



# 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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## **Grassroots Policy Survey**

Help MDA and ADA represent our profession in public policy initiatives by taking a brief 16-question survey. The survey will help provide a detailed picture of the careers, expertise and important relationships within our diverse membership. It will be valuable to know what leadership positions you have held. The survey will benefit Maine RDs and DTRs in the public policy arena, so please participate by July 20 —

Here's the link to the survey: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/N63RGX7>

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## **MDA Scholarship Fund**

Remember to use the Amazon link on the front page of the MDA website [www.eatrightmaine.org](http://www.eatrightmaine.org) every time you shop online. MDA earns a percentage of sales for our fundraising efforts to send a dietetic student to the American Dietetic Association Public Policy Workshop in Washington DC.

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## **ADA House of Delegates**

The Spring 2011 Virtual HOD meeting took place April 31 – May 1. Delegates and an additional 30 interested members, which included the ADA Board of Directors, Legislative Public Policy Committee and ADAPAC convened in a Web-based environment to discuss mega-issues identification and market place relevance. The Backgrounders on both topics are available on the ADA Website [www.eatright.org/hod](http://www.eatright.org/hod)

Prior to the meeting, delegates these issues with members Delegates also voted on the proposal regarding the addition of an association membership category.

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## **Mega-Issue Identification**

Delegates identified 17 issues that were of strategic importance to the profession. Top issues identified included: education/training of future practitioners; alternate pathways to practice; lack of internships; strengthen image; branding of profession; reimbursement issues; legislation/regulation related to practice opportunities; and inclusion of rd in health reform. The full list will be available on the HOD website [www.eatright.org/hod](http://www.eatright.org/hod)



The House Leadership Team will use this list to determine topics future HOD Meetings. This list can also be used to identify continuing education topics for affiliates and Dietetic Practice Group meetings or programs of work.

## **Market Place Relevance**

The pre-meeting presentation, *Competitive Analysis of the Dietetic Services Market*, is also available for members. This recorded webinar reviewed competition/professional encroachment concerns, marketplace trends, and ascertained the future competitive landscape.

Delegate recommendations were created on how Registered Dietitians and Dietetic Technicians, Registered could create more opportunities and be more nimble and proactive. Individual options and alternatives for personally evolving for the future were identified. Some of the opportunities identified include: use skill set to step into other venues; be involved in local/state legislature, market ourselves as evidence based professions; and collect outcomes data.

## **Associate Membership Category**

The House of Delegates approved the establishment of the Associate Category of membership. This initiative, which has been a long time coming, presents a tremendous opportunity to allow like-minded collaborators to join ADA. In this age of accessing information electronically the ADA will be in a positive position to be THE provider of reliable quality information by becoming the membership organization that provides these resources. The Member Value Committee will report an implementation plan to the House of Delegates by fall 2011.

## **Other Activities and Resources**

Delegates received updates from the ADA President, Judith Rodriguez, ADA Treasurer, Kathy McCluksy and the ADA Foundation Chair, Judith Dodd. Members can listen to recordings of all updates and view their slides by visiting [www.eatright.org/hod](http://www.eatright.org/hod) > Spring 2011 MEETING > Meeting Materials. All HOD committees have also submitted their Spring 2011 reports. These are also available on the Spring 2011 HOD Meeting site.

To learn more about the House visit [www.eatright.org/hod](http://www.eatright.org/hod) or contact our Maine delegate:

Patsy Catsos, MS, RD, LD

MDA Affiliate Delegate to the ADA House of Delegates

(207)318-7629; [patsycatsos@gmail.com](mailto:patsycatsos@gmail.com)

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## Positive Changes in Continuing Ed Requirements

Last fall the MDA board of directors began working with the Maine Board of Licensing of Dietetics Practice to iron out a long-standing disconnect between program topics considered germane to the practice of dietetics v. topics approved by ADA's Commission on Dietetic Registration. In November, the MDA board formally petitioned the licensure 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 board began its work many years ago. At the licensure board's December 3, 2010, meeting, after some discussion, 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](http://www.maine.gov/sos/cec/rules/02/chaps02.htm#344)

*OLR Rule:*

[www.maine.gov/sos/cec/rules/02/041/041c013.doc](http://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 licensure 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.

