

## **Two Members Announce Candidacy for MDS Vice President**

Currently, two candidates are running for the position of MDS Vice President. According to the Massachusetts Dental Society (MDS) *Constitution & Bylaws*, the Nominations Committee will meet at a future date to interview both candidates and make a recommendation to the House of Delegates on Friday, June 7, 2019. Below are position papers from both candidates.

### **Dr. Meredith Bailey**

The leadership of the Massachusetts Dental Society (MDS) has always been comprised of innovative and well-respected individuals. The MDS has flourished because of the hard work and time that leaders, members, and staff dedicate to carrying out the vision and mission of the organization.

There are many critical issues facing our profession today, including insurance reimbursement, midlevel providers, student debt, and practice sales. These are the challenges of today, but there will undoubtedly be others in the future. The most effective way to address challenges to our profession is through the efforts of a unified organization. My vision to maintain the vitality of the Massachusetts Dental Society as we move into the future focuses on three areas: Strengthening the Districts, Improving Communication, and Cultivating Membership.

Local Districts are an important part of the MDS because they are the grassroots of the organization and the first point of contact for all member dentists. I was honored to serve as an MDS Guest Board member, which provided me with state Board experience and an understanding of the dynamic between the state and local Districts. I am currently the Chair of the Boston District Dental Society and have been on the Executive Committee since its inaugural year, serving as Secretary, Program Chair, Vice Chair, and Chair-Elect. Creating a brand-new District presented challenges, and I understand that each District faces different obstacles to optimally engage their membership. In order to sustain strong Districts, it is important that the MDS provide necessary, customized resources so the individual Districts are able to fully provide member value. I also support a leadership pipeline that recognizes and supports District talent. When the Districts are strong, the MDS is best able to represent the interests of all dentists state-wide.

My vision also includes a new model of communication among the members, local Districts, and the MDS so that all members feel they are participating in the decision-making process at the state level. The development of distinct roles at each level for communication will allow for personal attention and contact. The new governance structure will improve communication between the state and the Districts, and as this reform is implemented, it will be imperative to have a leader with a depth of knowledge to communicate these changes. As a current and original member of the Governance Task Force since its inception three years ago, I am fortunate to have special insight regarding the coming governance changes. I will be able to provide a smooth transition having an intimate understanding of the governance reform objectives. I am also committed to the new term extension of the office to maintain stability and continuity of communication initiatives. This spring, I was honored to be selected to serve as the ADA First District Representative to the Council on Ethics, Bylaws, and Judicial Affairs. This unique qualification will enable me to communicate what is happening at the national level.

The diverse membership of the MDS encompasses a wide range of practitioners. I have experience working as an associate in private practice, faculty practice, and community health. I currently hold a faculty position at NYU Langone Health through the AEGD program at Fenway Health, where I am the assistant clinical director of dentistry. My experience in all of these areas allows me to relate to the majority of the MDS membership and will help cultivate new membership. I understand the history of the organization and respect traditional practices with a knowledge of how we have operated, while also understanding the distinct needs of the new graduates. The climate today is vastly different for new dentists, who often graduate with staggering debt compared to dentists who graduated decades ago. In order for the MDS to remain relevant, we must find ways to represent and assist dentists in all phases of their careers.

I have been an active member of the Massachusetts Dental Society for more than 11 years. In addition to the offices I have held at the District level and experience at the state level on the Guest Board and Governance Task Force, I am a member of the first graduating class of the MDS Leadership Academy. I participate annually in Beacon Hill Day, attended ADA Lobby Day in Washington, DC, and have served on the MDS *Constitution and Bylaws* Committee.

For the last three years, I have been a member of the MDS House of Delegates Reference Committee, while also representing the Boston District as a delegate. I have volunteered at the Yankee Dental Congress and will be Co-Chair of Sponsorship in 2020. I was honored to be chosen for membership in the Pierre Fauchard Academy and to receive the MDS 10 Under Ten Award in 2016 and the MDS William McKenna Volunteer Hero award this year.

I wish to thank those who have supported and mentored me throughout my involvement in organized dentistry. The success of our organization depends on dedicated leadership and as candidate for Vice President, I am committed to continuing this success while upholding the reputation and integrity of the MDS.

Meredith Bailey, DMD

**Dr. L. Jeffrey Lowenstein**

Dear Fellow Members of the Massachusetts Dental Society,

For the past 33 years, I have been in the dental profession. I'm passionate about my practice, my profession, and my state's professional Society. I've been fortunate to have had the opportunity to be an active member at almost every level of the Massachusetts Dental Society (MDS). I see the benefits of being a member every day professionally and personally, and I see areas where the benefits of membership can be enhanced and communication improved.

We are well aware of the challenges currently facing our profession. It is a pivotal time for dentistry and we need people in leadership positions who understand this landscape, effectively communicate to the membership, and care about the future.

I have always cared about the future of dental practice in the state, but today, I am more engaged than ever. With dental therapists on the horizon, changes in the dental benefits industry, the emergence of corporate dental service organizations, and the implementation of a new governance structure by the Dental Society, the practice of dentistry is vastly different than when I graduated. The member dentists of the Massachusetts Dental Society need leadership that understands the challenges and cares about their future. Following in the path fortified by my mentors Drs. Ray Martin and David Lustbader has allowed me to learn valuable leadership skills, but more importantly, to navigate successfully the external obstacles affecting our profession. I

want every MDS member to enjoy their practice experience and to belong to a strong and unified Dental Society.

MDS Immediate Past President Dr. Lustbader has stated that “effective and efficient organizations that produce real results engage the membership.” Last year, I was fortunate to be a member of the MDS Governance Task Force under the direction of Dr. Mina Paul. With the implementation of the new governance structure, I want to help lead a passionately active and engaged Dental Society. I was an early adopter to technology and social media and believe that both will play an important role in the Dental Society. It is crucial that members spend their valuable and precious time corresponding in an efficient manner. Utilizing multiple communication platforms, both within and outside the sphere of social, digital, and traditional media, the 5,400 MDS members can form a powerful and influential network within a newly created innovative and productive governance structure.

I see a bright and brilliant future for the members of the Massachusetts Dental Society, but it is a future not without challenges. I want to be the person to guide the Society through the Petrified Forest and into the light of a brand-new day of satisfaction and success as the next Vice President of the Massachusetts Dental Society.

Thank you for your consideration,

L. Jeffrey Lowenstein, DMD