Interview with Henrietta Woehr, RDH

When did you graduate from dental hygiene school?

I graduated in 2001 from Missouri Southern State College with an associate’s degree. That’s all they offered at that time. Not long after that the name changed to Missouri Southern State University. I loved it; it was a small school, it was in Joplin-I couldn’t have asked for a better school. Great teachers, great people.

Who is your hero and why?

Actually one of my dental hygiene instructors, Rhonda White. She’s retired now; she was just amazing. She was one of those people who are confident, personable, and was caring. If you ever needed anything, go to Mrs. White. She was funny; she cracked us up all the time. I would say she is one of my heros because she did so many great things for the profession. You wanted to be her as a dental hygienist because she made it so important, made it so fun, and you could tell that its what she took value. I look up to her even to this day.

What was your most referred to hygiene book used when you needed answers?

Wilkins, of course. We all loved Dr. Wilkins; mine was actually the 8th edition and I don’t know how many she made since then, but pretty much everything you needed to know was in there.

How long have you been an ADHA member?

So I started out as a SADHA member and kept it going out of hygiene school from 2001. I know I’ve missed a few years, taking off for 7 years to being full time mom and during those years, I let it slither back and forth. But for the most part I’ve been a member for about 17 years.

Did you miss dental hygiene when you took off to be a full time mom?

I did and I actually worked at a preschool during that time and took my kids with me. I actually did outreach during that time and that was my connection to dental. I did presentations everywhere that I could find. I thought it would be hard going back after seven years, nope! It was just like getting on a bike. I started back at a pediatric office and that helped

What is your favorite Missouri landmark?

The arch. I love it! I’m just in awe of how they built it.

Who’s your most favorite Black History pioneer?

Harriet Tubman because of her perserverence to make a pathway to freedom for enslaved people.