



Mississippi Dietetic Association

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American Dietetic Association

Winter/Spring 2009

A New Election Process: Electronic Voting is Here!

2009-2010 MDA Ballot

President-elect

Kathy Knight

Pam Roberts

Secretary

Chadwick Lee

Diane Tidwell

Delegate

Carolyn Bailey

Shelia Triggs

Chair-elect of Council on Professional Issues

Veronica Martin

Urmila Mota

Chair-elect of the Council on Education and Research

Emmy Parkes

Jamie Zoellner

Nominating Committee

Christina Cobb(NW) Michelle Lee (NE)

Kristin Sessums (GC)

As voted and approved by our membership last year, all voting will be done electronically for the 2009-2010 elections.

MDA is providing you with a copy of the ballot for your review and will not be sending out paper ballots to members, except by request.

To view resumes of candidates and vote, MDA members will need to go to the MDA website:

<http://www.eatrightmississippi.org>

To vote:

1. Go to the MDA website
2. Click on the Home Tab
3. In the drop down box, select Member Name
4. You will be prompted to enter your last name and your ADA membership number
5. Once logged in, you will see a link for the ballot, click on nominees names for their resume and be able to vote.
6. The system will only allow one vote per member.

***If you have any problem logging into the member portion of the website, please call the MDA office 662. 981.0740.**

***If requesting a paper ballot, you will need to submit your request in writing to the MDA office: 330 North Mart Plaza, Suite 2 Jackson, MS 39206**

Voting will take place from February 18, 2009 through March 17, 2009

President's Message *by Brent Fountain*

What an exciting time to be a member of the dietetics profession and a member of the Mississippi Dietetic Association. We have experienced many changes in both how we do business, potential partners and clientele. It is important that we do what we need to do in order to prepare for the changing landscape. Let me recap a few of the highlights from MDA.

MDA moves to electronic communication: As approved by the membership last year, MDA will now conduct all correspondence with membership via electronic methods, i.e. Email and our own MDA website.

If you haven't been to the MDA website lately, I encourage you to do so. You can access the MDA website at <http://www.eatrightmississippi.org>. There you will find a new look and new information.

As you have already discovered from the first page, our officer elections for the 2009-2010 MDA officers will be conducted electronically and you will need to go to the website to vote.

Please vote! Your vote is important and needs to be counted. Please take a couple of moments of your time to assure your voice is heard.

While on the subject of voting, remember that ADA elections are also going on currently and will continue until March 3. When voting in the ADA elections, please consider our own Elise Smith for House of Delegate, Director.

Regarding the MDA Ballot, I want to say a special thank you to our Nominating Committee, Christy

Chain, Kathy Yadrick, and Jacinda Roach for their tireless work in making sure we had a full slate for the ballot. My appreciation also goes out to the nominees for their commitment to the profession and our organization.

One more comment regarding electronic communication, this is the last Take 5 that will be distributed through the mail unless you request a copy be mailed to you. Look for future issues by email and on the MDA website.

New process for selecting MDA Award Winners The other bylaw changed that was approved by the membership last year was in the nomination and selection of our state awards including Outstanding Dietitian, Recognized Young Dietitian, Emerging Leader, and Magnolia Award.

Nominations are still allowed to come from the district as a district award; however, individual MDA members can also nominate members for the award. In order for a member to make a nomination, they will need to go online and formally make the nomination. Criteria for nomination and eligibility is posted on the MDA website.

As part of the bylaw change, selection of recipients for the awards was changed from statewide voting by members as part of the MDA ballot to a standing committee.

At the January 30, MDA board meeting, board members voted to establish the three members of the MDA nominating committee (elected), current CPI chair (elected) and Member-

ship chair (appointed) to serve as the Awards selection committee and include the new responsibility as part of their overall position responsibility.

This structure will allow representation across the state and will allow more members to be involved in the nominating process of deserving members. I hope you consider nominating someone for these awards.

New Fee Structure for Approving Continuing Education Units by the Mississippi Dietetic Association. The board also voted to begin charging organizations and other groups requesting continuing education review of programs conducted in Mississippi.

While a fee is not uncommon for other disciplines, it is new to us and will be new to groups who request continuing education from MDA.

The Board feels that the fee is a fair cost and with the addition of event CPEU advertising on the MDA website for approved program providers, event planners and providers will actually benefit by this change.

This change will also allow MDA the opportunity to review programs being provided in the state to assure that they are to a quality and standard appropriate for our members and Registered Dietitians, who may not be MDA members.

While space here is limited to give the entire fee structure, I want to point out a few important facts. There is no charge for MDA-hosted meetings or MDA Affiliate/District meetings.

MDA members will receive a 25% discounted fee when applying for hours. This means if you organization

President's Message *continued*

requests hours and you are a member, they are entitled to use your member number to receive the discounted rate.

Sessions will be charged based on the number of CPEU hours requested.

A late-fee will be charged for applications that are received with less than a 4 week turnaround time.

All funds generated by the fees will be placed for scholarships presented by MDA and will not be used for operating expenses.

