



Fall INTO THE MDA

Meet Your District Presidents

Embracing Change

Where Does My Money Go?



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

KELLY TROUT, DMD

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MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the MDA is to encourage the improvement of the oral health of the public; to enhance members' ability to provide care to the public through education, training and service; and to promote the science of dentistry.

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I am honored and excited to work alongside you as the 148th president of the Mississippi Dental Association! We share an amazing profession and an incredible group of colleagues.

As I shared at the Annual Session in Sandestin, the MDA is far more than a professional association. It is a community with common goals and interests. It is a support system of understanding colleagues, and most importantly it is a Family.

My experience with organized dentistry began with serving my district as an officer. This leadership role granted me the opportunity to engage with colleagues from all over northeast Mississippi, expanding my professional circle tremendously. The connections I began to make with fellow dentists throughout the state empowered and inspired me. While serving on the Board of Trustees and on different committees, I really began to see and understand how significantly the MDA supported me and the field of dentistry.

I found that the MDA is much like a family in that we all have our own individual interests, plans, and pursuits, but just as a family comes back together for dinner at the days end, we as members unite to better our profession. We ARE different, we are unique as individuals, and in the way we practice, and our diversity is something to be embraced and valued. The different perspectives we bring when we come together at the MDA table make our collective voice stronger.

While serving as your MDA president-elect I had the opportunity to travel to Chicago and Houston and was blessed to hear former ADA President Cesar Sabates speak. Dr. Sabates is a truly moving speaker who exudes a real genuineness. In one of his speeches, he shared the concept of "diversity of thought" and said, "Diversity of thought is what makes us better. By listening to how members feel or how they think, and then all of us coming together to consensus and making a decision, that makes us a much better Board, makes us a better House, makes us a better organization. After hearing a different point of view, you may change your mind. And I have changed my mind many times after listening to an argument. But the ability to change minds requires us to have the courage to speak our convictions. I want to create a respectful environment that makes it safe for everyone to do so."

Hearing him speak these words really resonated with me, and one of my desires as your incoming president is to make ALL Mississippi dentists feel welcomed and relevant at the MDA. I want to find and connect with current members and potential members. We need to really listen and embrace the diversity of thought to close the distance that some may be feeling from

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

KELLY TROUT, DMD

organized dentistry. In addition to hopefully bringing new members into our fold, I aspire to really listen to our long-term members and find ways to enhance the value of their membership. I want to help elevate the advocacy efforts of the MDA in protecting our members and advancing our profession. The work of the MDA is relevant to all dentists, but we need to connect and be open to hear the ways we can improve, where we can grow, and what we can do better. I aim to more strongly communicate the value of MDA membership. We are not just providing access to resources and tools. We are offering community and a sense of family.

Some specific goals for the coming year include: First, to make the tripartite stronger by building on the work we have done with the ADA. We have worked closely with the ADA SPA grant that affords MDA the opportunity to expand our advocacy and communication efforts. The ADA is very busy implementing many new improvements and they are involving state and local leadership. We must work together, or risk being left behind. Dr. Raymond Cohlma, the ADA's executive director, has implemented quarterly conference calls and periodic in-person meetings with state staff. The ADA offers many resources to help states, and that is improving overall membership and engagement.

Secondly, we will strive to continue to build relationships and strengthen our component district societies. We started in-person and Zoom meetings to help them to understand their leadership roles and to improve and support the districts. We will continue to improve the ways we communicate through technology. During COVID, we all had to learn how to communicate in a different way. Now, we are challenged with keeping up with new means to communicate. We are working to meet that challenge on the state level and through the ADA. Things are moving quickly.

Fostering and strengthening our relationships with like-minded dental groups and partners will be a priority. We will continue working with specialty groups and friends like the Mississippi Dental Society to keep moving the needle forward. Sometimes it takes coalitions to build new ground. We will also keep working to stay relevant

to new dentists and our future dentists in dental school. We will be building a task force to help us formulate our strategies. It is of critical importance for us to build future leaders.

