

## President's Message

What an exciting time to be a member of the Alliance of the American Dental Association! I am so honored to be serving as your president! The installation provided by Sarah Looper and Jean Weathers was wonderful, and the theme of "Serving" apropos for our organization. And as if it couldn't get any better, the reception honoring Debbie Preece and me was incredible. What a day to remember!

My focus for the year is our tagline *The Dental Community Belongs Here*. The Alliance is a secret we need to share with the dental community throughout the nation. We are receiving many applications for the Communications Specialist position and are hoping to have someone on board early in 2012. This new member of our Alliance team will promote our organization on social networking sites, with state and local dental associations, and to the spouses of dentists. This individual will send out electronic communications to members, submit articles to dental publications, maintain our wonderful website [www.AllianceADA.org](http://www.AllianceADA.org) and continue to expand our relationship with the ADA.



Communication about the Alliance also comes from each of us. We have talked many times about the need for grassroots efforts to grow our organization. That was true for me. It took just one person who asked me to chair an event which led to many different positions and friendships that keep me connected. Communication is the key to any organization's success. I hope all of us will share with others what makes the Alliance worth joining!

Our goals for the coming year include continuing to provide oral health education, to advocate for legislation that can support dentistry and our spouses, and to insure the well-being of our families.

- The Alliance has many tools available to our members, such as how to put on a puppet show or produce a Dipper Dan program.
- We are developing a mentoring program using knowledgeable and dedicated members to share themselves with those who are new or do not have an active alliance.
- Please become more visible by joining your spouse in visiting legislators.
- Offer to speak and volunteer your services to the local and state dental association.
- Present a program, or just read to school children a book such as *Ready, Set, Brush!* Your participation in dental activities is only limited by your imagination.

Our Head to Toe Membership Project in Las Vegas served many functions - uncovering the secret of who we are, providing a service to the community, and building relationships among our members. We are planning to continue a similar service at Conference 2012 in Stone Mountain, GA, providing dental kits to seniors through Meals on Wheels and nursing homes. Please bring hats, socks, gloves, and dental supplies that we can package and deliver.

Conference 2012 is going to offer activities for both Alliance members and our dentist spouses, so plan to join us. Invite a potential or long-time member to join you. At Conference you build friendships and a sense of family that will sustain and support you for years to come.

I look forward to a busy and productive year! Please invite me to your annual state Alliance and dental association meetings. Help me promote the Alliance and uncover our secret!!!

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