will take alot more pride in their work.

Sincerely, Rita Millikan,CDA NCDAA President

Officers 2010-2012

<u>President</u> Rita Millikan, CDA

127 Caroline Street Rockingham, N. C. 28379 910-997-8378 W 910-417-1409 C

rita.millikan@richmondnc.com

<u>Vice President</u> Linda Clark, CDA

3533 Arthur Pierce Road Apex, N. C. 27502 919-467-0654 H 919-363-0503 W glclark@bellsouth.net

President Elect

<u>Secretary</u> Dianne R. Gwaltney, CDA

92 6th St. SW Taylorsville, NC 28681 828-322-4627 W 828-310-6077 C drgwaltney52@gmail.com

Assistant Secretary Doris Clapp, CDA

714 Dove Rd. Cameron, N.C. 28326 919-499-1270H

Treasurer

Kristy Eddleman, CDA 6715-A Fairview Road Charlotte, NC 28210-3355 704-364-8963 H 704-366-6321 W 704-506-4273 C 704-366-6346 F kristy@edata-charlotte.com

<u>Parliamentarian</u> Nanette Hill, CDA

13400 Bold Run Hill Rd Wake Forest, NC 27587 919 556-2520 H 919-556-2996 W nanette416@embarq.com

Immediate Past President Carol Sell, CDA

1600 Su John Road Raleigh, N. C. 27607 919-851-1155 H 919-467-2762 W 919-906-5259 C ohsell@nc.rr.com

Advisor

Dr. Bobby Elliott

Diplomate, American Board of Pediatric Dentistry Fellow, American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry 540 New Waverly Place, #300 Cary, NC 27518

office: (919) 852-1322 fax: (919) 852-1230 <u>The2thFxr@aol.com</u> www.the2thfxr.com

Visit the **NCDAA** website at: <u>www.ncdentalassistant.org</u> For more information contact kristy@edata-charlotte.com

Related websites:

American Dental Assistants Assoc.

www.dentalassistant.org

Dental Assisting National Board

www.danb.org

North Carolina Dental Society

www.ncdental.org

All State and Local components are required to file with the IRS. For more information call Doug McDonnell at Central Office 312-541-1550 ext. 203.



Special Committees

Awards Dianne R. Gwaltney, CDA

92 6th St. SW Taylorsville, NC 28681 828-322-4627 W 828-310-6077 C drgwaltney52@gmail.com

Faye Watkins Susan Wilson (See Info Right)

NC Committee for Dental Health Nanette Hill, CDA (See Info Right)

Program
Joyce Baker or
Kelley Curtin
(See Info Above)

Student Involvement

NC MOM Nanette Hill, CDA (See Info Above Right) <u>Convention</u> Linda Clark, CDA

3533 Arthur Pierce Road Apex, N. C. 27502 919-467-0654 H 919-363-0503 W glclark@bellsouth.net

Historical Nanette Hill, CDA 13400 Bold Run Hill Rd Wake Forest, NC 27587 919 556-2520 H 919-556-2996 W nanette416@embarg.com

NC Dental Foundation

Ways and Means

Website Kristy Eddleman, CDA (See Info Above)

Nominating
Joyce Baker
(See Info Right)

Edna Zedaker Kristy Eddleman, CDA 6715-A Fairview Road Charlotte, NC 28210 704-364-8963 H 704-366-6321 W 704-366-6346 F

kristy@edata-charlotte.com

Mirror Editor Susan Wilson 1405 Piperwood Ct Durham, NC 27713 919-806-5152 H 919-810-6925 C blackeyedsusanw@gmail.com

Organizational
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Newton, N. C. 28658
828-294-0937 H
828-328-5581 W
jbaker88@embarqmail.com

Standing Committees

Budget/Finance Linda Clark, CDA 3533 Arthur Pierce Road Apex, N. C. 27502 919-467-0654 H 919-363-0503 W glclark@bellsouth.net