Finally, we will work diligently to help dentists out on the items affecting their bottom line through our relationships with the legislature and through state agencies.

I want to personally thank everyone who has agreed to serve on the board and on various committees. Your service is essential to everything the MDA does. I also want to extend a special thank you to Dr. Rebecca Courtney and the MDA Staff for doing such an incredible job preparing me the past year. I'm so excited about what the future of the MDA holds. The MDA is YOUR organization and is here to serve YOU, so please reach out if there is anything you are facing in your practice that the MDA might be able to address.

Thanks so much to each of you for your support of organized dentistry. We may be different and have varied issues, but we share this community, and we are Family.

I look forward to serving as your MDA President, and it is my sincere hope that in the coming year we will embrace our different perspectives and the value they bring, listen a little more, speak our convictions, and anticipate the positive impact we can make together.



MEET YOUR DISTRICT PRESIDENTS



District I *Stephen Stanford, DDS*

Tell us about yourself.

I am a third-generation dentist born and raised and practicing in Ripley. I went to the University of Mississippi for undergrad, then the University of Tennessee for dental school. Following dental school, I served as active-duty Army for four years in San Antonio, Texas. In 2019 my wife and I moved back to Ripley and combined our practice with my dad's to form Stanford Family Dental and Vision. We have three kids: Lucy (6), Lily (4), and Clarence (2).

How did you get involved in organized dentistry?

Shortly after I moved back to Mississippi, I joined the MDA and was welcomed to the district. After exchanging a few emails, Dr. Marquis asked if I would be interested in serving as secretary/ treasurer. I saw it as a great opportunity to get to know more dentists in the area and to learn more about organized dentistry.

What ADA/MDA resource do you find most valuable to your practice?

I like the MDA E-Gram because they provide information on a variety of relevant topics and it's an easy way to stay informed.

As District President how would you encourage others to be involved in MDA membership?

I would encourage everyone to come to the annual district meeting and to come to the state meeting in the summer. They are both a lot of fun and provide great opportunities to make new connections, to learn, and to improve our profession.

District II

Bryan Rhoads, DMD

Tell us about yourself.

I am a pediatric dentist that currently practices at the Children's Dental Center in Hernando and Southaven. I have been blessed with a great work family and family at home. I have been married to my beautiful wife, Ashley, since 2014. We have three girls, Mary Helen, Madi, and Leighton. In my spare time, I enjoy traveling with my family, playing golf, and working out. I lose a lot of golf balls, and I have embraced only hitting the gym once every couple of weeks. I'm also an active member of Colonial Hills Church in Hernando.

How did you get involved in organized dentistry?

During my time in dental school, I was invited to the ADA Lobby Day in Washington, D.C. with Dr. Mark Donald. It was a very rewarding experience for me that opened my eyes to dentistry on a different level. It is very important to preserve our profession for future generations and that begins at the legislative level. I was involved in many organizations during dental school, and I am actively involved in the MDA, ADA, and AAPD. I have held a board position on the Dental Alumni Board for the UMMC School of Dentistry for the past three years.

What ADA/MDA resource do you find most valuable to your practice?

The MDA has always been available to me and one call away. The MDA E-Gram has kept me up to date on current events affecting our profession. Insurance companies have become more difficult over the years, and they are constantly dropping reimbursements. Staying current on the latest changes in insurances has saved my clinic from big headaches.

As District President how would you encourage others to be involved in MDA membership?

Many new graduates do not realize how important organized dentistry is. If we are not involved, the profession that we love can look a lot different in the future. Many medical professions have been taken over by big corporations and the autonomy is no longer available to the practitioner. MDA membership will help you stay involved and informed on the political side of dentistry on a local and national level. The small investment back into our local organization can be the difference that can positively affect the outlook of your practice in the future.



MEET YOUR DISTRICT PRESIDENTS

District III

Griffin H. West, DMD

Tell us about yourself.

