We are honored, in Ohio, to claim the current president of ADHA, Denise Bowers, RDH, Ph.D, of Lima. She’s been a member of ODHA/ADHA since 1988 and has served many offices in both, including two presidencies in ODHA, 1998-99 and 2002-03. Her recent association honors include the ODHA Gail D. Benninger Member Scholarship Award in 2008 and 2010, the ODHA Outstanding Effort Award in 2003, and the Margie A. Pearce Aspiring Professional Award in 2001.

Bowers stopped working clinically in 2005 when she became the Dental Hygiene Program Director at Rhodes State College. “At this point, I do not see myself returning to clinical practice. However, one never knows what the future may bring.”

Her educational career started in 1981 with a certificate in dental hygiene from the Ohio State University. She followed that with a bachelor’s degree in biology from the University of Texas in 1988; a master’s in education administration from the University of Dayton in 1991; and a doctorate in higher education from the University of Toledo in 2012.

As ADHA president, Bowers believes, “my duty is to lead our national association and represent the 150,000+ dental hygienists across the United States. The president is the voice of ADHA, and I take that responsibility very seriously. I am honored to serve as ADHA president.”

Denise has been able to travel around the world in her presidential year. “Soon after being installed as ADHA President in June, I traveled to Chicago for our Executive Committee meeting, then flew to Cape Town, South Africa, to attend the International Federation of Dental Hygienists’ meeting. I met with hygienists across the world and engaged in conversations about dental hygiene in their countries.

“We discussed similarities and differences with our educational systems, our association cultures, membership, relationships with dental and non-dental organizations, and access to care, just to name a few. We also conversed about ways we can all work together to make a difference in the health care of our citizens and the lives of hygienists across the globe. We all agreed that we are better together in everything we do.

This year she will also visit Illinois, Indiana, Louisiana, Georgia, New York, Massachusetts, California, Texas, Washington, Minnesota, Philadelphia, Washington D.C., and Nevada along with making several stops in Ohio. “During these trips, I will attend educators’ symposiums; student meetings; several Annual Sessions; ADA meetings; American Association of Dental Board (AADB) conferences; American Dental Education Association (ADEA) events; health conferences; and numerous ADHA Board meetings, workshops, and symposiums. I will also visit several dental hygiene programs throughout the United States and speak at a variety of component/constituent meetings. When I am not physically traveling, I will be electronically traveling via conference calls, webinars, and emails. Rest assured that I am loving every second of this!”

Serving as ADHA President, she says, would not have been possible without the support of her family and College administrators, faculty, and students. “They are all behind me 100 percent, which makes this year even more amazing! Seven of my current second-year students attended ADHA’s Annual Session in Boston to celebrate the 100th anniversary of our dental hygiene profession and to watch me be installed as ADHA President. They fund-raised for several months and personally subsidized the remaining costs just so they could be there with me. I was deeply humbled and tremendously proud to see them in the audience.

My daughter, Angela, planned my entire installation, honoring me with two beautiful daughter-to- songs that she sang during the unbelievable slide show she developed. I have been told that there was not a dry eye in the room and that there has never been such an incredible ADHA President’s installation. By the way, Ann Naber was my installing officer. I will never forget that day as long as I live.”

Her daughter will also put together another slide show to present at her President’s Award luncheon ADHA Las Vegas in 2014. Denise asks anyone who takes a picture of her with a camera this year to send it to her for that slide show.

Denise is especially proud of her profession as dental hygiene celebrates its 100th year. “We applaud our proud past and rejoice in our unlimited future. I commend all of you for your love of dental hygiene and your commitment to ADHA. Be proud of who you are! Reach out to dental hygienists who are not members of ADHA. Explain to them the importance of joining and how their voice counts. Encourage them to be part of our great association so that TOGETHER we can transform dental hygiene for the benefit of all of us! Remember that we are always better together! Thank you for allowing me the privilege of leading our amazing association!”
By Cathy Hester Seckman, RDH

The 2003 recipient of the ODHA Service Award, Lynda Sabat of Brecksville, has a long history of service to her profession and her association. She began her dental hygiene career at Cuyahoga Community College, graduating from its School of Dental Hygiene with an associate degree in 1967. “Looking back,” she says, “I see the wonderful opportunities this profession has offered me. Program Director and former ADHA President Barbara Schnurr instilled in everyone in our class the importance of membership in tripartite of ADHA.”

