



OREGON DENTAL ASSISTANTS ASSOCIATION

IF YOU TOOK A PICTURE OF YOUR SHADOW TODAY, WHERE WOULD IT FALL?

**By Bonnie Marshall
ODAA President**

It is with great honor I have accepted the position of ODAA President for the year 2022-2023.

I became a student member in 1985 and have loved the field of Dentistry, teaching and being a part of the National, State and Local Association. I have been honored to be on Local, State and National committees and to have served as ADAA Trustee, Secretary and Vice President.

My goals for the ODAA are to reach out to dental assistants throughout the state in order to find out what their association can do for them. The field of dentistry has changed tremendously since COVID 19. I want to make it easy for all dental assistants across Oregon to give our association feedback. In the



past ODAA has taken surveys and unfortunately only a few have responded. I want to make myself available to receive calls or e-mails from anyone. Please call or e-mail at mgrammabuns@aol.com or call at 503.209.8450.

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ODAA Executive Officers



President

Bonnie Marshall,
CDA, EFDA, EFODA, MADAA
13908 NE River Bend Rd.
Battle Ground, Washington 98604
(503) 209-9450
mgrammabuns@aol.com



Immediate Past President

Linda Kihs,
CDA, EFDA, OMSA, MADAA
4231 Glendale Avenue
Salem, Oregon 97305
(503) 409-8627
Lkihs@aol.com



Vice President

Ginny Jorgensen,
CDA, EFDA, EFODA, AAS
30195 S. Starlight Ct.
Canby, Oregon 97013
(503) 705-1116
ginjorge53@gmail.com



Secretary

Jill Lomax,
EdM, CDA, EFDA-RF, FADAA
1168 Parkmeadow Dr. NE
Keizer, OR 97303
(503) 209-9450
Jillian.lomax@gmail.com



Treasurer

Bonnie Marshall,
CDA, EFDA, EFODA, MADAA
13908 NE River Bend Rd.
Battle Ground, Washington 98604
(503) 209-9450
mgrammabuns@aol.com

Committee Chairs- 2022-2023

Budget and Finance: Mary Harrison

Bylaws and MOP: Linda Kihs

Community Involvement: Jill Lomax

Education: Ginny Jorgensen

Historian: Lynn Murray

Legislative: Ginny Jorgensen

Membership: Linda Kihs

Newsbulletin: Linda Kihs

Nominating: Bonnie Marshall

Student Involvement: Lynn Murray & Jill Lomax

Ways and Means: Board

Board of Dentistry: Mary Harrison, Ginny Jorgensen,
Linda Kihs

Sub-Committees- 2022-2023

Radiation Protection Services: Linda Kihs

Educators Consortium: Lynn Murray

Social Media:

Facebook: Jill Lomax & Bonnie Marshall

Keeping-in-Touch & Newsbulletin: Linda Kihs &
Presidential Aid

Website: ODAA Board & Presidential Aid

Zoom: Ginny Jorgensen

Presidents Message... *Continued from page 1*

The shortage of Dental Assistants across Oregon has also made it difficult for dental offices and the dental assistants who have had to take on many more responsibilities. The commitment of all dental professionals is to provide a safe dental environment for all patients and to provide excellent dental care. Your association understands the need for continuing education and promises to provide more education through zoom classes in the coming year.

The ODAA needs you to reach out and include your association in your goals as a professional dental assistant. The ODAA is involved in Legislative issues that concerns future education and standards set forth by the Board of Dentistry. Reach out and investigate our website or talk to our officers on how you can become involved!!! The future needs you and we need you to stand with us so your shadow will be a part of the ODAA. Imagine what a huge shadow our association could cast on the world of dentistry if the ODAA was hundreds strong!!! Dentistry needs professional dental assistants who make a difference.

Join us in making a difference by becoming a part of the greatest association in the United States: The American Dental Assistants Association/Oregon Dental Assistants Association. [adaausa.org /oregondentalassistantsassociation.com](http://adaausa.org/oregondentalassistantsassociation.com)



Dental Assistants Recognition Week™ (also known as DARW) is held the first full week in March every year. This year **March 5-11, 2023** was designated by the American Dental Assistants Association as the perfect time to acknowledge and recognize the versatile, multi-talented member of your dental team. Dentists in the United States and Canada will celebrate by honoring their dental assistants for their various duties and helping them provide patients with quality dental care.