I am originally from Laurel. My wife, Lindy, and I met at Mississippi College, and we stayed in the Jackson area through dental school (UMMC, 2013) and oral-maxillofacial surgery residency (UMMC, 2017). We moved to the Pine Belt in 2017 to begin practice at Hattiesburg Oral Surgery & Implant Center.

I am thankful every day and consider it an honor to be able to work alongside our patients and provide needed care. We enjoy our life in Hattiesburg along with our three children, Vivian, Rosemary, and Griffin Jr. There is an excellent sense of community here, and we enjoy supporting that through involvement in church and various organizations. If I am not in the office, you can usually find me with my family on the water, at the beach, and often at home just enjoying time together!

How did you get involved in organized dentistry?

My early involvement with organized dentistry would likely be attending our local dental society monthly meetings at the South Mississippi Dental Society. Then through the example set by some of my colleagues, I moved on to involvement on the district level.

What ADA/MDA resource do you find most valuable to your practice?

It would be difficult to specify and deem only one resource as “most valuable.” There is a very long list of resources through the MDA as well as the ADA that can be found in the member section of their websites. Two that I use most often would be supply ordering through the partnership with TDSC and online articles for clinical updates and practice management guidance.



As District President how would you encourage others to be involved in MDA membership?

You'll stay up to date on current and upcoming state policies and regulations that have direct effect on your practice and be able to communicate with your colleagues from around the state that have many of the same questions or interests that you do. There is a lot to be gained by involvement on both the district and state levels.

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District IV

Martha Mangum Holland, DMD



Tell us about yourself.

My name is Martha Mangum Holland, and I am a pediatric dentist in Jackson. I grew up in Magee, graduated from Ole Miss in 2010, and from UMMC School of Dentistry in 2015. I completed a residency in pediatric dentistry in 2017 at Virginia Commonwealth University and practiced in Durham, North Carolina for four years. My husband Eric and I moved back to Mississippi in 2021, and I currently practice with Dr. Susan Cope Fortenberry in Jackson. I have two children, Margaret (4) and Henry (1).

How did you get involved in organized dentistry?

I was introduced to the idea of organized dentistry as a first-year dental student. The MDA did a fantastic job establishing a relationship with the dental students at UMMC from the very beginning of our time at the school. MDA leaders and staff always stressed the importance of staying involved with our peers within our profession, and its importance became evident after I got into private practice after residency. All my mentors along the way have been very involved in organized dentistry, not only on the local level, but also on the national level, and I, too, wanted to give back to this profession that I love so much.

What ADA/MDA resource do you find most valuable to your practice?

The resource I find most valuable in my practice is the instant network of practitioners to which I have access by simply being a member of the MDA. After moving back to Mississippi from North Carolina, it was a no-brainer for me to join the MDA as a way to reconnect with mentors and colleagues within dentistry.

As District President how would you encourage others to be involved in MDA membership?

Being informed about current legislation and changes within dentistry is vital to providing the best care for our patients. By joining the MDA, you have every resource for continuing education, legislative information, and networking at your fingertips. Attending local district meetings and even the annual session are a wonderful opportunity to learn from one another and to continue to strengthen the greatest profession in the world! I am honored to serve as the District IV President in 2023 and look forward to meeting or reconnecting with you!

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District V

Jessica Taylor, DMD

Tell us about yourself.

Hi, my name is Jessica Taylor and I own Gulf Islands Dentistry in Pascagoula. I am currently serving as MDA's District V President. In 2014, I graduated from the University of Mississippi Medical Center School of Dentistry and moved back to the Gulf Coast to work in my hometown. I am married to my high school sweetheart, John Paul Taylor, and we have three children – Camilla (8), Mary Margaret (5), and John Paul (4).

How did you get involved in organized dentistry?

I have loved being “involved” my entire life, whether that was through various community organizations, philanthropic efforts, or my children’s school. Organized dentistry was a no brainer!

What ADA/MDA resource do you find most valuable to your practice?

