

# ADVOCACY UPDATE



## **HB2473 Finally Takes Effect**

Even though HB 2473 was signed by Governor Hobbs on April 11th bills do not become effective until 90 days after the legislative session ends. Effective on Monday, October 30th, dental hygiene assessment and dental hygiene treatment planning are now included in the scope of practice for dental hygienists. Dental hygiene assessment is defined as identifying an existing or potential oral health problem that dental hygienists are educationally qualified and licensed to treat. Interestingly, this is exactly how dental hygiene diagnosis is defined in the CODA Accreditation Standards for Dental Hygiene Education Programs. Dental hygiene treatment planning is defined as performing a prioritized sequence of dental hygiene interventions that is predicated on the dental hygiene assessment and that is limited to those services included in the scope of practice for dental hygienists. You may have noticed this was the subject of question #1 in the most recent Common Pitfalls quiz from the Board of Dental Examiners! We are pleased to finally have our scope aligned with our education!

## **“Botox & Bylaws” a Success!**

On Tuesday, November 7th, Katrina Saunders hosted a webinar during which Katy Obert, AzDHA Secretary & AzDHA Communications Director and Chair, Deb Kappes, AzDHA Advocacy Chair, and Brandie Heredia, RN, Neuromodulator provider & trainer & co-owner of Unmarked Beauty and Wellness joined Katrina in an informative discussion on the current status of RDHs delivering neuromodulators (e.g. Botox) in AZ. After looking back at how we got to where we are now, we reviewed the Attorney General’s opinion as it relates to the expansion of procedures for dental hygienists in AZ and took a deep dive into the four specific conditions that must be met for dental hygienists to perform neuromodulation therapy in AZ. We concluded by identifying what constitutes sufficient instruction and training to deliver neuromodulators in a safe manner.

Even though the AZ Attorney General clearly states: "Assuming that the administration of Botox is not an “Irreversible Procedure,” current law would permit an adequately trained or educated dental hygienist to administer Botox under the supervision of a licensed dentist when prescribed or recommended by the supervising dentist”, there is uncertainty around whether

administering these agents constitutes an irreversible procedure. We are left to make that determination individually and proceed according to our own professional judgement and/or legal advice. And if we decide to provide these services to our patients right now, we must be comfortable accepting a degree of risk. Exercising professional judgement means taking responsibility and being able to account for your actions in all circumstances. We must be prepared to provide sound, evidence-based rationale to support our decisions. It seems that exercising sound professional judgement in collaboration with a supervising dentist would go a long way in mitigating that risk.

So, what's next? Because we seem to be at an impasse with no clarification forthcoming from the Board of Dental Examiners (BODEX) and no one wants any hygienist, or dentist for that matter, to be unnecessarily exposed to a BODEX complaint, the AzDHA intends to pursue a change in the law in 2024 to definitively add these procedures to the existing dental hygiene scope of practice.

### **Make Your Voice Heard - Get Ready for the 2024 Legislative Session**

Have you ever wished there was an easy way to quickly let legislators know your position on a particular bill? Well, your wish has been granted - it's called the Request to Speak (RTS) Program. It is an online tool that lets anyone give Arizona state lawmakers feedback on bills. It's an easy way to get involved in state politics, stay informed on the bills that directly affect us, and make sure our elected officials honor the wishes of us, their constituents.

RTS accounts must be activated in-person, at the Capitol. If you'd like an account, [CLICK HERE](#) and simply fill out the form. Your Advocacy Team will create and activate an account for you then send you an email with instructions on how to get started. With your activated RTS account, you can comment on bills being heard in Committee through your online access. Legislative Committees hear bills January through April so get prepared NOW!

### **In case you missed it! Tempe to Enforce Tobacco Age Requirement: Require Tobacco Vendor Licenses (Taken from AzPHA Public Health Policy Update, Nov. 5, 2023)**

Last week the Tempe City Council voted to implement a new policy that requires tobacco retailers to get a license from the city and comply with basic requirements to stay in good standing. An enforcement provision in the new law will allow the city to suspend or revoke the privilege license for noncompliance with basic standards including limiting sales to people 21 and up.

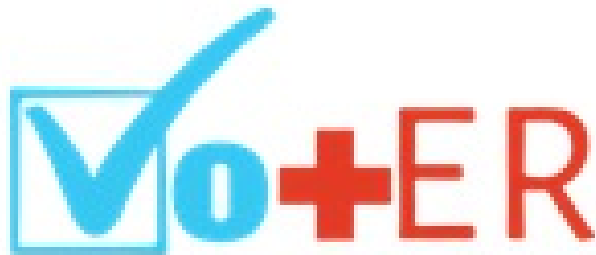
Tempe joins Tucson and Flagstaff - who already have licensing requirements for tobacco sales. The new law will take effect in May 2024.

Some on the Council wanted a ban on selling flavored tobacco products, but that provision was left out of the motion.

[Read more about it here.](#)

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## **And Now - A Word from Our Partners, the Arizona Oral Health Coalition**



Vot-ER's work is driven by a community of health care professionals, organizers, clinical students, and technologists united by a common vision: healthy communities powered by inclusive democracy.

Vot-ER programs exist in over 500 hospitals and clinics and helped tens of thousands of Americans register and prepare to vote. Voting is just one tool to advocate for what we care about—but it's a powerful one.

Research shows that our communities are healthier when more voters can participate in the democratic process. States with more inclusive voting policies and higher civic participation rates have better health outcomes.

The broad reach of our healthcare system, combined with the trusted role many doctors, nurses, and social workers hold in their communities, make healthcare an ideal arena for civic engagement to engage voters.

