

CONNECTIONS

June
2023



NDHA FUN RUN

Sunday, October 1st
12:00 - 4:00 pm

Join us for a Mile / 5K at Chalco Hills Park in Omaha to kick off Dental Hygiene Month and take steps towards creating a Healthier You!

2023 FALL SESSION

Friday, October 6th
10:00 am - 5:00 pm
VIRTUAL

The 2023 Fall Session will be held **Virtually** on Friday, October 6th, from 10:00 am - 5:00 pm with scheduled breaks.



NDHA Fall Session -
SAVE THE DATE

Meet your 2023-24
Board of Directors

Letter from
NDHA President:
Whitney Crist

Legislative
Committee Update

NDHA Annual
Session
SAVE THE DATE



Meet Your NDHA Board of Directors



President



Whitney

Past President



Jess

President-Elect

& ADHA 2nd Delegate



Marjean

ADHA

1st Delegate



Carrie

Vice President



Patti

ADHA

2nd Delegate



Kara

Treasurer



Vanessa

Panhandle

Component Chair



Shelby

Secretary



Cherelle

Northern NE

Component Chair



Claire

Legislative Committee Co - Chairs HYPAC Chair



Joey



Kerri



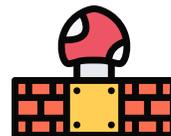
Nicole

Interested in joining the NDHA Board or Committee?

Reach out to director@nedha.org or connect with a current board member!



MESSAGE FROM YOUR NDHA President



Level Up: Let's take NDHA to the next level!

It's a-me...Mario! Just kidding. It's me...Whitney Crist, your NDHA president!

I admit, I did get the idea for this year's theme (Level Up) when watching the new Super Mario movie with my family. After some reflection, I realized it went beyond just a gimmicky slogan. It really speaks to many levels (pun intended) of NDHA: members, community, and leadership. I want to inspire members to grow both personally and professionally, strengthen our community as hygienists in Nebraska, and encourage leadership. Throughout the next several newsletters, I will focus on each of these aspects of NDHA. To start off this series, let's explore what makes up NDHA...each one of us, the members.

First off, thank you for being a member! It shows you care about dental hygiene. It's easy to fall into your work being just a job. Clock-in, clock-out. Except dental hygiene is more. It is a career; it is a profession. Being a hygienist requires us to continually learn and improve our skills. That's what NDHA is here for! But NDHA goes further than just helping you get CE for license requirements. It allows us to come together to promote dental hygiene and aids in strengthening our commitment to bettering ourselves and our profession.

Have you ever heard of the saying "Give a little, gain a lot"? I challenge you to flip your mindset when it comes to membership. Instead of asking what benefits you get from being a member, consider what you can do to benefit dental hygiene. Not only does it feel good to give back to your profession, but there are many surprising personal perks to getting more involved with NDHA. I'll share a quick example. When starting out as Membership Chair, I was very nervous to write my first article for the NDHA newsletter. I was comfortable with clinical notes, not writing pieces! Fast forward to the present, and I am published in a dental hygiene magazine! That was something I never once considered to be attainable. Getting involved with NDHA pushed me both personally and professionally. I was able to develop skills and confidence in areas that went beyond the clinical Op.

Let's level up your membership. Think about ways you can develop personally and professionally. How can NDHA help you get there? How can you help NDHA level up?

Again, thank you for your membership. I am grateful to each one of you – we are stronger together. I can't wait to connect with you all and see where we can take NDHA this year!



Sponsor Highlight

2023 NDHA Diamond Sponsor

One of Summit Dental Health's Core Values is Caring for Everyone! We are committed to providing a safe environment for patients and team members as we deliver care to the greater Omaha community. Since 2022, we have partnered with Nebraska Infection Control Assessment Program (ICAP), a grant-funded entity in Nebraska.



ICAP offers proactive infection control reviews to dental facilities within the State to support their needs in growing an effective infection control program. Our partnership started off with an education session provided to Summit Dental Health Operations Leaders, Safety Coordinators, and Practice Managers, followed by in-practice visits to review infection control policies and practices using an Infection Control Assessment and Response (ICAR) tool that is specific to the dental setting. This partnership has supported enhancements to current infection control best practices, creating a superiorly safe environment for team members and patients to deliver and receive exceptional care. To learn more about ICAP, visit <https://icap.nebraskamed.com/>.



2024 NDHA Annual Session

April 26-27, 2024

Eugene T. Mahoney State Park - Ashland, NE

Education Committee Update

Hello our fellow smile savers and educators!