From that beginning, Sabat has served as Cleveland DHA president, then ODHA president in 1973. “It was an interesting time legislatively with the Kellogg Foundation findings that with additional training, dental hygienists could cost-effectively provide access to dental care. Sound familiar?” Besides serving her state hygiene association, Sabat was busy in those years working clinically, raising a family with her husband, orthodontist Dr. Michael R. Sabat, and earning a bachelor’s degree in education (1981) and a master’s in health education (1993), both from the University of Akron. She has been an adjunct faculty member at Cuyahoga Community College since 1981. Sabat was named to the Ohio Dental Board in 1995, and served on the education, waiver, and laws/rules committees before being named president in 2004-2005. In addition, she has been a member of the Northeast Regional Board of Dental Examiners since 1996, serving on its communication and dental hygiene examination committees. She is also a member of the American Association of Dental Examiners (ADEX), serving its dental hygiene examination committee and as District 5 dental hygiene representative.

Her most recent honor was receiving the Irving Mason Award for Community Dental Health from the Greater Cleveland Dental Society for facilitating a free clinic in Cleveland.

“Over the past 40 years,” Sabat says, “I have continued to advocate the use of dental hygienists to their fullest capacity. Today’s dental hygienists have met the bar raised by organized dentistry and gone beyond in their education. Working with legislators, state dental boards, dental educators, and organized dental hygiene, I look to a future that acknowledges and financially supports the use of dental hygienists to their fullest potential.”

References: OSDB Annual Reports 1998-2012
HISTORY HIGHLIGHTS

By Cathy Hester Seckman, RDH

It’s been fun, in this 100th anniversary year of dental hygiene, to see vintage photographs and read stories of the old, old days. In honor of that, here are some tidbits on Ohio’s dental hygiene history, taken from two articles. The first is “The History of ODHA,” written in 1963 by Caroline Johnson and Barbara Schnurr. The second, “Dental Hygiene History,” was written by Linda Sabat, RDH, for the Ohio State Dental Board’s Fall 1998 newsletter.

The Ohio State Dental Hygienists Association, says the Johnson/Schnurr article, was founded Sept. 12, 1923, at an organizational meeting in Cleveland. Those present were Mildred Gilsdorf of Chillicothe (holder of the first Ohio license), Hazel Crum of Ashtabula, Cecile Vollmayer of Toledo, Catherine Hullhorst of Toledo, Helen Hilbish of Cleveland, Sue Merva of Kimball, Mary Newberry of Cleveland, Cora Davison of Dayton, Lou Armour of Dayton, and Rowena Baker of Conneaut. Officers were to be Gilsdorf, president; Crum, vice president; and Hilbish, secretary.

The first actual ODHA meeting was held Dec. 4-6, 1923, at the Deschler Hotel in Columbus. Officers were retained for the coming year, and dues were set at $2 annually. Two years later, Gilsdorf and Newberry were delegates to the ADHA annual session in Louisville, Ky. The primary mission of the association in its early years was to gather in as many members as possible, considering how few hygienists there were in Ohio. To keep in touch, members started sending round robin letters in 1929.

The ODHA had its own handmade gavel for awhile, crafted by Gilsdorf’s brother, Howard. After it was lost, a new redwood gavel was purchased during an ADHA annual session in California and presented by Bettymarie Hunker in 1949.

Some early milestones:
• Eighteen were present at the ninth annual meeting in Cleveland in 1932.
• The first component was formed in Cincinnati in January 1932.
• By 1939, there were 30 members, and they divided into Sunshine Girls and Gloom Girls as a fundraising project. A penny was placed in a piggy bank for every sunny or gloomy day by the appropriate group.
• During the years of WWII, when Rebeka Nagy was president, membership declined drastically, since nearly 50 percent of the members were in military service.
• 1944-45 President Gilsdorf was instrumental in boosting Ohio membership from 19 to 33. Component groups formed in Dayton, Columbus, Cincinnati, and Toledo, but the annual meeting had to be canceled by order of the Office of Defense Transportation.
• The first post-graduate course in dental hygiene was held at OSU Oct. 27, 1946.
• Gilsdorf was honored with a resolution and a lifetime ODHA membership Nov. 11, 1947.
• By 1948, membership was at 51, and revenue for the ODHA came from saving tax stamps. Cleveland and Mansfield components formed.
• At the 1952 annual meeting, Mabel McRitchie was honored with a life membership.
• The first OSU tea for graduates was held in April 1957.
• In 1958, Dr. Consuelo Wise, former director of dental hygiene at OSU, was made an honorary member.
• ODHA membership reached a new high of 161, but increased ADHA dues in 1960 caused a drop in Ohio memberships to 128.
• In 1961, under the leadership of President Pauline Steele and District Trustee Virginia Savage, a working budget was established, and committees began filling folders of instruction for their successors.
• Membership reached 195 in 1962. In 1963, an official seal was adopted. President Schnurr composed a 37-page Manual of Instructions for officers and chairs.

