



Mega - Bites

A Quarterly E-Newsletter free to subscribers through the
Tennessee Dental Assistants' Association webpage at <http://www.tndaa.org>

Volume 2, Number 2

Spring, 2006

*Plan now to attend the
2006 TNDAA Annual Session in
Chattanooga, May 19-21.*



Schedule of Events for the 2006 TNDAA Annual Session

Friday, May 19, 2006

8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. **Board of Trustees Breakfast Meeting**, Terrace Garden Restaurant, Chattanooga Marriott

1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. **CE Course** "Preventing Medical Errors" Plaza C Ballroom -Chattanooga Marriott

Saturday, May 20, 2006

9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. **General Assembly**, Business meeting, scholarships and awards, Election of Officers, Meeting Room 2, Chattanooga Convention Center

3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. **Educator's Conference** Lookout Mountain -Chattanooga Marriott

4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. **Student Reception**, East/West Room -Chattanooga Marriott

Visit the TNDAA booth #126 in the Exhibit Hall of the Chattanooga Convention Center

For pre-registration information visit www.tennidental.org
For more information visit
<http://tndaa.org/AnnualSession.html>

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Spotlight on..... Imogene Myers

Imogene Myers, CDA, RDA, Retired, was employed in private practice as a chairside dental assistant and receptionist for twenty-two years, from January 1952 - March 1974. She began teaching the Dental Assisting program in Knoxville City Schools Adult Education in 1974, and became the program director in 1977. She is a life member of the ADAA and was a member of NADAD. She was the founder of the Tennessee Dental Assistants Educators Consortium. Mrs. Myers was a very active member and held many office in the ADAA, TDAA and Second District D.A. Society. Mrs. Myers retired from teaching at the Tennessee Technology Center in December 1993. She continues to stay in touch with the dental community. She is known to never forget a face or a former student. She now enjoys Life - Church - Friends - traveling, and Family. She is very close to her son, David, his wife Barbara, and their two children Andrew and Holly. Thanks, Imogene, for being a mentor to so many of us.

Call for Nominations

The TNDAA, is accepting nominations of candidates for the offices of

Vice-president
Secretary -
Treasurer

(The office of president is a 2-year term and is not currently vacant)

Nominations: may be made from the floor of the general assembly or prior to the General Assembly via e-mail to admin@tndaa.org. No name shall be placed in nomination without the written consent of the nominee. Nominees who accept their nomination prior to the General Assembly may submit campaign information to admin@tndaa.org to be posted on the www.tndaa.org website

Eligibility: Any active, life, or special member may serve as an officer of the TNDAA

Elections will be held in accordance with the bylaws/MOPs of the TNDAA at the General Assembly of the TNDAA Annual Session, May 20, 9:00 a.m. -1:00 p.m. in Meeting Room 2 of the Chattanooga Convention Center.

View candidates info at
<http://www.tndaa.org/Members.html>

RDA's Earn Advanced Placement for Health Services Management Degree

Your Tennessee Registration as a Dental Assistants is now worth 24 semester credit hours of advanced placement toward an Associate of Science degree in Health Services Management at Chattanooga State Technical Community College. You're almost half way to that degree you've always wanted. Advance in your career! Create more career opportunities for yourself! ALL of the courses are available online and some of the courses will even meet your CE requirements For more information contact david.knopp@chattanoogastate.edu

CE Requirements must be met by December 31, 2006

According to the TBD website: All registered dental assistants are required to fulfill 24 hours of continuing education during the two calendar year cycle (January 1 of an odd year - December 31 of an even year) and keep a current C.P.R. card at all times. Dentists must fulfill 40 hours and registered dental hygienists are required to fulfill 30 hour of CE during the same two-year cycle. A minimum of 2 of the required biennial hours for all dental professionals must be obtained in the area of chemical dependency education.



CAUTION!

Not all CE providers are approved by the Tennessee Board of Dentistry!

