Georgia Dental

Hygienists’ Association

New Member Packet

1

Dear New GDHA Member,

Thank you for becoming a member of the Georgia Dental Hygienists’ Association (GDHA). We are thrilled to have you as a member and can’t wait to get to know you.

GDHA has six (4) components located throughout the state to help you meet other dental hygiene professionals in your area, network with your peers, take part in social events and receive great continuing education. Local components may be found on the GDHA website at: [https://www.gdha.org/active-components](https://www.gdha.org/active-compoents)

The Georgia Dental Hygienists' Association, YOUR Professional Association, is pleased to offer quite a number of symposiums each year to add value to the changing role of dental hygiene practice in Georgia. You can view our full calendar of events on our website at: <https://www.gdha.org/gdha-calendar>

In addition, we want to make sure you have the opportunity to take full advantage of all the membership benefits and resources available to you as a member of your professional Association. We hope you will take time

to review this informative packet which we created just for you and use it as a resource.

Should you need any assistance or have any questions or comments about your membership or benefits in GDHA, please feel free to contact us by email at

We look forward to seeing you soon! Sincerely,

GDHA Leadership

2

**GDHA New Member Packet**

**Table of Contents**

ADHA/GDHA Professional Membership Benefits........................................4

GDHA Leadership Contact Information.......................................................8

GDHA Meetings..........................................................................................9

Top Networking Opportunities...................................................................10

Weblinks, Resources and Volunteer Opportunities ..............................10-11

Notes…………………………………………………………………………….12

3

**Professional Membership Benefits - Tangible**

**HEALTH/AUTO:**

• Disability and major medical insurance (Mercer)

• Professional liability insurance (Mercer)

• Prescription Discount Card program (SingleCare)

• Auto Insurance (GEICO)

**EDUCATION/EMPLOYMENT:**

• Scholarships (ADHA and IOH)

• Research grant opportunities (IOH)

• ADHA Employment Assistance program

• Discounts on online and lecture CE courses

• Savings on admittance to ADHA Annual [Conference](https://www.gdha.org/annual-session)

• Discount to ADHA’s online bookstore

• Dental Hygiene Decks for National Boards

**CREDIT BUILDING;**

ADHA MasterCard Reward Credit Card

**ACCESS**:

• Access to BenefitHub (multi venue discounts)

• ADHA’s Journal of Dental Hygiene

• Subscription to Access magazine

**ADDITIONAL DISCOUNTS:**

• Loupes (OraScopic) and instruments (Henry Schein)

• Scrubs (Lydia's Uniforms)

• Discounted Hotel and Car Rental 4,000 hotels worldwide

• Discounts to Orlando

• Office Depot/Office Max discount on products

• Allied Van Line for moving out of state

4

**Professional Benefits Continued**

As a student, new professional, established dental hygienist, teacher, legislator or political advocate, the benefits of membership are many. The key to the greatest value of your membership is to use it. Your membership enables us to advocate for the profession and provide you resources and shared knowledge to achieve your fullest professional potential and

ongoing success.

**Online Career Center**

Having access to the right tools and support can make all the difference. The ADHA Career Center provides advanced professional career paths,

clinical practice guidelines to help navigate your professional position with

new professional videos and resources to support you and help you navigate your career choices. Based on current and relevant scientific evidence, the Clinical Practice Standards promote the knowledge, attitudes, beliefs, practices and behaviors that support and enhance oral health with the ultimate goal of improving overall health. All to help you

address practice issues and ethics questions in your day-to-day work.

**Advocacy**

Your membership provides opportunities for your professional voice in advocating for change and involvement within many regulatory arenas. You will find continuously updated information about state licensing

authorities, federal guidelines, legislation and maps of changing trends within our profession.

**Professional and Personal Savings**

Thanks to our various partners, members receive discounts on professional and personal services nationwide. The consolidated buying power of dental

hygienists nationwide allow us to give you access to special programs that

give you more for your money.

**ADHA Annual Conference:**

The ADHA Annual Conference offers a wide variety of hands-on, evidence- based continuing education programming. Three days of courses offers support and inspiration to help you develop as an individual and a leader.

5

**GDHA Annual Conference:** The GDHA Annual Conference offers an opportunity for students and graduates to present table clinics, research posters to the attendees. There is also an opportunity to participate in the association's membership meeting and express your voice.

**Publications:**

Access magazine and The Journal of Dental Hygiene, are produced by

ADHA to help you stay on top of changes reshaping the field and support you in making evidence-based treatment decisions.

**HYPAC:**

Through financial contributions and grassroots involvement, you and your fellow ADHA members can support congressional candidates with the American Dental Hygienists’ Association Political Action Committee

(HYPAC). Get involved with the only federal political action committee that represents the interests of dental hygienists.

**ADHA Institute for Oral Health (IOH)**

This Foundation was started to advance the profession of Dental Hygiene through providing educational scholarships, research and service grants to

dental hygienists throughout the United States.

[**ADHA Career Resource Center** (career paths, practice, new professional)](https://www.adha.org/career-center)

6

**Membership Benefits Intangible**

***ADHA/GDHA membership offers many intangible benefits.*** We are proud to represent you as ***your*** voice in issues that impact your profession, such as; scope of practice, employment settings you work in, requirements for licensure and continuing education.

