

# The Link

A Publication of the MICHIGAN DIETETIC ASSOCIATION

Summer 2006

Issue I



## From Your Out-going & Incoming Presidents' Desks:



**Judy MacNeill, MS, RD, CDE**

As my days as President of the Michigan Dietetic Association come to an end, I am happy yet sad. When I took on this position last year, there were two top issues that needed to be addressed in Michigan: shore up the declining

membership of the nine districts, and to obtain licensure for Michigan dietitians.

So why am I happy? I am pleased to report that your MDA BOD has made important in-roads into addressing the needs of the remaining seven districts. In reviewing the various issues in the dietetic districts, it has become apparent that continuing business in the same manner as we have for the past 77 years will NOT meet the needs of today's Michigan Dietetic Professional. A very dynamic task force has been formed this year to address this issue; we have already conducted three member's meetings throughout the state to hear what you have to say on this issue, and a survey was recently sent via blast email to all members.

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**Heather Stanley-Sutton, MA, RD, CDE**

Hello!

Welcome to a brand new year for the Michigan Dietetic Association!

Just coming from our annual conference and feeling refreshed and ready to move into the position as president, seems a perfect time to write my first letter to our members.

I welcome you all back with open arms and hope that you are looking towards an exciting year with MDA, just as I am. A reminder that we need all of you back, so if your membership to ADA is sitting in that pile on your desk, please do not forget to send it in! Without your ADA membership, MDA does not get to count you as one of our own- and we NEED each and every one of you to be an effective nutrition leader in our state and our communities.

There are many items already on the docket for this coming year, so we are heading in to our 2006-2007 membership year very strong! Our licensure bill SB403 is in committee and we await, dare I say, not so patiently, for it to come to committee.

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*Positive people  
won't allow any-  
one to cripple  
their dreams or  
paralyze their  
hopes.*

### From Your Out-going President's Desk, *Continued from page 1*

Why am I sad? Unfortunately, as hard as we tried, including all the letters, emails, and phone calls you all made on behalf of SB 403 Licensure of Dietitians and Nutritionists, licensure has not become a reality as of this writing. Frustrating? You bet. However, as I look at the big picture, I am reminded of something Thomas Edison said after years and years of unsuccessful attempts to produce a light bulb. He stated, "I haven't failed, I have just found 10,000 ways that don't work!" That captures how I feel about our efforts toward legal recognition of dietitians and nutritionists in the state of Michigan: we have not failed, even though we have been trying for (gulp) 30+ years to obtain licensure...instead, we have discovered and adapted and re-designed our bill to meet the ever-changing face of Michigan government. I truly believe we will see licensure happen here. Like Thomas Edison, I do not believe we should give up our quest until this mission is accomplished!

I want to thank the wonderful people who served on the Michigan Board of Directors this past year. It has been a pleasure and an honor to work beside each of you. Lastly, I would like to thank each of you, the MDA members, for allowing me this opportunity to serve as your leader. It was an amazing experience that I will always cherish. Thank YOU.

Judy MacNeill, MS, RD, CDE  
(Outgoing MDA President: 2005-2006)

### From Your Incoming President's Desk, *Continued from page 1*

Our lobbyists, our legislative team and our members are all working diligently in Lansing. Our members are sending letters, documentation of harm messages to Representative Edward Gaffney and other legislators to enlighten them on the benefits of Registered Dietitians in our state. We need the recognition from our state so that other groups do not attempt to do our professional jobs without a degree!

As our outgoing president, Judy MacNeill, also stated, we have been working on a restructuring of our state. I applaud those of you that took the time out of your busy schedules to attend one of the "Building a Better Box" programs that were presented across the state. Your input is valuable to us and we are taking everyone's thoughts and recommendations into account.

One important goal for this year that I would like to see accomplished is for every school district in the state of Michigan to have a registered dietitian as a member of its School Wellness Policy committee.

This program is to be in place by this month in all Michigan school districts and it would be a shame to not have an R.D. as part of this team. Please contact

me to let me know which school district you are assisting so that I can put a roster together and we can make sure that all districts are covered.

Prior to becoming active on the board for MDA, I did not see the benefit in everything that MDA did for me. So I implore you, as members, to contact one of the members of the board, including myself, to ask any questions you may have. We must work as a team- many voices in unison for the same cause will be heard, one lonely voice on its own will not be as effective!

Welcome to a New Year!!

Thank you for staying with us as we continue to grow and lead our state as the nutrition experts!

Heather Stanley-Sutton, MA, RD, CDE  
Incoming MDA president 2006-2007  
signtimellc@aol.com

Spotlight on a Member

By Ann Hoffman, RD, CDE



Tanya Lesinski, RD, CNSD

MDA was fortunate to have Tanya’s expertise and dedication when she chaired the 2005 annual conference. Tanya has also served as Treasurer/Secretary for MDA and was most recently on the Nominating Committee.

Tanya was featured in the Spring 2006 ADA ON DPG Newsletter because she developed a position for her-

self as an Oncology RD. She works at the West Michigan Regional Cancer and Blood Center in Free Soil.

This center administers chemotherapy and other IV solutions, servicing approximately 80 patients per day.

