

Four Days in Washington, DC

By Jan Midkiff, RDH
CADHS Member & ADHA Alternate Delegate

What a whirlwind of a trip to Washington, DC I recently experienced! The ADHA Annual Session and Center for Lifelong Learning (CLL) took place at the Omni Shoreham Hotel in DC, from June 17-23. Due to my work schedule, I could not attend Lobby Day or take part in the CLL classes. I arrived on Friday night, just in time to pick up my registration packet. Saturday morning I attended the Plenary Session with Dr. Brad Nieder. His message was both humorous and thought provoking. Laughter and humor are essential in life and truly are the best medicine, according to Dr. Nieder. This event was introduced and followed by a performance by an authentic drum and bugle group in period costumes, wigs and all! Next we hit the exhibit floor to snag samples and see the latest dental hygiene gadgets.

On Saturday afternoon, Jan Grutzius (ASDHA President), Emma Violante (ASDHA Legislative Chair), and I met with Kathy Schroeder, ADHA's Governmental Affairs Division Manager. We discussed our bill with her and she offered her insight and ideas that other states have used to advance legislation. She will be happy to hear about our bill's passage!

I attended several receptions and luncheons that combined delicious fare with presentations of awards to numerous accomplished dental hygienists from across the country. These awards and the events are sponsored by many generous dental and oral pharmaceutical companies. The Omni Shoreham is quite a historical site and was a beautiful location for all the events during the week. I enjoyed walking through the flower gardens and outdoor patio areas between sessions. The weather was cooler than Phoenix, of course, but more humidity.

Sunday through Tuesday were spent in meetings with the ADHA House of Delegates and our District XI Delegation. There were 13 PR's to discuss and the ADHA Bylaws that were revised and rewritten for our consideration. All are available to study on the ADHA website. The bylaw revisions caused us the most concern. It was difficult to compare the new versions, (there were several drafts), with the old bylaws. Many of the changes made were done so to bring our ADHA Bylaws into compliance with the Illinois General Not-For-Profit Corporation Act of 1986, according to ADHA's legal counsel. Our district delegates voiced their concerns with written and verbal testimony as the changes will take much authority from the HOD and place it with the BOT. However after much discussion the PBY passed, but we will continue to request more clarification.

Serving ASDHA as a delegate requires study, time, and commitment, but it is an honor to represent Arizona at the national level. Meeting dental hygienists from all over the country allowed me to network, learn and share ideas. Although I had little time to sightsee, it still was exciting to be in Washington, DC!