

Alliance to the Utah Dental Association

Winter 2008

Phone: 801-261-5315 Fax: 261-1235

Calendar

Give Kids a Smile

February 9

Volunteers are *greatly* needed to help with the annual Give Kids a Smile day. The event will be held at the Salt Lake Community College Hygiene School on 90th and Bangerter. Volunteers will give informal dental health training and coordinate fun activities for the children. Shifts can be from one hour to all day long. Spanish speakers are especially needed. Contact Holly Yeager at khdayeager@nhsn.com or call 801-302-0205.

UDA Convention

February 14-15 at the Salt Palace Convention Center

Alliance Day is the 15th (See article).

AADA Leadership Conference in St. Louis

April 16-19

Anyone who is an alliance member is invited. We would love to see every component represented. For information and registration: www.AllianceADA.org.

Important Deadlines

- 2008 Conference Grant Applications for first-time attendees to the leadership conference must be postmarked by **Jan. 15**.
- Beulah K Spencer New Member Service Award applications must be postmarked by **Jan. 15**.
- 2008 Conference Attendee Scholarships - New! Have you been to the Alliance Conference before but would like some assistance to attend again? These scholarships are to attend the Alliance's 2008 Conference in St. Louis. They must be postmarked **Jan. 15**.

You can access all of these forms on the Alliance's website www.allianceada.org.

What's Up in Your Area?

We'd all love to know about what you've been doing in your local alliance.

Please submit information about dental health activities, social gatherings, service projects, member accomplishments or anything else of interest.

Email these items to Julie Thomson at juliewthomson@hotmail.com.

Alliance fosters friendships, common goals

Thank you all for a most enjoyable year of learning and growing in the Alliance! There is so much to learn and so many wonderful people to learn from. I am looking forward to the rest of the year and the activities that are coming our way.

By far, the best thing about serving as the Alliance president is the association of such dedicated individuals. My job has been easy because of everyone's willingness to help.

I would encourage you who have not been active in the Alliance to become active today; you will find relationships in the Alliance that you will not



find anywhere else. You will realize that we are all working toward common goals, even though we may be at different stages in our "dental spouse" careers.

The conventions that I have attended have reinforced the common goals we all share. I was able to attend convention in Las Vegas, where I served as a state delegate. I also served as a delegate at our Leadership Conference in Tulsa.

I look forward to seeing all of you at the UDA Convention in February.

Jane Binns
President 2007-2008

Join us for lunch, speakers at UDA meeting

Friday, February 15, 2008 is Alliance Day at the UDA Convention. It will start at 8 am with a AUDA Board Meeting Breakfast in the Sundance Room at the Marriott Hotel.

At 12:30 pm an Alliance Luncheon will be held in the Wasatch Room of the Joseph Smith Memorial Building. We will have a relaxing lunch with time to interact and listen to relaxing music. There will be a short presentation by Dr. Ralph Montgomery, founder and chairman of Salt Lake Donated dental services. An organization that benefits those who cannot afford dental care. He has recently opened a new facility and we will help him stock it up with dental supplies like tooth paste, tooth brushes and dental floss. Please bring these items, or a cash donation, to the luncheon and we will present them to Dr. Montgomery.

If you plan to attend the luncheon, please RSVP to Sharon Wiest, 801-225-2048, or Jane Binns, 435-753-2214, by February 10.

Convention attendees may also be interested in a 2 pm presentation at the Salt Palace. Tieraona Low Dog, MD, will discuss "Living In Balance: Strategies for Optimal Living and The Truth About Aging: Separating Fact from Fiction."

Important Note: We need help manning our booth! We will be having our Alliance booth on Thursday in the hall near the registration area. Please stop in and introduce yourself; we would love to meet you!

One of our own takes helm of national alliance

By Susan Cannon

Our National Convention was held in San Francisco this year in conjunction with the ADA meeting. It was very exciting for our state of Utah because Janette Sonnenberg was installed as our National President.

We held our meetings in the beautiful Palace Hotel in the heart of downtown San Fran. Janette's installation was very nice. Her husband Brent gave a wonderful tribute to her and her beautiful daughters and son were there to honor her too. After the installation our state hosted a reception in honor of Janette. It was held in the French Parlor of the hotel. It is an ornate room that has leaded glass windows that open on to the beautiful glass atrium below.

We had a "Bee" theme since we are the Beehive State. Becky Richards made some wonderful sunflower arrangements for the serving tables. Four of Janette's daughters sang an



Janette Sonnenberg speaks at the ADPAC breakfast during the national alliance convention in San Francisco.

original verse to the song, "It Takes Two". We had some wonderful individual donors as well as the UDA and Patterson Dental that helped pay for this wonderful reception.