I'm a new member on the NDHA education committee, and I am so wonderfully excited to be a part of something bigger. I started my journey into dental hygiene by job shadowing, and realizing how fascinating this field can be. Though a newer grad I have met so many incredible people, all of whom come from the most diverse backgrounds. Personally, I joined this community out of a deep desire to help improve the lives around me. Starting out as a dental assistant I was able to truly find my passion. I volunteered at Missions of Mercy and saw how much of an impact dental will have on quality of life. I desired more, I needed to be able to do more for our patients. I graduated hygiene school here just two years ago, and this job is hard. We see so much and do our best to provide valuable information and care to each life that sits in our chairs. After all we are not just smile savers, we change lives with we do. I joined this committee to help bring in a different perspective, in hopes that we can all find our passions and continue saving the world one smile at a time.

Liz Donner



Legislative Committee Update

The very robust first session of the 108th Nebraska Legislature ended June 9th and included a Bill and a Legislative Resolution directly impacting Dentistry in the State of Nebraska. During this long session, Senator Lynne Walz Sponsored LB358, which outlines the State's intent to increase dental services reimbursement by 25% under the Medical Assistance Act. A fiscal analysis estimate was prepared to review the overall expenditure that the Bill would create, including the estimated 15% reduction of eligible Medicaid beneficiaries due to the unwinding process that started in all states on April 1, 2023. LB358 made it out of the committee and was placed on General File, but it did not advance from there.

In May, Senator Carol Blood introduced Legislative Resolution 132 (LR132), a proposal for an interim study of the plausibility of the State of Nebraska becoming a participant in the Dentist and Dental Hygienist Compact. The study would include (1) An examination of the depth of the deficit of dental health professionals in Nebraska; (2) A review of the number of licensed dental health professionals located in compact participating states; and (3) A recommendation relating to the extent of Nebraska's participation in the Dentist and Dental Hygienist Compact. This Legislative Resolution was referred to the Health and Human Services Committee on May 23, 2023.

Compact legislation has been introduced in 7 states, including WA, OH, TN, IA, TX, KS, and MN. The Nebraska Dental Hygienists' Association is in support of the Compact and plans on having representation at the Dentist and Dental Hygienist Compact Legislative Summit in Washington DC, this Fall. This event will showcase the compact and its value for dentists, dental hygienists, and states. Attendees will learn about the benefits of interstate compacts, the features of the Dentist and Dental Hygienist Compact, answers to FAQs, and examples of successful state efforts to pass compact legislation. You can find further details on the Compact at www.ddhcompact.org. Join us for Fall Session on October 7-8th for a live legislative update!

Legislative Co-Chairs
Kerri Dittrich, PHRDH
Joey Enright, RDH

A pain in the gut: Understanding irritable bowel syndrome and its dental implications

Here's a look at irritable bowel syndrome (IBS), its symptoms, treatments, effects on oral health, and what we can do as dental providers to help our patients who suffer from the disorder.

**READ
ARTICLE**

Published by NDHA President on June 20, 2023
Whitney Crist, RDH, CNC, CPT, CEAS

NDHA Partners with ICAP

Did you know that when renewing your license, you need to allocate a minimum of 2 out of your total 30 hours to infection control courses? This is a crucial requirement that ensures you stay up to date with the latest practices in preventing and controlling infections.

If you weren't aware of this - fret not! We are thrilled to announce a collaborative effort by the Nebraska Infection Control Network (NICN), UNMC College of Dentistry, and the Nebraska Infection Control Assessment and Promotion Program (ICAP) to bring you an extraordinary opportunity. Together, they have curated an Infection Control Summit that has been specifically tailored to address the infection control needs of dental professionals like you. This opportunity not only fulfills your required 2-hour infection control credit but also provides a platform to expand your knowledge, network with fellow professionals, and gain invaluable insights into best practices.

Attendees can prepare to immerse themselves in a day filled with informative sessions presented by national and local subject matter experts. A variety of topics will be presented including standard and transmission-based precautions, safe injection practices, employee health, environmental cleaning and disinfection, instrument processing, sterilization, and my personal favorite - dental unit waterlines.

We are especially thrilled to extend a special offer to members of the Nebraska Dental Hygienists' Association (NDHA). As an NDHA member, you will enjoy an exclusive 20% discount on the registration fee for the Collaborative Infection Control Summit. It's our way of expressing gratitude for your membership and commitment to the dental hygiene profession. So, look out for a special discount code that will be sent to you via email.

Stay tuned for further updates on the summit, including the full schedule and registration details. To ensure you receive timely notifications, please sign up for the Nebraska ICAP mailing list on their website: icap.nebraskamed.com/facilities/dental

I'm looking forward to seeing you all at the summit at the Buffet Cancer Center at UNMC in Omaha on September 15th, 2023!

If you have any questions or need further assistance, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Your infection control geek,
Vanessa Crookshank, RDH, BSDH
vanessacrookshank@cccneb.edu
Nebraska Dental Hygienists' Association | Treasurer



2023 Annual Session



Fashion Show



FASHION

