

2022

KAO Directors Report

Greetings all! Thank you for allowing me to serve as your KAO Director to the SAO again this year! I hope you have all had a great summer and I hope that all of you and your families, both at home and work, are doing well. The SAO Board of Directors met in March in Atlanta and the following is a brief summary of the topics discussed at the meeting and for the future of the SAO.

SAO ANNUAL MEETING

Please make plans to attend the SAO Annual Meeting November 3-5, 2022, at the Hilton Downtown Austin Hotel in Austin, TX. Mark Dusek is our president this year and the meeting is a joint meeting with SWSO and MSO. The speaker line up is excellent and the social activities are top notch as well. Come to Austin to reconnect with friends and receive CE hours!



AAO Changes

As you may be aware, Resolution 12-21 SAO/SWSO (S2-BT/S3-SAO) was passed in the House of Delegates in April 2021. This resolution states that the Southern Association of Orthodontists and the Southwestern Society of Orthodontists will merge as one constituent in the American Association of Orthodontists at the appropriate time in the future. For the past four years, the SAO and SWSO have been in consultations to blend the two organizations with a unified mission statement and strategic plan.

This process is still ongoing, and the details are still being worked out to best suit the needs of the members and leadership. The merger will help with the economy of scale and will also help strengthen the constituents. However, there are lots of details to work out before the merger if official.

AAO Delegate

A big thanks to Dr. Greg Inman for taking over the AAO delegate role from Dr. Chris Howell. We appreciate both Greg and Chris for their dedication to the profession and their willingness to serve. Chris represented us well for many years and I know Greg will do the same. Please feel free to reach out to Greg with any questions regarding the AAO and the governance of the organization.

SAO/AAO PAC

Please consider donating to the PAC in support of orthodontic legislative issues/concerns. No matter your political affiliation, all support will be for the betterment of the orthodontic specialty. There is some investigation to look at the possibility of PAC dollars going to state level races; however, this is very early, and no action has been taken thus far.

DIY Ortho Cases

DIY cases are now being called “mail order” orthodontics/cases. Report the poor outcomes of cases as you see them and work with the state dental board to protect the specialty. Action happens at the state level! The AAO and the ADA are also working together on this issue. State boards are finding it difficult to police these issues, but reporting is important. Use of the AAO team and the AAO legal defense fund is also an option should any issue proceed to litigation.

NEW DENTAL SCHOOL IN NORTH CAROLINA

North Carolina is getting another dental school which would be 3 total dental schools in the state. No other details are available as of this report.

AAO STATS

- Advocacy was the #1 issue among members in recent polling
- There have been no dues increase since 2012 and there is a proposed dues increase of \$5/year over the next 5 years
- We currently have the highest active membership in the AAO since 2011

MISCELLANEOUS INFO

- The ABO has a great video titled “It Takes a Specialist” on their website
- There are currently 14 orthodontic residency programs in the SAO
- The board voted to sell the current SAO physical office building in Atlanta

Respectfully Submitted,

Thomas