



Winter Newsletter

Welcome to our new newsletter format! We hope to provide you with relevant information and updates from our constituent and component leaders, as well as news from behind the scenes of the AAO. Our goal is to better acquaint you with our leadership and how the organization is structured to improve overall engagement. Going forward, we plan to publish the newsletter semi-annually, with Summer and Winter editions. We hope you enjoy the new format and welcome any feedback.



President's Message
Dr. Anil Idiculla
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Dear RMSO Peers,

2020 was quite the year for each and every one of us! There were many speed bumps in the road but also many important learnings to take away.

I want to thank all of you for your trust in me and our leadership team. Also, a very special thank you to Dr. Mike Chafee, our immediate past president, for navigating 2020 like a true leader, and ensuring that the RMSO would be taken care of along the way.

I stepped into office right after our first ever virtual meeting this past fall. We had record attendance, as we aligned ourselves with the PCSO, SWSO, and MSO. We as components had to regroup once we realized that an in-person meeting would not be in the best interests of the health of our members. The planning committee worked incredibly hard to put all of it together, and I am proud to tell all of you that it was our most successful meeting in many years. I want to commend all of you who worked towards this goal. Our hope is that we will all be able to meet in-person soon enough in 2021.

Our executive director, Jennifer Bennett, has helped me this year to evaluate almost every area of the RMSO, even the bylaws. We felt as if this was a year of opportunity to revamp our systems and collaborate with other constituents such as the PCSO to learn best component protocols. We continue

to evaluate our governance structure and the emerging needs of our component to ensure that we are stable for the present and future. We have added a few additional committees to our structure and have been very impressed with the increased interest from members to be more involved with the RMSO. If you are ever interested in learning more about our opportunities at the RMSO, please let myself or Jennifer Bennett know! We would love to work side-by-side with you!

Our plans for 2021 are plentiful. We have to elect a new RMSO member to represent us on the AAO Board of Trustees as our amazing trustee, Dr. Myron Guymon, ascends to the executive positions on the board later this year. We also have to elect a new RMSO member to represent us on the American Board of Orthodontics (ABO) Board of Directors as Dr. David Sabott ascends to the position of ABO president later this year. These two positions are crucial to the success and future of our specialty.

In closing, you will continue to see communication from me and others in RMSO leadership more often. We want all of you to be kept in the loop, and we are very proud of our small but mighty constituent!

I look forward to seeing many of you virtually and soon enough in-person!

Your Friend Always,

Dr. Anil J. Idiculla
RMSO President, 2020-2021

SAVE THE DATE

W
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N | WESTERN
ORTHODONTIC
CONFERENCE

COMBINED MEETING PCSO & RMSO

2021 • PORTLAND, OR • OCT. 21-24



Trustee's Message

Dr. Myron Guymon

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What a year it's been! One for the ages, I hope. I also hope you have negotiated the challenges and have come through it all in fine shape. Adversity brings out the best in us at times and from what I have seen you all have risen to the challenge. I think the uncertainty to it all has been the hard part, will we be able to work, when will be able to work, is there a normal coming out of this?

I heard it asked one time, "What are we as an association if we don't associate?" meaning that the strength of the AAO is when the members come together to do things in common. While we can function via Zoom, I'll admit I'm looking forward to the day when we can gather and see each other face to face.

Our annual session has been rescheduled to the end of June. We were able to pick up those open dates for the convention facilities in Boston. The meeting format will be a Friday to Sunday, so you shouldn't miss too much time out of the office. It is a busy time of year for orthodontists but there was really no way any type of face-to-face meeting was going to happen in Boston as scheduled. It is our hope that by delaying the meeting some type of gathering will be possible, even in a limited fashion. Response has been positive for the change and I believe that we would like to be there together if at all possible. There will be a virtual track planned for those not able to attend in person. Our other spring meetings have also transitioned to a virtual format.

Along those lines, the House of Delegates will be held virtually this year. Look for more information to come as to dates, time and procedures. There will be opportunities for input from all our members as to the governance of our association. Stay tuned and feel free to add input to the proceedings.

The AAO has been busy on your behalf thru it all. Our COVID-19 task force kept us up to date as things developed. The task force worked with other dental and governmental agencies to be a clearing house of information. While there was never a consensus on how to operate during these troubled times, where to find information was never an issue.

In response to a demand for more business training, the AAO has recently partnered with the Wharton Business School to develop for our members a training program on business management. The project is in the initial stages. Look for more information to come.

Also, some good news has been the repeal of the McCarran Ferguson act. This came about after a concerted effort over time by a large coalition of dental and health groups lobbying the legislature in Washington DC. This is our AAOPAC, Council on Government Affairs and our lobbying efforts at work. This act exempted some insurances from anti trade provisions. That led to anti-competitive actions in the market. Repeal of this act will allow market forces to dictate the insurance and should lead to more affordable and fair market activities.

Many of you are unaware of the changes in staffing at the AAO headquarters. Realignment of some of the departments and staff has made the daily operations of the association more cost effective and efficient. Most of our members do not routinely interact with AAO staff. When you do you will find them to be friendly, efficient and helpful.