The theme for 2023 is **The ♥ of Dental Offices Through Education, Commitment, & Safety**, and acknowledges the growing importance of dentistry's role in health care and the responsibilities of dental assistants. Dental assistants are a key part of the dental practice year-round and strengthen the entire practice and enhance patient satisfaction. Dental assistants are committed to professional development and quality dental care.

THE OREGON DENTAL ASSISTANTS ASSOCIATION AND THE AMERICAN DENTAL ASSISTANTS ASSOCIATION HAS CHANGED!!!!

The last three years have been difficult for everyone. COVID 19 turned the world upside down and with that the world of Dentistry. Dentistry was hit hard with new rules, new protocols for treating patients safely as well as new infection control guidelines for all employees in the dental office.

COVID 19 changed how everyone looked at family gatherings, shopping, and of course mental and medical health for everyone. The dental world was now under the umbrella of trying to treat patients but making sure everyone was safe; safer than before COVID? How do you treat a patient in dentistry and stay six feet apart? Questions like this became overwhelming for everyone. Along with our own personal lives our work and professional lives were affected tremendously.

The ODAA/ADAA was affected as well and as your professional organization it became necessary to make changes. ODAA/ADAA changed to zoom meetings, updating and improving E-learning as well as offering webinars in order to try and keep in touch with all non-members and members.

The ADAA changed the Annual Session Meeting to a General Session meeting where all ADAA members could virtually attend through zoom.

The voting of new officers this last year went out to all members of the ADAA.

I hope you were able to attend and found the meeting as informative as I did.

The additional improvements that took place during the year included a new and improved website for both the ODAA and the ADAA.

The new management company that ADAA hired has been and will continue to work on ways to improve our Association. Check out the newly elected officers and the new E-learning on the new and improved website at adaausa.org.

I know that change can be hard but try and step out of your comfort zone for just a moment and become an inspiration to other dental assistants by furthering your professional career through ADAA E-learning, Fellowship/Mastership programs and continuing to be a member of the ODAA/ADAA.

“If you do not change direction, you might end up where you are heading” Lao Tzu

Bonnie Marshall,
RDA, CDA, EFODA, EFDA, MADAA, BS
Tenth District Trustee, 2020-2022

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

In October, the Community Involvement Committee donated 50 goodie bags of toothbrushes and toothpaste to the Fostering Hope Initiative that supports local youth. The goodie bags were passed out with candy during Halloween.

For the holidays, we look forward to partnering with another local charity to provide toys and clothing to children in need.

Then in the spring, we look forward to celebrating Dental Assistants Recognition Week March 5th-11th. This year, the theme is “The Heart of Dental Offices Through Education, Commitment, and Safety”. The ADAA has created a variety of tools and swag to help promote DARW. You can find the tools at adaausa.org.

Jill Lomax



MARY GARNES (JENKINS) MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

The Oregon Dental Assistants Association is proud to announce scholarships available due to the kind contribution and generosity of the Mary Jenkins Garnes family.

During her career with the Oregon Dental Assistants Association and American Dental Assistants, Mary and colleagues lobbied for recognition of enhanced professional skills for dental assistants developed through training and continuing education. For a more complete description of her advocacy at the state and national level, you can find information on our ODAA 2022 issue of our Newsbulletin within our Website, page 10.

Purpose

The Mary Garnes (Jenkins) Memorial Scholarship is being established in memory of Mary Garnes (Jenkins). This scholarship honors Mary and her commitment to the American Dental Assistants Association and the Oregon Dental Assisting Association.

Mary was committed to her dental assisting career for over 40 years. Mary continued her advocacy at the state and national level, promoting dental assisting education through her work with the Oregon Legislature, ADA, and Academy of General Dentistry and with the US Department of Health and Human Services.

This scholarship will be awarded to a student(s) who is(are) currently enrolled in a dental assisting program and is in “good standing” or has been accepted into a dental assisting program approved by the Mary Garnes (Jenkins) Oregon Dental Assistants Association, Special Memorial Scholarship Committee appointed by ODAA President Marshall.

Application Criteria

- To be considered for the Mary Garnes (Jenkins) Memorial Scholarship, applicants must:
- Be a high school graduate or hold a GED Certificate.
- Be a student member of the ADAA/ODAA enrolled in a Dental Assisting program.
- Have completed the first term of the Dental Assisting program at the time of application.

