A Synopsis of the History of the New Jersey Dental Hygienists’ Association

1945  The NJ DHA was started even though it was not legal to practice in NJ !!!
      The founding members:
      Ruth Leahy - license #1
      Jane Kohler
      Jane Bulmer
      Ruth Werner
      Loretta Rummel
      Mary Jane Dutton
      Esther Laforgia
      Hope Reaves

1948 the statutes and regulations enabling dental hygienists to practice in NJ were enacted (but you couldn’t scale subgingivally).

1948  The first New Jersey Board examination was taken at University of Pennsylvania ( No Dental School in New Jersey yet) 36 licenses granted.

1948/49  Jane Cooper Koehler (President is in purple italics)
1949/50  Ruth Leahy Werner
1950/51  Mary Jane Kellog Dutton
1951/52  Fran Fluhr
1952/53  Fran Fluhr
1953/54  Loretta Geiger Rummel
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1953  Fairleigh Dickinson Dental Hygiene School is accredited

1953  Southern component begins

1954  Seton Hall College of Medicine and Dentistry opens in Jersey City Medical Center the first dental school in New Jersey
1955  First Journal of New Jersey Dental Hygienists’ Association published

1955 – Fairleigh Dickenson Dental School Opens

1955/56  Mary Elizabeth O’Halloran
1956/57  ?
1957/58  Louise Gartley (Mrs. Harold Thorpe)

1960  Law restricted the dh to “removal of calcareous deposits, accretions or stains from the exposed surfaces of the teeth or use of disclosing solution”

1959/60  MaryAnne Hanlon
1960/61  Delores B. Lewis
1961/62  Wilma C. Damiano
1962/63  Wilma C. Damiano

1963/64  Margaret Buecher
1964/65  Margaret Buecher Wilson

1965 Third North Eastern Regional Junior ADHA conference held at FDU
1965 Seton Hall College of Medicine and Dentistry is taken over by the State of New Jersey and renamed the New Jersey College of Medicine and Dentistry

1965/66  Marilyn Canis Scavone
1966/67  Virginia Regan
1967/68  Virginia Regan
1968/69  Barbara Burlew

1968 Amendment to the Practice of Dental Hygiene

- NE REGIONAL BOARD and National Board became necessary to practice in NJ
- Complete prophylaxis now included removal of all hard & soft deposits from all surfaces of human teeth to the epithelial attachment.

1969 – Annual NJDHA meeting in Atlantic City for two days, Tues and Wednesday since 1949 has been meeting annually in Atlantic City.

1969 Union County College and Camden County College started with first classes graduating in 1971

1969/70  Maureen Hall
1970/71  Bonnie Bertram
1971/72  Bonnie Bertram

1970 Middlesex County College opens

1971 There were only Northern and Southern Components in NJDHA

1971 FDU had a five story building dedicated to the Dental School

June 1971 State meeting in Atlantic city discussed new practice act which would have eleven proposed revisions to the practice act. They were looking for permission to use fluoride, impression materials and expanded functions.
1972 Bergen Community College opens

1973 Central Component was started with BJ Dolan as its first president

1972/73 Mary Cosaboom
1974/75 Mary Cosaboom
1975/76 C. Paula Drew

1975 Bergen Component was started

1976 The College of Medicine and Dentistry moves to the new Newark Facility
Name was officially changed to UMDNJ in 1981

1976/77 Bette Merritt
1977/78 Cherie Lieberman

1977 first Lobbyist hired from Nancy Becker Associates with B.J. Dolan, RDH as liason.

DH was not authorized to perform any … operation, or diagnose, treat, or attempt to treat any pathological conditions of the teeth or tissues of the mouth. This prevented utilization of dental sealants or fluoride applications.

1978/79 Cherie Lieberman
1979 Cheryl Westphal

1979 The Practice Act Bill was passed. Barbara Berlew, RDH participated in the festivities along with President Cheryl Lieberman.

