

SECTION 2

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION & DISTRICT SERVICES

Christine Schmitt
508.449.6008
cschmitt@massdental.org

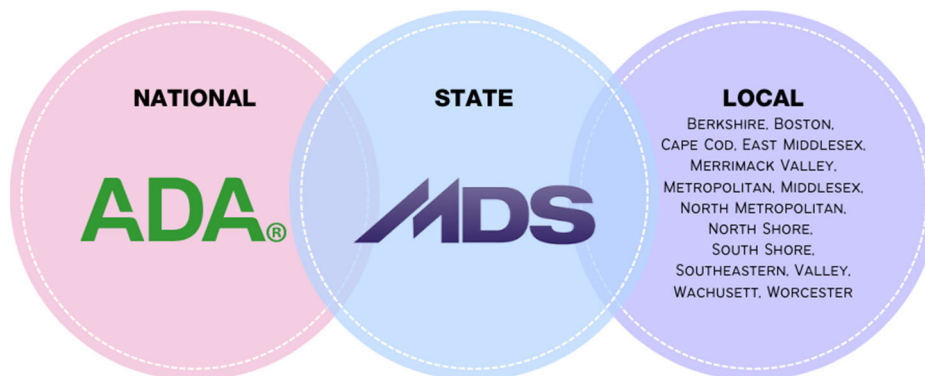
What Is a Tripartite Membership?

The Massachusetts Dental Society (MDS), a 5,000-member constituent of the American Dental Association (ADA), is dedicated to the professional development of its member dentists through initiatives in education, advocacy, and promotion of the highest professional standards, and championing oral health in the Commonwealth.

The MDS is the state level of the tripartite system. The tripartite encompasses three levels: national, state, and local, with the ADA being the national level, the MDS being the state level, and your District Dental Society being the local level. Together, these three elements make up a tripartite membership. Each level of the tripartite sets a dues amount annually. The MDS is responsible for sending out dues invoices on behalf of the tripartite.

Regional structure described in Section 1 does not change the tripartite system. Districts are still autonomous.

TRIPARTITE MEMBERSHIP



Membership Renewal Information & Monthly Installment Plan Option

The Membership period kicks off on January 1 and spans the entire calendar year. In November, renewal notices are sent out to all members. Membership Dues Payment Reminder email notifications will also be sent during this time. The renewal notices detail dues for the ADA, MDS, and District. Members can also choose to contribute to ADPAC or MDS Foundation.

Encourage Participation in the Installment Plan

Members can choose to settle their dues in one lump sum or opt for monthly installments. The Monthly Payment plan divides the yearly dues into 12 equal payments starting January and is automatically renewed each year. Members have the convenience of setting up automatic withdrawals from their checking accounts or using a credit card, with no extra interest charges. Additionally, contributions to the MDS Political Action Committee (MDS-PAC) and MDS Foundation can be included in the member’s monthly installment payments. Dentists who are not yet members may hesitate to join due to cost concerns. It is advisable to advocate for dentists to consider the monthly installment plan option if they are uncertain about the expense. Opting for installments can enhance their cash flow situation. Members facing financial challenges can request a waiver of dues. Waiver requests can be submitted at any time of the year; however, the months of November and December are considered the optimal time to submit such a request for timely review.

Reduced Dues Rate

A reduced dues rate refers to a discounted membership payment ee that certain dentist may qualify for based on specific criteria, such as being a recent graduate, a retired member, full time faculty, or meeting other eligibility requirements set by the professional organization.

New Graduates

Starting in 2024, the MDS is introducing a new discounted dues structure for recent graduates in hopes of improving our recruitment and retention efforts with this membership group. Surveys from this group indicate the number one reason they do not join is price. As a result, we are implementing the following discounts.

Post Graduation Year	MDS State Dues
Year 1	Free State Membership
Year 2	\$144 year or \$12 per month
Year 3	\$144 year or \$12 per month
Year 4	\$288 year or \$24 per month
Year 5	\$288 year or \$24 per month

Other discounted Membership categories

Life Members

Members enjoy a 25% discount from both the MDS and the local District upon achieving Life Membership status, attained after 30 consecutive years of membership or 40 years total.

Retired Members

Members must complete a retirement affidavit or call the MAC line to notify the society of their retirement. Retired members receive a 75% discount on their annual dues. Life members who retire owe no dues and will have their membership automatically renewed each year going forward.