According to the rules of the Tennessee Board of Dentistry, acceptable continuing education is:

1. Courses sponsored or approved by any of the following organizations:
 - a. American Dental Association or its constituent or component societies.
 - b. Academy of General Dentistry or a state affiliate.
 - c. American Dental Hygienists' Association or its constituent or component societies.
 - d. Any national, regional or state academy or association of any of the recognized specialty branches of dentistry listed in T.C.A. § 63-5-112.
 - e. National Dental Association or its constituent or component societies.

Continued page 3, column 1, see CE Requirements

CE Requirements, continued from page 2

- f. National Dental Hygiene Association
 - g. Capital City Dental Society.
 - h. American Dental Assistants' Association or its constituent or component societies.
 - i. Tennessee Dental Hygienists Academy of Advance Study.
 - j. Tennessee Department of Health
2. Educational courses sponsored by an accredited school of dentistry, dental hygiene, or dental assisting. If such course is taken for or assigned quarter or semester credit hours, three semester hours or equivalent quarter hours shall be equivalent to fifteen continuing education hours. No credits will be counted for courses failed.
 3. Five hours of continuing education credit in any one calendar year shall be given for general attendance at state, regional, or national dental meetings. These hours are in addition to any continuing education courses attended at any of those meetings.

The Dental Board conducts random audits to verify C.P.R. certification and continuing education hours. You must retain these documents for a three-year period.

Congratulations~

To Victoria Richards, newly elected president of the TDHA. Victoria succeeds Evelyn Edwards who is also to be congratulated for a job well done. The TNDAА appreciates your support and wishes you a great new year!

TNDAA announces a 1 hour CE Chemical Dependency article and post test available now at www.tndaa.org.

“Recognizing and Managing Substance Abuse in Healthcare Workers.”

Written by Chris Prater M.D., FAAFP
ASAM *certified*

This article offers dental assistants, hygienists and dentists one (1) hour of Continuing Education Credit in the category of Chemical Dependency as required by the Tennessee Board of Dentistry. To earn credit, read the article and follow the directions on the exam and answer sheet pages. The exam will be graded by an officer of the Tennessee Dental Assistants' Association, an approved continuing education provider. A score of 80% or better is required to earn the CE certificate, which will be mailed within 2 weeks of course completion

Let Focus Health Care provide your local Chemical Dependency CE requirements



7429 Shallowford Rd.
Chattanooga, TN 37421
(423)308-2560

www.focushealthcare.com

David Cunningham, LADAC, NCACI, QSAP
Clinical Outreach Director

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- **AFTERCARE SERVICES**
- **ALUMNI PROGRAMS**

Studying for the TNRDA Exam and the DANB CDA Exam: Advice from DANB

Sarah Atkinson, DANB's Project Writer has submitted an excellent article which students and educators will find helpful in preparing for the TNRDA exam. The entire article can be viewed at <http://www.tndaa.org/DANBNews.html>. Please share this article with all who might benefit from it.

DANB has also given permission for TNDAA to post the TNRDA exam outline on our website at http://www.tndaa.org/Documents/TNRDA_ExamOutline_09_15_04.pdf

The TNDAA wishes to thank DANB for supporting Tennessee Dental Assistants. Visit www.DANB.org

TNDAA Board of Trustees Mid Winter Meeting Report

At it's Mid-winter meeting in Murfreesboro January 14 the TNDAA Board of Trustees completed the following items of business:

- Approved resolutions to be presented at TBD meeting
- Approved plans to place Bylaws and MOPs, agendas, website
- Approved the Treasurer to obtain a TNDAA Credit Card for use by the organization
- Finalized the program for the Annual Session
- Discussed agenda items and elections
- Confirmed CE speaker, Linda Harvey
- Planned sources of sponsorship
- Confirmed start up of On-line Chemical Dependency CE
- Announced UT's Expanded Duties Courses
- Discussed TBD's School Rules Committee
- Drafted TNDAA's Response to TDA Task Force; planned legislative strategy
- Discussed Educators' Conference
- Shared ideas for DARW activities
- Reminded Trustees to share information about the scholarship program with their Districts
- Recommended candidates for appointment to the board of Dentistry