Every time I have a question surrounding my practice, I know I can look to the ADA’s website for answers. It is such a great resource with wonderful articles that always make me think about topics from a different perspective. And what’s even better is that many of the articles are free for both members and non-members!

As District President how would you encourage others to be involved in MDA membership?

Attend your district meetings! They always offer great continuing education opportunities, plus I love catching up with my fellow dentists. And if you ever get a chance to attend a Board of Trustees meeting at the MDA office in Flowood, do it! It’s amazing just how much those hard working people are doing behind the scenes and they would love nothing more than to talk to you!



MEET YOUR DISTRICT PRESIDENTS



District VI

Dr. James R. Dumas, Jr., DDS

Dr. James R. Dumas, Jr. is your 2023-2024 District VI President. He is known by many and needs no introduction. He has been a member of organized dentistry for 53 years and considers membership to be one of the most important connecting points for dental professionals in our states. This is Dr. Dumas's second time to serve in the role as District VI President.

MDA CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER 2023

21-23 ADA 5TH DISTRICT CAUCUS (ATLANTA, GA)

OCTOBER 2023

5-7 ADA DENTAL MEETING (SMILECON, ORLANDO, FL)

7-10 ADA HOUSE OF DELEGATES

27 MSBDE MEETING

NOVEMBER 2023

11 BOT MEETING

23-24 HOLIDAY – MDA OFFICE CLOSED

DECEMBER 2023

25-26 HOLIDAY – MDA OFFICE CLOSED

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Embracing Change and Emerging Stronger, Together

**By Marshall H. Mann, DDS,
ADA Fifth District Trustee**



With changes on the horizon for our profession, the American Dental Association (ADA) is meeting the changing tide and creating new possibilities for dentistry driven by the power of partnership across our local, state, and national associations. Because of our collective effort, dentistry continues to thrive.

Over the last 164 years, the ADA has established itself as a household name and trusted voice for oral health in our nation. With its collaborative Tripartite infrastructure – comprised of national, state, and local dental societies – the ADA is building upon its legacy of excellence and powering the profession at levels no single dental society could achieve on its own.

Together nationwide we're driving public health forward, improving practice environments, and leading the discourse on oral health.

From licensure portability to wellness tools, the ADA leads real-world solutions that empower dentists along their career journeys, while the ADA's development of Food and Drug Administration-recognized standards safeguards products and helps dentists provide exceptional patient care. With its own science, research, and economic policy institutes, the ADA also spearheads the discourse on dentistry within health care at large.









The ADA is also deeply invested in shaping legislation that protects our profession, helps our patients, and expands access through public health programs. The ADA's advocacy efforts ensure that dentistry's voice is heard on various issues such as insurance reform, educational debt, and oral health equity.

As our Association commits to supporting its community, it is also on the cusp of an exciting transformation that will benefit members, state and local dental societies, the dental profession, health care, and the public as we forge our future together – a future marked by generational shifts, technological advancements, and evolving practice modalities.

Ongoing analysis by the ADA Health Policy Institute anticipates changes in the dental workforce in terms of dentist demographics and practice modality. The workforce is getting younger, is more likely to be female, and is more likely to be non-white. Further, a generational divide among dentists is highly visible with large shares of younger dentists (age 30 to

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40) and older dentists (age 60 to 70). This is a departure from the dentist workforce of two decades ago, when most dentists were middle-aged. This generational transition, in part, correlates with a shift in practice modalities. Dentists in the early years of their careers tend to affiliate with group practices and dental support organizations, while late-career dentists tend to be in solo practice.

With the dynamic and ever-changing field of dentistry, the ADA is embracing the evolution and is already making advancements in its processes, products, and services to allow for greater innovation, speed, and flexibility.

As part of these efforts, the ADA is sharpening its focus on its members and potential member dentists yet to experience the ADA. With the creation of stakeholder/customer groups, the ADA's efforts are better aligned to address the needs and expectations of those we serve. These stakeholder groups include dentists, dental professionals, and students; tripartite partners; the public and our profession at large; dental industry/business innovation; and our enterprise group that supports the infrastructure of our Association.