- Apply topical medication and anesthetic agents to the oral mucosa
- Apply topical fluoride to teeth
- Place and remove rubber dams
- Hygienists can practice under supervision in institutions.
- Continuing education required for relicensure, 10 hours every 2 years.

Still no sealants and Direct supervision for everything

1979 Cheryl Westphal was appointed to be the first Dental Hygienist on the State Board of dentistry served until 1983

1979/80 Alice Burr
1980/81 Alice Burr
1980 first class graduates from School of Health Related Professions--UMDNJ

1981/82 Betty Jane Dolan
1982/3 Beth Stolar

1983 Beth Stolar becomes the second Dental Hygienist on the State Board of Dentistry

1983/84 Phyllis Nespole Cohen
Melanie Miller
1984/85 Melanie Miller

1984 A dental hygienist who has graduated from an approved dental hygiene program …shall be qualified to perform certain expanded functions.:

- Apply pit and fissure sealants
- Polish amalgam restorations
- Remove excess cement from crown and orthodontic bands
- Fabricate athletic mouth guard appliances

And a licensed dentist may utilize no more than 2 dental Hygienists in one office.

1986 Cynthia Fong
1987 JoAnn Gurenlian

1987 Cynthia Fong becomes the third Dental Hygienist on the State Board of Dentistry

1987 10 hours of continuing education every two years mandated
slight changes to practice act concerning active/inactive licenses

1988 Jane Forrest
1989 Terri Brisbin
1990 Cathy Triverio

1990 Fairleigh Dickinson University’s dental programs are closed and
the Dental Hygiene program re-opens at New York University

1991 Sandy Sangster

1991 Teri Brisbin appointed to the State Board of Dentistry

1992 Susan Callahan Barnard

1992 Bill introduced to allow preceptorship “on the job” training for NJ hygienists (went nowhere).
1993  Christine Hovilaras

1993-  SHRP Dental Hygiene moves to Scotch Plains Campus and Union County College Dental Hygiene Program closes.

1994  Becky Pugh  
1995  Deborah Myers  

1995  South Shore component started – Linda Leslie is first President  

1995  Patricia Delaney appointed to the State Board of Dentistry  

1996  Dawn Walters  
1997  Vicky Fedor  
1998  Carole Johnson  
1999  Jeanette Crofts  
2000  Linda Leslie  
2001  BJ Dolan  
2002  Susan Singer  
2003  Becky Pugh  

2003  a licensed dental hygienist practicing under the direct supervision of a licensed dentist may monitor a patient to whom the supervising dentist has administered nitrous oxide/oxygen inhalation analgesia with proof of additional education.  

2004  Liz Nies  
2005  Burlington County College opens  

2005  Sunset Review- continuing education requirements were amended requiring that every licensed hygienist complete at least 20 (twenty) hours of continuing education for every biennial renewal period.  

2005  Tracy Marsh  
2006  Claire Denshuick  
2007  Lauren Jaccodine  
2008  Winnie Furnari  

2008  Local Anesthesia Passed the State Board.  

2009/10  Kathy Sinatra  
2009  Shirley Birenz, RDH appointed to State Board of Dentistry  
2011  Sandra Berger  
2012/13  Vicki Fedor
2012
Practice act amended to allow Dental Hygienists to work under “supervision” rather than direct supervision. There are guidelines which need to be following including a current certificate in basic or advanced cardiac life support.

2013 Eastern International College opens

2013 UMDNJ Dental Programs are moved to Rutgers University School of Health Related Professions

2014 Jodie Heimbach
2015 Gail Woller

2015 Linda Hecker, RDH appointed to State Board of Dentistry

2016 NJDHA, and all five components are re-chartered & trademarked by ADHA
2016 Tina Modi

2016 Dental Hygiene Regulations amended to provide for school sealant programs, and allowing RDHs to see children in schools who are NOT patients of record

2017 Linda Knudsen

2018 Rutgers School of Health Professions graduates last dental hygiene class