Plan your Calendar

May 18-21 TDA/TNDAA Annual Session -more info at <http://www.tndaa.org/AnnualSession.html>

Don't be late! Let's make it a date for May 19th! *Preventing Medical Errors in the Dental Setting: A Guide for Protecting Your Patients and Your Practice* will be a high-content program that will inspire and challenge you to reach new high-quality levels in your practice. Nationally recognized author and speaker, Linda Harvey will translate cutting-edge patient safety and risk management principles into easy to implement best practices. Plus, you won't want to miss the preview of her newly released *Dental Risk Prevention for Auxiliaries* workbook. This is an event you won't want to miss. (\$40, \$55 after May 1st) This course is being sponsored in part by CareCredit and Dentedonline.

May 25 and 26 Tennessee Board of Dentistry meeting, Nashville

October

TNDAA Fall Conference (To be announced)

Opportunity to volunteer with The Remote Area Medical Corps® 2006 Expedition Schedule

May 6-7- Lone Oak, TN at Lone Oak Community Center

May 20-21- Jackson, TN at Sports Arena (DC-3 Only)

June 24-25 Blount County, Rio Church, at Heritage High School, Rt. 321

July 28-30 Wise County, VA at Wise Fair Grounds

Aug. 19-20 Johnson County at Mountain City, TN

Sept. 16-17 South Pittsburgh, TN

Oct. 14-15 Grundy, VA at Riverview Elementary School

Nov. TBD Roane County TN at Shiloh Baptist Church

For more information, visit
<http://www.ramusa.org/index.html>

Legislative Update

Submitted by Karen Castleberry

Several members, educators and students from Vol State, TTC Murfreesboro, and TTC Dickson attended the January meeting of the Board of Dentistry. It was at this meeting that the Tennessee Dental Association's Task Force on Dental Assisting presented their proposals for rule changes to remedy the problems associated with the registration process and the shortage of dental assistants. The proposed rules would allow on-the-job training for dental assistants, and once the OJT became certified in CPR, he/she could apply for and be granted the same registration as the 4600 practicing dental assistants who earned registration through education and testing. These OJT registered dental assistants could legally perform 43 of the 44 delegable duties currently listed in the RDA scope of practice. A 14-hour radiology course would be required in order to become certified in exposing dental radiographs. The RDA could take courses in nitrous oxide, sealants, coronal polishing, and expanded duties, with end-of-course exams to certify competence, but the comprehensive TN RDA exam would be eliminated.

The TNDAA President presented to the Board the TNDAA's response to the task force and recommended that the Board of Dentistry consider the appointment of a committee with equitable representation of dentists, hygienists and assistants to consider alternative solutions to the problems which we agree exist with the registration process. The TNDAA suggestions included asking the Board of Dentistry to consider

- 1) allowing limited specialty registration, so dental assistants who work in specialty offices would not have to attend a registration course and pass a test focused on general dentistry
- 2) allowing out-of-state dental assistants to challenge the TN RDA exam
- 3) expanding the scope of practice for practical dental assistants
- 4) reducing the penalty for reactivation of a lapsed license/registration
- 5) allowing students to take the exam before course completion, to prevent the lapse in the scope of practice between course completion and registration.

Tom Flanagan, chair of the TDA Task Force and Roy Thompson, President of the TDA, stated that the TDA had not authorized them to consider a compromise. The Board of Dentistry voted to send the proposed rules as presented to rulemaking.

Continued, next column, see Update

Update, continued

The public comments with regard to the proposed rules will be presented at the May Board meeting and the final vote will be taken. If the Board votes to accept the rule changes, the rules must go through several more steps in the legal process before going into effect.