I hope you will review the fee policy and let the board know of any comments or concerns you have regarding the change.

A new look for the 2009 Public Policy Workshop. For the first time, ADA conducted the PPW as a webinar, February 8-10. It was free to all members and I want to say a special thank you to Public Policy Coordinator Karen Lewis and State Policy Representative Kathy Warwick for planning and coordinating the activities for PPW 2009 in Mississippi.

We had several MDA members, dietetic interns, and undergraduates who signed up to participate in at least some part of the PPW.

If you were not able to attend, the sessions will be made available at the ADA website <http://www.eatright.org>. There you can see what you missed and how to become involved in policy both at our state and national levels.

It goes without saying that changes in healthcare are on the horizon in this country. As a profession, we need to prove to our lawmakers, both state and national, that we are an

important piece of the healthcare puzzle. As the paradigm of healthcare and healthcare dollars shifts from disease management to disease prevention, we as an association need to be poised to justify that when it comes to food and nutrition, we are the experts and need a seat at the table. As it was stated at PPW, "If you are not seated at the table, you may be on the menu!" I don't think any of us wants that.

Over the next few months, you will have the opportunity to work with MDA to meet with your U.S. congressman and senators in their state offices. The more members we have attend, the more they see our desire and realize our importance in resolving this key issue. Become Involved!

A New Executive Director for the American Dietetic Association. Pat Babjack, long time staffer at ADA has been named as Ronald Moen's replacement and has already begun in her official capacity. We appreciate Ron's service to ADA and recognize that many of the advancements over the last several years can be traced back to his involvement. We now look forward to Pat's leadership in the Association.

National Nutrition Month and Registered Dietitian Day. March is again NNM and this year's theme is "Eat Right".

This year's theme should not come as a surprise to you if you have noticed ADA's new logo. If you haven't seen it, look on the front page. It is now a part of MDA's logo as well. There is plenty of information available both

on ADA and MDA's website on how you can promote National Nutrition Month where you work or live. Be sure to check it out.

Also, Wednesday, March 11, 2009 has been designated as Registered Dietitians Day. I know many of us are not great at "tooting our own horns". But this day is an excellent opportunity to promote what you do, both internally and externally.

Most of us won't be able to take Registered Dietitians Day off without counting it as a personal day, but I do hope you take time to reflect on what this profession means to you and more importantly what you mean to the profession.

On March 11, and over the course of National Nutrition Month, I hope you are patted on the back for what you mean to your organization, community, state, and country. However, let me be the first to tell you. Happy Registered Dietitians Day! I am honored to count you as friends as we work to make healthful changes in Mississippi every day.

A Special Thank you to Lydia West, Jacinda Roach, and members of the Central District Dietetic Association.

MDA was privileged to volunteer at the MS. Blues Marathon in Jackson on January 3, 2009. We had a water station at the 10-mile mark of the event right in front of Eudora Welty's house. We look forward to more opportunities around the state to raise the visibility of MDA. Thanks to CDDA members for coordinating the event. We had a great time of fellowship and service!



330 North Mart Plaza, Suite 2
Jackson, MS 39206
(Phone) 662.981.0740
(Fax) 662.362.9544
(Email) msdietetic@comcast.net
(Website) <http://www.eatrightmississippi.org>

SAVE THE DATE!

Mark your calendars now for
MDA's 2009 FNCE!

April 1-3, 2009

Jackson Medical Mall

Jackson, MS

News from the MDA 2009 Annual Meeting!

Events are being finalized and we are anticipating a fantastic meeting in Jackson, April 2-3.

Over the next few weeks, you will see much more about the meeting and hope you will make plans to attend this year's annual meeting.

For RD Artists, MDA hopes you will consider donating a piece of your

artwork to the MDA Silent Auction. The MDA silent auction proceeds go towards our MDA scholarships.

By participating in the silent auction, you will have the opportunity to support one of the most important causes MDA undertakes as an association. You will also have an opportunity during the wine-tasting to sell other artwork not donated. So, you can make a little bit of money and showcase your talents as well.

Even if you are not an artist, like myself, please consider donating to the MDA silent auction. Your donation is greatly valued by MDA and is important in helping MDA honor our commitment to supporting the next generation of Registered Dietitians.

If you would like to donate your own artwork or somebody else's artwork, please contact the MDA office or Shelia Triggs at shetri8@yahoo.com

MDA Officers for 2008-2009:

President: Brent Fountain

President Elect: Gina Wack

Secretary: Carol Connell

Treasurer: Heather Crawford

Delegate: Elise Smith

Public Policy Coordinator: Karen Lewis

State Policy Representative: Kathy Warwick

Chair, Council on Education & Research: Rebecca Kelly

Chair-Elect, Council on Education & Research: Laurel Lambert

Chair, Council on Professional Issues: Shelia Triggs

Chair-Elect, Council on Professional Issue: Kimberly Barczak

Nominating Committee: Christy Chain (Chair), Kathleen Yadrick,
Jacinda Roach