

Happy Summer! We are quickly going through the summer which means that I am half-way through my presidential term. Time is flying for all of us! I am realizing that there are so many things that need attention to keep this association running. In talking to hygienists, I often ask them why or why not they are ADHA, IDHA members. So many interesting answers! But the most common one is that IDHA does nothing for me. We all have the need for instant gratification, or to visually “see” what we are getting for our money regarding membership. I wish that things were as simple as letting hygienists administer BOTOX (wave magic wand and it happens). There is a lot of background work that goes into everything that we are allowed to do as a clinician. As hygienists, we don’t “See” the preliminary work, we just hear the results and don’t think about the events that lead up to the result. Kind of like a baseball game. You hear the final score, but don’t see the outs in every inning, the pitches or catches, stolen bases that happen. Yet that is the important work that leads to the final outcome.

I get it. For many years, I was not a member yet, here I am. This is the right time for me to be involved and try and make things better for Illinois RDHs. I would not be in this position if not for my hygiene tribe. So many of us work clinically in private practice where we have our team, and feel a bit isolated. Membership brings you the opportunity to be part of a large social hygiene group. The Facebook groups don’t count. There is a lot of misinformation out there. Consider traveling to ADHA Annual Conference (in NOLA next month), or RDHUOR (in Denver next month, which is sold out). By attending these meetings with my hygiene tribe, I have reignited my passion for all things dental, made me excited to learn about new techniques, materials, the licensure compact. Plus traveling with these hygienists has made so many happy memories, opened so many different doors by networking. I now have made hygiene friends throughout the country. I highly recommend that you consider going to one of the big conferences to experience hygiene being recognized and applauded for all we do. And, of course, to have a good time. If an annual conference is not in the cards this year, please think about coming to the IDHA Annual Session on November 8-9, 2024 in Glen Ellyn at the College of DuPage. We would love to see you!

It's time to get involved in your profession by being a member. Illinois is a big state and we want to hear from all RDHs about your dreams for your career, your concerns about DAs coronally scaling, lack of access to care for children and geriatrics. Become a part of the puzzle and let's create a beautiful picture for Illinois hygienists!!!