Provo president to lead Utah Alliance

Sharon Wiest will become the new President of the state alliance at the UDA Convention. She is married to Dr. Gary B. Wiest who is a general dentist in Provo. They have four children and two grandsons. Sharon has been involved in the alliance since they finished dental school. She is currently serving as the President of the Provo District Dental Alliance. She organizes a dental health marionette show to go to elementary schools in three school districts every year. She has served on the AADA Dental Health Education Committee for about five years. She has served in various positions on the AUDA board. She looks forward to serving as the AUDA President and getting to know more Alliance members.

Your voice can be heard by state, local lawmakers

We have easy access to the issues, which affect our loved ones and us. Below are websites where you can become informed and/or express your opinions:

1. You can easily find your legislative representatives by going online to <http://lc.utah.gov/> and click on *Legislators* on the top of the list on the left-hand side.

2. To find out about legislative issues and advocacy that affect the dental community, go to <http://ada.org/> then to "add more" in the "The ADA" column; then type in *Legislative issues* in the search box or *Capwiz Advocacy* in the search box.

3. To find out what's going on in the Women's State Legislative Council (WSLC) go to www.wslcofutah.org

The WSLC meets every Wednesday during the Legislative session, starting January 23rd. You can read the notes of the meetings at this website. They have discussions from both sides of the issues at their

meetings and they try to choose the hottest topics of the session for discussion.

The WSLC had their first meeting on January 16 where Ruby Hammel, a WSLC delegate, gave suggestions on how to be a more effective lobbyist. Here is the info., in a nutshell, that she gave to us:

1. Become acquainted with your State Legislators. (Find out who represents you and your area.)

2. Call or email both your State Senator and State Representative now. ("Snail mail" is good too.)

3. Keep message short and simple.

4. Unless you know your legislator personally then use their title, i.e.: Senator Jones or Representative Smith.

5. Let your legislator know you are a constituent by sharing where you live.

6. Always thank a legislator if they vote your way.

7. Be sure you know the title and num-

ber of the bill you are approaching them about. Also know its sponsor or sponsors. (You can find these through the <http://lc.utah.gov/> website.

8. Know enough about your bill to be able to discuss it with your legislator... Be ready to counter any talking points they may have heard against or for your bill.

*Remember you have something to offer them...not money or gifts...but your vote in the next election.

If you would like me to pass on information via email about current legislative issues, which have to do with healthcare, both national and state, then please email me your address. My email address is Janice@gerritsen.com

Please become informed and make your voice heard. **Your opinion matters!**

*Janice Gerritsen
AUDA Legislative Chair*

Salt Lake Alliance honored with impressive list of awards

Alliance of the Salt Lake Dental Association received the following awards at the 2007 ADA Annual Session in San Francisco.

Becky Richards, married to Dr. Robert Richards, received the Thelma J. Neff Distinguished Service Award. The Neff Award, established in honor of the founder and first president of the national Alliance, honors members who exemplify outstanding leadership and volunteer spirit through excellence in service and commitment.

Sue Ryser, married to Dr. Ralph Ryser, was given the Communications Award for "Best Published Newspaper Article on a Dental Related Project" for the Deseret News article on the "Senior Smiles" project.

Jan Giaouque, married to Dr. Kent Giaouque, received a Membership Award for "Most Creative Member Retention Program" for her efforts as President of the Salt Lake Alliance.

Janice Gerritsen, married to Dr. John Gerritsen, received the "Legislative Award" for her work as Secretary of the Women's State Legislative Council and her effective reporting on legislative efforts in the State.

The Alliance of the Salt Lake Dental Association, and Holly Yeager, married to Dr. Kevin Yeager, were given the Dental Health Award for "Best Support of a Dental Society Project" at the 2006 Give Kids a Smile. Members shared displays, educational videos, presentations and one-on-one time teaching children and adults with items from Dental Education Kits prepared by Alliance members. Members assisted children color dental

health handouts which were entered into a contest, and helped in a variety of other ways.

We are proud of them and appreciate the time and effort they, and many other members, give to support their communities and the dental profession. The Award money will be used to benefit Alliance dental health projects in our community.



District 9 Contingency at the San Francisco Convention: Becky Richards, Sue Ryser, Sharon Wiest, Cynthia Mattson, Debbie Preece, Kathy Tidwell, Darrellene Rosalis of Wyoming, and Janette Sonnenberg. Front: Dixie Poole and Sharon Grubb (national president past year).