Judicial/Legislative
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446 Wildwood Drive
North Wilkesboro, NC 28659
336-670-2135 H
336-667-5170 W
336-984-7872 C
dbillingswphdc@embarqmail.com

ByLaws/Manual of Procedures Linda Clark, CDA (See Info Left)

Membership Doris Clapp 714 Dove Rd. Cameron,N.C. 28326 919-499-1270H Stephanie Garnuette 4143 Turnberry Park Ct Pfafftown, NC 27040 336-782-1540 l 336-765-9224C Education Linda Kamp 111 Pecan Lane Salisbury, NC 28146 704-279-8855 H 704-798-0907 C 704-216-3726 W lkamp@carolinarr.com

REGISTRATION FORM 2013 NCDS Annual Session

Carolina Shines 157th NCDS Annual Session

May 16-19, 2013
Embassy Suites
At Kingston Plantation
Myrtle Beach, SC



Registration:

Register on line at www.ncdental.org click the link near the upper right corner, under approaching events.

For on-line registration questions contact 877 205 1943.

Mail your completed paper registration form to: 2013 NCDS Annual Session 1600 Evans Road Cary, North Carolina 27513

Make checks payable to 2013 NCDS Annual Session. We are pleased to accept MasterCard, Visa and Discover.



Registration Form

NORTH CAROLINA DENTAL SOCIETY - 157th ANNUAL SESSION May 16-19, 2013

To ensure accuracy and to help your society Go Green, please register online www.ncdental.org

Registration deadline is April 15, 2013 for discounted registration fees. All others must be received by May 1, 2013.

-	(Please Type or Print Clearly) Foday's Date	On	-site registration will be available at highe	r rates.		
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	NCDS Member Dentist	Full Name	Badge		\$295	\$325
	ONSDS Member Dentist	Full Name	Badge		\$295	\$325
	NCDS Retired Life Member	Full Name	Badge		N/C	N/C
	NCDS First Full Year Dentist	Full Name	Badge		N/C	N/C
	Dentist Serving in the Military	Full Name	Badge		N/C	N/C
	Non-NCDS Member Dentist	Full Name	Badge		\$500	\$550
	UNC Faculty	Full Name	Badge		\$150	\$175
	ECU Faculty	Full Name	Badge		\$150	\$175
	UNC Residency or	Full Name	Badge		N/C	N/C
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	NCDS Awards Luncheon		N/C		Member Dentist			\$	
	(NCDS Member Dentist and Spou	se/Guest)			Spouse/Guest Name				
	ACLS Training—NEW PROGRA	AM! THURSI	DAY ONLY— \$2	.35 per	person includes training manu	al. Number of parti	cipants limited—register early.		
	Thursday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (l	lunch 12 -1)			Full Name			\$	
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	UNC Dental Alumni Assoc Breakfa	ast	\$25		Full Name			\$	
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	NCDS Bike Ride – Fun Family Eve	ent	N/C		Full Name			\$	N/C
	(please in	dicate ages)			Full Name				
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	NCDS Golf Tournament, 12:00 No	on, Tidewater	\$125/person		Full Name			\$	
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	ADA Action Team Leader	□ NCDHA	,		NCDS Officer		Total from Page Three	\$	
	Annual Session Council Member		U		NCDS Past President		Total from Page Four		
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	Please mail completed forms including payment to:				Exp. Date				
	NCDS 2013 ANN					Name on Card			
	1600 EVANS ROAD, CARY, NC 27513								



NC DENTAL ASSISTANTS ASSOCIATION EVENTS

From the Desk of the NCDAA President:

