

September 11, 2012

Dear Colleagues and Friends:

What wonderful news to learn that a new era of dental hygiene has begun in NJ with the passage of legislation that will permit General Supervision. And what an exciting time to be a dental hygiene professional in our state!

I've been practicing for 62 years and it was only a few years before I started as a professional that NJ dental hygienists were licensed in the state. While the majority of the country received licensing starting as early as 1914, it wasn't until 1946 that we gained that privilege – one of the last states to do so! I had the pleasure of working with many of the women who fought for our rights to have the opportunity to pursue our passion, and in 1950 was elected the VP of the NJ Dental Hygienists Assoc. and later as Treasurer and co-Treasurer – no experience necessary, which was good because I didn't have any.

My time serving as an officer with NJDHA was a rewarding experience, although challenging what with the additional titles of wife, mother, daughter, sister and all the other responsibilities that come with being a working woman. But my NJDHA experience provided me with was a supportive network of colleagues, some of who became dear friends, and the opportunity to contribute to the community while gaining unique, career experience.

The passing of this recent legislation, which has been a long-time coming for NJ, reminds me of what a wonderful time it is to get involved.

Being part of NJDHA provides one with the opportunity to network, grow professionally and personally, and ultimately make a positive influence and impact on the adults and children in your community. I recognize the time commitment volunteering requires -- as professionals, mothers, wives, daughters, sisters and friends, nothing worth doing comes easy. But as they say, what you get out of it is only as good as what you put into it.

The important thing to remember is that you're not alone. We're all invested in this movement for expanded duties. Know the NJDHA is supporting your growth and recognizing your accomplishments by providing valuable CE courses, and the chance to network with colleagues at the upcoming Garden State annual meeting on October 26th and 27th. We also have the opportunity to meet the President of the New Jersey Dental Association at our President's Reception on Friday evening, October 26th and share with him our thoughts on issues that impact us today.

So if you want to make a difference for our profession and your community, I encourage you to take a leadership role in the direction of the New Jersey Dental Hygienists Association and join the board or a committee.

It starts now. Let's all make a commitment to attend the President's reception and annual meeting and show what a strong group we really are. After 62 years, I've not given up, so I look forward to meeting you next month at the Annual Conference!

Sincerely,

Dorothy (Dodie) Allers, RDH license #71

Sunstar 2011 Award of Excellence recipient