

Welcome to our 2014 Annual KAO Meeting,

It has been a great honor to serve as your KAO president for 2013-2014 and as a member of the board for 4 years. I have enjoyed working with the SAO and AAO in maintaining the great state organization that many before us worked hard to develop. I would like to personally thank my fellow officers who have served with me and have made this year run smoothly: Thomas Baldwin (President-Elect), William Engilman (Secretary-Treasurer), Joe Petrey (Sr. Director), and Michael Becht (Jr. Director). I would also like to thank Chris Howell, AAO Delegate, and Jeri Stull, SAO Director. These people work hard for you and causes that promote our profession. Please thank them if you see them today!

We hope you enjoy our speaker, Estauqio Araujo, as well as fellowship with other colleagues at our meeting this year. Dr. Araujo received dental training in Brazil and completed orthodontics residency at the University of Pittsburgh. He has held positions at St. Louis University, as program director, as President of PUCMinas in Brazil, a university with its 42,000+ students and 5,000+ professors and employees, in private practice in Belo Horizonte, Brazil, and now back at St. Louis University Orthodontic Program. Dr. Araujo interviewed me when I was applying to orthodontic residency programs and taught me many clinical pearls at SLU!

**Opportunities:** Please remember to register for **the SAO meeting at the Atlantis Resort in Nassau, Bahamas on October 8-12, 2014**. Several outstanding speakers will be present for staff and doctors, with many activities planned. I also encourage any member interested in becoming more involved to participate in the **SAO 2015 Leadership Program**. As a graduate of this program, I can personally attest to the many opportunities available by participating in this program. Networking, learning about the organization at the SAO level, and becoming knowledgeable about current issues facing our profession were all highlights of the program. More information may be found at [www.saortho.org](http://www.saortho.org) or you can ask any board member for more information. I have also attended the **AAO Professional Advocacy Conference** which is a great opportunity to participate in our professional advocacy. If you are interested please ask myself, Thomas Baldwin, Greg or Gary Inman for more information about it.

Our 2015 annual meeting will be in Lexington, KY next August. Look out for more information on our website [www.kaortho.org](http://www.kaortho.org) and through email to save the date!

Thank you for being a part of the KAO.

Sincerely,

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