



Maryland State Board of Dental Examiners (MSBDE)

2012 Spring Newsletter

VOLUME 24 -- Issue #1

This Newsletters' focus is on the Compliance Unit. Future newsletters will highlight the Licensing Unit and the Board's regulations and statutes. I hope you enjoy this informative Newsletter and thanks to all who have contributed to its contents.
Ms. Sheffield-James, Executive Director

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings!

In the Board's Winter Newsletter, I informed the dental community and the general public that while the Board faces many challenges, it would be very pro-active in fulfilling its mission.

During the past year, the Board elicited and received many recommendations and suggestions to improve its operations. One suggestion made by previous Board members, fellow dentists, hygienists, and legislators was to extend the term of office of the Board President and Secretary-Treasurer to a two-year term. The By-Laws Committee supported this suggestion and made a formal recommendation to the full Board. At its May 2011 meeting, the Board voted to approve a two-term office of the President and Secretary-Treasurer recommendation and current officers were selected to serve an additional year in their positions. I am very happy to continue working with such a powerful team of dedicated and committed professionals, Board members and staff.

Under the leadership of our Executive Director, Laurie Sheffield-James, the Administration, Licensing and Compliance Units continue to achieve many of the goals and recommendations made by the Board. The hiring of three new investigators and a new compliance secretary complete the staffing pattern in the Compliance unit. These capable individuals have proved to be quick learners and are discharging their duties and responsibilities with ease and efficiency.

The Licensing and Compliance Units are excited about upgrading our computer software system. Although licensees, certificate holders and the general public have commended these staff members for their assistance in implementing the many requests that have been made, an upgrade in our software system will significantly improve service delivery in those areas as we move forward.

The Board is fully committed to the dental profession and to the constituents it serves; the citizens of Maryland. This year, as was done last year, the Board will continue to fulfill its mission, will be proactive in responding to the myriad of issues that come before it, and will do so with transparency. The professions and the public warrant nothing less than our best.

I hope you enjoy this informative newsletter and would like to thank all who have contributed to its contents.

T. Earl Flanagan, Jr., DDS

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New Board Members



From left to right, back row, Ronald F. Moser, DDS, Ali Behnia, DMD, Ms. Sonia Stockton, MBA, Ms. Jane Casper, RDH, MA, and Ms. Cheryl Bruce, RDH.

Ms. SONIA STOCKTON is a consumer member. Ms. Stockton is an advocate for dental care for everyone in Maryland. She always had a passion for serving her community. As a retiree, she had the opportunity to become involved in something that would make a difference to the elderly on fixed incomes, and children living in low income families. Her mother, now 90 years old and Ms. Stockton have been involved in researching available health services for her mom. She has discovered that there is limited access to many health care services, even though Medicare and supplemental health insurance exists for the purpose of taking care of the elderly and disabled. Dental care and hearing-impaired care are very limited to the elderly, even though the Medicare program exists. As a member of the Board, Ms. Stockton hopes that she will be able to make a difference in the quality of dental care that is provided to all citizens of Maryland and at the same time, insure that the quality of dental education is afforded to all dental professionals.

Ms. JANE CASPER has been a dental hygienist since 1974, she has also worked in private practice and in public health. Ms. Casper currently works part-time as a Clinical Dental Public Health Specialist for DHMH, Office of Oral Health and occasionally for her husband, in his pediatric dental practice. She has three grown children, Andrew, Sarah and Alexis. As a previous member of the Board, she was honored to have been able to help protect the health of the citizens of Maryland and hopes to bring a perspective of fairness to decisions made by the Board. Ms. Casper looks forward to continuing to serve the public and the profession.

Ms. CHERYL BRUCE was educated at Fones School of Dental Hygiene in Bridgeport, CT. Ms. Bruce has practiced in Massachusetts, Saudi Arabia, and Maryland. She is still actively practicing in Clarksville and for the Montgomery County Health Department. Ms. Bruce also served as an officer for the Maryland Dental Hygiene Association and the Massachusetts Dental Hygiene Association. She is bringing to the Board many years of experience with the public as a healthcare worker.

Dr. RONALD MOSER was appointed to the Board in October 2010. Dr. Moser is a general dentist whose been in private practice for the last 32 years in Bowie, Maryland. He received his undergraduate degree from American University and his dental degree from Howard University Dental School. As an active member of organized dentistry for more than 25 years, Dr. Moser served as the legislative chairman for the Maryland State Dental Association from 2001 to 2009. He also served on the Peer Review Committee, was the president of a component society, as well as a member of the Governor's Commission on HIPAA Regulation and Privacy Issues for the residents of Maryland.

Dr. ALI BEHNIA holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Biomedical Engineering from Boston University as well as a Master of Science degree in Oral Biology from the University of Maryland. He attained his specialty certificate in Endodontics, upon graduating from the University of Pennsylvania Dental School. For four years, Dr. Behnia was both a full-time faculty member and the Director of Undergraduate Endodontics at the University of Maryland Dental School. For the past nine years, he has been in private practice and maintains a part-time faculty position at the University of Maryland Dental School. With his academic background and endodontic training, Dr. Behnia will be an asset to the Board and the citizens of Maryland.

THE ENTIRE BOARD OF DENTAL EXAMINERS



From left to right, back row: Alberto Alejandro, DMD; Sidney Seidman, MD; Ronald Moser, DDS; Ngoc Q. Chu, DDS; T. Earl Flanagan, Jr., DDS; Billy Brooks Woodward, DDS; Ali Behnia, DMD; Maurice S. Miles, DDS and Donald Russell, DDS.

From left to right, front row: Jane Casper, RDH; MA, Edna Street-Jones, DDS; Sonia Stockton, MBA; Barbara L. Merritt, RDH, BS; Yolanda Goode-Seay, RDH and Cheryl Bruce, RDH.



**A TRIBUTE TO
DR. J. TIMOTHY MODIC, DDS
AND
MS. GERALDINE SEAGER, RDH, MED**

Ms. Seager served on the Board for over eight years. While on the Board, Ms. Seager served on numerous committees including Chairperson of the Dental Hygiene Committee. Ms. Seager was a passionate representative of the Dental Hygiene community who someone once called, “a dynamo in a small package”. She strongly believed in the Board’s purpose of protecting the public.

Dr. Modic served for eight years on the Board and as Chair, he served from May 2008 to May 2009. For many members of the Board, Dr. Modic served as the “gold standard”. Hidden by his quiet demeanor was wisdom and practical thinking that made him a role model for all Board members.