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ORAL HEALTH KANSAS

Weekly Wednesday Update

*Our Mission:
To improve oral health
in Kansas through
advocacy,
public awareness
and education.*

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Dental Champions Class 6 Begins

On May 10, the newest class of Dental Champions began. The eighteen members of Class 6 will spend the next year honing leadership skills and developing plans to exercise leadership in improving oral health in our state. The class members will take part in intense leadership training through the [Kansas Leadership Center](#). They also will participate in the annual Oral Health Kansas conference in Johnson County, learn about legislative advocacy in Topeka and volunteer at the [2014 Kansas Mission of Mercy](#) in Dodge City.



Dental
Champions
Leadership
Program

a program of Oral Health Kansas, Inc.

In 2005, Oral Health Kansas established the Dental Champions Leadership Program as a way to increase the number of diverse voices advocating for improved oral health in Kansas. Dental Champions has helped us develop a network of "Champions"

"Like" the ECP Facebook Page

A new Facebook page about the Extended Care Permit (ECP) for dental hygienists is available. The page was created by ECP hygienist and Dental Champion Patty Martinette in order to connect ECP Hygienists in Kansas and Missouri. The goal of the new page is to share information about how the permits are being used, as well as to establish community contacts to expand the use of the permits.

Join the [Facebook page](#) and spread the word about this valuable forum to promote the ECP model.



Corner:

Krista Hahn, Class 5, has become the Co-Director of Community Health Ministries in Wamego. Under Krista's leadership, the safety net dental clinic has doubled its outreach to long-

who hold a progressive vision for improving oral health. Five Dental Champions classes have produced 89 program alumni who have worked on a wide set of local and statewide oral health improvement projects. Many also have gone on to serve in leadership capacities at Oral Health Kansas and in other oral health-related organizations.

Meet the members of Dental Champions Class 6 on the [Oral Health Kansas](#) website. While you are there, you also can browse through the lists of members of Classes 1 through 5.

Portland joins Wichita in rejecting water fluoridation

On Tuesday, May 21, voters in Portland, Oregon, rejected a proposal to begin fluoridating the community water supply in that city. Last fall the Portland city council had voted unanimously to fluoridate the water, but the issue was sent to the voters for a final decision. The Portland voters have considered water fluoridation numerous times over the last 50 years, just as the voters in Wichita have, but in both cities, water fluoridation has yet to begin.

[Scientific American](#) published a blog about the fluoridation vote today. Read more about the history of water fluoridation debates in Portland and yesterday's vote in [The Oregonian](#). Read more about the benefits of water fluoridation at www.fluoride4ks.org, and read the U.S. Surgeon General's letter endorsing water fluoridation at www.oralhealthkansas.org.



Fluoridated water reduces tooth decay by as much as 25 percent.

Source:
U.S. Task Force on Community Preventive Services, 2002

term care facilities.

You are a true Dental
Champion, Krista!

2013 Oral Health Kansas Conference

Join us in
November as we
celebrate
Oral Health
Kansas' 10th
anniversary with
continuing
education and
networking
opportunities!



Johnson County
Community
College
November 7-8

Did You Know?

Ancient cultures
chewed on twigs or
roots to clean their
teeth.

Dental Community Leaders Come from All Walks of Life

Norma Barkus doesn't remember how or when she first heard about dental hygiene services being offered in community settings but she does know the positive results for older residents in Elk County. Norma's call to GraceMed Dental Clinic in Wichita five years ago to inquire about bringing dental hygiene services to Elk County has made a difference in the oral health and overall wellbeing of so many older Kansans. To ensure that the GraceMed hygienists' time was well spent, Norma implemented an energetic, multi-faceted public awareness campaign. She places posters in long-term care facilities, senior centers and medical offices in all five towns in the county. She puts announcements in community newsletters, newspapers and on television. Norma also arranged to give discount vouchers to make the hygiene services affordable, giving them out at health fairs and health screening events. Funds come from South Central Area Agency on Aging and the Older Americans Act. As a result, the number of residents making dental hygiene appointments has grown significantly.

In 2012, Norma was honored with Oral Health Kansas' Excellence in Oral Health Community Leader Award. She serves as the director of the Elk County Council on Aging.

Nominations for the 2013 Excellence in Oral Health Awards will open in July.

Traveling Sugary Beverage Display

Currently the Oral Health Kansas traveling library drink displays are on display at the [GraceMed](#) and the Salina-Saline County Health Department.





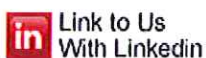
[StarSmilez](#)

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

If you are interested in having the drink display on display in your area, send an email to [Tanya](#).

Three locations are set for June, but space is available for a host in July!

If you have an idea, story or suggestion for a Oral Health Kansas Weekly Wednesday Update please send an email to jparnell@oralhealthkansas.org



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