- Participate in class activities, student organization(s), and local/state dental assisting organizations, where available.
- Have demonstrated leadership skills in activities including, but not limited to, religious, volunteering or those that are dental related.
- Complete the scholarship application.
- Complete an in-person or zoom interview with the ODAA Special Memorial Scholarship Committee members.

Applicant Submissions

- Applicants must submit the following materials:
- Letter of Purpose and Intent
- Completed and signed application and scholarship agreement
- One letter of recommendation from educator, employer, colleague, etc.
- Dental Office observation confirmation letter with dentist (or instructor) signature (=>6hours)

All application materials must be submitted in one email (either as one PDF attachment or as multiple attachments to one email). The application, Letter of Purpose and Intent and letters of recommendation must be typed. Handwritten materials will not be accepted other than the signature if you are unable to sign electronically. Incomplete applications (missing one or more of the application items) will not be considered. All scholarship materials must be submitted by February 21, 2023 to mgrammabuns@aol.com with the subject line titled, Mary Garnes Jenkins Memorial Scholarship.

[CLICK HERE TO DOWNLOAD AN APPLICATION](#)



Looking Ahead to the 2023 Oregon Dental Conference



CONNECT LEARN GROW



Oregon Convention Center
Portland ■ April 13–15, 2023

An event for the entire dental team

**Mark your calendars for the 2023 ODC,
April 13-15 at the Oregon Convention Center
in Portland, OR.**

It's never too early to start thinking about attending the annual Oregon Dental Conference. Be on the lookout for the Oregon Dental Association information regarding the courses and activities that will be offered during the 2023 conference.

The Oregon Dental Assistants Association (ODAA) will be sponsoring two courses, Friday, April 14th - 5 Steps to Practicing Dentistry Pain Free: Evidence-Based Ergonomic Strategies for Career Longevity and Oregon DANB EFDA Exam Preparation; Infection Control (ICE), Radiation Health & Safety (RHS), Oregon Expanded Functions – General Dental Assisting (ORXG) and General Chairside Assisting Exam (GC)

Come join us for another exciting Oregon Dental Conference where you can attend quality education sessions, explore the Exhibit Hall to learn about new products, meet up with friends, make new friends and be apart of the Oregon Dental Community.

Ginny Jorgensen

Here are details of the ODAA events:

5 Steps to Practicing Dentistry Pain Free: *Evidence-Based Ergonomic Strategies for Career Longevity*

Course Objectives

- Learn the etiologies of work-related pain in dentistry.
- Discover the single most important dental ergonomic intervention to prevent neck pain.
- Implement a technique to control stress in the operatory while preventing neck & back pain.
- Discover how to identify trigger points and the mechanisms by which they develop.
- Learn a painful muscle imbalance to which dental professionals are uniquely prone.
- Discover what research shows is the best type of exercise to prevent pain in dentistry

Future Opportunities: *Lunch, Listen, Learn*

This luncheon is scheduled for dental assisting students who are interested in learning about future career opportunities while enjoying a buffet lunch. Additional fun activities are planned as well, so we hope to see lots of “soon-to-be” dental assisting graduates attending this event.

Oregon DANB Exam Preparation Course

Course Objectives

- Access the DANB website and exam information
- Complete DANB exam applications
- Identify exam content and a variety of resources
- Evaluate study methods
- Explain the pathways and requirements to become an Oregon EFDA

Local Anesthesia Functions of Dental Assistants - THE PROPOSED OREGON ADMINISTRATIVE RULE

Dental assistants trained to provide local anesthetic for dental patients? Yes! And why not? The Oregon Board of Dentistry (OBD) sent a Dentist - Dental Assistant Questionnaire to Oregon dentists in 2019. 472 dentists responded. The final question on the questionnaire was "What duties would you like to see added to the expanded functions list?"

The majority of the answers showed that the dentists would like EFDA dental assistants to perform the following duties:

- Local anesthesia
- Final Impressions (which they are already allowed to do)
- Pack retraction cord (they already can perform this after taking an approved course)
- Soft relines (they already can perform this after taking an approved course)
- Start nitrous oxide
- Periodontal probing

There were different reactions from the dental community regarding a dental assistant being trained to provide local anesthesia. Initially the negative reactions suggested dental assistants would require more education than that of a dental hygienist. But as the idea of expanded functions dental assistants attending the same local anesthetic course that dental hygienists are required to take when they come to our state, started to make real sense. What better way than to assist a dentist in efficiency and access to care?