Because the TNDAA Board of Trustees feels strongly that education and testing should be required as a *prerequisite* to registration as a dental assistant, we went to the legislature to try to make education and testing a statutory requirement, to try to stop the proposed rules from being adopted.. This bill simply sought to continue the current practice with regard to education and testing for registration of dental assistants. The bill would not have eliminated the Registry courses as some claimed. Some claimed, too, that we refused to compromise. The truth is we were not given an opportunity to compromise.

The bill was taken off notice in the professional Occupations subcommittee April 17. The TNDAA still feels strongly that certificates of registration issued by the state's Health Related Boards, communicate to the public that the holder of such a certificate/registration/license has met specific criteria necessary to earn that credential. To do otherwise is to mislead the public and to insult those who worked to earn registration. It is true that most surrounding states do not require education, testing, or registration for dental assistants. Neither do they discipline, fine, and charge a renewal fee for "registration" as a dental assistant.

We have done what is right. We exercised our rights of free speech and the democratic process. And we did so truthfully, honorably, and without personal attacks on individuals. Our organization is growing. I am proud of the work we have done to try to maintain high standards for our profession as we strive to better serve our patients and our employers.

TNDAA still hopes to work with the TDA and the Board of Dentistry to resolve the problems associated with dental assistant registration in Tennessee. We believe that there are better solutions to these problems than the elimination of a practice that for 20 years has put Tennessee ahead of most of the country in terms of dental assisting education and credentialing. And we are confident that the TDA will seek to accomplish a solution that will not nullify the efforts of those who worked to earn the RDA credential. Updates will be posted on <http://www.tndaa.org>

2006 TNDAA Scholarship Recipients Announced

Suzanne Dowdle, chairman of the TNDAA Scholarship committee has announced the recipients of the 2006 Scholarships. They are

Erin B. O'Malley, Knoxville, TN
enrolled at TTCK, instructors Mary Ellen Vaughn and Judith Walker

Cassie Calbaugh, Hixson, TN
enrolled at CSTCC, instructors Michelle Ehmling

Billie Hieatt, Baxter, TN
enrolled at VSCC, instructor Desiree Sutphen,
Ms Hieatt is also the winner of the ADA A Juliette A. Southard/Oral-B Laboratories Scholarship

The recipients have been invited to the Annual Session in Chattanooga where a special presentation will be made in the General Assembly on May 20, at 9:00 am.

Congratulations to these students and to their instructors. For more information on the TNDAA scholarship program, visit <http://www.tndaa.org/Scholarship.html>



Attention graduates!

Don't forget to post your availability for employment in the FREE CLASSIFIEDS!

Attention dentist/employers

Post your ad for a dental auxiliary employee on the FREE CLASSIFIEDS.

Dentedonline.com has allowed us to link to the FREE CLASSIFIEDS from www.tndaa.org. Go there and click on FREE CLASSIFIEDS.

Announcing two new active Local Dental Assistants Societies:

Nashville Dental Assistants' Association will meet Tuesday, May 4, 6:00 - 8:00 pm at Interfaith Dental Clinic, in the Board Room. Attend a FREE 2 hour CE course Sponsored by Patterson Dental Supply and Interfaith Dental Clinic. The speaker, Dr. Rhonda Switzer, will present "Dentistry...Making a Difference in the Community". Light Snacks/Door Prizes. Look for your postcard with information in your dentist's mail! For more information contact Terri Rollins at (615)690-5400 or at rollinlo66@yahoo.com You can also view the Nashville District web page at <http://www.tndaa.org/Nashville.html>

Sixth District Dental Assistants' Society plans to activate district. For more information, contact Carol Herron at ckherron@twlakes.net or visit the Sixth District web page at <http://www.tndaa.org/SixthDistrict.html>

Not sure to which District you belong? Visit <http://www.tndaa.org/DistrictNews.html> to check out your district's news. Many districts offer FREE CE to members!

