Happy Birthday CDHA!

This was a year of many firsts. We have just completed our first year since we became an independent organization! This year’s House of Delegates (HOD) was held here locally at the Hyatt Regency, Mission Bay. This gave an excellent opportunity for many local hygienists to see how our House business works. There was a lot of socializing, a lot of fundraising, and of course, a deal of business.

This year we are happy to report we sold ALL of our CDHA raffle tickets, which help to raise money for our California Dental Hygienist’s Association. We owe a HUGE thank you to Vickie Kimbrough who bought all of the remaining tickets in order to ensure this awesome success!

Another first this year was our first DHAI fundraiser walk. DHAI stands for Dental Hygiene Associates, Inc. and it is the non-profit 501(c)(3) foundation for CDHA and all donations are tax deductible. The objective is to raise funds for dental hygiene student scholarships. We currently offer the Cora Ueland Scholarship.

This year at the HOD, CDHA announced for the first time ever, that we are adding two new scholarships! They are: The Katie Dawson Scholarship for hygienists pursuing a career as an RDHAP and the Margaret (Peggy) Walsh Scholarship for hygienists pursuing a Master's Degree! These are some of the great changes happening at CDHA since we began our first year as an independent organization.

CalHyPAC held their Silent Auction whose proceeds help to fund the California dental hygienist’s ONLY political action committee (PAC). CalHyPAC establishes relationships with California’s legislators who believe dental hygienists are an important part of the health care system. This is how we maintain and expand our scope of practice, as well as continue to have our very own DHCC.

The actual HOD business resulted in the delegates voting to refer a Proposed Bylaw regarding the number of certified and student delegates attending future House of Delegates, a Proposed Resolution regarding the parameters of laser certification, and a Proposed Resolution developing a Code of Ethics for CDHA. The HOD also voted to reject a Proposed Bylaw combining the Membership and Informational Technology Council. Finally, the delegates voted to Approve as Amended the budget resulting in a balanced budget!
The final business of the HOD was to elect our 2017 President Elect, Professional Membership and Professional Development, Secretary Treasurer, and Speaker of the House. The results are as follows: President Elect went to Beth Wilson of the Long Beach Component, Vice President of Membership and Professional Development went to Jeanette Diaz of the Long Beach Component, Secretary Treasurer went to Yvette Warren of the Shasta Component and the Speaker of the House went to Susan Lopez of the San Francisco Component. Congratulations to our future leaders!

Thank you so much for allowing me to represent San Diego as the Component Trustee for these exciting and very eventful two years. I feel honored to have been a part of the leadership of such a dynamic component, as well as the CDHA.

Finally, for the first time as our new San Diego Component Trustee, Trish Thomas is ready to lead us into the next chapter. She has previously been our Community Outreach Chair, our Membership Chair, in charge of our Oral Cancer Awareness walks, and as my Alternate Trustee. Our newly installed CDHA President, Lory Laughter, has a new theme “Prospering through Collaboration” This is so fitting for the vision of where the dental hygiene profession is going. I am confident Trish Thomas will take everyone to the next level!

Smiles,
Heidi Coggan RDHAP, BS
Outgoing San Diego Component Trustee