Thank you again for your service to our profession. We have many wonderful volunteers from the RMSO making important contributions to our profession, our members and our association. It wouldn't happen without you.

RMSO/PCSO Task Force

The Future of the RMSO: Where are we headed?

The AAO is currently governed with a three-tiered structure. There is the national level leadership consisting of the Board of Trustees and the many people employed by the AAO at the headquarters in St. Louis, Missouri. The RMSO is one of eight regional governing bodies known as constituents. The RMSO has an executive board and several delegates who vote at the annual session on matters of policy and finance. We also elect members to serve on various councils at the national level. And there are components, which are state level orthodontic associations such as the Colorado Orthodontic Association with its board members. Each state has its own association and board.

In the past year or so, the PCSO (Pacific region to our west) and the RMSO have had several discussions about ways to work together to utilize finances more effectively or provide members better support or experiences. So far, these discussions have resulted in a decision to merge with PCSO for all future Continuing Education events. These are marketed under the name WOC or Western Orthodontic Conference. We had our first WOC in Hawaii, and our next one is schedule for Oct 21-24, 2021 in Portland, Oregon. We are able to attract more vendors (for sales and sponsorship of the meetings)

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when we have a larger group, and we are able to hold the conferences in different cities with different opportunities for social events and recreation. Our most recent, but unfortunately cancelled, WOC was scheduled in October at the Disneyland Resort. We plan to continue this for WOC meetings in the future.

More recently, there have been additional discussions about other ways to merge our two groups to provide better benefits. We are currently looking at the cost of membership in the PCSO and the benefits offered to their members see if there are other opportunities for our members. This process takes time, but we are working to improve the RMSO in any way possible.

You may hear of other constituents around the country having similar discussions. In their own way, other regions are looking to share costs or improve benefits and experiences for their members. While we don't know what this will all lead to in the future, it seems like a very natural progression for the AAO as our world is getting smaller and the need to meet or do business in smaller sections of the country is not as necessary as it once was many years ago. As future developments occur, we will work to update our membership.

RMSO/PCSO task force members:

Christian Kenworthy
Layne McCord
Ryan Frost

Council Updates



Council on Communications
Dr. Greg Jorgensen
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I became active in the RMSO my first year out of residency from the University of Iowa when then-President Tucker Haltom asked me to be the newsletter editor. Accepting that invitation led to 30 years of service at the component, constituent, and national levels, including NMAO president, RMSO president, AAO Committee on Technology, chairman of the 2016 AAO annual session, and the past three years on the AAO Council on Communications. The purpose of our council is to 1) oversee what the public perceives about our profession and 2) communicate with our members about AAO services and current issues affecting their practices. At the heart of the council is our Consumer Awareness Program (CAP). Using

creative social media campaigns and great consumer content on the website this past year (including a complete rewrite of the site itself), we increased our visibility in the orthodontic marketplace while at the same time reducing the amount the AAO will assess each member for the 2021 CAP. Win-win!



Council on Government Affairs
Dr. David Defay
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I practice in Kaysville and Farmington Utah and completed my Orthodontic training at the University of Iowa. Service on COGA allows me and the RMSO to have influence on the direction of strategy in government affairs of the AAO. COGA did meet in a day long Zoom meeting this year during which we received a report from our new national lobbying group. One major takeaway was that, as it pertains to Teledentistry legislation, all of the oversight is at the state level. Our national lobbying effort can have little-to-no effect on Teledentistry regulation. It would behoove the state associations to consider budgeting for good state lobbyists going forward. The state association in Utah has taken this step and it has been a successful pursuit thus far.



Council on Membership, Ethics and Judicial Concerns
Dr. Bret Mooso
bretmooso@hotmail.com

I am now beginning my third two-year term on the Council for Membership, Ethics and Judicial Concerns. I was asked if I would serve on this council by Dr. Myron Guymon, who was our trustee at the time. I was happy to serve. I graduated from the University of Nebraska with my dental and orthodontic degrees. Our Council meets in January of each year. We will have an occasional Zoom meeting as needed. Our Council reviews the Procedures and Policy Manual as well as the Code of Ethics. We are very active in submitting resolutions to the House of Delegates each year in regards to membership. We also review complaints filed with the AAO about member orthodontists.



Council on Orthodontic Education

Dr. Wendy Chu

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Happy new year! Here's to a healthy and peaceful 2021!

It's with great pleasure and honor to serve on your behalf at the AAO COE (Council on Education). Here's a brief Q&A to learn about the important work that's being done by council members to ensure the continued quality of orthodontic education on shaping the next generation of orthodontists.

How long have you served in your current council rep role?

I was nominated to be the RMSO representative to the AAO COE in 2016.

What made you decide to serve as a council rep for the RMSO?

I'm so grateful for the training I received as an orthodontic resident at SUNY Buffalo. I wanted to do what I can to make a positive impact on the next generation of orthodontists and dental students. Being on faculty at Roseman University, I want to bring the collective thoughts and expertise of orthodontic educators to my teaching. With this group, I feel that I can be a contributing member in addressing the challenges in dental education.

