

Summer 2018

Journal

of the Massachusetts Dental Society

ADS
MASSACHUSETTS
DENTAL SOCIETY
helping members succeed

2018 William McKenna Volunteer Heroes



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Dedicated to Organized Dentistry



Left to right:
Drs. Rosie Wagner,
Hubert Park, and
Meredith Bailey

Organized dentistry is only as strong as its volunteer members. Since 1996, the Massachusetts Dental Society (MDS) and the JOURNAL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS DENTAL SOCIETY have been recognizing member dentists who have dedicated their enthusiasm, talents, and countless hours to the MDS and organized dentistry. They are the William McKenna Volunteer Heroes, named in honor of the late Dr. William McKenna—one of the founders of the Yankee Dental Congress and a model of volunteerism within the Society.

The JOURNAL continues to celebrate these members who go above and beyond to help the MDS achieve its goals, inspire colleagues, and advance the dental profession. This annual recognition is the Society's way of thanking those members who give so much of themselves to organized dentistry.

On the following pages, you'll meet your three colleagues selected as the 2018 William McKenna Volunteer Heroes. These dentists are active in their local Districts, holding positions ranging from Delegate to Chair. They serve on MDS Councils and Committees, and two have served as Guest Board Members for the MDS Board of Trustees. They support the MDS's advocacy efforts by attending Beacon Hill Day and donating to the MDS-PAC. They give back to their communities by donating to the MDS Foundation and taking part in programs to improve access to care. They roll up their sleeves and volunteer at the Yankee Dental Congress, helping to create one of the best dental conferences in the United States. Their enthusiasm, dedication, and volunteerism make the profession better, and for that, we all should be thankful.

Rosie Wagner, DDS

IN THE NOMINATOR'S WORDS:

"Rosie thinks outside the box and her unique ideas (e.g., Speed Networking) have resulted in successful events. She is willing to brainstorm and execute ideas and assist in the future success of the MDS."



City/Town of Residence: Somerville

Office Location: Somerville

Specialty: General Dentistry

Dental Education: University at Buffalo School of Dental Medicine (DDS); Tufts University School of Dental Medicine (GPR)

Number of Years in Practice: 6

Number of Years of MDS Membership: 7

What was the first MDS event you attended as a volunteer?

What drew you to volunteer that day?

I hosted a networking event at my practice that was promoted and sponsored by the Women in Dentistry Committee. I had wanted to set up an event of my own and welcome MDS members to encourage more networking and social events beyond the customary continuing education dinners.

Why is volunteering with organized dentistry important to you?

It is crucial for all dentists to step outside the focused "bubble" of our practices. We treat members of the community every day and go home feeling great about the connections we've made and the treatment we've completed. However, we're members of a larger industry of professionals, and only after we've connected to one another can we examine the larger picture: How are dentists viewed by the community and by each other? What resources do we need as dentists that can help us give back and help grow our practices to make a difference in the most effective way? What happens when we pool our resources? And finally, all important topics in health care are better supported in both formal and informal legislative change when backed by a cohesive voice of like-minded professionals.

Is there one volunteer experience that stands out in your memory? One day/event/person that made you know it was worth volunteering your time and expertise?

I was both pleased and surprised at the efforts of TeamSmile at Yankee Dental Congress 2015—pleased at how extensive and detailed the operations were and how much good we could have done with this event. However, the event was underattended, and a lot of the volunteers felt that both the providers and the equipment were underutilized and that hundreds more children could have been treated. It was a fascinating introduction to seeing how challenging it can be to coordinate the volunteers, physical resources, and attendees for large undertakings like this.

How has volunteering with the MDS impacted you on a professional and a personal level?

I have gotten to know so many members, and it's always wonderful when we see familiar faces at each event. I've gained a lot of knowledge in learning about other practices, and find our shared experiences incredibly valuable. Other MDS members are my friends, professional mentors, and a source of ongoing information on how to improve our individual practices, as well as the dental profession as a whole.

What is the single most important thing the MDS can do to help its members?

Switch to text notifications with easy links to register for each event that comes up, to increase attendance. Our attendance is very poor, particularly for social and networking events. Only when more members attend events can we also encourage them to volunteer more for MDS Committees and Districts.

In one sentence, what would you say to a dental school student or recent dental school graduate to convince him/her to get more involved in organized dentistry?

Your state Dental Society is the most important resource and gateway to filling in the rest of the picture beyond your clinical knowledge; the more other dentists you get to know, the better your practice will become and the more you'll feel included as part of this profession.

What would people be surprised to find out about you?

I do a circus trick! I'm a basket spinner and have performed in talent shows all over. Also, I'm a professional voiceover artist, and you might hear my voice in some local ads and YouTube videos. I also play an obscure brass instrument called a euphonium and minored in piano accompaniment as an undergrad.

If you could go back in time, what would you tell your younger self?

Instead of trying to grow your practice as quickly as possible, pause and think about what pace, schedule, and office flow is sustainable and will better balance the rest of your life.

What is your favorite . . .

Thing about the MDS? The "one-stop shop" for resources. It's amazing that I can call one number and ask questions about legal issues, compliance and BORID regulations, HR concerns, member events, Peer Review, EDIC insurance, etc.

Word? Sialolith

Vacation spot? Any city with an awesome natural history museum and a good historic house tour

Part of your job? When a patient who was previously incredibly anxious about all dental work falls asleep during a procedure

Dental procedure to perform? A full quadrant of significant caries control with the Isolite in place, the patient comfortably anesthetized, and no one waiting for an exam

Restaurant/Meal? Any of the amazing restaurants in Davis Square, Somerville

Book? Jane Austen, Edith Wharton, and Elizabeth Gaskell are my favorite authors

Song? "Eye of the Tiger" by Survivor, particularly when it comes on Pandora the moment I start a crown prep

Sport to watch? "The Puppy Bowl"

Movie? *Jurassic Park*

TV show? *Game of Thrones*

Weekend activity? Karaoke with friends on Friday, a cool street festival on Saturday, and a board game marathon on Sunday

Motto/saying? "If you're not part of the solution, you're part of the precipitate."

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