Missouri Dental Hygienists’ Association - Lobby Day Tips

Preparing for the Visit:

- Determine who your state (not federal) legislators are by going to:
  Senate: http://www.senate.mo.gov/LegisLookup/Default.aspx
  House: https://house.mo.gov/ (under find your representative)
- Determine where you will meet your group to visit your legislators.
- Read your Legislators’ biographies http://www.moga.mo.gov/  
  Senate http://www.senate.mo.gov/13info/SenateRoster.htm  
  House http://www.house.mo.gov/member.aspx
- Learn their committee assignments.
- Dress appropriately (business casual with something purple to identify our group) with 
  comfortable walking shoes.
- Go through MDHA Lobby Day powerpoint presentation that will be available 
  beforehand.
- Read the MDHA 2019 Legislative Priority sheet.
- Please be prompt for Lobby Day Orientation in the first floor Routunda by 8:00 AM.

Information about the Capitol:

- Hotels in Jefferson City
  http://www.booking.com/city/us/jefferson-city.en.html?aid=306742;label=msn-xpZCcjg8q7crtt8b0HhcCcq or
  http://www.tripadvisor.com/LocalMaps-g44526-d1154039-Missouri_State_Capitol-Area.html

- Parking near the Capitol

Parking garage across the street from Madison’s Café (great Italian restaurant) 216 Madison 
St. Jefferson City, MO (573) 634-2988
info@madisonscafe.com
• **Maps of the Capitol**
  [http://www.senate.mo.gov/maps.htm](http://www.senate.mo.gov/maps.htm)

• **Tours in the Capitol**
  - There is also a cafeteria on the Capitol basement level on the House side.
  - Bring your own water so you can keep hydrated.

**During the Visit:**

- Be on time if you have an appointment; your time is limited.
- If you pull them out of session, be prepared to give your messages succinctly.
- Smile, introduce yourself, each individual in your group, your school and indicate where you live.
- Calmly and clearly state the MDHA message with facts.
- Listen to your legislators’ views and be respectful even when you do not agree. (Please control your emotions).
- Leave toothbrushing supplies with the legislator and with the legislative assistant if you visit the office.
- If you do not know an answer, say “I don’t know” and write the questions/comments on the MDHA Lobby Day Evaluation Form so there will be follow-up by our MDHA lobbyist, John Bardgett, Jr.
- Thank them and their staff when you leave.

**After the Visit:**

- Complete and return the Lobby Day Evaluation Form to the third floor MDHA table: note any unanswered questions, information or anything positive or negative that the legislator has said.
- Write a simple thank you note to your legislators.
  The Honorable _____ (Legislator’s Name)
  Missouri State Senate (or) House of Representatives
  State Capitol, Rm. _____
  Jefferson City, MO 65101
  (For Senators, write, Dear Senator_____; For House Members, write, Dear Representative_____; for the Speaker, write, Dear Mr. Speaker; for the Governor, write, Dear Governor Parson).
Other Considerations:

- Do not refer to the legislative assistant (L.A.) as the “secretary”
- You have been matched up with legislators according to your 9-digit zip code which is more accurate than your town.
- Make a special effort to personally speak with each legislator to whom you have been assigned.
- First try to see them in their offices, then see if they are on the Senate or House floor and ask the doorman to get them.
- They will likely be in session after 10:00 AM unless you have made an appointment for them to meet you elsewhere.

Group Leader Duties

- Please make sure everyone in your group will go together to see your legislator/s and be on time for any appointments that have been made (Check with your team on this). In some cases, students’ instructors may be the group leaders.
- Some people could be from other schools/locations so you will have to pay attention to where their schools sit at orientation so you can meet them and take them on your visits.
- You are considered a group leader if you are the only one visiting a legislator.
- In some cases, you will be given extra visits to see those who have no hygienist or student in their districts so all legislators are visited.
- You may want to e-mail those in your group ahead of time and designate where to meet at the capitol, such as at a legislator’s office at a specific time.
- Make sure you have enough toothbrushing bags and evaluation forms for your visits (You may have to ask others to carry items if there are several visits).
- You will be the spokesperson for your group (Or, you can get someone else to do it if you are not comfortable doing it).
- Make sure the evaluation forms are filled out for your group and returned to the check-out area. (You can do it or designate someone in your group to do it).

Have Questions?

- Please contact Diann Bomkamp, RDH, BSDH at dbompamp@sbcglobal.net or call 1-314-484-6121 (cell). Thank you for your help.