[Learn more and get involved!](#) [Vote for Oral Health!](#)

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Our oral health shouldn't depend on our wealth, where we live, our race, or our age. Adding dental coverage to Medicaid for all people who rely on the program will make oral health care accessible for millions of people. It's time for policymakers to pay attention and take action: our oral health matters. Add your voice by signing this petition.

[Medicaid Should Cover our Whole Bodies: Mouths Included!](#)



As we did this year, AzDHA will join forces with Arizona Oral Health Coalition (AZOHC) and the Children's Action Alliance (CAA) to host the 2024 in-person Capitol Day event on Monday, March 11. We are also considering a virtual meeting before the in-person event specifically for AzDHA members and students. Free registration will begin in January 2024.

As we did last year, we are utilizing the services of [Advocacy Associates](#) who will coordinate all appointments with legislators. Last year's participants found the app easy to use and it definitely improved the logistics for the day!

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## **New Member of Board of Directors Davena Drowns, RDH, MBA, EdD**

Davena graduated from Illinois Central College's Dental Hygiene Program in 1992. After four years of clinical practice in Illinois, she moved to Salt Lake City, Utah. During her 12 years in Utah, she worked in both private general practice and periodontology. Davena's desire for knowledge and growth prompted her to continue her educational journey at the University of Utah. In the spring of 2004, she graduated with two bachelor's degrees, one in sociology and the



other in behavior science and health. Later that year, she attended Baker College's Center for Graduate Studies and in 2006 obtained a master's in business administration specializing in healthcare management. In the fall of 2006, Davena moved to Arizona where she worked in clinical hygiene, as well as managed dental assisting programs at two local colleges. Recently, she graduated from the University of St. Augustine for Health Sciences where she earned a Doctor of Education degree. Currently, Davena is practicing clinical hygiene while advancing her career within the dental industry. She considers herself to be a periodontal hygienist and an expert in infection control guidelines and blood-borne pathogen standards. She believes strongly in maintaining high ethical standards and that integrity should never waver. She is passionate about dental hygiene, the advancement of our profession, and committed to helping the AzDHA reach their goals and serve our fellow dental hygienists.



## Welcome to our New, Transfer, & Returning Members

Katherine Martinez

Sadina Price



## Happy Birthday to All our Members who have birthdays in November

[\(Click here if your birthday should have been listed\)](#)

Jacqueline Aguado  
Karen Andrews  
Valery Brady  
Renee Bruns  
Sherryl Burns

Jessica Keen  
Melinda Kennedy  
Danielle Keza  
Eliza Martineau  
Mildred Lubimir

Tiffani Pada  
Marilynn Phillips  
Paula Quinn  
Lisa Rapp  
Donna Richards

Torin Davis  
Twylla Gibbens  
Makenna Harris  
Donna Howard  
Deborah Kappes

Kimberly McCrady  
Anna Molina  
Pamela Mosca  
Amanda Newman

Amber Stevens  
Dianne Teegarden  
Colleen Trombly  
Tara Walstad

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## AzDHA Members In Action



*Mindy Rogers, SADHA President*



*Katy Obert, RDH, BA, DA and Deb Kappes, RDH, MPH - Botox Panel*



*Anne Guignon RDH, MPH, CFP during her Saturday, October 21 courses:*

1. Be kind to your spine! - Why musculoskeletal health is key to preventing burnout
2. Risky business - Why and how to avoid 1099 workplace woes



**SADHA**

**WE ARE LOOKING**

*Join Our  
Team!*

**ALL POSITIONS AVAILABLE**

**Contact Us NOW!!**

CALL/TEXT LYNN RADLER:  
520- 240-5832



Dental Friends !! Please help support Pima Dental hygiene class of 2024 in reaching their fundraising goal for pinning ceremony !!

And how cute are these, Christmas themed 🦷🎄 shirts!



PIMA Fundraiser

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# ENTER TO WIN A SADHA MEMBERSHIP

**LOCATED IN  
SOUTHERN AZ?  
ENTER TO WIN A  
FREE ADHA  
MEMBERSHIP!**

**ALREADY A SADHA MEMBER? WIN AND WE  
WILL REIMBURSE YOU!**

\*ENTRIES MUST BE SUBMITTED BY 11/30/2023- WINNER OF DRAWING  
TO BE ANNOUNCED 12/02/2023

# Monthly Meetup

DECEMBER MEETUP



ARIZONA DENTAL MISSION OF MERCY

AzDAcares

<https://azdcares.org/mission-of-mercy/>

Saturday, December 9, 2023  
(preferably volunteering in anesthesia first shift)  
Arizona Veterans Memorial Coliseum  
1826 W McDowell Rd, Phoenix, AZ 85007

adha™

Arizona  
DENTAL HYGIENISTS'  
ASSOCIATION



President: Valery Brady, Vice President: Jeanette Lalli,  
Treasurer: Davy Evans and Secretary: Katy Obert  
will all attend and want to hear from you!

**adha** AMERICAN  
DENTAL HYGIENISTS'  
ASSOCIATION™

100 YEARS OF LEADERSHIP IN ORAL HEALTH

# AZDHA COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING

Friday

15 December

2023

6pm

via ZOOM



+++  
SADHA MEMBER Appreciation  
ALERT! FREE TO MEMBERS!

01 / 20 / 23

JANUARY

20TH

2023

**CPR-BLS Training**  
with  
**Theresa McCarter,**  
+++**RDH**

Contact  
[sadha.rdh@gmail.com](mailto:sadha.rdh@gmail.com)  
to register!

**\*NONMEMBERS \$30**

Do you have something to share with other AZDHA members,  
contact Michelle Schwantes at [michelle@amgoldman.com](mailto:michelle@amgoldman.com)

Talk to us Today

**813-444-1011**

15429 N. Nebraska Ave, Lutz, FL 33549



+ JOIN OUR EMAIL LIST

+ FORWARD THIS EMAIL