First District serves: Carter, Greene, Hawkins, Johnson, Sullivan, Unicoi and Washington

Second District serves: Hancock, Claiborne, Campbell, Scott, Grainger, Hamblen, Union, Anderson, Cocke, Sevier, Jefferson, Blount, Knox, Monroe, Loudon, Roane, and Morgan Counties

Third District (Chattanooga Area) serves: Bledsoe, Bradley, Grundy, Hamilton, Marion, Meigs, McMinn, Polk, Rhea, Sequatchie, and Van Buren Counties

Fourth District serves: Giles, Marshall, Rutherford, Bedford, Lincoln, Franklin, Moore, and Coffee Counties

Fifth District serves (Nashville Area) : Sumner, Macon, Trousdale, Wilson, Davidson, Cheatham, Dickson, Hickman, Williamson, Maury, Lewis, Lawrence Counties

Sixth District serves: Pickett, Fentress, Clay, Jackson, Overton, Smith, Putman, Dekalb, White, Cumberland, Cannon, and Warren Counties

Seventh District serves: Lake, Obion, Weakley, Henry, Dyer, Gibson, Carroll, Benton, Lauderdale,

Crockett, Tipton, Haywood, Madison, Henderson, Decatur, Perry, Hardeman, McNairy, Marin, and Wayne Counties

Eighth District serves: Stewart, Montgomery, Robertson, Houston, and Humphreys Counties

Ninth District (Memphis Area) serves: Fayette and Shelby Counties

Join the  Today!
Check out the great new look at
www.dentalassistant.org

The ADAA's

Statement of Professional Commitment:

"As a professional dental assistant, I will promote the advancement of the careers of dental assistants and the dental assisting profession in matters of education, legislation, credentialing and professional activities which enhance the delivery of quality dental health care to the public."

TENNESSEE DENTAL ASSISTANTS' ASSOCIATION

The Tennessee Dental Assistants' Association's objectives shall be:

- To share in the responsibility for quality dental health care delivery to all;
- To advance the practice of dental assisting toward the highest standards of performance obtainable by supporting and encouraging formal education and in providing quality continuing education;
- To support educationally-based national and/or state credentialing for the dental assisting profession; and
- To communicate effectively with all members of the health-related professions.



Subscription Information

For a free subscription to this quarterly newsletter, send a blank e-mail to subscribe@tndaa.org. Submit articles and comments to mega-bites@tndaa.org. The TDAA Board and/or the managing editor must approve all content prior to publication and distribution. Publication of articles submitted to and approved by the "Mega-Bites" Editorial Review Board does not imply endorsement of any particular products or service. The views reflected in this newsletter are not necessarily intended to be official statements of the Tennessee Dental Assistants' Association. You DO have permission to print, photocopy, FAX, e-mail, or otherwise distribute this newsletter provided it is done so in its entirety.

Michelle Ehmling, CDA, RDA
Managing Editor, Mega-Bites Newsletter

General information

To contact the Tennessee Board of Dentistry

Regarding Registration, license verifications, license renewal, CE requirements, proposed rules, to file a complaint, delegable duties, etc.

Call 615-532-3202 local or 1-800-778-4123 or visit

[Http://www2.state.tn.us/health/Boards/Dentistry/index.htm](http://www2.state.tn.us/health/Boards/Dentistry/index.htm)

To contact the

Dental Assisting National Board, Inc.

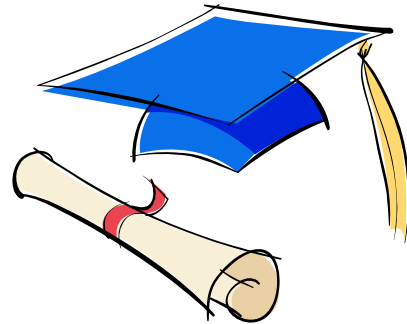
Regarding Certification, renewal requirements, etc.

Call 1-800-FOR-DANB or go to www.danb.org

To contact the

Tennessee Dental Assistants' Association

visit www.tndaa.org or e-mail info@tndaa.org



Congratulations!

to all of the 2006 Dental Assistant graduates!

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