You will find our professional organization is solely committed to representing the voice of dental hygienists and the dental hygiene profession within the state and the nation.

**Leadership opportunities**: GDHA is committed to empowering you to serve on an action committee, advisory board or as a Leader at the component, state and national level.

**Support and Mentorship** from other hygienist members, whether it be a career mentor or a leadership mentor, you can find a friend in GDHA.

**Networking opportunities:** state-wide and nation-wide

**Resources:** [ADHA website](https://www.adha.org/)

[GDHA website](https://www.gdha.org/)

**Community Outreach:** Several volunteer opportunities to serve the public are held each year. [GDHA volunteer](https://www.gdha.org/volunteer)

**Advocacy:** GDHA welcomes members to participate in the legislative process. Dental Hygienists' Appreciation Day is held in February each year at the GA State Capitol.

7

**2022-2023 GDHA Leadership**

**GDHA President**

**Lamara Moore**

**lamaramoore@att.net**

 **President-Elect**

 **Elaine Kennedy**

 **eken629117@gmail.com**

 **Vice President Anita**

**Sheriese Ferguson**

**sheriese.ferguson83@gmail.com**

 **Secretary**

**Lisa Melvin**

**lisa7melvin@yahoo.com**

 **Treasurer**

**Anita LaTourette**

**latouretterdh@comcast.net**

 **Immediate Past-President**

**Autumn Reid**

**autumn8611@gmail.com**

**Member Engagement Chair**

**Wanda Hill**

**wandahill122@gmail.com**

**GDHA Advocacy Committee Chair**

**Pam Cushenan**

**pamocushenan@gmail.com**

8

**GDHA Meetings**

There are several types of meetings held throughout the year. Those meetings include Component Committee meetings, Committee meetings, Board of Chairmen meetings, and Annual Conference.

**Component Committee Meetings** are hosted in local areas to carry out the mission and goals of for GDHA. The meetings are coordinated with the GDHA Calendar and approved by the Board of Chairmen. Meetings may have a continuing education opportunity and some do not. All component members are welcome to attend.

**Action Committee Meetings** are to carry out a specific action of the Board of Chairmen and are held either at a pre-determined interval or as necessary. Committee members are the main participants in these meeting.

**Board of Chairman Meetings** are held quarterly. These meetings include the board, component committee chairmen, and committee chairmen. This is

where the business of GDHA is conducted. Component Chairmen and Committee

Chairmen report their activities and pending issues are discussed.

**Annual Conference** is the big meeting each year, usually in September. At this meeting, the membership assembles to participate in a business meeting to make policies and provide direction for the association. This is also the meeting where elections are held and new board members are installed for the next year. All members are encouraged to be a part and attend this meeting.

9

**Top Networking Opportunities**

***How to Get Started:***

 Come to an association event

 Go to GDHA website and contact webmaster

 Express interest

 Ask around

 Bring a friend

 ~~~~  Stay informed with GDHA meetings, Shoutouts, Facebook

✓ <http://gdha.org/jobs>

✓ [GDHA Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/TheGDHA)

***Web links, Resources and Volunteer Opportunities to Help you Connect:***

***1.* Attend a GDHA Component Committee Meeting:**

[GDHA Components](https://www.gdha.org/active-compoents)

***2.* Participate on a GDHA Committee:** Contact President-Elect: Elaine Kennedy eken629117@gmail.com to express an interest on which committee you would like to serve

***3.* Volunteer!** Opportunities in Georgia: [GDHA volunteer page](https://www.gdha.org/volunteer)

[Georgia Dental Association Foundation for Oral Health](https://www.gadental.org/gda-foundation)

GDA GA Mission of Mercy Children’s Dental Health Month Give Kids A Smile Day

Special Kids, Special Smiles [Georgia Oral Health Coalition](https://www.gaohcoalition.org/) [The Ben Massell Dental Clinic](https://www.benmasselldentalclinic.org/)

✓ ***Other clinics that accept volunteers:***

[Christ Community Health of Augusta](http://www.dentalclinics.org/lis/ga_30901_christ-community-health-services-augusta)

10

***4.* Attend GDHA Annual Session In September:**

[GDHA Annual Conference](https://www.gdha.org/annual-session)

***5.* Attend Dental Hygienists' Appreciation Day at the GA Capitol:**

[GDHA Legislation](https://www.gdha.org/dental-hygiene-apprciation-day)

Or contact pamocushenan@gmail.com for more information

***6.* Take advantage of GDHA CE Opportunities:**

[GDHA meetings/symposiums](https://www.gdha.org/gdha-calendar)

***7.* Resources for employment**

[All Health Jobs](https://www.allhealthjobs.com/)

[Dental Hygienist Jobs](http://www.dentalhygienistjobs.com/)

[Dental Post](https://www.dentalpost.net/)

[Udent](http://www.udent.com/)

***8.* Other helpful links**: [GDHA related links](https://www.gdha.org/resources)

11

**As a Professional Member you are a part of the only association representing the interests of dental hygienists.** For more information about your professional membership, contact GDHA Member Engagement at GDHAwebmaster@gmail.com

Your support allows the dental hygienists’ association to advance, maintain and protect the profession as well as empower, support and develop you.

**EMPOWERING, SUPPORTING, DEVELOPING YOU!**

***Thank you for being a member of your professional Association. YOU make a difference!***

12