On behalf of the North Carolina Dental Assistants Association I would like to welcome each one of you to beautiful Myrtle Beach S.C. This is the 63rd NCDS Annual Seesion. The North Carolina Dental Assistants Association would like to thank the NCDS for making us a part of their Annual Session. They plan continuing education courses, have exhibitors on hand to show the most up to date materials and equipment and offer activities that everyone can enjoy. I hope you will take this opportunity to take advanage of the classes offered and visit the exhibit hall. These exhibitors spend alot of time and money to bring the new ideas their companies have to offer. The courses, the new materials and equipment displayed are all offered to help



you grow in your profession. We encourage you to take advantage of these over the next few days. I hope you will also join the North Carolina Dental Assistants Association for our meetings being held in Brighton Towers. On Friday we will hold our Opening Session/General Assembly, our installation of officers, the past presidents luncheon and our presidents and officers reception. If you are a dental assistant past, present or a student we welcome you. We would appreciate your participation in your professional organization. NCDAA wants to represent you in North Carolina and we look forward to hearing any of your ideas and concerns you have about our profession.

Sincerely, Rita Millikan, CDA

President, North Carolina Dental Assistants Association rita.millikan@richmondnc.com

NCDAA 2013 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Join in all NCDS events and/or continuing education when not in session!

Thursday, May 16

8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

NCDAA Registration, Embassy Suites/Cambridge Hall

8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

NCDS Continuing Education, Embassy Suites

6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Exhibit Hall Open/President's Reception,

Embassy Suites

7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

NCDAA Executive Committee Meeting, President Rita Millikan's Suite

Friday, May 17

8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

NCDAA Registration – Embassy Suites/Cambridge

9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

NCDAA Pre-Convention Executive Board Meeting, Palladium C (Brighton Towers)

10:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon

NCDAA Opening Session/General Assembly, Palladium C (Brighton Towers) 12:00 noon - 1:30 p.m.

NCDAA Luncheon Honoring Past Presidents – Officers' Suite

2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

General Assembly continued, Palladium C (Brighton Towers)

-Awards

-Installation of Officers

-Post Convention Executive Board Meeting

5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

President's and Officers Reception.

President Rita Millikan's Suite

8:00 p.m.

NCDS Beach Party featuring SHIMMER, Palmettos Pavilion

Saturday, May 18

8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.

Presidents and Officers Breakfast Social, President Rita Millikan's Suite

8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

NCDS Continuing Education, Embassy Suites

Convention Committee News

Once again NCDAA is busy preparing for Annual Session in Myrtle Beach, SC. One of the high-lights during this session is the presentation of awards. Please see the enclosed information and consider nominating deserving members from your local society.

To allow enough time for nominations to be considered before Annual Session please return your nominations to me at the information below by April 30, 2013. I really want to encourage you to take this opportunity seriously and recommend those deserving dental assistants. If you have any questions, please contact me by email, work, or cell phone.

Please remind the student members in your local society to apply for the scholarship awards given each year. Their instructors should have the information.

The NCDAA Luncheon Honoring Past Presidents will be held on Friday, May 17, 2013, at 12:00 Noon. You must pre-register for this event by contacting me via email or phone call. This year we will again have the luncheon in the Officers Suite and the cost is \$15. Please make checks payable to NCDAA Past Presidents and send to me as well. If you would like to donate door prizes for the luncheon, please let me know.

I look forward to hearing from you soon, and also seeing you at Annual Session.

Sincerely,

Dianne R. Gwaltney, CDA NCDAA Awards Committee Chairperson 92 6th St. SW Taylorsville, NC 28681 828-310-6077 (cell) 828-322-4627 (office)



NCDAA ANNUAL SESSION AWARDS

THE EDNA ZEDAKER LOYAL ASSISTANT AWARD, sponsored by the Past President's Council, will be presented to the member of NCDAA present at Annual Session Awards Ceremony, who submits the longest record of consecutive employment, with one employer, provided she/he has not previously received the award. (The term of consecutive employment shall refer to an assistant actually employed by, but not married to her employer). A notorized statement giving the date of original employment and stating that she/he has been a member of NCDAA for at least 2 years must be signed by her employer and the President and Secretary of her local society. It must be 2 consecutive years just prior to application of the award, that he or she has been a member of NCDAA.