Earlier in her career, Tanya worked at a community hospital, seeing cancer patients on an inpatient basis.

While there, she established rapport with the oncologists and began consulting with their patients on a weekly basis. She submitted a proposal, which included the ser-

vices and benefits of having an oncology RD on staff. Tanya was successful in developing the first RD position for the cancer center.

In addition to oncology dietetics, Tanya enjoys volunteering for MDA and other organizations, and of course she enjoys spending time with her children.

We thank Tanya for her dedication to MDA and for the leadership she has displayed for the profession.

KUDOS

By Nancy Kennedy, MS, RD

Four Michigan RDs were recently honored by Fitness magazine to be part of a special program the magazine did with their advertising agencies in the Detroit area. **Lisa Marie Boucher, Nancy Kennedy, Lillian Korbus and Betsey Mikulec** participated in an eight week program, “The You Can Do It! Agency Challenge” to help “Fitness Magazine” clients be their personal best and achieve their “goals.”

*Congratulations to these women and to Fitness magazine for realizing the importance of having registered dietitians as THE NUTRITION EXPERT.*

The program consisted of weekly workshops at 25 advertising agencies nationwide including three in the Detroit area. At each workshop, a team of experts (trainer, nutritionist and life coach) conducted seminars on a variety

of health and fitness topics and provided one-on-one counseling. Clients were asked to set a goal for the program, related to nutrition, exercise or a “life issue.” The EXPERTS, as the professionals were called, met with clients individually for 10 minutes each week to help them set weekly mini goals and review their progress.

The program was very successful and as part of their compensation Lisa, Nancy, Lillian and Betsey had their picture and email published in the July issue of Fitness magazine. They are also featured on the website [www.fitnessmagpromo.com/experts](http://www.fitnessmagpromo.com/experts). Congratulations to these women and to Fitness magazine for realizing the importance of having registered dietitians as THE NUTRITION EXPERT.

## Michigan Nutrition Professionals: Leading the Way Conference Update

### Mary Angela Niester, RD, MPH 2006 Conference Chair

Thank you to all the Michigan nutrition professionals who participated in this year's conference. This year's **standing room only** crowd learned the latest on diabetes, women's nutrition issues, nutrigenomics, bariatric surgery, sports nutrition, dyslipidemia, hydration and long term care nutrition.

We were provided with wonderful information on enhancing our communication skills to better serve our patients and clients as well as learning about nutrition issues on a global scale. Our lobbyists reviewed what's going on in Lansing and how it will affect us as nutrition professionals.

We also received an update of how to "get our money's worth" from ADA and what we can do to make our association and profession stronger. Attendees walked away with the materials needed to effectively educate Michigan residents about osteoporosis and enjoyed a relaxed end to the conference with a vegetarian cooking demonstration by Chef Dunn.



**Chef  
Kevin Dunn**

Thank you to all the poster session participants for presenting their amazing research and to the wonderful exhibitors and speaker sponsors.

The food was great (thank you to all our meal and break sponsors!) and our evening events were fun and relaxed.

We honored some truly remarkable individuals who are new to our profession (MDAI scholarship recipients, students and interns), those who are doing wonderful things in the field of nutrition now (MDA award winners) and those who've contributed to our profession in the past (50 year members) and are still active today! We recognized the many individuals who volunteered their time and talents in MDA Board of Director, liaison and task force positions. We are also grateful for the "walk down memory lane" provided to us during SEMDA's 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration.

Plans for next year's conference are well underway. We've received plenty of positive feedback and we appreciate the time attendees took in filling out the evaluations and surveys. We will be reviewing the comments and suggestions we've received and utilize as many as possible for the **2007 Michigan Dietetic Association conference in Mt. Pleasant, planned for April 2007.**

I heard that there may even be a CMU alumni celebration in the works!!

2006 MDA Annual Conference: May 18 - 20  
*Michigan Nutrition Professionals—Leading the Way*

MDAI Scholarship Recipient Award Winners:

**Front Row:** Lisa Granskog, Megan McCollough, Amy Pendell, and Debbie Cicinelli-Timm, MSA, RD, CDE, MDAI President

**Back Row:**

Ann Jay, MS, RD, FADA, MDAI Scholarship Chair, Katilyn Murtha, Jessica Schouten, Melanie Stanczak



Judy MacNeill, MS, RD, CDE  
MDA President &  
Linda H. Eaton, MS, RD, CHES  
MDA Outstanding Dietetic  
Educator Award



Mary Niester, RD, MPH  
Conference Chairperson

## HOD Member Fact sheet: 2006 Spring HOD Meeting Outcomes

By Eileen Mikus, MS, RD, CDE

The House of Delegates met in Chicago, IL on April 29-30, 2006. A total of 160 participants were present at the meeting, which included delegates, ADA Board members, affiliate and DPG leaders, interested members and ADA staff.

### What are the outcomes of the Spring HOD Meeting?

**Safety of the Food and Water Supply for an Emergency:** The motion approved by HOD requested the HOD Leadership Team to utilize member feedback along with the results of an electronic straw vote to develop a plan for addressing key issues related to a safe food and water supply in the event of an emergency. The plan will be presented to delegates in advance of the fall 2006 HOD Meeting for approval and implementation.

