

Clarification on ISDA’s Dental Hygienist Membership Renewal

We were recently contacted by several members of the Idaho Dental Hygienists’ Association (IDHA) who are concerned about a mailing from the Idaho State Dental Association (ISDA) for the “2009 Annual Hygienist Membership Renewal.” These IDHA members expressed concern about the ISDA membership solicitation that requests payment for the “renewal” of their membership, even though they have never been a member of ISDA. Some IDHA members almost inadvertently paid it, thinking it was a renewal for their state dental hygiene license. Other IDHA members are worried that hygienists may mistakenly believe that they will somehow help the dental hygiene profession by joining ISDA or will have a significant voice or vote in the ISDA organization.

ISDA represents the interests of dentists—not the interests of dental hygienists. The Idaho Dental Hygienists’ Association is the only professional organization that represents dental hygienists in Idaho. Below, we have included a comparison of the member benefits both organizations offer to dental hygienists.

In addition to being a member of IDHA, dental hygienists can increase their influence and ensure their voice is heard by joining the Idaho Oral Health Alliance (for more information, go to idha.org/about.html or idahooral-health.org).

	IDHA	ISDA
Member Benefits and Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employment assistance • Employment reference guide • ADHA Career Resource Center • Discounted scrubs uniforms • 10% discount on Orascoptic loupes, lights and chairs • State dental hygiene license portability information • Local Component substitution lists • ADHA Wireless cell phone discount program • ADHA Discount prescription program • ADHA Credit card/mileage program/financial planning • ADHA Hotel discount program • Discounted car rentals through Hertz • IDHA Awards, scholarships, and grants • ADHA Awards, scholarships and grants • Dental hygiene student resources • Discounted dental hygiene board exam reviews • ADHA Institute for Oral Health • Patient and community education resources • eHuman.com discounts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ISDA credit card • Health Savings Account • Fed Ex shipping • Gift certificates for 10% discount at Land’s End • Referral service • Dental video library
Networking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through membership in your local component, IDHA, and ADHA, you have access to a network of dental hygienists across the country and in your own backyard. • ADHA social networking sites on Facebook, YouTube, and MySpace. • ADHA Listserves 	
Advocacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Representation of dental hygienists by dental hygienists • IDHA Legislative/Practice and Regulations Committee • IDHA Lobbying for dental hygiene • IDHA Recommended liaisons to the Board of Dentistry • ADHA Federal/State Advocacy Program • ADHA Governmental Affairs Staff 	

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	IDHA	ISDA
Continuing Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attend continuing education classes and IDHA meetings at your local component for free or at a reduced rate. Attend IDHA Annual Session at a reduced rate. “Member Only” pricing at ADHA’s Center for Lifelong Learning and Annual Session. “Member Only” pricing for online CE at www.adha.org. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attend ISDA continuing education seminars at a reduced rate.
Publications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Component mailings IDHA Newsletter <i>Access</i> magazine <i>Journal of Dental Hygiene</i> ADHA Update IDHA Annual Session and continuing education announcements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ISDA News Seminar announcements Membership directory
Insurance	Insurance programs (www.adhainsurance.com) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health Professional Liability Disability Life Auto Home Long term care Cancer Accidental Death & Dismemberment Equipment 	Insurance programs for <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disability Life
Access to Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> www.idha.org www.adha.org Members only resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> www.isdaweb.com Members only resources
Association Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eligible to have full voting privileges on direction and policy of the association. Eligible to serve as a delegate to the ADHA House of Delegates. Eligible to participate in and serve on ADHA and IDHA committees and Board. Eligible to serve as an officer within ADHA, IDHA and your component. Participation in Research Poster Sessions at ADHA Annual Session. Provide feedback and make proposals on future CE programs. 	Participation by appointment of ISDA President to committees.
Cost	Approximately \$250 per year for tripartite membership <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ADHA \$170 IDHA \$75 Local component \$7-\$12 	\$40 per year

ISDA hygienist member benefits taken from the ISDA Dental Hygienists Membership Privileges brochure.