



News Briefs

This monthly news bulletin is designed to keep Maine Dietetic Association members informed about issues affecting our profession. We hope you find this resource helpful in staying up-to-date and in touch. Please send comments to [MDA Communications Coordinator](#).

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Save the Date -- MDA Spring Conference

April 29, 2011, at Southern Maine Community College in South Portland

"Facing Challenges, Finding Opportunities"

Light breakfast and lunch provided. Stay tuned for emailed registration information (no printed brochures will be mailed). Five hours of CPE credit applied for.

Bonus Opportunity! MDA has arranged for nationally-known dietitian, speaker, career/ business and life coach, Jean Caton to lead a career coaching workshop after the MDA conference on April 29th.

This session will help attendees strengthen their business and marketing skills, grow their business, attract more clients, move to the next level in the workplace, or forge a new career path.

Complete with a buffet dinner at a local restaurant, this event is limited to the first 25 paid registrants. The modest fee charged will be separate from the regular MDA conference fee. Join us for this unique opportunity to chat with Jean and learn from her in a relaxed, intimate setting. A registration form for this event will be emailed soon.

Healthy Maine Partnership

Each year, your local Healthy Maine Partnership selects objectives from a state created workplan, many of which are nutrition related. This year, a new objective has been added to **"Increase the proportion of non-chain restaurants that use menu labeling and point-of-purchase promotion information to identify healthier foods options."**

This presents a unique opportunity for dietitians interested in working with restaurants. If you are interested, connect with your local Healthy Maine Partnership to offer your services and encourage them to choose this objective for their annual workplan. You can find your local Healthy Maine Partnership director at www.healthymainepartnerships.org

Young RDs

Looking to connect with other RDs under 35? Join us for a Young RD Get Together on January 13, 2011 at 6:00 pm. Location TBA, but depending on the size of the group will be a centrally located restaurant or in a Young RD's Home. Please RSVP to stephaniejoy-ce08@gmail.com by Wednesday, January 6th.

Changes in MDA bylaws

The Board of Directors is considering two changes to our Associations Bylaws:

- 1) Eliminating the position of Delegate-Elect, as ADA provides Delegate training, and
- 2) Adding the State Regulatory Specialist as a voting member of the Board

This News Briefs provides the required 30-day notice to members of proposed Bylaws changes. Send comments about these proposed changes to Patsy Catsos patsycatsos@gmail.com, Melissa Frye mfrye@mainehospital.org or Marcia Kyle bkyle@roadrunner.com

Call for Nominations

The MDA Nominations Committee has the following openings for 2011 ballot:

- President-elect
- Secretary
- Nominating Committee (2 positions; 1 two-year term, 1 three-year term)
- Public Relations
- State Regulatory Specialist

Job descriptions are posted on our Web site at <http://www.eatrightmaine.org/id88.html>

For more info, contact Committee Chairman Matt L'Italien at mlitalien@usm.maine.edu

Fall 2010 HOD Meeting

The ADA House of Delegates met in Boston November 4-6 with 200 participants. Two mega-issues were discussed: Health Reform – Next Steps, and a proposed Multidisciplinary Membership Category.

The **Health Reform** dialogue session began with a presentation from Sr. Ladonna Woerdeman, Legislative and Public Policy Committee Chair, Jeanne Blankenship and Mary Pay Raimondi, ADA Strategic Policy and Partnerships Team, and Lucille Beseler, ADAPAC Chair. The presentation provided an overview of how health care reform impacts the public and RD/DTRs professionally. It also identified challenges and opportunities for the profession resulting from health care reform legislation. This discussion that delegates focused on was how members can take advantage of these opportunities and what must ADA and the profession do to insure that members have the necessary resources for success. The discussion also focused on how we create synergy between delegates and PPCs/SRSs/SPRs. The dialogue concluded with each meeting participant developing their own action plan to contribute to the success of positioning RD/DTRs as the provider in any health reform legislation related to nutrition services.

A series of guiding principles were identified related to health reform:

- Consider the list of opportunities for health reform identified for individuals, affiliates and Association.
- Consider the opportunities identified for creating synergy between delegates, PPCs, SRPs, and SPRs.
- Consider the key messages identified for the various health reform topics of critical importance to the profession.
- Consider the action plans developed by delegates related to their role in health reform.

The Legislative & Public Policy Committee (LPPC), affiliates and DPGs will collaborate with external stakeholders both at the federal and affiliate level, develop and utilize an integrated communication system, and mobilize members and the leadership. The LPPC will be asked to take lead on these initiatives.

Multidisciplinary Membership Category

The second day of the meeting focused on a proposal put forth by the Member Value Committee (MVC) regarding the creation of a new member category – a multidisciplinary membership category. This category would allow a select group of individuals that meet certain criteria (i.e. physicians, pharmacist, etc.) to join ADA in a multidisciplinary membership status. This would allow like-minded collaborators to join ADA. It is also seen as a positive in that in this age of accessing information electronically that ADA can position themselves as the go to provider of reliable quality information by becoming the membership organization that provides these resources. The dialogue focused on meeting participants providing reactions to the multidisciplinary membership category proposal in order to determine how to proceed.

Reactions to the proposal indicated that some were strongly in favor and some were strongly opposed. The clearest message that the House agreed upon was that in order for such a proposal to be considered further that more research was needed.

Based on the dialogue, a series of guiding principles were identified related to the multidisciplinary membership category:

- Consider another term for the category to replace the word “membership”;
- Consider differentiating between a CDR credentialed practitioner and the ADA membership category;
- Consider obtaining more research related to the number of potential applicants for this category, their reason for interest and cost-benefit to the Association;
- Consider a different pricing structure, requirements and benefits for the category;
- Consider the educational background for the category;
- Identify the benefits to ADA members to implement this category.

MVC will be asked to conduct an interactive webinar with the House of Delegates to provide answers to the questions noted from the dialogue session. MVC is requested to submit a revised proposal for consideration by the House of Delegates prior to any further action regarding a multidisciplinary proposal.

Other Activities at the House Meeting

Delegates also received an update from the ADA Treasurer, Kathy McCluksy and the ADA Foundation via a report from Katie Brown. Members can listen to a recording of both updates and view their slides by visiting www.eatright.org/hod > Fall 2010 MEETING > Meeting Materials. A refresher on MyADA/MyGroups was also provided. For more info contact Patsy Catsos, MDA President and Delegate, at patsycatsos@gmail.com
