



Florida

Dental Hygienists' Association

Greetings, FDHA Members:

It is an honor and privilege to serve as the 91st President of the Florida Dental Hygienists' Association.

My chosen theme, the STONE, has a profound significance, as stones, highly venerated and symbolic objects used to mark the boundaries of the most ancient people, denote TRUTH.

It is incumbent upon all of us to adhere to our guiding principles that remind us never to compromise our values or ethics; to remain steadfast in advancing our profession so that we can provide oral care in a wider-variety of healthcare settings and help the growing numbers of underserved individuals residing in our state. We are a workforce with which to be reckoned, more than 11,000 strong and willing and able to address the social, ethical, and economic challenges confronting our healthcare system. However, without the financial resources and political support provided by membership funds, we lack the means to institute the changes that we so desperately desire.

I urge you all to speak to your fellow dental hygienists about the important value of membership and the impact it has on our ability to advocate for our profession through the lobbying and legislative efforts that affect our income, benefits, and career opportunities. Invite your local representatives and state legislators to attend your local component meetings or visit them at their offices and educate them on the important contributions dental hygienists make in their communities. Share your experiences with them, for as their constituents, these elected officials will listen to you and appreciate hearing your perspective.

I encourage you to attend the Florida Board of Dentistry meetings which take place quarterly throughout the state. Details can be found at www.floridasdentistry.gov. Mark your calendars for the 2018 Dental Hygienists' Smile Day on the Hill in Tallahassee on Thursday, February 22, 2018. This annual event is your opportunity to meet your legislators to discuss issues important to our profession. Visit FDHA.org and the Florida Dental Hygienists' Association [Facebook page](#), as well as your local component websites and Facebook pages, for listings of all upcoming events. Do not hesitate to reach out to me directly. Simply instant message me on the FDHA Facebook page.

I have many to thank and much for which to be grateful but I know one thing for sure and that is my ADHA professional membership has been the beacon of light that guided

me on the path that led me to the position of FDHA President. My membership has provided countless career opportunities through networking on the local, state, and national levels.

Mother Teresa, a woman who devoted her life fighting for the social justice for the most vulnerable, was quoted as saying, “I alone cannot change the world, but I can cast a stone across the water to create many ripples.”

As I embark on my journey over the course of the next year, I request your support as I advocate for our profession and resume the efforts of my predecessor, Immediate Past President, Dr. Becky Smith, to #ContinueTheDream and #CreateRipples!

If each of us casts a stone across the water, we can enact a #TidalWaveOfChange!

Humbly yours,

Beryl Sue Kassoff-Correia, CRDH, BS



2017-18 President

Florida Dental Hygienists' Association

“One small change can have an enormous impact.”

