

CDAA News - Fall 2009

Continuing Education Course information enclosed!!

“Setting a New Professional Standard”

www.CDAA4U.org



Officers for 2009-2010

President Oraine Ridley, CDA, DHT, DHSA
Past President Gary Jacobs, CDA, RDH, BS Ed., MPA
President-Elect Lois Villa, CDA
Vice President Beth Barber, COA, MADAA
Secretary Lisa Cooper-Smith, CDA
Treasurer Karen Phillips, COMSA

New President's Address

(Delivered at the CDAA Annual Meeting 4/29/09)

Greetings from the CDAA to all.

I am a resident of Bloomfield, Connecticut and currently serve as CDAA's President. I have also held the position of President-Elect and Vice President and play a meaningful role on the Expanded Functions Dental Auxiliary (EFDA) committees to support dental auxiliary expanded functions.

Benchmarking Dental Healthcare Delivery for the 21st Century

It is difficult to imagine in the midst of explosive technological changes of the 21st Century some dental clinics continue to operate according to an outdated treatment model. This is because budget reduction has funds limited in many dental offices causing a loss of revenue and low job satisfaction.

The challenge then becomes how to achieve the greatest level of efficiency while working within the constraints of limited resources. The answer to this is "team dentistry".

Team dentistry is a strategy for direct patient care delivery that integrates the successful tenants of a multi-chair practice with new technology to deliver efficient dental care. These tenants consist of the following:

- Treatment teams forming the centerpiece of a multi-chair dental practice.
- Rethinking roles and responsibilities by empowering well-trained dental auxiliary personnel to utilize the full scope of their skills and keep administrative jobs to a minimum.
- Clear and constant communications for future approach.
- Expanded function training for dental auxiliary.
- Standardization of treatment rooms to improve consistency and increase interoperability between treatment teams.

This 21st Century approach will also increase the morale of dentists and auxiliary staff by giving the doctors greater control over their practice and challenge the skills of the dental auxiliary. The outcome will be increased efficiency and job satisfaction.

This era is an exciting time to be a dental assistant in a profession with a bright future and numerous opportunities. The Connecticut Department of Labor projects a steady growth in demand for dental assistants through 2012 with about 160 openings annually with wide choices in Periodontics, Pedodontics, Oral Surgery, Endodontics, Prosthodontics, Orthodontics and Esthetic Dentistry.

The CDAA committee members on the Legislative Task Force and EFDA Curriculum Committees have worked tirelessly for the past 4 years to compose an EFDA legislative proposal for Connecticut. We now have a proposal that provides a career ladder for all dental auxiliary personnel after an approved and accredited training program and we believe our proposal offers a win-win for all constituents and makes a positive impact on access to oral health care.

I hope this information will help everyone in the future as we, the volunteer workers of the CDAA, work hard to provide all dental auxiliary in the state with the tools needed to move to the next level. As confident leaders we believe in you, the dental auxiliary, and are willing to do whatever it takes to get the job done.

In conclusion, I believe that when you make a conscious decision to become a leader and use leadership qualities each day, you can have an impact on your practice, team members, and most importantly your patients. Leadership is a choice, not a job. Are you ready to be a leader? The choice is up to you.

I wish all of you a great future.

Respectively yours,
Oraine Ridley, CDA, DHT, DHSA
CDAA President

The CT Dental Assistants Association

~ presents ~



3 Continuing Education Courses this Fall

Thurs. September 10 –

6:30pm to 8:30pm

“Understanding Dental Patients with Mental Illness”

Sat. October 17 –

9:00am to 1:00pm

“American Heart Assoc. BLS CPR”

Sun. November 1 & 8 (2 days) –

8:30am to 5:30pm (both days)

“Radiation Health & Safety Review”

(See course descriptions next page)

CT's ADAA Delegate to Hawaii

Gary Jacobs will be the CDAA's Delegate this year to the ADAA Annual meeting Sept. 30 to Oct. 4 in Honolulu, Hawaii.

A state Delegate represents their state on the national level at the ADAA Annual Session. This person attends the House of Delegates meetings at which discussions and voting on changes to By Laws and Rules of Governance take place.

Gary will be representing Connecticut dental assistants through participation in the following ADAA sessions:

October 1, 2009 ~ First District Caucus and First House of Delegates

October 2, 2009 ~ Vision Meeting, By Laws/Budget Resolutions, First District Caucus, Balloting

October 3, 2009 ~ Second House of Delegates, President's Gala

Future Events in 2010

February 5

Give Kids a Smile Day

March 1-5

Dental Assistants Recognition Week

Spring (date to be determined)

CDAA Annual Meeting

Spring (date to be determined)

Mission of Mercy

Middletown, CT

Websites of interest

American Dental Assistants Association

www.dentalassistant.org

Dental Assisting National Board

www.DANB.org

CT State Dental Association

www.CSDA.org

EFDA Update

Greetings!

This year the CDAA was busy again with legislative activity. As Legislative Chair, I procured emergency LAP (Legislative Assistance Program) funds from the ADAA. The CDAA once again retained Robert Shea as our lobbyist. We then proceeded with House Bill # 5630, in conjunction with the CDHA (CT Dental Hygienists' Association), which would have provided a career ladder for dental assistants in Connecticut and expanded functions for all dental auxiliary personnel. Much testimony was provided by Gary Jacobs, Dr. Jeff Rosow and myself for the CDAA, and representatives from the CDHA in support of this bill. Unfortunately, the bill was not moved into legislation. We will continue to fight for expanded functions for dental assistants and improving access to dental care for the underserved population in Connecticut.

