

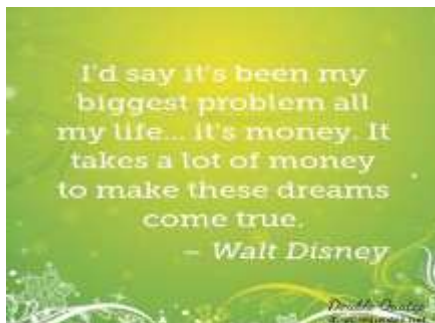
2016 Presidents Message

Thank you for selecting me to be your 91st President of the Florida Dental Hygienists' Association. I would never have dreamed 25 years ago that I would be in this position, yet my theme for my Presidency is Dreams. Dreams are what drive us, help us get through our day, our lives. Without dreams, we wouldn't be where we are today, and get to where we want to go.

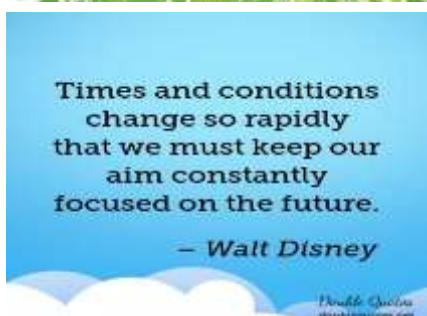


I have seen our profession change immensely in the last 25 years. Change takes work. Sometimes we don't like the people that are trying to change things because we become comfortable in how we've always done things. One of the latest changes will be signing the Charter Agreement with ADHA. The Charter Agreement will make our association stronger and better than ever, even though initially we felt uncomfortable with it. I'm here to tell you that I am

hoping you become very uncomfortable in the next few years as our dental hygiene profession advances and changes for the better. We HAVE to dream and keep making changes. What dreams do you have about your profession that you would like to see made into reality? What changes would you like to see in your profession, changes WE can help make? These are the questions you need to ask yourselves and your fellow dental hygienists. We can talk about making changes and achieving our dreams, or we can actually DO something about them. Introducing new legislation for the dreams we want to make real is DOING. We have the dreams, the ideas, the ability...but we need everyone's help to make it a reality. Membership in our professional association MUST increase. We need to figure out ways so that ALL dental hygienists see VALUE in ADHA, FDHA, and their local component. Dreams don't become real all on their own; it takes people and hard work to make dreams a reality. And.....money.



Yes, money is always a problem. You see, making dreams into reality takes not only hard work but money. This is where your membership dues go, to providing the money to make the dream a reality. Contributing to HYPAC is also a good way to kick start those dreams...So even if you are not "actively" involved, your dues MAKE you involved.



Things are changing quickly. The midlevel provider has become a reality in a few states already; other states have pending legislation. Once we have accomplished something, achieved a victory, we can't sit back and be

content and rest on our laurels. We must always look to the future and anticipate changes. This is why we create policy, so we can be ready when the changes start to affect us.



We have a LOT of great people in this organization, BUT remember that we are a VOLUNTEER organization. We all have our own ideas and dreams, which is wonderful. Keep them coming! At times, though, we have to focus on achieving ONE certain dream, and when that happens we ALL have to work together to achieve that dream. Last year, our goal was to fix the Medicaid billing glitch. Our efforts were

rewarded with the bill becoming law. We were all focused on ONE goal. I am so grateful for the people I have surrounding me to help us achieve our goals at ADHA, FDHA, and our local components. All of our members drive this association. Without mutual mentoring and guidance, we would be all over the place. Our leaders keep us focused on the tasks at hand, all while listening to the dreams of the members.



We cannot run scared, in fear of retribution or retaliation from those who disagree, if we have a dream we want to pursue. ALL that we dream can become reality, but we need to have the courage to do that dreaming. We have to stand up for ourselves, our profession, our careers and livelihood, if we want to continue to have all of those things.



I challenge you to think about what you'd like for your association to do for you, and what you will do for your association in turn. Believe that what you want can be achieved. Dream about it, come up with ways to make it work. I dare you, no, I DOUBLE DARE you to make it happen.



My favorite quote from Walt. I started dreaming a few years ago of the possibility of becoming President of FDHA. I had my doubts as to my abilities, but was encouraged by several people who saw something in me that I didn't see in myself at the time. Dental hygiene has been my rock. I have been able to provide for my family



Advocates for Healthy Mouth, Healthy Body

solely on my income as a dental hygienist. I am passionate about improving my profession, advancing it so that patients can receive better care and access to it, and making it better for future generations of dental hygienists. I ask you to join me in my dreams to see a better dental hygiene profession. I thank you for choosing me to be your 2016-17 FDHA President, and am honored and humbled by the responsibilities of this position. Know that I will do my very best to make you proud to have selected me for this important job. Remember, "If you can dream it, you can do it!"