The heart of the ADA's transformation revolves around organizational agility and delivering real-time member value. Therefore, the ADA has evolved to a strategic forecasting governance model, which sets a multi-year strategic vision for the ADA, keeping long-range goals within sight while remaining flexible along the way.

Through strategic forecasting action groups, among other initiatives, the ADA is embracing all those whose contributions and perspectives are vital for driving dentistry forward, including early-career professionals; leaders in dental education; multi-site practices; our industry colleagues; state, local, and specialty dental societies; as well as international organizations.

Everyone has a seat at the table in fueling dentistry's future, and the ADA is committed to inclusivity and welcoming dentists from all backgrounds, regardless of their practice modality, age, race, ethnicity, or gender. In its efforts to advance the global profession, the ADA is also embracing all dental professionals, from the dental team to academics and federal services.

Digital transformation is another way that the ADA is elevating its focus on members and their evolving needs. Created with and for dentists, digital improvements via a multi-channel approach are

amplifying member-centric experiences and fostering connection and collaboration at the state and local levels. Digital platforms, such as ADA.org and the ADA Member App, deliver personalized, science-based dental information, career resources, networking and mentorship opportunities, and more.

These digital experiences pave the way for the ADA to get members the resources they need to thrive in their careers while helping drive change on a local, state, and national level. A strong alignment among key stakeholder groups allows the ADA to continue to move its work forward, maximize market opportunities, and support the greatest opportunities for collaboration and agreement across the Tripartite.

In fact, work is underway among key stakeholder groups to align on a new membership model and dues structure in time for January 2025. Through stakeholder collaboration, a new association management system will align membership data across the Tripartite, beginning in July 2024.

The Tripartite has brought the profession forward and will continue to carry us through the future. Together, we are one unified voice advocating for the profession, advancing dentistry's art and science, and making communities healthier.

We are stronger together and rocketing into the future like never before.

You can learn more about the exciting transformations at the ADA through its brand-new campaign called Together We Thrive at [ADA.org/powerof3](https://ada.org/powerof3).

It's a new era for dentistry, the ADA, and the Fifth District – an era where, together, we thrive.