THE WILLIAM H. OLIVER ACHIEVEMENT AWARD, sponsored by Linda W. Clark, will be presented to the member, who in the opinion of the Executive Board has done the most outstanding work for NCDAA and for dental assistants.

THE ETHEL EARL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD, sponsored by the family of Faye J. Watkins, will be presented to a member of NCDAA, not currently serving on the Executive Committee, who in the opinion of the Executive Board has done the most outstanding work for the Association and for dental assistants.

NCDAA VOLUNTEERISM AWARD, sponsored by Carolyn C. Newman, will be presented to a local society or active membership status individual for recognition of volunteer service to underserved populations for clinical, educational, or monetary support. This work is performed in the local community, state, or international levels of service.

THE CHARLOTTE LABORATORY AWARD will be presented to the society having the largest percentage of members registered at Annual Session.

THE JOE BAKER COOPERATION AWARD will be presented to the local society that has given the best cooperation to the officers and committees. The Executive Committee will recommend a society to be approved by the Executive Board.

THE AILEEN CROOM MEMBERSHIP AWARD will be presented to the local society having the largest percentage of increase in active membership since the close of last Annual Session of NCDAA.

THE HARRY LEMMONS MEMBERSHIP AWARD will be presented to the local society with the second largest percentage of increase in active membership since the close of last Annual Session of NCDAA.

NCDAA LOCAL SOCIETY EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM AWARD will be presented to the local society submitting the best educational program for at least six regular meetings of the current year.

THE EDNA ZEDAKER SCHOLARSHIP of \$100 will be presented to a student enrolled in a Dental Assisting Program. The selection will be made by the Scholarship Committee.

THE FAYE J. WATKINS, CDA, SCHOLARSHIP OF MERIT, sponsored by NCDAA, will be presented to a student member of NCDAA who attends an accredited Dental Assisting School in the state of North Carolina. The student must exhibit professionalism, leadership qualities, a commitment to the profession of Dental Assisting and a commitment to community service.

NCDAA - Edna Zedaker Scholarship Award

The Edna Zedaker Scholarship Award is a monetary award based on need and academic achievement. All Students in Dental Assisting Schools in North Carolina

are eligible to apply.

The deadline for applications is May 5, 2012.

Edna was a Certified Dental Assistant in Charlotte, NC.

She worked with Dr. Burt Fox for her entire career. She was a Past-President of the American Dental Assistants Association and a Past President of the North Carolina Dental Assistants Association. She held Certification #1 from the Dental Assistant National Board.

Her career was spent caring for her patients and friends.

She was a dear lady who did a lot for organized Dentistry

during her career.

If you need information on the Edna Zedaker Scholarship.

Contact: Kristy Eddleman at kristy@edata-charlotte.com



NCDAA Executive Board Meeting

November 5, 2011 Carol W. Sell, CDA, Presiding

The November 5, 2011 meeting of the NCDAA Executive Board was called to order by President, Carol Sell at 2:10 pm.

President Sell extended a warm welcome to everyone in attendance.



President Sell introduced the NCDAA Officers in attendance and our ADAA 4th District Trustee, Nanette Hill.

Assistant Secretary, Joyce Baker called the roll in the absence of Secretary, Dianne Gwaltney, and a quorum was present to conduct business.

President Sell presented correspondence received since the last board meeting, including a Thank You from Nanette Hill and an invitation to attend the 1st District NCDS meeting in Asheville.

Treasurer, Kristy Eddleman, presented her report showing balances of:

Checking	\$4,409.21
Savings	2,409.83
Edna Zedaker Scholarship Fund	1,095.34
Faye Watkins Scholarship Fund	1,503.89

Kristy made students present aware of the scholarships offered each year, and encouraged them to apply when notices are sent to their school.

The Treasurers report was approved and placed on file for audit.

President-Elect, Rita Millikan took minutes at the last board meeting, however, there was not a quorum so the business could not be conducted. The minutes were taken as information only.