Following the questionnaire results, three Pacific University Dental Hygiene students submitted a "Dental Assistant Administration of Local Anesthesia" as their capstone project. The proposal justification included the following: "It would provide an additional professional pathway for interested dental assistants. It would allow interested dentists to increase productivity in practice, provide effective quality care, increase practice income, serve more "at-risk" or low-income patients."

A "Local Anesthesia Functions of Dental Assistants Committee" was formed and a proposed rule was developed and sent

to the OBD. This proposal included the recommendation that 1) a dental assistant who holds an Oregon EFDA Certificate and has successfully completed a Board approved curriculum from a program accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation of the American Dental Association or other course of instruction approved by the Board and 2) a dental assistant may administer local anesthetic agents and local anesthetic reversal agents under the indirect supervision of a licensed dentist. Local anesthetic reversal agents shall not be used on children less than 6 years of age or weighing less than 33 pounds.

The OBD members listened to the proposal presented to them at their August 19, 2022 meeting and responded positively by referring the proposal to the Licensing, Standards and Competency Committee to review and make recommendations.

In the proposal, the committee provided the education requirements that would be identical to dental hygienists who move to Oregon that do not have their local anesthetic endorsement. The required course is 24 hours long includes lecture and labs. An optional anatomy section is available and a student must pass the course and then pass the Western Regional Board (WREB) Local Anesthesia Examination.

The Licensing, Standard and Competency Committee met on November 16, 2022. The local anesthesia proposal was discussed by the committee members. The Oregon Dental Association (ODA) representative said the members have some major concerns regarding dental assistants providing local anesthetic to dental patients although these concerns are not yet known. Other members of the committee thought the proposal sounded positive for dentists and dental patients in our state.

The Oregon Dental Assistants Association (ODAA) and ODA are planning to meet to discuss the issues and concerns in early 2023. Be looking at the OBD and the ODAA website for future information and outcomes. It just may be the boost that professional dental assistants need.

FROM THE ADA ARCHIVES 1998:

Trying to Get Your Child to Brush?

By Diane Chandler, CDA, MA

First, make a toothbrush readily available. If a child eats his meals and snacks downstairs, then a toothbrush should be downstairs. Children, like adults, love convenience.

Encourage young children to brush even without toothpaste if they do not like the taste of it; it is the mechanical action of the brushing that removes plaque and acids – not only the toothpaste. If your child likes toothpaste that is great, but only a small amount (the size of a pea) should be put on the toothbrush. Children will often line the entire brush with toothpaste. This is unnecessary and usually creates a mess of foam and winds up on the mirrors, walls, counters, and all over your child. Apply the size of a pea!

Reward, reward, reward is the secret to successfully motivating children, and dental hygiene is no different. Have your children put a star on a sheet of paper every time they brush before bedtime. Reward a sheet of fifty stars with a movie, toy, or a later bedtime. Remember, it takes about six months to one year for children to form a habit. Be patient!

For the child who brushes for three to five seconds, get a one-minute egg timer. Tell your children that they must brush until all the sand runs out of the glass. This gives children something to do while they brush. Or, try timing a minute's worth of a favorite song and using that as a timer – your children may even brush longer.

Make use of fluoride rinses. We are in the age of mouth washes for sweet-smelling breath. Fortunately, many of these rinses contain sodium fluoride. Try different brands to determine one that your child likes. Make sure the rinse has .05% sodium fluoride and swish, swish (and spit).

If your child absolutely refuses to brush daily, praise the times

when he does brush with comments like “Your teeth are so shiny – I can see sparkles on them,” or “Your teeth all have smiles on them because they are so happy to be clean.” If your child is too tired or irritable to brush, compromise by saying, “How about you brush just one tooth – let’s both pick the one or two teeth that are not smiling.” More often than not, your child will brush more than one tooth.

Take your child to the dentist with you even when he is not the patient. Ask the dental staff if your child can look around the office and perhaps “ride” the dental chair. This will familiarize your child with the office and help take away the fear of his first dental appointment. Conversely, never threaten your child with the dentist, dental hygienist, or an office visit. This immediately puts the dental staff at a disadvantage by making patient-doctor trust extremely difficult to establish and promoting obstructive fear.

Finally, children are imitators. If you want your child to brush before bedtime, you should brush before bedtime too. Better yet, brush together.