1. Vujicic M. The "de-aging" of the dentist workforce. *JADA*. 2016;147(10): 843-845.
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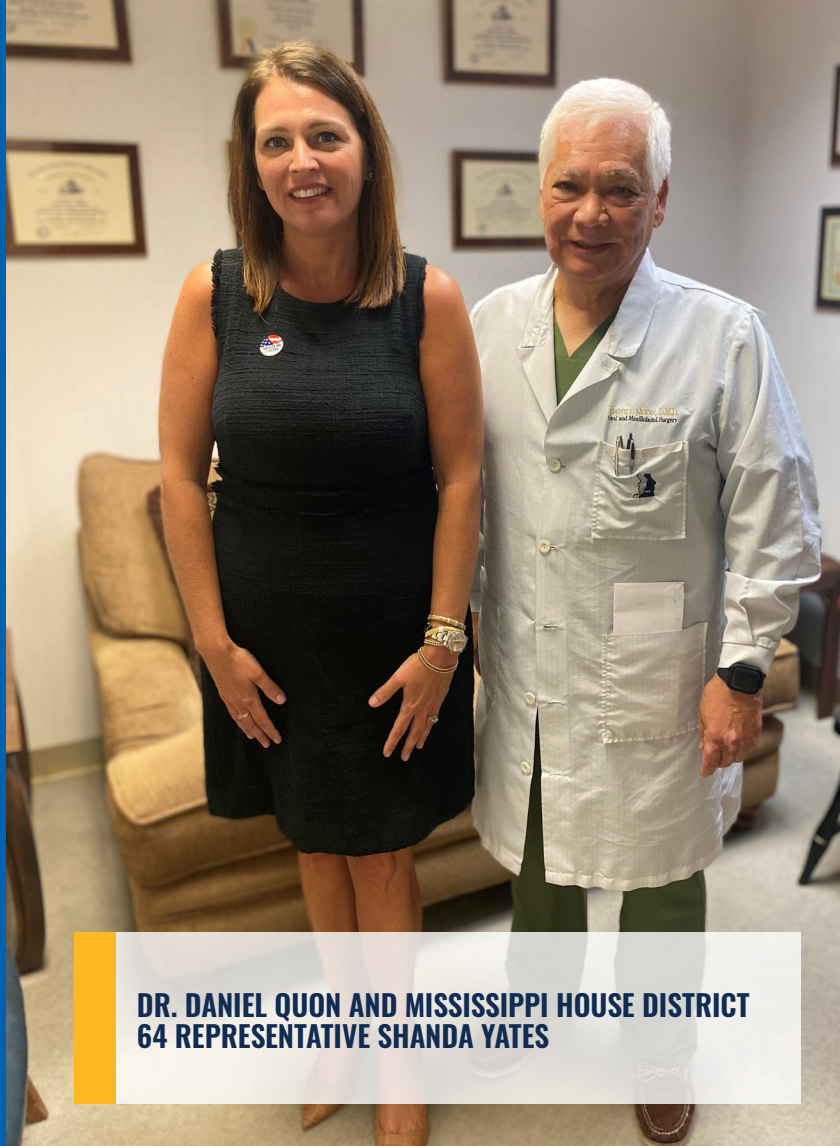
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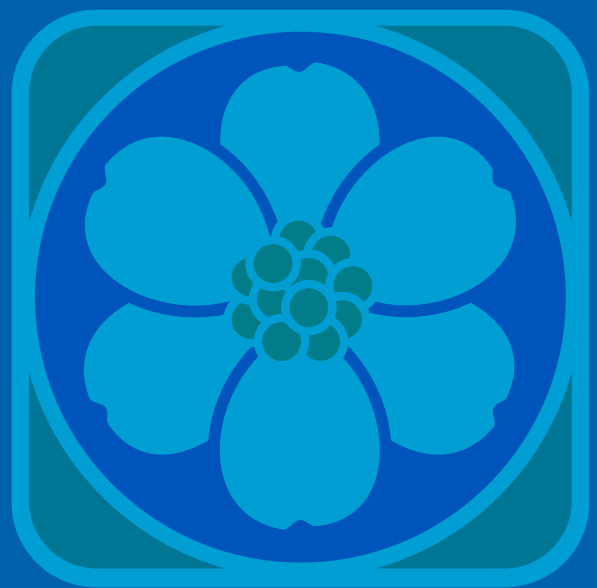


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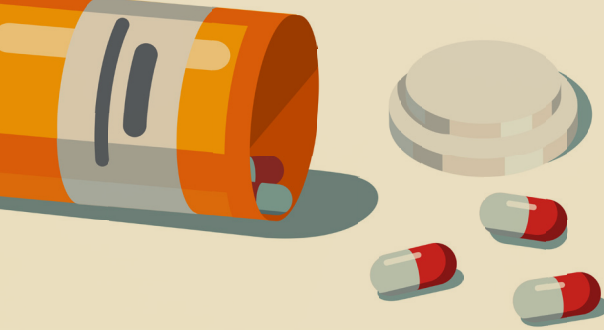
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UNDERSTANDING OPIOIDS IN THE DENTAL OFFICE



On September 8, 2023 the Mississippi Dental Association and the Mississippi Dental Society (MDS) had the opportunity to provide the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) opioid training program once again to those who needed it for their upcoming renewal.

Both organizations rose to the occasion to quickly respond to this DEA continuing education requirement for Mississippi dentists. Thank you to everyone who attended and to Ms. Denita Wells with the MDS for making this program a success. If you still have questions regarding the new requirement, the American Dental Association has created a frequently asked questions that that can be viewed at www.ada.org.