President, Sell gave her report from the ADAA Annual Conference in Las Vegas, Nevada. One item she reported was a vote for a \$10.00 increase in Members annual dues and a \$5.00 increase in Student dues. Lori Paschal from South Carolina was elected as ADAA Vice-President. Joyce Baker won an I-Pad II at the President's Gala.



ADAA BOARD OF TRUSTEES REPORT



NAME OF TRUSTEE	Nanette R Hill, CDA_August 2012
Board of Trustees Meeting	DateJuly 13-15, 2012

Action taken by the Board of Trustees:

*2013 proposed Budget was presented by the Finance Chair and discussed.

*Student renewal membership continues to decline. The Student Trustees feels the renewal form is unclear, plus the students do not understand from the onset of their membership the graduated fee. A new student form is going to be developed.

*The Student Trustee, Jennifer Broyles is in the process of implementing ideas for better retention of the students.

*It was reported that the non-dues revenue (corporate sponsors) is higher than the dues revenue, coming to over 60%. We MUST increase membership if ADAA is to exist. ADAA has money available (\$1000) for membership efforts. See me or contact Doug at Central Office. Please use those funds and work on increasing our/your professional association.

*Each month a membership list is provided, it has been stressed to use it to contact the New Members and E-Members in some form, be creative.

*States are encouraged to make a contribution and recognition to our service men and women. The "Wounded Warriors and Wreaths Across America" are still worthwhile ideas.

*IRS! IRS! IRS! The end of the year is fast approaching. Compliance is necessary. Doug at Central Office is very willing to help.

*You are still encouraged to write articles for 24/7 and submit names of "Dental Assistants you should know".

*The ADAA/DANB Alliance is progressing.

*Don't forget your personal contributions to the ADAA Foundation. \$5, \$10 a month is not hard to do. FYI very few members contribute to the Foundation, 98% is from the corporations.

*If you need a gift-dental related- go to the ADAA e-store. www.cafepress.com/ADAA247. Groupons can be used for special pricing.

*Keep a check on the ADAA's website as it has many changes all the time, www.dentalassistant.org.

*If you are interested in serving on an ADAA Council let me know and I will submit your name or contact President Elect Carolyn Breen, a.s.a.p.! cbadaa@gmail.com.

*There is a separate page of information for the Delegates to this year's Annual Session.

Deadline dates from Board of Trustees Meeting for next Board Meeting September 10 is my deadline for Annual Session; I will be contacting you for an update prior to that time.

It has been my sincere pleasure to represent you on the ADAA Board of Trustees, if there is anything you need please feel free to contact me. Nanette416@embarqmail.com.



CONTACT: ADAA FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Phone: 312.541.1550

For many years, dental assistants have worked tirelessly within individual states to introduce and urge legislation regarding the preparation and credentialing of dental assistants to assure patient safety. Although some safeguards and requirements have been implemented in certain states, very few if any requirements exist for entry into dental assisting. With the recent publicity of several most unfortunate incidents regarding breaches in infection control and seemingly unqualified individuals performing tasks associated with patient care, the American Dental Assistants Association (ADAA) has issued a position statement regarding the education and credentialing of dental assistants.





35 EAST WACKER DRIVE SUITE 1730 CHICAGO, IL 60601-2211 TOLL-FREE: 877.874.3785

P: 312.541.1550 F: 312.541.1496 WWW.DENTALASSISTANT.ORG - MAIN SITE

WWW.ADAA1.COM - CE SITE

American Dental Assistants Association (ADAA) Education and Credentialing of Dental Assistants

ADAA is the voice of dental assistants to the public and to all professional communities of interest. ADAA in collaboration with other notable professional organizations is working to advance and promote initiatives for quality care and patient protection in meeting the current and changing needs of the dental community. Our ability to be flexible and open-minded in adapting to the evolving health care environment is critical to our future as allied dental professionals and to our ability to best serve the public.

