



June 2010 Governmental Affairs Liaison Report By, Marie Cramer and Paula Fischer

Paula and I wanted to update you on the most recent legislative issues. This year's session is now done in Albany. The Dental Hygienists' Association of the State of New York (DHASNY) VP of Gov't affairs, Paula Fischer, Director of Policy/Advocacy, Mary Ellen Yankosky and committee members will be busy this summer in planning for next year's legislative year.

I am happy to report Assembly bill 10638/Senate bill 7754 passed this legislative session. On June 25, the New York State Assembly and Senate passed the legislation to provide for a limited permit to practice dental hygiene *for persons who have met all the requirements for license as a dental hygienist but have not yet passed the required examination.* The measure (A.10638/S.7754), which now goes to the Governor, is part of DHASNY's legislative and educational agenda. The measure, sponsored by Assemblywoman Amy Paulin and Senator Suzi Oppenheimer, is consistent with provisions in place for many other professions. The creation of limited permits for dental hygienists will increase the number of practitioners available to provide dental hygiene services throughout the state, important given the continuing challenge of advancing access to oral health care and oral disease prevention for all New Yorkers. *The limited permit would entitle the holder to practice only under the personal supervision of a licensed dentist.* The permit would be issued for one year and may be renewed at the discretion of the department for an additional year. *Other medical professions, including physician's assistants, physical therapists, dental assistants and dentists, may obtain a limited permit authorizing them to practice under supervision* for a set period of time prior to passing the required examination.

State Board for Dentistry: On June 11, 2010, *Dr. Dolores Cottrell-Carson was introduced as the newly appointment Executive Secretary, State Boards for Dentistry and Optometry.* She will begin this new post later this summer. Dr. Carson is a well-known and respected dentist who has had private practice and public health experience. At the time of her appointment, Dr. Carson was serving as Dental Director of the Anthony L. Jordan Health Center and Assistant Director of the New York State Oral Health Technical Assistance Center, both in Rochester. Congratulations to Dr. Dolores Cottrell-Carson!

Lastly, two days after our May study club meeting at MCC, The New York State Dental Association (NYSDA) withdrew their support of their own Block Anesthesia Bill. DHASNY's Board of Director's voted to adhere to our legislative agenda and address this issue at a later date.

Any questions, feel free to contact Paula Fischer pfischer4@verizon.net