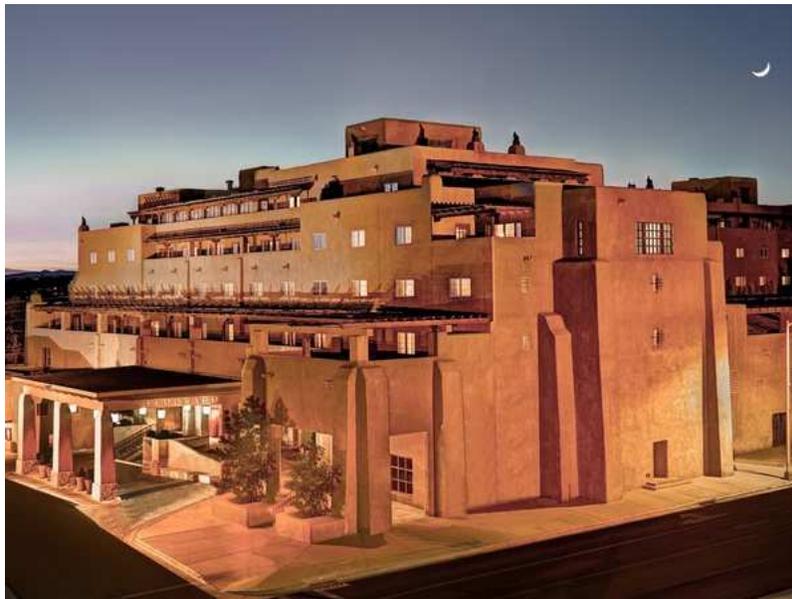




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Summer 2016



Join your colleagues for the 2016 Joint Meeting of the RMSO and SWSO in beautiful Santa Fe, New Mexico, September 15-18, 2016. For more information or to register online, click [here](#).

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

First of all, thank you for being a member of the RMSO! I know that you have many things clamoring for your time and money. We are improving the way we do things in an effort to make your membership matter more. We will be changing the way and location that we offer CE to make it more valuable and more convenient and hope that this will allow more of us to take advantage of our annual meeting together. We have someone from the RMSO representing you at each level and on every council and

committee of the AAO; if you have a suggestion that would help the AAO or the RMSO function better, please LET US KNOW! You can send suggestions to me ([bitefxr@earthlink.net](mailto:bitefxr@earthlink.net)) and I will make sure the right eyes see them and respond.

You should have received my invitation to come to our combined annual meeting with the SWSO in Santa Fe this September; I hope you can attend. Besides the speaker line up, we have received incredible support from our vendors and with the more intimate size of our group, you will have more time to look at and compare their services than at the larger AAO meeting. Again, thanks for being a part of the RMSO! See you in Santa Fe!

*Christian Kenworthy, RMSO President*

## **TRUSTEE'S REPORT**

Who are they???

I hope this finds you all well. These are interesting times. We're in the middle of an interesting election year, the Cavaliers finally won a championship, and there are sweeping changes to our profession it seems like every day. How do we keep up? How do we make sure we have the profession we signed up for?

I read an interesting article recently. A disgruntled "taxpayer" felt the need to vent on the local small town police officer. It seemed that the "taxpayer" felt shorted when they saw policemen driving the official vehicle without being in uniform. To paraphrase the article a bit: "Normal citizens have to drive their own car to work at their own expense and as a taxpayer I should be able to drive the same police car- since my taxes are paying for it..." the "taxpayer" sent the complaints anonymously, there was no way for the police chief to reply to them directly so he replied in a very public forum via social media. There were legitimate reasons for the police department policies, including the police being on call 24/7 and having the official vehicle meant avoiding delays in responding to emergencies- "in our private cars, we have to obey traffic laws, we would not be able to respond with lights and sirens. How many more punches would an abuser land, how many more shots would be fired, how much more blood would bleed out with the delay?" The police chief made a great point of exposing that the complainer had spent no time finding out what and why the police department did what they did. What's my point? I guess it's that we all do what we do for a reason, and there should be a good reason for everything we do.

Detractors to our association many times don't look for the reasons we do what we do. I can assure you the AAO and the RMSO are working on our members' behalf and in their best interests. If there is something that seems amiss to you, like the "taxpayer" in our story, first look for the reason things are done and then if you're still not satisfied- get involved. Over the years I have received several anonymous letters from members with questions or issues. There was no way for me to respond to their concerns. Venting on social media may make the poster feel better for a minute but provide a really limited opportunity for real change. The last post is relevant only until the next post is made and we move on. Remember as Abraham Lincoln said, "If it's on the internet, it must be true..." I hope you

get my point. I have received very little that suggested any way to make positive changes in those anonymous letters. Get involved, be engaged and shape the future of the profession. There are many things to be worried about.

On another note, we made changes to the administration of the RMSO recently. We would like to welcome Sherry Nappier as our new Executive Director. Come meet her at our annual meeting this fall. Sherry brings experience and many new resources for our society that we didn't have before and as one that interacts with her frequently, it is a wonderful change. Good things to come.