The ADAA is focused on two major themes: standardized credentialing and education of dental assistants to assure competency and safeguard the welfare of the public; and the need for enhanced recognition of the critical role dental assistants play in the provision of quality care as vital members of the dental health team. From the first "Lady in Attendance" or female attendant in the dental office to the dental assistant of the present, the scope of practice and responsibilities delegated to dental assistants has changed drastically over the years. Depending upon the state in which one is employed, there are a variety of significant intraoral procedures performed by chairside dental assistants on patients on a daily basis.

In order to appropriately prepare to enter a highly demanding yet rewarding allied health career in dental assisting, interested individuals should be required to attend a formal dental assisting program as there are many critical areas in which individuals should achieve a sound knowledge base prior to employment in any dental practice setting. Mastery of pertinent information will allow dental assistants to translate background information into sound clinical practice protocols to assure high standards of quality patient care and public protection. In addition to finely honed business/front office, laboratory, radiology and chair side skills, the role of dental assistants also includes community outreach. Therefore, dental assistants also need to provide oral hygiene instruction, nutritional counseling and overall general health information to members of the community to enhance their well-being. The initiatives of the American Dental Assistants Association (ADAA) include but are not limited to: promoting formal education and credentialing of all dental assistants nationally and assuring adequate preparation and clinical competency of all dental assistants as part of best practices in dentistry for patient protection.

Multiple unfortunate cases have arisen in several areas across the country in which unqualified individuals performed tasks for which they were not adequately prepared. These cases serve as a reminder that all dental professionals must understand the guidelines and regulations related to infection control, radiology, health history information and intraoral functions and all other critical areas in dentistry for public protection. Every dental healthcare professional should periodically review infection control procedures and have those procedures in writing for reference.

Communication between team members is also essential to ensure team members understand their role in the infection control processes. At least an annual review of written protocols should

be conducted which includes all team members. References should be made to scientific literature and other resources, such as the Center for Disease Control (CDC), Organization for Safety and Asepsis (OSAP) and the American Dental Association (ADA), so that all dental professionals may review available references for updates and any changes in recommendations.

On-the-job trained dental assistants are highly regarded, as they are the backbone of our profession. However, as our role has changed, so too must requirements for entry into the field of dental assisting. Therefore, it is important for dental assistants to not only complete an appropriate academic program in dental assisting but to also pursue continuing professional education after graduating from a formal dental assisting course of study. By doing so, dental assistants may continue to enhance both personal and professional development as highly valuable members of the dental health team. Whether as part of a requirement for credential renewal or as a part of enhancement as an allied dental professional, it is critical for dental assistants to continue to build upon the fundamental background they received as dental assisting students and as part of life-long learning.

Dental assistants must work with colleagues in encouraging legislators and state boards of dentistry to recognize the skills required of dental assistants in performing the wide variety of chairside, clinical and intraoral functions on patients, so that policies will be enacted in all states to require mandatory education and credentialing of all dental assistants nationally. In that dentistry and dental hygiene are both regulated professions, and considering the tremendous expansion of the scope of practice of dental assistants over recent years, it is appropriate that dental assistants also be required to meet certain benchmark standards prior to providing direct patient care services in order to protect the welfare of the public and the patients we serve.

According to the Raven Maria Blanco Foundation (RMBF) in 2013, a national survey was conducted to determine patient expectations and knowledge regarding medical emergency preparedness by their dentist. According to the Foundation, dental patients overwhelmingly expect their dentist to be prepared to manage a medical emergency occurring during dental treatment in all areas: ongoing training of the dentist; regular training of the dental staff; periodic mock emergency drills; written medical emergency plan; stocking routine emergency medications, and maintaining appropriate emergency equipment such as oxygen and an automated external defibrillator. The Foundation also believes that medical emergencies occurring during dental treatment are increasing in frequency and severity due to demographics, aging of dental patients, and patients with complex medical histories. As dental treatment is becoming more sophisticated and increasingly invasive (e.g. implants and grafts), public expectations of medical emergency preparedness are reasonable and appropriate and should be incorporated into training and emergency preparedness procedures.