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## Annual Conference Evaluation Comments - MDA Feedback

By Susanne Consiglio, RD

The MDA Conference committee appreciates and reviews all feedback provided by conference attendees. We use this information to see what works and what needs to be changed for next year's conference. To maintain good communication between the attendees and committee we'd like to provide feedback to questions and comments that were on the evaluation forms:

- **Why don't I have handouts for each speaker?** There are some speakers that choose not to provide handouts. For next year's conference we will make sure that an announcement is made before the speaker begins the presentation.
- **Why do we have 1.5 hour lunch break?** This amount of time is needed to allow time for attendees to meet with exhibitors as well as for necessary set up time for the afternoon speakers.
- **Sponsors and exhibitors** help underwrite conference costs which helps to keep the overall conference registration fee for you down to a reasonable level. For example, speaker fees can range anywhere from \$500 for a breakout session speaker to over \$5,000 for a keynote or general session speaker or one of our educational workshops.
- We will work on additional seating for attendees for lunch and we would like to encourage you to visit the exhibitor booths and thank them for coming to the conference and helping to support MDA.
- **Do not include the dinner cost with the program cost:** During this year's conference, both dinners Thursday and Friday evening were underwritten by Sodexo and US Foodservice and were not part of the conference fee. The dinners were complimentary.

**2006 Spring HOD Meeting Outcomes, *continued from page 6***

- **Strategic Direction for the Profession of Dietetics:** The HOD did not take formal action on the outcome of this discussion. Instead, the member feedback received during this discussion will be presented to the ADA Board of Directors Strategic Planning Task Force for use in developing the next ADA Strategic Plan during the next program year. Cont.
- **Dietetics Education:** The HOD approved a motion directing the Speaker and Speaker-elect in consultation with the HOD Leadership Team and with input from members to appoint the Phase 2 Task Force. The Phase 2 Task Force will utilize the final report of the Dietetics Education Task Force (to be released on June 30, 2006) to determine how to proceed in considering a change to dietetics education and will present their recommendations to HOD in spring 2007. Members may submit names of potential members to serve on the Phase 2 Task Force along with the rationale for recommending the individual. Names and the rationales should be forwarded to Harold Holler ([hholler@eatright.org](mailto:hholler@eatright.org)) by June 16, 2006.
- **Draft Industry Relationship Guidelines:** The motion approved by HOD requested the HOD Leadership Team to revise the draft Industry Guidelines based on the feedback received during the spring 2006 HOD Meeting. The revised guidelines will be distributed electronically to HOD for final approval during summer 2006.
- **Mega Issues Prioritization:** Delegates and attendees provided input on the priority ranking of each of the Mega Issues previous submitted during the Fall 2005 HOD Meeting. This priority ranking will be shared with delegates in late summer and will guide topics for future HOD Meeting discussions.
- **Proposed Position Concept- Obesity, Reproduction and Pregnancy Outcomes:** Members reviewed this proposed position concept during a 30-day comment period in March and April 2006. The input from members was considered. The HOD approved a motion requesting the Association Positions Committee to begin development of the position concept. Watch for an update on progress to develop this new position in fall 2006.

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**DELEGATE CONTACT INFORMATION**

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Eileen Mikus, MS, RD, CDE is the delegate for Michigan and can be contacted at [emikus@freeway.net](mailto:emikus@freeway.net) or 231-539-7330 for more information.

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# The Link

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### MDA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President:	Heather Stanley Sutton
Pres. Elect:	Cathy Lynn Francke
Sec/Treasurer:	Karen Schmitz
Sec/Treasurer Elect:	Beth Naber
Delegate:	Eileen Mikus
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- State	Charity Simpkins
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<b>Non-Voting</b>	
Nominating Chair:	Emily Ostrowski
MDAI President:	Laura Perret
Executive Director:	Susanne Consiglio

The Michigan Dietetic Association (MDA) has been serving Michigan citizens since 1929. MDA was incorporated April 28, 1970.

The purpose of this corporation is to improve the nutrition of human beings; to advance the science of dietetics and nutrition; and to promote education in these and allied areas.

**Eatrightmich.org**

### Professionals serving MDA:

Lobbyists:	DeGrow & Associates: Mike & Kathy
Webmaster:	Linda Harrison, RD
Tax Consultants:	Thomas Halpin & Associates
MDA Bookkeeper:	Terri Chisholm

## ADA/CDR Code of Ethics

The Ethics Committee educates members, credentialed Practitioner, students, and the public about the ethic principles contained in the Code of Ethics. The Ethics Committee needs your assistance in continuing this education.

Direct link to Code of Ethics—  
[www.eatright.org/codeofethics](http://www.eatright.org/codeofethics)

Support of the code of Ethics by members and credentialed practitioners is vital to guiding the profession's actions and to strengthening its credibility.

*MDA would like to thank the  
 United Dairy Industry  
 of Michigan for their  
 Title Sponsorship of this year's  
 Annual Conference and all of  
 the Sponsors and Exhibitors  
 who so generously contributed  
 to this year's event.*