

## Candidate Biographies(Alphabetical)

**Sarah Berzes-Vaughn, RDH**

**NOMINATED OFFICE: 2020 DDHA President-Elect**

I am a graduate of Sinclair Community College and Community College of the Air Force. I earned an Associate of Applied Science in Dental Hygiene in 2009 at Sinclair Community College. I returned to college in 2016 to complete a couple classes to obtain my second Associate of Applied Science in Dental Assisting in order to graduate from the Community College of the Air Force.

I am a member of the Ohio Air National Guard (ANG). I joined the ANG in 2003 and graduated dental assisting school in 2004 as a distinguished graduate. In 2010, I was awarded ANG Dental Non-Commissioned Officer (NCO) of the year. In 2011, the 178<sup>th</sup> Dental Clinic was awarded ANG Small Dental Clinic of the Year. In 2012, I graduated from NCO Academy as a distinguished graduate. The NCO Academy revitalized my passion to become a better leader. In 2013, I was in a working group that aided in formation of the E876 Council. Previously, there was no council for Technical Sergeants, Master Sergeants, and Senior Master Sergeants. This council was established so Airman in those ranks could meet with other leaders to create mentoring opportunities for themselves and their fellow Airman. As Superintendent of Dental Services at the 178<sup>th</sup> MDG, I realize the importance of mentorship in order to create the best team. I have always had a passion for lifelong learning and self-improvement. I have volunteered to attend a Four Lenses Course, an Emotional Intelligence Course, and an ANG Contemporary Issues Course to enhance my leadership and mentoring skills. Recently, I served on a working group to help develop the 178<sup>th</sup> Wing's new slogan, "Starts with Us".

I am also an active and engaged member of the Dayton Component and was mentored by Terry Larson, Chris Harmison, and Kelly Oberg when I was in the Mad River Valley (MRV) Component. I served as President for 3 years and Delegate for 1 year for the MRV Component. I was instrumental in creating MRV Component's social media presence; and with the assistance of fellow component members, we helped revise component bylaws so that it would concur with ODHA and ADHA bylaws. Currently, I am serving as Dayton Component President-Elect and will be installed as President at the next Dayton Component meeting. I am volunteering to serve as a second term to continue to mentor others until they feel confident to take my place. I have passion for leading and helping people develop their pre-existing natural skillset. During my Presidency, I hope to create a mentoring program within the Dayton Component of ODHA. My goal is putting the right faces in the right places at the right times.



## **Bhavya Sahaya, Student Dental Hygienist**

**NOMINATED OFFICES: 2020 DDHA Delegate  
2020 DDHA Community Dental Health  
Committee  
2020 DDHA Secretary Mentorship**



My journey in dentistry began in 2004 in India. I completed my Bachelor of Dental Surgery in 2009 in India. Soon after finishing my degree and being granted my license, I worked as a full-time dentist from 2009 to 2011 in private practice. The interesting fact about being a practicing dentist in India is that hygiene is not a separate specialty in India. Hygiene services are considered a part of periodontal services provided to the patient by the dentist itself. I moved to the USA in 2011 to support my husband in his endeavor to complete his residency and practice as an Internal Medicine physician. When we moved to America, due to immigration and financial constraints I had to take a step back from all professional and educational endeavors. Dental and oral health has not been just my profession, it has been my passion, and the only way of life I have ever envisioned myself in. In 2016, I got the first opportunity to get back to the realm of oral healthcare. I was offered a position as a Dental Assistant in Mount Desert Island Hospital's Community Dental Center, Southwest Harbor, Maine. I was extremely honored and eager to be back in the dental field. Despite being offered a paid position I chose to volunteer at the community clinic in the underserved HPSA (Health Professional Shortage Area) to help the Mount Desert Island Hospital Community Dental Center save essential funding which could then be used towards patient care. I have always had a special zeal and fervor for community service. From poor impoverished homes to underprivileged schools, I had the great fortune of providing dental care for people of all socioeconomic strata and all ages. Be it ART (Atraumatic Restorative Treatment) followed by IRM to restorative and hygiene treatments, I was able to render all these services to the most needy and disadvantaged sections of society in a developing nation like India.

In 2018, I was accepted into the esteemed Dental Hygiene program in Sinclair Community College. I was elected the SADHA Vice President of the graduating class of 2020. In November 2019, it was my honor and privilege to be a part of the student delegate body to the ODHA annual session under the guidance and mentorship of the extremely accomplished and experienced Ms. Leverich, in Columbus, Ohio. The experience at the ODHA annual session was such a colossal learning experience. Being able to share a table with delegates from our prestigious local component, the DDHA, was a moment of immense pride for me. I was on the floor where our profession evolves and progresses. Being a part of the proceedings was such a turning point in my comprehension of our profession. The experience was humbling yet empowering at the same time, showing me that I had a voice and that the Dayton Dental Hygienists' had representation. What it demonstrated was that we had the power to bring dental hygiene into a new era of interprofessional engagement. As hygienists who work hard, and uphold our ethics to the pinnacle, we deserve to take our rightful place in the sun as professional clinicians. It is undeniable that hoping and wishing has never transformed goals into results. Therefore, this is my chance to seize the moment, this is my chance for learning, being present, being informed and above all, being involved.

## **Hannah Sexton, Student Dental Hygienist**

### **NOMINATED OFFICES: 2020-2021 DDHA Secretary 2020 DDHA Delegate**

As a soon to be 2020 graduate of the Applied Science in Dental Hygiene at Sinclair Community College, I look forward to being more involved in the DDHA in supporting the ODHA and ADHA. I believe that being a part of this organization has empowered hygienists and our voices to be heard in protecting ourselves as well as our community. Especially during this time of crisis, it is important that we use our knowledge, research, and resources to stand together protecting the health of our community, patients, and fellow hygienists. With the mentorship of Secretary Chris Harmison, I believe it would be a great learning experience to see how DDHA works and an honor to be a part of protecting and empowering our colleagues.



Having a family history of periodontal disease and seeing how dentures affect my family members' mental, emotional, and physical health has fueled my passion for dental hygiene. With the knowledge I have acquired during the dental hygiene program, I understand how oral health affects the overall health and what an impact a healthy mouth makes overall. Working in a variety of jobs including almost five years as a chairside dental assistant, I have learned how to work together with a team, as well as, being a strong worker on individual tasks. These jobs have also allowed me to take constructive criticism while also meeting monthly, weekly, and daily goals. I believe that working alongside and being mentored by our fellow colleagues will help my voice be heard, as well as, help the voice of DDHA be heard.