CANDIDATE SPEECH

ADHA

FOR

NORINE DOWD

Hello everyone and thank you all for giving me the opportunity and privilege to stand before you as **YOUR** candidate for Vice President of the American Dental Hygienists’ Association. There is a traditional African proverb that very simply and succinctly teaches us, “For tomorrow belongs to the people who prepare for it today.” We also need to keep in mind the expression, “I have seen the future and it is **NOW**.” Our world is at a crossroads of change and our industry is as well. Technology, innovation and information are evolving at an unprecedented pace. That’s the good news. Along with that news is the reality that the people we serve in our communities are working harder and longer hours, taking home less money, have less “discretionary” income, and are looking for alternatives and solutions to health care issues and challenges in every field of medicine. Change is exciting and although the past must be honored and referred to as required, we cannot deny that new tips, tools and techniques are urgently needed to navigate the new world of personal well being, including all phases of health care and especially **dental well-being**. I offer this organization my dedication, my belief in collaborative vision and my confidence in getting the job done. As Vice President of the ADHA, it is my intention to create a context of teamwork inspired and driven by collaborative leadership and effective outreach to all of our members. It is my intention to take my experience, knowledge and confidence in the future of this profession and its constituents and insure that this organization functions as an effective conduit to a productive and well-informed future for all of the ADHA’s members.

As many of you know, I have spent the better part of my career in learning about our profession from every angle and sharing that knowledge. I have worked with patients and I have mentored our colleagues. I have always done what I can to advance the cause and effectiveness of our practice and in my roll as Vice President of the ADHA, I look forward to being in a position to effect even more positive results. In my role as Trustee of District IV, I was the first to implement the use of webinars as an innovative and cost effective way to conduct our district workshop. Using this technology we increased participation, enhanced communication, and preserved and conserved valuable resources. Based on our success, other districts are now holding their workshops by webinar.

I am thrilled to be a part of an organization that has the vision to commission executive reports like the one we are focusing on today, and to have the opportunity to “divine” what lies ahead with futurists like Marsha Rhea and Craig Bettles is very special. Any opportunity we can get to be able to see our work and its ramifications on our communities from a different perspective is a privilege and its inherent value in opening our eyes and minds is limitless.

Ultimately, we are in the business of serving people to support a better quality of life for each of our patients. Dental health has far reaching effects and the more people we can reach, the better are the chances for having healthier Americans. To the uninitiated, a dental cleaning is just that, but to be able to increase our accessibility and to spread the word on the necessity of dental hygiene will ultimately save lives. In a world where information and technology move at warp speed, it is the mandate of our industry to heed the call, identify those who are devoted to leading with vision, compassion and experience, and work collaboratively to insure that we all move forward as a cohesive and effective entity. It is urgent that the good and essential work that we practice is as accessible to our communities as it can possibly be, and it is my goal to support that outreach and accessibility. I know that compassion is the hallmark of a leader who has an open mind and a willingness to engage people and listen to others, while continuing to learn. As an example, in response to the outcome of the 2011 Mega Issues Forum, the board adopted the concept and use of the District Listserv. I effectively promoted this effort in my district, knowing that members want to stay informed and give input on the issues that affect our profession.

I am confident that I am capable of being the leader that the ADHA needs and wants. I know that to embrace change is essential, to educate is crucial and to collaborate is imperative. I am prepared to be your ADHA Vice President and will serve with Confidence, Courage and Compassion. I thank you in advance for your confidence in me and I look forward to a bright and effective future for the ADHA and its members!