Good dental hygiene is important. Life-long habits of good hygiene are best formed with children. Try some of these suggestions to help your child develop excellent life-long hygiene habits that will lead to both fewer cavities and overall better dental health.



HEALTH ALERT

Recently, CDC issued a Health Alert Network regarding nontuberculous Mycobacteria infections associated with contaminated dental unit waterlines and the need for dental health care personnel to follow established recommendations to ensure the safety of their patients.

While rare, there have been multiple documented cases of disease transmission from dental unit waterlines. The largest outbreaks have occurred in pediatric dental clinics among children who had a pulpotomy procedure. These outbreaks have involved young children, with many experiencing severe infections requiring hospitalization, treatments such as intravenous antibiotics and surgical procedures. Complications from their treatment included permanent tooth loss, hearing loss, facial nerve palsy, and incision fibrosis.

Dental unit waterlines promote bacterial growth and development of biofilm, thus all dental unit waterlines must be treated regularly with chemical germicides. Untreated dental units cannot reliably produce water that meets drinking water standards (which is fewer than 500 CFU/mL of water of heterotrophic water bacteria). Even if your dental practice uses low microbial water (such as distilled or sterile water) to fill up a self-contained water bottle system, you must still regularly treat the waterlines with chemical germicides to eliminate bacterial contamination.

The Health Advisory contains recommendations and a list of resources for DHCP to visit to learn more information. Some key recommendations include: (please refer to the Health Advisory for the complete list):

- Use water that meets Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulatory standards for drinking water (i.e., <500 colony forming units (CFU)/mL of heterotrophic water bacteria) for all non-surgical dental treatment output water.
- Consult with the dental unit manufacturer for appropriate methods and equipment to maintain the quality of dental water.



- Follow recommendations for monitoring water quality provided by the manufacturer of the unit or waterline treatment product.
- Use sterile saline or sterile water as a coolant/irrigant for surgical procedures.
- Consider irrigating with a sterile and/or antimicrobial solution during all non-surgical pulpal therapy/endodontic procedures.
- Provide staff training on how to properly maintain and monitor dental water quality.

The Health Alert Network is CDC's primary method for sharing urgent public health information with public health partners including public information officers; federal, state, territorial, and local public health practitioners; clinicians; and public health laboratories. To find more information about the HAN program and to sign up for email updates, please visit the HAN Website.

As a reminder, DHCP should regularly consult their state dental boards and state or local health departments for current information and recommendations and requirements specific to their jurisdictions.

*Reference material taken from:
CDC Health Alert Network (HAN) Health Advisory*



The Oregon Dental Assistants gathered for a Past Presidents Luncheon on Sunday Nov.13th, 2022 in Salem.

Old times, present and future times were talked about while enjoying each others company.

In attendance were:

Linda Kihs 1972, 1999-00 and 2012-2022

Bonnie Marshall 1990 and Present

Jackie Hopkins 1982-1983 and 1986

Mary Harrison 1985 and 2001-2007



News & Upcoming Events

March 2, 2023

5:30 p.m. ODAA Board Meeting
6:00 p.m. Open House Topic:
DARW and Dental Conference

April 13-15, 2023

Oregon Dental Conference

May 4, 2023

5:30 p.m. ODAA Board Meeting
6:00 p.m. Open House Topic: Spring
Student Forum (interview/resumes)

July 6, 2023

5:30 p.m. ODAA Board Meeting
6:00 p.m. Open House Topic:
Something fun!

Sept 7, 2023

5:30 p.m. ODAA Board Meeting
6:00 p.m. Open House Topic:
OBD/ODA Forum

Nov. 2, 2023

5:30 p.m. ODAA Board Meeting
6:00 p.m. Open House Topic:
Fall Student Forum

MISSION STATEMENT

“To advance the careers of dental assistants and to advocate for the dental assisting profession in matters of education, professional activities, credentialing and legislation. To promote the ideals and growth of the Association which aid in the accessibility and delivery of quality oral health care to the public.”

DENTAL ASSISTANTS OATH

“In my practice as a dental assistant, I affirm my commitment to improve the oral health of the public, and to promote high standards of quality dental care. I shall faithfully respect the Principles of Professional Ethics by the profession.

I pledge to continually improve my professional knowledge and skills, and to uphold the highest standards of professional competence and personal conduct in the interests of the dental assisting profession and the public I serve.”