

AAO Delegate Report
2018
Washington, DC

This year in our nation's capital the AAO House of Delegates discussed many topics that were related to or in some way effect the practice of orthodontics nationwide and in each of our home towns. Orthodontics is acted on everyday by challenges that we create and by outside forces that we have limited control over. How we respond as individuals and as a membership shapes the way we will practice our chosen profession for years to come.

We are fortunate to have a very capable Executive Director that has come on board to help our association address the issues we will be facing. Lynn Thomas Grant will be completing her first year with the association in 2018. While in Washington all of us in the delegation had an opportunity to meet and discuss issues with this wonderful addition to our AAO staff. Lynn has a substantial background in healthcare and association leadership spanning over 30 years. She brings new ideas and experiences to assist our membership in her very important role.

In the past few years many of the discussions in the House of Delegates have had a recurring theme. Student debt, retention of faculty within our universities, the influence of direct marketing by companies wishing to capture a share of the orthodontic market without the involvement of an orthodontist and the change of how the majority of us will practice now and in years to come regarding solo, group or some type of managed arrangement.

In keeping with our wish to engage the public as much as possible the CAP has been continued at a rate of 600.00 this year. This is the same reduced rate as the previous year. The current intention is to return to 800.00 per year in 2019 and to continue to advise the public on the benefits of having orthodontic services delivered by an orthodontist. The AAO has also forwarded a letter to 34 state boards regarding our concerns with the advent of DIY orthodontics and the potential problems that may occur. In an attempt to help retain faculty at our universities we heard a number of individuals report that the fellowships that they had received in the past from the AAO had helped them stay in academia. With this information the delegation adopted a resolution to reinstate the Faculty Fellowship Award Program for 2019, 2020 and 2021. This fellowship is given at a rate of 60k per year for 3 years to 3 individuals from excess reserves.

Finally, in a step to further involve new members, an individual from the Council on New and Younger Members will be chosen on an annual basis to attend the quarterly AAO Board of Trustees meetings. This will give these members insight on the needs of the association and a clear understanding of the requirements to move forward into leadership roles in the future. In addition, the AAO will make the Professional Advocacy Conference and Leadership Development Conference annual events to further strengthen the Leadership of the association.

As always, I sincerely appreciate the opportunity to serve and look forward to doing so in the future.

Sincerely,

Chris Howell DMD, MS