



President's Page

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President 2017-2018
American Dental Assistants Association

Expressions of gratitude show no boundaries

"As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them."

~John Fitzgerald Kennedy

As we end yet another year, each person has a propensity to reflect on the days passed with either some gratitude or regret. Occasionally, we struggle in life to achieve or attain a particular want or desire. We think we have to do something to get it, and once we get it we will then be happy, important, or worthy. Most of us have it backwards. We don't really have to do anything or achieve anything to be happy, it is about being happy first and looking at opportunities positively. It is then that all the things to which we aspire will naturally come to us. Sound too easy?

Sometimes it can feel like life is all about competition and contention. Children of today are often told they must work their hardest to be stronger and more successful than their peers. We are reminded to pursue

our ambitions and not let anything stand in our way. But not everyone can end up at the top, or can they? What is it that makes some people grateful for what they have while others just want more and more? What creates such a distinct sense of entitlement in some while others seem quite satisfied with what they have, even in times of adversity? Gratitude can light up your world instantly, even with small actions or words. A positive can-do attitude doesn't hurt either.

Each industry has its own "movers and shakers," or those people who seem to get things done. But what happens when like-minded individuals team up to take on the challenging trends in dental assisting? The outcomes are endless and exciting! Recently, six incredibly motivated organizations came together for a day-long Emerging Dental Assisting Trends and Issues Summit in Chicago. The successful day laid the groundwork for future collaborations and proactive movement in the dental assisting profession and identified some areas of challenge to work on. Not only



Emerging Dental Assisting Trends and Issues Summit participants (L-R, front row): Guinevere Juckett, DALE Foundation Trustee; Kate Noble, DANB Chair; Cindy Durley, DANB/DALE Executive Director; Connie Reed, DANB Board Director; Virginia Cairrao, PDAEF President; and Hanna Aronovich, DANB Director of Marketing & Communications. (Standing L-R): Dr. Frank Maggio, DALE Foundation President; Jen Price, DALE Foundation Director of Fundraising and Engagement; Jean Casio, Academy of Chairside Assisting Vice President; Natalie Kaweckyj, ADAA President; Tija Hunter, IgniteDA Advisory Board Member; Dr. John Kasper, ADAA/PDAEF Executive Director; and Kevin Henry, Co-Founder IgniteDA.

did the day bring together visionaries, but the attributes and contributions each organization could bring forth to enhance a common goal were explored.

As we move forward on a national level, I cannot express enough gratitude to the Solutions for Associations staff and their hard work and positive energy. We continue to receive nothing but compliments on the services provided to our members. It truly has been a joy working side by side to solidify the basis of ADAA as we continue to work cohesively in reestablishing our presence within the dental community. The Board of Trustees also has been working to reenergize and streamline association business, while still giving the grassroots members a voice.

On the state level, kudos to those members reorganizing states who have been inactive for some

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time. It is through combined efforts that strength and optimism increase within our membership. There are a number of members who work tirelessly to further the objectives of our organization, wearing multiple hats during times of apathy and unwillingness to participate. Local societies as well continue to carry on providing support and education to dental assisting professionals.

Lastly, I would like to show my gratitude in those organizations that did not give up on ADAA during our times of restructuring and reorganization. I can honestly say that the bleak times are behind us and only sunny skies ahead for ADAA as we continue to strive forward in solidifying our united front.

To each and every one of you: Thank you for continuing your membership within the ADAA and realizing your potential in making a difference. I wish each and every one of you best wishes and health through the upcoming holiday season for those that celebrate, and happiness and success as we slide into 2018! 🎉

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