From the Sabat article, we learn that the State Dental Board of Ohio began licensing dental hygienists Dec. 5, 1921, with the first going to Gilsdorf. Though hygienists had been consulting members to the board since the early ’70s, it wasn’t until the late ’70s that the ODHA asked Sen. John Mahoney to sponsor a bill to establish a hygienist as a full board member. Though it faced heavy opposition from the Ohio Dental Association, a bill was eventually passed to allow both a hygienist and a consumer member on the board. Katherine J. Goldberg, RDH, of Columbus, was appointed the first voting dental hygiene member of the board in June 1980. She served as president in the last year of her five-year term.
149 Poplar Drive  
Morgantown, WV 26505  
December 11, 2003

Linda Hewetson, RDH  
ODHA President  
8335 Hansley Road  
Sugar Grove, Ohio 43155

Dear President Hewetson:

In your kind note you requested that I write down the history of the “Buckeye Gavel”

I was President of ODHA in 1971-72 and Dr. Gus Pappas (at that time) Chairman of the Radiology Department of the College of Dentistry, The Ohio State University, made the Buckeye Gavel for me. I was also a member of the OSU College of Dentistry faculty (Division of Dental Hygiene 1969-74).

The Buckeye Gavel has an imperfection in the handle and when Dr. Pappas gave it to me he indicated while we all strive for perfection, things of this world are not perfect. It is a wonderful thought to keep in mind as you move through life—especially as ODHA President.

The wood used in the gavel is from a buckeye (Aesculus glabra) tree. The buckeye wood was especially significant to me because I was born, raised and educated in Columbus, Ohio. I graduated from OSU with a Certificate in Dental Hygiene in 1969, a BS in education in 1960 and a MS in Allied Medicine in 1974. I used the gavel throughout my ODHA and WVDHA presidencies.

The Buckeye is significant as the OSU Athletic Council officially adopted the term in 1950 to refer to athletic teams. It had been firmly established by 1920, and most records indicate that it had probably been used with some frequency to refer to Ohio State before the turn of the century. The buckeye (Aesculus glabra) is a tree, native to Ohio and particularly prevalent in the Ohio River Valley. It is a soft wood and was often carved into troughs, platters, and even cradles. While the trees have little practical use the tree has grit. It grows where others cannot, is difficult to kill, and adapts to its circumstances. The Buckeye name is so ingrained in the history and lore of the state and the university that few stop to consider how unusual it is. It is native, tenacious, attractive and unique — traits that Ohioans and The Ohio State students, faculty and alumni are proud to be associated with. (Source: “Of Buckeyes and buckeyes” by John Fleischman, Audubon Magazine, Sept. 1989)

The individuals who have the authority to use this gavel must have the characteristics that lie in the buckeye tree: determination, the ability to grow in difficult situations, adaptable to circumstances and is difficult to kill. These are some of the important characteristics of an ODHA president.

Best Wishes for a wonderful presidency. I hope to continue to be supportive to ODHA throughout my lifetime.

Sincerely,

Barbara K. Komives, RDH, MS  
ODHA Past President 1971-72
Patricia V Griffiths' professional career began when she graduated from the University of Michigan with a certificate in Dental Hygiene in 1945. That same year, she returned to Ohio -- beginning employment as a clinical dental hygienist and immediately becoming involved with the Ohio Dental Hygienists' Association. Pat's commitment to ODHA led her to be a founding member of THREE components-- Columbus, Cleveland and Southern Ohio. Her first state leadership role was that of ODHA Secretary, and in 1950 (only five years after graduating from the University) she served as ODHA president.

Pat remained in private practice 31 years, and, in 1976, accepted the position of "Clinical Director of Dental Hygiene" at the newly established Scioto Technical College, which later became Shawnee State University. She was hired with the stipulation that she complete her bachelor's degree. So, at the age of 53, while serving as a full-time faculty member, she attended evening and weekend classes and obtained her Bachelor of Science and Education from Ohio University.

Pat remained at Shawnee State University until 1983, when heart problems interfered with her ability to continue as a clinician. It was then that she began to focus on community dental health and began post graduate studies at the University of Cincinnati. This led to employment at Columbus Children's Hospital where she was responsible for writing grants, educating parents and young children, and mentoring OSU's dental hygiene students.