Retirement affidavits are reviewed and approved by the MDS, Local District, and the ADA. It is important that members who retire notify the society so their dues categories can be updated, and they can receive their retirement discount.

Full time faculty

Full time faculty receive 50% dues reduction for MDS State dues.

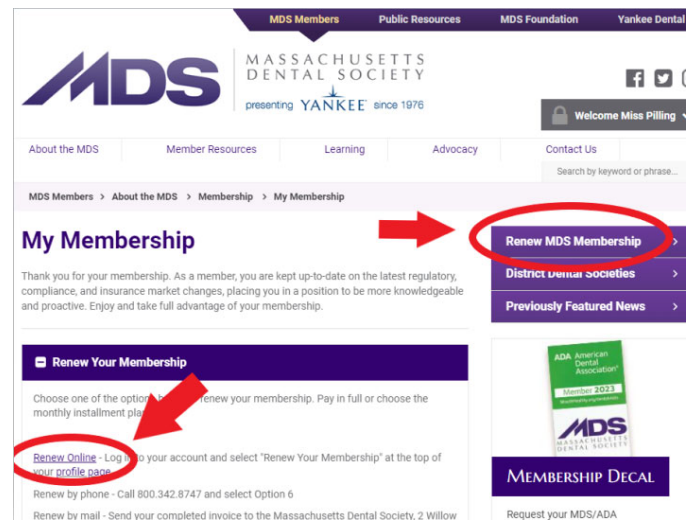
Please contact membership at membership@massdental.org for dues questions.

Dues Payment Methods

The membership cycle extends from January 1 to December 31. In autumn, renewal notices are sent to serve as timely reminders for renewal before December 31. Members are presented with three methods to submit payment.

1. **Pay online.** Make an online payment and enroll into the monthly plan for the quickest and most convenient renewal process. Refer to section 6 for detailed instructions on accessing your MDS account. Once logged in, you can navigate to the “My Membership” page (<https://www.massdental.org/About-the-MDS/Membership/My-Membership>) or go directly to your “My Account” webpage. Both options feature a clickable “Renew” button that will guide you through the online renewal process step by step.
2. **Pay by phone.** You can also opt to make a payment over the phone. If online is not feasible for you, call 800.342.8747, then select option 6 to speak with MDS staff members who will help you process your payment.
3. **Pay by mail.** Those unable to renew online or by phone, can also choose to pay by traditional mail. Simply send a check along with your completed invoice made payable to the Massachusetts Dental Society to the following address:

Massachusetts Dental Society
Attn: Dues Payment
2 Willow St., Suite 200
Southborough, MA 01745



Members also have the option to enroll in the monthly installment plan, which automatically renews at the start of each membership year. Enrollment for the installment plan for the following dues year is open until December 31st.

District Services

Districts are the backbone of the Society. The MDS membership team is committed to helping support Districts so they can succeed. We recognize that Districts may need some additional support to help with engaging and recruiting members.

In the 2025-2026 governance year, the MDS will be providing Districts with the following complimentary support:

- Quarterly District membership dashboards
- Maintain membership database
- Process new District members
- Quarterly new member reports
- Annual District leader training
- Peer review District support
- Maintain District webpages
- Maintain District calendar
- Annual peer review training
- Specific District reports per request
- Mailing list report
- Mailing Life Member pins to District leaders to distribute
- Weekly District email blasts
- Mailing label file
- Process District expenses
- Process District dues annually
- Quarterly District finance report
- Tax prep included in MDS tax filing

Some Districts may need additional support. For those Districts, the MDS may be able to offer management services for a contracted fee as resources allow. If your District is interested in initiating a 10-hour per month minimum contract with the MDS for additional management services, contact Ellen Factor at efactor@massdental.org or 508.449.6023. Limited capacity.

These services include:

- Assistance in the production (writing and article development) of all electronic newsletters and communications and paper mailings
- Securing all District meeting logistics and conducting promotions for meetings. This preparation includes configuring the online registration system, assisting in securing venues and sponsorship, developing potential topics, contacting presenters, and promoting meetings to increase attendance.
- Coordinating executive committee meetings, including attendance at meetings and preparation and distribution of meeting minutes
- Increasing the online presence of the district, which may include maintaining Facebook and social media accounts (content provided by District leadership)
- Preparing annual (non-financial) reports, including the MDS House of Delegates report, and assisting in recruiting and coordinating Delegates
- Responding to member inquiries by phone, mail, or email