Sincerely yours,
Lois Villa, CDA
CDAA Legislative Chair
CDAA President-Elect

“American Heart Assoc. Basic Life Support CPR”

4CEU's

Sat. October 17, 2009

9:00am to 1:00pm

CT Children's Medical Center

282 Washington St

Hartford, CT

(Please register at the front desk)

Instructor - Lou Brockett, owner and President of *A Second Chance, CPR & First Aid Training, LLC*

This is an American Heart Association Basic Life Support (BLS) course for Healthcare Providers.

This **4-hour course** is designed for the Healthcare Professional who responds to cardiac and respiratory emergencies. The course offers the guidelines in one and two person rescuer: adult, child and infant CPR, Foreign Body Airway Obstruction and the AED.

Cost includes textbook, Patho-Shield Plus key chain, course completion card and exams.

This course is approved by DANB. Certificants may earn a maximum of four (4) CDE hours for annual renewal of DANB certification. Accepted documentation is a copy of the front and back of a current CPR card. The card must be dated and signed or imprinted with the instructor's name and have the Certificant's name or signature on the card.

CDA Member Fee \$75

Non-member Fee \$85

Class size is limited to 30. Please register early.

“Understanding Dental Patients with Mental Illness”

2 DANB CEU's

Thursday Sept. 10, 2009

6:30pm to 8:30pm

CT Valley Hospital

Merritt Hall

Finkelstein Room

Tynan Circle

Middletown, CT 06457

Facilitators: Dave Howe and Lois Villa, CDA

This course consists of a panel discussion with clients who suffer from mental illness. The panel will provide insight into the misconceptions of mental illness, with a question and answer session that will help the dental professional better understand these patients with special needs.

CDA Member Fee - \$10

Non-member Fee - \$20

Dental Assisting Student Fee - *Free for this course only*

“Radiation Health and Safety”

2-Day Course

DANB-approved for 16 CEU's

Sun. Nov. 1 &

Sun. Nov. 8

8:30am to 5:30pm both days

Waterbury Courtyard Marriott

63 Grand St

Waterbury, CT

Instructor – Gary Jacobs, CDA, RDH, BS Ed., MPA

It is a CT state law that dental assistants cannot expose radiographs unless they have taken and passed the DANB-sponsored Radiation Health & Safety Exam.

Please refer to enclosed course description and instructions for registering.

CDA Member Fee \$75

Non-member Fee \$85.

Class size is limited to 50. Please register early.

CDAA Annual Meeting Report
April 29, 2009
Cromwell Marriott, Cromwell, CT

This year's 68th Annual Meeting was a big success. The venue offered a very comfortable setting for our 104 attendees with an outstanding Continental breakfast and buffet lunch.

The day started with a wonderful presentation by oral surgeon Mark Fletcher, DMD, MD of Avon, CT on the "Top Ten Medical Emergencies" that typically occur in the dental office. He discussed the importance of being able to recognize symptoms from syncope to cardiac arrest and what steps should be taken for these emergency situations.

The breaks before and after lunch gave people time to tour the hallways where student poster displays allowed the students from A.I. Prince, Briarwood, Tunxis and Windham Tech. to show off what they have learned about dentistry and dental care. Present were Dental Assisting Program Directors from all of these schools as well as Porter and Chester.

The following fabulous vendors were present for everyone to visit and obtain product information from: Benco, Centrix, Colgate, Crosstex International, Henry Schein, Murray Kaizer Dental Laboratory, PMR Marketing, Tom's of Maine and Yankee Dental Arts.

Special guests and speakers at our business meeting included our ADAA First District Trustee Ginny Cairrao, CDA, FADAA from Rhode Island and Donna Wolcott, CDA, the President of the Rhode Island Dental Assistant Association. Also there to update us on the proposed Expanded Functions Dental Auxiliary legislative efforts was CDAA's lobbyist, Bobby Shea, JD.

Special recognitions went to Gary Jacobs, whose article, "A Multifaceted Approach to Increase Access to Oral Health Care One Step at a Time", appeared in the 2008 July/August ADAA Dental Assistant Journal. He won the coveted ADAA Journalism award at the 2008 ADAA Annual Conference in San Antonio, TX. The CDAA was also recognized at this ADAA meeting for winning the award for the largest member increase for last year. This is indeed quite an accomplishment and honor for our small state! As of July 7, 2009 we now have a total of 331 members!

The afternoon was divided into 2 parts. For the first 1½ hours, half the attendees sat for our afternoon lecture with Virginia Plaisted, DDS, FAGD from Delmar, NY. She and Mike Walsh from iTERO/Cadent, demonstrated the iTERO intra-oral 3-D scanning system, which can be used very successfully in many situations as a replacement for the traditional impressions needed for restorations. The other half of our attendees enjoyed the "Spa Session". Parisian Spa from Cromwell and our masseurs from last year's meeting treated our members and guests to facials, makeup makeovers, nail painting and, of course, mini massages. Dr. Jeff Rosow also held Qi Gong sessions on this very special relaxation technique. The afternoon session was then flipped so everyone could enjoy the iTERO presentation and the spa treats.

Throughout the day, attendees had time to view our display of donated hand-crafted items and special gift baskets. Winners were chosen from drawings and all donations went towards CDAA's "Legislative Efforts Fund". Our big grand prize give-away was an all-day spa package at the Parisian Spa, because dental assistants deserve to be pampered!

Thank you to all of you who made our meeting a resounding success. We look forward to welcoming even more members and guests next year!