The AAO has been instrumental in introducing legislation to improve the Flex spending accounts that many of our patients use to help pay for orthodontic treatment. Increases in the amount that can be set aside as well as eliminating the "use it or lose it" provision are part of the bill. There is additional information in this newsletter on this. I hope you read it and support the efforts of our Council on Governmental Affairs and the AAO PAC. Sean Murphy has joined the AAO as associate general legal counsel and devotes much of his time to the PAC. The AAO supports those in political office that support our positions. You can support the PAC by donating, the money is pooled and we pursue the agenda that benefits our members, patients, and the profession.

Thank you again for the opportunity to serve as the RMSO trustee. I hope you find my efforts to your liking. Please reach out to me with concerns and comments. I'm always interested in your ideas.

*Myron Guymon, AAO Trustee*

## **DELEGATION CHAIR REPORT**

The House of Delegates conducted business as usual this last April at the annual meeting in Orlando. If you would like to look at the various resolutions that were presented and what their outcome was visit the AAO website (<http://www.aaoinfo.org>). Log in, and at the bottom of the page click on Governance. On the left side of the Governance page click on House of Delegates. Then find 2016 Adopted and Referred Resolutions. A few resolutions worth mentioning are:

14-16 Any Willing Provider - This resolution deals with preventing insurance companies from restricting the number of willing orthodontists on their plans.

16-16 Humanitarian Service Waiver - This allows members to ask for a waiver from dues while providing humanitarian service.

20-16 This resolution requests the Board of Trustees to study whether the AAO should support removing ethical and statutory barriers to an orthodontist wanting to practice the full scope of dentistry.

21-16 This resolution asks for a task force to gather information on the workforce distribution and trends of practicing orthodontists in the United States.

I can tell you that after sitting in meetings with the Board of Trustees and the House of Delegates, they are very much aware of the needs and concerns of the members of the AAO and are doing everything they can to take care of and support them.

*Bret Mooso, RMSO Delegate Chair to the House of Delegates*

## **PAC CORNER**

### **Your Government Affairs Team is Working Hard during this Historic Election Year**

The AAO's "Responsible Additions and Increases to Sustain Employee (RAISE) Health Benefits Act of 2015" (RAISE Act) would provide opportunities for all American families to better manage healthcare costs, while also allowing them to save for future medical expenses. If the RAISE Act becomes law, (1) the current \$2,550 cap on patient Flexible Spending Accounts (FSA) would be increased to \$5,000, (2) that new \$5,000 cap could then be increased by another \$500 for each employee dependent above two dependents, and (3) the yearly "use-it-or-lose-it" rule would be extinguished, allowing any unused FSA funds to be carried over into perpetuity. Knowing these benefits, the AAO had its federal lobbyist draft the Act and is now pleased to see its continuous progress in Congress. Since the AAO's Professional Advocacy Conference earlier this year, the AAO's RAISE Act has gained momentum in the House and the Senate. Within the months following the Advocacy Conference, 22 bipartisan House Members agreed to sign onto the House bill (H.R. 1185), bringing the current total to 76 cosponsors. In July, 2016, Senator Kelly Ayotte (R-NH) introduced the RAISE Act in the Senate before Congress went on recess.

### **AAOPAC Update**

Since January 1, 2016, the AAO Constituencies have raised:

1. SAO \$66,006
2. MSO \$36,931
3. SWSO \$29,354
4. PCSO \$27,035
5. NESO \$21,418
6. GLAO \$19,654
7. RMSO \$15,280
8. MASO \$14,204

During this two-year election cycle, AAOPAC has already contributed over \$200,000.00 to more than 50 federal candidates and plans to contribute even more. "AAOPAC contributes to policy makers whose views are consistent with the goals of the orthodontic specialty," says Layne McCord, the AAOPAC Board Member who represents the Rocky Mountain Society of Orthodontists. Decisions on which candidates to support are made by the AAOPAC Board of Directors, comprised of representatives from the constituent organizations and liaisons from the AAO Board of Trustees and the Council on Governmental Affairs. The Board reviews policy positions, votes taken on issues of importance to the AAO, as well as leadership roles and committees of jurisdiction. AAO leaders, staff, and legislative counsel work to educate legislators about the economic importance of the orthodontic specialty and how policies and

proposed legislation impact orthodontists and orthodontic patients. The repeal of the medical device tax and the RAISE Act are just two examples of the impact the orthodontic profession is having on Congress.

*Sean Murphy, AAO Associate General Counsel*

### **CONGRATULATIONS!**

Dr. Michael Foy was recently appointed as AAO Speaker of the House.

Dr. Bret Mooso was recently appointed to the AAO Council on Membership, Ethics & Judicial Concerns.

Dr. Martin Rabinovich was recently appointed to the AAO Council on New & Younger Members.

Dr. Wendy Chu was recently appointed to the Council on Orthodontic Education.

Dr. Jeff Erickson was recently appointed to the Council on Scientific Affairs.

*Lisa Austin, Editor*