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WHERE DOES MY MONEY GO?

One of the primary reasons the MDA exists is to serve and protect the interests, work, and oral health of our member dentists and the patients they treat. Dentists care for their patients in settings that involve government oversight and regulation. Often, we hear dentists say, “I do not get involved in politics.” However, the reality is that all dentists who are licensed and practicing in our state and country are involved in our political system whether they choose to be or not.

That is where the MDA comes in on the state level, and the ADA does on the national level. Everyday there are policies, regulations and laws that are created, changed, or terminated that ultimately impact your profession as a health care provider and a business owner or participant. As dentists, you are busy taking care of patients and addressing the business operations of the practice environment in which you operate. So, who is looking after you in the state and national political arenas? The answer is – WE ARE!

That is why you see and hear the ongoing requests from the MDA and ADA for financial support to protect your interests. Just like every other service that includes nonstop monitoring, proactive and defensive actions, it requires money to do the job adequately. The MDA and the ADA employ staff, legal advisors, and lobbyists to conduct this work on your behalf.

A few years ago, the MDA noted the expenses of lobbying and addressing legislative priorities in Mississippi were continually increasing. Our Board decided to implement an annual advocacy assessment to address these rising costs. It is important to note that the assessment does not go into the general operational budget of the MDA. It strictly addresses lobbying and advocacy activities.

So why am I also asked to support the Mississippi Dental Association Political Action Committee? Isn't that the same thing? The answer is NO. Money that is contributed to MDPAC is designated for political campaigns. It is expensive to run for public office. Good candidates rely on donations to finance their campaigns. MDPAC donations are not intended to “buy votes” as we often hear. The donations are used to support individuals that we know in turn support optimal oral health care provision in Mississippi.

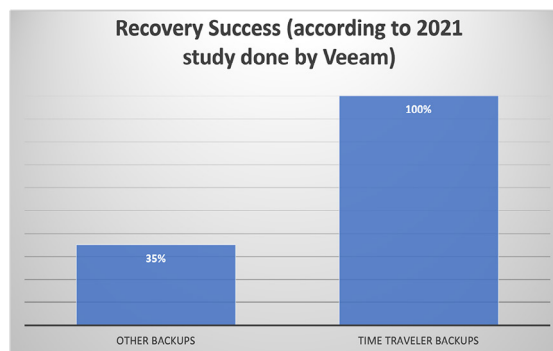
We understand the frustration of our MDA members regarding local, state, and national politics. The news stories about wrongdoing and problems are endless. Yet, it is the system that we all live and work within. So, if we want to make sure that the interests of the profession of dentistry and oral health care are served and protected, we must be participants in the system. There is an old saying, “If you're not at the table, you're on the menu.” We hope all our members will support the MDA and MDPAC in our efforts to work on your behalf.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Dr. Kyle Alford	Dr. Sean Kang
Dr. William Allen	Dr. James Lang
Dr. Parker Ball	Dr. Marqua Lofton
Dr. Peyton Burks	Dr. Sandy Lopez Avila
Dr. Christopher Carlton	Dr. Georgia Mars
Dr. Cameron Curtis	Dr. Jacqueline McGrath
Dr. James Cutrer	Dr. Ha Nguyen
Dr. SheKerra Dawkins	Dr. Logan Pitfield
Dr. Ashlyn de Regt	Dr. Austin Rogers
Dr. Austin Dillon	Dr. Jason Ross
Dr. Kimberly Fortner	Dr. Robert Rueff
Dr. Alaina Frierson	Dr. Julianna Steinle
Dr. Sandy Thao Gaskill	Dr. Leia Swilley
Dr. Mark Gilbert	Dr. Lauren Thames
Dr. Ashley Holliman	Dr. Sara Valentine
Dr. Hunter Horton	Dr. Jaden Van
Dr. Ericka James	Dr. Tyler Weeks
Dr. Courtney Jones	Dr. Brandon Williams

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