

The Ohio Dental Hygienists' Association's goals for this year will be to support the dental therapy legislation, increase membership, and facilitate the charter agreement put forth by the American Dental Hygienists' Association. Just as dental hygiene is evolving, the role of professional organizations is changing too. Ohio is in the process of implementing uniform policies put forth by the American Dental Hygienists' Association. At the end of November Ohio went from 18 components serving the approximately 8,000 RDH's across the state to 9. The leaders within ODHA have worked tirelessly the past few years to make this a smooth transition and continue to serve hygienists across the state. The leaders and members of our organization are the voices for all hygienists in Ohio and the legislators listen to our voices. I like to think of being a member of ODHA like being registered to vote for your profession. If you want change, you need to be part of the solution.

So how are we going to continue to grow ODHA? By "Being the Profession" Be the professional who educates their co-workers on changes to law. Be the professional who invites other hygienists to meetings or continuing education. Be the professional who reaches out to their legislators and educates them on dental therapy. Be the professional who has educated conversations on the legislation with dentists. Be the professional who mentors students at your local dental hygiene school. I am standing here today because I was mentored by so

many great Leaders in ODHA. I look forward to serving you as the President of the Ohio Dental Hygienists' Association this year. Now go out there and "Be the Profession"!!!