My commitment to NJDHA began in 2010 when I became a member of ADHA. As a resident of Monmouth County, I affiliated with Central Component which had a cadre of passionate leaders. Consistent attendance at component meetings and sponsored CE courses piqued my interest to participate in a more substantive manner. Within a few years, I was elected President of our component. We maintained a cohesive executive board, albeit with some hiccups, but overall, we worked with a collaborative approach to encourage new membership, spearhead specific committees to promote our profession and we successfully secured top notch speakers to educate and enlighten our members. This position was held until March 2021. About one year prior, our treasurer resigned, and I became interim treasurer. To date, I have been holding this position while maintaining a healthy bank account. In 2022, Central officers voted to donate $4000. to NJDHA. In mid-2021, amidst challenges due to COVID, I became the Central Trustee (Director) to NJDHA. In this capacity, it was my duty to attend state meetings as a voting member and report pertinent information to the CNJDHA executive committee.

When I began teaching at Middlesex College in Fall 2011, I immediately began promoting ADHA, NJDHA and CNJDHA. This took the form of participating in SADHA activities with the students and encouraging them to attend our component meetings. Our students needed to be educated on various issues which affect licensed dental hygienists in New Jersey. For example, we must preserve our practice act, create initiatives to increase access to care and be very vigilant that our ability to provide maximum care to our patients is not compromised by lower level providers. These concerns must be reiterated to our fully licensed RDHs as well, whether they are professional members or not. If there are non-members attending an event, we have explained that Central is the largest component in the state and why the benefits of membership outweigh the monetary cost. When I spoke at the first Central meeting of the 2018-2019 season, I welcomed everyone to **OUR** CNJDHA home. O – **O**wnership, **U**- United, **R**- Rising and Reaching higher. At that time we maintained a membership of 190-200 following a growth trajectory in recent prior years during my tenure as President. Continued growth in membership signifies that licensed clinicians are proud of their profession, and understand that membership has numerous specific benefits. There is strength in numbers. Young professionals may not realize how vital our profession has and will continue to become within the entire healthcare system. This integration and collaboration will continue to improve due to our organization’s dedicated members.

Other leadership activities revolve around much involvement with my childrens’ schools as the Chair of the Board of Education, and volunteering on different committees and fundraising efforts. Additionally, I have been an integral member of my synagogue having served for three years on the Board of Directors and various committees. I am also a leader in the arena of ritual activities by being a consistent gabbai, leading services and reading from the Torah and other holy scriptures. This requires fluency in the Hebrew and Aramaic languages. I have also had the privilege of going to the annual AIPAC conference in Washington, DC to advocate for the State of Israel, as a synagogue leader and a concerned American.

My participation in community service activities has spanned my entire life. More recently, I have raised funds for Multiple Sclerosis, specifically by doing a 40-mile bike ride through the Amwell Valley. My family and I have been supporters of Embrace Kids Foundation, Friendship Circle and countless other worthy causes. Additionally, I have volunteered at Oral Cancer Screenings, Special Olympics, Smile on Heroes, Breast Cancer and Diabetes Walks, as well as the Crohn’s and Colitis Foundation. My children all know the importance of giving back, and they participate in big ways to promote various critical initiatives.

As I became more entrenched in my adjunct position at Middlesex College, I concurrently became engaged in the American Association of Oral Systemic Health. I have attended four conferences and plan to continue to participate in increasingly significant ways. Not only do I take away valuable information to enhance my own health, but I am also able to impart life-saving information to my patients and family.

The countless hours spent maintaining the viability of Central Component when recent leadership interest has been waning is testimony to my passion and commitment to our profession and to the future of NJDHA.

Thank you.