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## **Nutrition Symposium**

Maine Medical Center, Wednesday, September 14<sup>th</sup>

Topics include: Intestinal Failure. Long term complications of TPN, Update on Vitamin D

*Brochures will be mailed in August*

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## **President's Farewell — from Patsy Catsos**

Before I turn over the reins to Kitty Broihier and 2011-2012 MDA Board of Directors, I thought it would be appropriate to mention a few of this year's accomplishments that MDA can be proud of, not in any particular order:

- A fabulous, conference on April 29, 2011 at SMCC
- A couple of fun social events, including pre-FNCE and pre-conference parties
- A full board of directors for next year, with many new faces
- Recognition from ADA for our leadership in insurance reimbursement and public policy
- New MDA logo
- An updated web site, and transition from newsletters to more timely News Briefs
- Amazon.com fund raising initiated, to send a student to PPW
- Big jump in membership from previous year
- Great party and excellent showing of Maine RDs and DTRs at FNCE in Boston
- Tea in honor of Karen Baldacci at the Blaine House in November, 2010
- Governor LePage's RD Day proclamation
- Visits with congressional delegates in Washington during PPW by several board members
- Visits with state legislators, DHHS Commissioner Mayhew and CDC chief Pinette
- Successful petition to licensure board to liberalize interpretation of eligible CPEs
- First affiliate to have procedure for handling requests for positions on public policy matters.
- Our first MDA "position" and testimony in support of L.D. 505, which became law.

- Full set of board job descriptions approved and archived on web site
- Developing a relationship with UMO public policy students
- Production and posting of an encouraging public policy podcast on our web site
- Supporting the selection of Katherine Musgrave to the Maine Women's Hall of Fame and the ADA Medallion Award
- Approved policies and procedures for advertising in MDA publications/web site
- Finished the budget year in the black.

What an exciting and action-packed year it was! I would like to thank MDA board and committee members from the bottom of my heart for your support and participation. We could not have accomplished so much without your fabulous teamwork, late-night emails, and behind-the-scenes preparation. I hope you have found it to be true, as I have, that the more you put into a group effort the more rewarding it can be. I have benefited so much from your friendship and mentoring, and I am deeply grateful.

Likewise, I know I speak for the board in thanking all of our members. Your participation the level that works for you--just *being* an MDA/ADA member--is vitally important. Your dues support the advocacy work of the board as we look out for the interests of RDs, DTRs and nutrition services consumers in Maine and at the federal level. To each of you who attended a social event, a conference, a tea, submitted a job posting to our web site, or clicked-through our web site to some books from Amazon.com, thank you.

Great things lie ahead for us as nutrition professionals. There has never in history been more appreciation for the value of good nutrition in the prevention of chronic illness and in saving health care dollars for employers, insurance companies, and the state and federal government. As the Healthcare Portability and Accountability Act is translated into rules, regulations and practice at the state level, it will be up to each of us to advocate for access to nutrition services provided by registered, licensed dietitians in every practice setting. I hope you will be ready to act when called upon to do your part! One thing you could do today is to complete the survey included in this News Brief. Let us know the professional and community activities and involvements you already have, so we can contact you when help is needed in your area of expertise. An hour or two of your time at the right moment could make the difference for all of us!

Please join me in welcoming all of the new 2010-2011 board members. Kitty Broihier, your incoming president is creative, energetic and inclusive! With the help of some new, younger board members, I predict you will see MDA work harder than ever to reach out and meet the professional and social needs of younger RDs, DTRs and students. Have a wonderful year!

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## MDA Board Transition Meeting

Kitty Broihier, MDA President, welcomed returning and new MDA Board members at Patsy Catsos' camp on Lake Cobbosseecontee. Kitty Broihier and Wendy Lombard (top photo), Pat Watson and Emma Veilleux (bottom left photo) and Florence Baker, Sarah Joyce and Wendy Lombard (bottom right photo).