There are many quality dental assistant training programs nationally. Unfortunately, there are no national or state requirements for dental assistants to complete formal dental assisting education prior to employment in various dental employment settings. The issue is one of social responsibility from within the profession for patient protection. Many states require no formal education or accountability requirements for dental assistants. Dental assistants can be on-the-job trained, so there is a lack of incentive to obtain formal dental assisting education.

The American Dental Association (ADA) Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) is recognized by the United States Department of Education (USDE). CODA has been recognized since 1952 and requires adherence to criteria and operational policies and procedures. ADA-CODA focuses on process fairness and consistency. Accreditation is a process involving self-review and peer assessment by which an agency uses experts in a particular field of interest or discipline to define standards of acceptable operation/performance of education programs and evaluates compliance with those standards for education programs. The roles and responsibilities of CODA are to establish standards that define quality of education, evaluate and monitor programs for compliance with standards and establish policies & procedures to guide evaluation and decision process.

The ADAA supports ADA-CODA accredited education to promote innovation in education, training and supervision. ADA-CODA also promotes a scope of practice that ensures the protection of the public. Through CODA, public perception of the profession increases as CODA establishes a high standard and level of respect for the dental assisting profession.

In this day and age, formal education is essential for preparing dental assistants to perform intraoral functions, infection control, radiography and a variety of additional critical procedures performed routinely by dental assistants. An appropriate education includes didactic, lab, preclinical and clinical practice components. The educational setting must provide adequate resources and qualified faculty.

Based on the best interests of the patient, public safety, education, training and credentialing, valid research should support intraoral functions based on the State Dental Practice Acts. Duties listed should specify education and training requirements to assure quality and public protection. Under the supervision of the dentist, the functions performed by dental assistants require background knowledge, manual dexterity, coordination and proficiency of multiple significant skills. Individuals interested in careers in dental assisting need to be adequately prepared to take their place in the profession with their peers. Although delegable functions outlined in state dental practice acts vary, the following is a partial listing of procedures dental assistants routinely perform on patients: preliminary impressions; placement and removal of rubber dams; placement and removal of matrices; placement and removal of arch wires and ligatures; placement of amalgam; removal of excess cement; cementation of temporary crowns; removal of sutures; placement of sealants; administration of topical fluoride; placement of topical anesthetics; patient education; and placement and removal of periodontal and surgical dressings. Some states also allow dental assistants to perform coronal polishing, radiographic exposures and placement of permanent restorations. However, there are a few states that require specific education and credentialing to legally perform the expanded functions referenced. These and other notable services provided by the dental assistant contribute directly to the oral health of the public.

As critical members of the dental workforce, we need to carefully examine the breadth of the role of the dental assistant in patient care and value the role of the dental assistant as part of the dental team. Most importantly, the contributions that dental assistants make to the health and welfare of the patients who come under their care must be noted and regarded by the dental

Professionalism is defined as: "The conduct, aims, or qualities that mark a profession or a professional person." The essence of a profession or professionalism is a commitment to patient welfare, ethics, high ideals and desirable characteristics. An important aspect of being a professional is portraying behavior that is considered appropriate and ethical by colleagues and the public. In fulfilling daily responsibilities, dental assistants need to be mindful of the following, which assist in guiding appropriate ethical behavior. Prior to taking action, an assessment may be conducted to determine if pending actions will comply with rules, regulations and guidelines, and be compatible with organizational values.

As documented, a profession is distinguished by a body of knowledge that is constantly expanded, updated and documented in the literature; continual improvement in the quality of service to the public; specific academic preparation in specialized institutions; lifelong commitment to continuing education; self-regulation and a code of ethics developed by the profession. In carefully examining the characteristics of a profession, we can safely indicate that dental assisting meets several of those outlined. However, there are still multiple aspects of truly being recognized as a profession that dental assistants and ADAA must continue to address and toward which dental assistants and legislators must work.

