

May 20, 2009

Dear Vermont Dental Team Member,

The Vermont State Dental Society is pleased to notify you of the VSDS membership category – **VSDS Allied Team Member** – and we cordially invite you to join!

We know forward thinking groups flourish when they realize that good ideas can come from everyone in an organization, and that unified goals and efforts lead to greater successes. We believe this Allied Team Membership category (description on reverse side) will allow for participation and input by the non-dentist personnel, who on a daily basis, contribute greatly toward the oral health of the Vermont population. This new member group includes dental assistants, dental hygienists, dental administrative staff and dental technicians.

Along with the American Dental Association and about half of the nation's state dental societies, we want to recognize the true team nature of modern dental care delivery, and to encourage activities that foster the Team concept outside, as well as within, the dental office. We believe that by inviting our valuable co-workers to share a role in the benefits of organized dentistry, their opportunity to become more connected to the team model will be enhanced. We want an organization that recognizes our mutual interdependence and respect, and to provide a new avenue for the sharing of ideas and professional camaraderie.

This relatively new Allied Team Membership category is meant to complement other auxiliary organizations (VDHA, VDAA), and we welcome dental team members to participate in these and our organization as well. We hope that by becoming a VSDS Allied Team member, many currently unassociated individuals will find a connection that stimulates their continued interest in the profession.

We expect that many dental office staff will find this affiliation beneficial. The cost to join is modest (\$35) and, initially, membership will result in **reduced continuing education fees and VSDS news e-mails**. Each new Allied Team Member will be given two \$10 vouchers to be used toward the tuition at a VSDS sponsored CE event, (limit 1 voucher per event). As this membership category matures, we plan to expand the scope of benefits.

A membership application is enclosed. **PLEASE JOIN!!** If you have any questions, please contact the VSDS central office.

Best regards,

The Vermont State Dental Society Executive Board and Allied Team Membership Committee