

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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Message from MDA President Kitty Broihier

As summer comes to a close and beach time, campfires and balmy temps dwindle, the pace of work for MDA increases, and this year is no exception. Our association accomplished a lot this past year. Here are some highlights:

- MDA was the first affiliate to have a policy/procedure for handling requests for positions on public policy matters
- We successfully petitioned the licensure board to liberalize their interpretation of eligible CPEs
- Our association received recognition from ADA for our leadership in the area of insurance reimbursement and public policy
- Our annual budget was balanced and the spring conference produced a positive cash flow
- Members and Board members made visits to legislators in both Washington and Augusta
- We experienced a significant jump in MDA membership
- MDA held a tea in honor of Maine's former First Lady, Karen Baldacci, RD, at the Blaine House last fall
- We held our first FNCE "social" last year in Boston -- nearly 40 MDA members and students had a great time getting to know each other
- MDA began raising funds to send a student to the Public Policy Workshop via an Amazon.com link on our website
- We filled all MDA Board positions and finalized a full set of Board job descriptions
- Our MDA logo was revised and getting some use, including on our updated website



MDA has many plans for the 2011-2012 year, and the Board is always open to suggestions from our membership. Feel free to get in touch with me or any Board member to make a comment, call our attention to a matter of import to membership, make a suggestion, put forth a name for next year's slate of officers, or to get involved in any of our committees (see the current list of Board members and their emails under the "About" section of our website www.eatrightmaine.org). We value your input!

In this next year, we will be calling on our members to become more involved in public policy actions and legislative outreach. We will also be asking for your expertise in promoting ourselves and our services in various ways to allied health professional groups, as well as to the general public. But it won't be all work and no play! We are planning for some fun social events, increased student and intern involvement, and for more networking and professional opportunities across the state.

Our association is here for you, our members. No matter what your particular professional goals are, it's my hope that MDA's work assists you, inspires and motivates you, provides you with educational and professional opportunities, and most of all, supports you in all your efforts to provide Maine's residents with competent nutrition services.

Kitty Broihier, MS, RD

2011-2012 MDA President

PS: One of my professional goals this year is to become licensed here in Maine. While I do not practice clinically, I want to join my colleagues who are licensed as a show of support, in recognition of the importance of licensure to our profession, and to demonstrate to other non-licensed RDs and DTRs that it's not such a daunting undertaking! Look for ongoing "Licensure Diary" installments in future MDA communications -- better yet, join me in the process!

Licensure Update

Last fall the MDA board of directors began working with the Maine State Board of Licensing of Dietetics Practice to iron out a long-standing disconnect between program topics considered germane to the practice of dietetics by the State Board v. topics approved by ADA's Commission on Dietetic Registration. In November, MDA formally petitioned the State Board to consider all CDR-approved program topics germane to the profession, an expansion of the previous interpretation. This change is needed to protect the public because the profession and scope of practice of dietetics has evolved considerably since the state licensure was initiated many years ago. At the State Board's December 3, 2010, meeting, the board did agree to do so, and the letter below, which is also posted on the Maine.gov web site, is the result. Please note, the delivery method of these programs will still have to fit into the "categories" in the current rules, as the rules themselves are still the same.

In another step to recognize the way modern CPE programs are delivered, webinars will now be acceptable for Category 1 CPEs as long as they meet all other category 1 requirements (4 hours in length, attended by at least 15 people, include an evaluation and give a certificate).

The new interpretation of the rules went into effect on January 1, 2011. We understand it will apply for the first time to RDs who are audited in 2012 for the 2011 licensing period. Here is the Board's letter:

Dear Licensees:

At a recent meeting, the Maine Board of Licensing in Dietetics concluded that webinars and live teleconference activities meet the continuing education requirements so long as the activities satisfy the content criteria for Category 1 and Category 2 as outlined in Chapter 2, Section 3(B)(2)(a)(b) of the board's rules. In addition, programs approved for continuing education credit by the Commission on Dietetic Registration would also be eligible for continuing education credit.

A full copy of Chapter 2 of the board's rule and a full copy of OLR Chapter 13 rule can be accessed at the following website:

Board Rules:

www.maine.gov/sos/cec/rules/02/chaps02.htm#344

OLR Rule:

www.maine.gov/sos/cec/rules/02/041/041c013.doc

For more information regarding this change or questions regarding acceptable continuing professional education activities, please contact the Board at (207)624-8626.

While on the subject of licensure, at the December, 2010 State Board meeting, the cases of more than two dozen RDs and DTRs who had not passed their audits were considered by the board. That prompts these recommendations:

- All RDs and DTRs should save all papers and digital information related to any CPE programs attended in case you are audited.
- Put a self-audit on your October calendar--[double check the rules](#) to see whether you could pass a real audit while there is still time to do something about it before the December 31 deadline.
- If you are audited, send all available supporting materials to the board--don't skimp with just a letter, an email or a reference from your boss. This is serious. Make those photocopies and go to the post office with your package.

During the meeting, the board reviewed the titles of programs, the titles of individual sessions presented at the programs, the names and credentials of the presenters, and in some cases even reviewed the slides from the presentation to determine whether the topic met its requirements — yes, everything!

If you are reading this newsletter but are not currently an MDA member, please consider joining now to support advocacy efforts such as this that do benefit you.

Shopping and Scholarships

Help us send a Maine Dietetic student to the ADA Public Policy Workshop in 2012. MDA is participating in the Amazon Services LLC Associates Program. Make your on-line purchases through the Amazon portal on the [front page](#) of our website www.eatrightmaine.org and a percent of the sales will be used for a scholarship.



House of Delegates — Your Input Needed

The next meeting of the ADA House of Delegates is to be held September 22-24, 2011. Member input is needed by September 13, 2011 on three issues:

Summit on Dietetic Practice, Credentialing and Education — Final Report

Interdisciplinary Teams

Licensure

Backgrounders for these topics can be accessed by following the links below:

Your views are very important. Please read the backgrounders and send your positive thoughts, concerns and questions to [Maine Delegate Patsy Catsos, MS, RD, LD](#).

[HOD Backgrounder: Dietetic Practice, Credentialing and Education](#)

[HOD Backgrounder: Interdisciplinary Teams](#)

[HOD Backgrounder: Licensure](#)

Have you ever thought "Why doesn't ADA do something about ..."?

Newsflash: We are ADA. If we want change, we need to be reading backgrounders, replying to surveys and visiting our Senators and Representatives who can change laws and regulations.

Together, we can make a difference.

Diabetes Conference

The Maine Association of Diabetes Educators Annual Fall Diabetes Clinical Update Conference will be Oct 2-4 at Point Lookout in Northport.

“Diabetes Best Practices: Helping Patients Navigate the Journey of Self-Management” -- Sponsored by: Maine Association of Diabetes Educators, a Coordinating Body of AADE (MeADE), Diabetes Prevention & Control Program (DPCP) - Maine CDC - Dept of Health & Human Services.

Featuring topics & speakers that are critical to staying abreast of changes in diabetes medicine and education.

Who Should Attend?

Diabetes educators and health care providers including: nurses, dietitians, nurse practitioners, pharmacists, social workers, physical therapists and other health professionals interested in diabetes care.

How to Register?

Go to www.myaadenetwork.org/maine to register!

Continuing Education Credits:

- American Dietetic Association
- American Association of Diabetes Educators - AADE is an accredited approver by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation (ANCC)