The public in each state should have some assurance that those individuals providing care and assisting with care in the dental office have adequate education and understanding of their responsibilities. This includes all members of the dental team: dentist, hygienist and assistant. Dental assistants are a valuable member of the team and should be afforded the opportunity to be recognized for their level of knowledge through required credentialing. This can provide greater assurance to the public. Patients assume that the individuals assisting the dentist are highly educated and licensed or registered as required by the state. But for many dental assistants, this is not the case as some states view it as the dentist's responsibility to ensure their staff is performing procedures correctly. Often the behind-the-scenes expertise is left to the uneducated clinical dental assistant.

The American Dental Assistants Association (ADAA) believes that dental assistants have a responsibility to monitor themselves and inform their patients about the importance of licensed or registered dental assistants as part of the dental team. Unfortunately, many trained-on-the-job assistants can be taught improper sterilization techniques by others who were also improperly trained. A means to address this issue is for strict guidelines and training to be implemented, which should be applied equally in ALL states and not just a few.

ADAA is working hard to develop collaborations with other notable national organizations to explore and outline initiatives to address the need for specific academic preparation in public protection and to assure quality care. The American Dental Assistants Association (ADAA) speaks for approximately 300,000 dental assistants in the United States and is America's oldest and largest dental assisting association. ADAA is dedicated to the development and recognition of professionalism through education, membership services and public awareness programs. The ADAA is a strong advocate for legislation mandating required academic preparation and credentialing.

ADAA supports education and credentialing of dental assistants nationwide in order to assure that dental assistants have a comprehensive understanding of state dental practice acts containing legally delegated responsibilities for dental assistants, as well as a thorough knowledge of infection control and appropriate treatment protocols and knowledge of many other critical aspects of dental assisting responsibilities related to high standard quality care and patient protection.

State requirements:

CA: State course required after four months

MN: CPR certificate

MS: CPR certificate within 180 days

MT:OJT or CODA program grad

NC: No education or training unless involved with N/O

OH: Specific training by the dentist required

SD: High school diploma

UT: CPR Certificate

VT: Emergency procedures training within 180 days of hiring

WA: 7-hour AIDS course

SOCIETY NEWS

DURHAM-ORANGE DENTAL ASSISTANTS SOCIETY

The Durham—Orange Dental Assistants Society had a great year under the leadership of our president, Susen Darst. Our meetings were held at the Bennett Point Grill in Durham. Attending members, students, and hygienists received C.E. from an array of exceptional speakers. During our meetings we donated non-perishable food items to Second Mile Ministry and Women's Ernie Mills. Members voted to donate money towards Smile Train's cleft lip/cleft palate surgery fund again this year. Our Christmas party was held at the Angus Barn in Raleigh and everyone brought a new, unwrapped toy to be given to the "Toys For Tots" program. Our society gathered at the "Ronald McDonald House" in Durham to celebrate "Children's Dental Health" month on February 2nd. Everyone enjoyed an afternoon of fun while handing out dental "goodie" bags which were prepared by our members and students during the January meeting. The Susen S. Darst Leadership Scholarship was awarded to UNC Dental student Julie Currie. Julie also received the Most Outstanding Student award and was most deserving of these awards. Our officers are looking forward to meeting during the summer to plan for another exciting year.

For more information please visit our website at www.dodas.org.

Respectfully,
Susan Wilson
Treasurer/Webmaster, Durham Orange Dental Society





WESTERN PIEDMONT COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Give Kids A Smile!

On Friday, Feb. 8, dental assisting students from Western Piedmont Community College volunteered in our office as we saw children from one of the area elementary schools for Seal Out. We were thrilled to open our office up and allow the students to have some "hands on" experience with placing sealants. This was the 3rd year that Dr. Richard Troutman has invited the dental assisting students to our office for this event. Dr. Troutman's assistants, Dianne Gwaltney and Sonja Blackwell, along with their instructor, Tammy Glover, were able to give the students some great pointers in dealing with these younger patients and making it a great experience for them.

