

## **Frequently asked questions:**

### **What component do I choose?**

You must choose a component. Most hygienists join the component in the geographic area in which they live or work. All local components offer continuing education courses (CEU) within their geographic area. Northern (01) Southern (02) Central (03) Bergen (04) South Shore (05)

### **Can I go to other component (CEU) meetings?**

Yes. You may attend any component meeting/(CEU) at the lower membership fee. ADHA is without borders. We have hygienists that register for northern component meetings/CEU from New York and Pennsylvania. The New Jersey website is a great resource for information. [www.njdha.org](http://www.njdha.org) on this site you can find an abundant of information about NJ including component CEU/meetings.

### **Do the laws that govern my license change?**

Yes. The legislation is always changing. Over the years the New Jersey Dental Hygienists' Association has been able to advance the scope of dental hygiene practice in New Jersey. (See history of NJDHA page) Membership dues help to support change and maintain our practice.

### **How do new laws come to fruition?**

The dental hygienists' association will recommend to the state legislators bills that expand our scope of practice. The bills are then voted on. Sometimes they pass and sometimes they don't. Rules for general supervision were just published in the NJ register and will go into effect barring any unforeseen circumstances in January 2018. We recently helped to clarify laws for Nitrous, local anesthesia and preventive agent application (Silver Diamine Fluoride) and will be working on adjusting legislation for any new preventive agents as they are introduced. We have encouraged utilization of Dental Hygienists in sealant programs. This will allow greater access to care. The Dental Association can also propose bills to the legislation (for hygiene). Any change to the NJ Practice Act takes time.

### **Can the laws that govern my scope of practice change and have a negative impact on my hygiene license?**

YES!!! You may have heard the term preceptorship. This is assistant trained hygienist. A Preceptor is a person without any formal education that can be shown by a dentist how to "clean teeth". The New Jersey Dental Association proposed this bill to the legislation in **1994**. Thankfully the bill failed to pass! This potential law is clearly unethical!!! Would you want someone off the street cleaning your teeth? Think of all the education, studying, clinic hours, state board examinations, everything you have worked for so far as a student. Now think about someone who has been practicing hygiene for 5, 10, 15, 20 + years. To have your career/salary snatched from you. **It CAN happen. It HAS happened** to other states. The most recent state is Florida, in 2008.

**IT IS VERY IMPORTANT TO UNDERSTAND THAT JUST BECAUSE IT IS THE LAW..... DOES NOT NESSARILAY MEAN IT HAS TO BE ETHICAL!!!!!!!**

**Do I have to volunteer my time as a member?**

No. Continuing to renew your membership with ADHA constitutes active membership and keeps the dental hygiene profession growing in a positive direction.

Every member has the right to hold officer/Board positions. Every member has the right to attend board meetings. Every member has a voice!

*When the time is right for you, you may choose to volunteer your time, to hold a position on the board as an officer, or to join a committee. It is very rewarding.*

**The bottom line**

- ❖ Dental Hygiene is our profession.
- ❖ American Dental Hygienists' Association/NJDHA is our organization.
- ❖ It is our professional responsibility to be a member to ensure the future of dental hygiene.
- ❖ ADHA is our voice! Become a member and be heard!

***THE ORGANIZATION NEEDS YOUR MEMBERSHIP BECAUSE THERE IS POWER IN NUMBERS. YOUR DUES DIRECTLY AFFECT YOUR PROFESSION - TO KEEP IMPROVING ACCESS TO CARE AND EXPANDING OUR SCOPE OF PRACTICE, WE NEED YOU TO JOIN US.***