The diversity of Pat's professional commitment led to many honors throughout her career -- including the highest distinction of "Life Member" of the American Dental Hygienists' Association.

What legacy does an ODHA member strive to leave for the future dental hygienist? Although we cannot highlight and name all of our pioneers, let's take a look at one of our many “Super Stars” Patricia Griffiths

Odontia debuted March 1, 1945, under the editorship of Gilsdorf and Jane Maloney Rees. The name, Greek for “tooth,” was chosen by students of the first OSU dental hygiene class.

Esther Wilkins, Pat Griffiths, Cheryl Herrmann
MORE MILESTONES

1840  First Dental School
1845  The Ohio Dental School established
1880  Dental hygiene advocated
1884  Dental floss advocated
1906  The Children's Aid Society opened the first free school dental clinic in the United States.
1912  Ohio opens school for dental nurses and closes in 1914 due to licensure opposition.
The first dentist to suggest that women should or could be trained to clean teeth was Dr. Cyrus Mansfield Wright of Cincinnati, OH. Dr. Wright believed in the need for oral hygiene and in the establishment of an oral hygiene subspecialty. He urged the Ohio Dental College to establish a dental hygiene course and promoted the education of dental nurses in dental schools.
1913  Dr. Fones establishes the first Dental Hygiene education program in Bridgeport, Connecticut.
1914  First class of 27 dental hygienists graduate in November and begin to work in public schools.
1917  First Dental Hygiene License is to Irene Newman
1918  In the public schools where dental hygienists were working, Dr. Fones found a two-thirds reduction in the incidence of dental caries and observed improvements in academic performance and a decrease in the incidence of communicable diseases.
1923  ADHA Established
1931  Fluoride discovered to reduce incidence of dental caries when ingested in appropriate amounts.
1938  Nylon Toothbrush introduced
1939  University of Michigan offers baccalaureate degree in Dental Hygiene.
1945  Water fluoridation began.
1945  Gracey Curetts Developed
1948  ADHA Dental Hygiene Oath Adopted
1952  All States License Dental Hygienist
1955  the first toothpaste containing fluoride hits the market
1957  First Ultrasonic scaler
1958  Fully Reclining Dental Chair
1959  Dr. Esther M. Wilkins' first edition textbook of the Clinical Practice of the Dental Hygienist is published.
1959  The first electric toothbrush, The Broxo Electric Toothbrush, was introduced in the USA at the centennial of the American Dental Association.
1960  Columbia University is first to offer a Master's degree in Dental Hygiene (for teachers).
1960  Streptococcus Mutans identified as bacteria causing tooth decay.
1964  The word "female" is deleted from ADHA constitution and bylaws.
1965  Jack Oriio became the first male graduate from University of New Mexico.
1967  Dental Sealants Developed
1968  First Regional Board Examination given (North East).
1971  Washington state is the first to include administration of local anesthesia by Dental Hygienists (direct supervision).
1973  Iowa Expanded Functions Program is established.
1974  Dana Goddoub Laake, RDH, MS, LDN, from Maryland, is the first dental hygienist to serve on a dental board.
1979  Healthy People: The Surgeon General's Report on Health Promotion and Disease Prevention (report) released
1984  Washington is the first state with unsupervised practice allowed in hospitals, nursing homes and other specified settings.
1984  First Sugar free Gum introduced to the Wrigley Portfolio via Extra® Brand
1999  Ohio adopts rule to allow hygienists practice when the dentist is not physically present
2007  Ohio Local Anesthetic
2009  Minnesota passes first law in the country to allow for students educated under the ADHP model to become licensed to practice.
2010  Ohio Oral Health Access Permit passes
2010  Ohio adopts rules for Administration of Nitrous Oxide –Oxygen
2013  Ohio Sealant Amendment

References: http://www.dental.ohio.gov/
http://www.mchoralhealth.org/milestones/years.html
http://www.tiki-toki.com/timeline/embed/55646/6910846641/#vars!date=1845-10-29_18:03:12!
"Dimensions of Dental Hygiene,: Centennial Celebration of Dental Hygiene, 1913-2013"
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I want to thank all of you that made this special edition ODONTIA come to life. Cathy Seckman, Denise Bowers, Lynda Sabat, Ann Naber, Cheryl Herrmann, Suzy Savanick, Beth Tronolone, Connie Hamm, Linda Wilson, Chris Harmison, Suzanne Smith & all those who offered your support and encouragement. I hope you all enjoy this Celebration of 100 years of Dental Hygiene.

ODHA loves its students!
Student attendees at ODHA’s 89th Annual Session