Where did you graduate from?

My orthodontic training was at SUNY Buffalo, across the lake from my hometown of Toronto, Canada.

Has your council met and if so, provide an update and if not when is your next meeting?

During this unprecedented year, the AAO COE met on many occasions to discuss the impact of COVID-19 in orthodontic education. At the start of the lockdown in early spring, 2020, COE lead the discussions with chairs and program directors at US and Canadian orthodontic training programs on the pandemic response. This included curricular delivery in the remote environment, ways to protect patients, staff, residents, and faculty from the spread of the virus in the clinic, teledentistry, etc.

Other areas we discuss at the COE include ways to support and mentor junior orthodontic faculty ensuring a pipeline of leaders in orthodontic education in future years. From the standpoint of orthodontic training, we provide feedback on

proposed CODA accreditation standards and discuss any issues arising from the MATCH process. The council members make a recommendation to the AAO on potential site visitors for CODA at the orthodontic residency and dental programs. We support resident survey research with AAO Partners in Research and provide feedback to researchers before survey dissemination. As a council in education, we hear residents' concerns regarding tuition and educational debt and consider ways to provide financial know-how.

As a council, we support the strategic initiatives of the AAO and coordinate our efforts with stakeholders, including the ABO. We support the efforts of the AAO Society of Orthodontic Educators (AAO SOE) and the American Dental Education Association Section on Orthodontics (AAO SOO) to provide programming of interest at the AAO Annual Session and at the ADEA Annual Meeting with our colleagues in dental education.

If you have specific questions, please feel free to reach out to me.

Can you provide a description about the purpose of your council?

Anything and everything dealing with orthodontic education in the profession that we all love! Specifically, they are:

- Study and make recommendations relating to orthodontic education
- Consult with all appropriate dental, educational and governmental organizations concerning orthodontic education
- Appoint a committee to establish a liaison between COE and Society of Educators (SOE)
- Forward the SOE annual report to the AAO Board of Trustees with any comments, recommendations, or resolutions as a council may desire to make.



Council on Orthodontic Health Care

Dr. Layne McCord

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Being new to the COHC has taught me that I know very little what happens as a whole at the AAO! The COHC has been busy reviewing the codes used for orthodontic billing. It is our belief that many of the codes are antiquated and need updating. That said, it takes significant effort and time to make changes within the American Dental Association Coding committee, but we are up to the task. Recently, we submitted the following changes:

1. Deleting the Interceptive codes and rewording the description of Limited Orthodontic Treatment
2. Deleting D8690 "Orthodontic treatment (alternative billing to a contract fee)"

We are hoping that by making some small changes now, we will be able to effectuate larger changes in the future. If you have any input on coding changes, please reach out to me. I look forward to hearing your thoughts on how to improve the orthodontic codes.

Also, did you know that the AAO can help you resolve issues with third-party payers?

If you are encountering problems with third-party payers or have coding and practice-management questions, call on the AAO's Dental Benefits Advisory Service Hotline for assistance.

The Dental Benefits Advisory Service Hotline is sponsored by the COHC and administered by staff members that have more than 20 years of experience in dealing with insurance payers, clinical aspects of orthodontic practice, and office management. Hotline staff will discuss the issue with your office to determine the nature and extent of the problem. If the matter is able to be easily resolved, hotline staff will offer strategies to handle the situation. If your issue is more complex or has become a chronic problem, you may be requested to complete an AAO Member Third-Party Payer Complaint Form. If the issue is critical, hotline staff will contact the payer for immediate relief.

AAO's COHC has identified that the majority of calls received by the Hotline are related to dental coding issues. As a service to AAO members, the council developed the AAO At-A-Glance Guide (AAG) to CDC Version Orthodontic Codes. This sheet has extracted the most routinely used codes in an

orthodontic practice from the complete CDT Manual, and the AAG is a quick reference tool for your coding staff.

Callers often need help locating codes for submitting dental procedures to medical insurance payers. The Hotline staff has access to and can provide you with the ICD-10 and CPT codes that are required for medical claims filing as well.

Please use this resource provided by the AAO!



Council on Orthodontic Practice

Dr. Dana Gamblin

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2020 was an exciting, challenging and busy time for the Council on Orthodontic Practice (COOP). COOP convened virtually on July 11, 2020 and Face-to-Face on October 31, 2020. Board of Trustees Liaison, Dr. Steve Robirds, served as a wonderful mentor to the council this year. COOP appreciates all of the support it received from the AAO, especially during such a trying year.

BUSINESS OF ORTHODONTIC RESOURCES: A review of existing AAO Orthodontic Office Design material has led to the BOT support of a significant update and development of a new Orthodontic Business Design and Business Planning on-line lecture series with downloadable handouts and guides.

GUIDELINES ON TRANSFERRING PATIENTS IN ACTIVE TREATMENT: In light of recently voiced concerns to the AAO by both practitioners and clients regarding the transfer of active patients between practitioners and/or regions, our goal as a membership is to remain as transparent as possible. Transitions are emotional occasions, multiplied by the addition of financial uncertainties. The AAO does not desire to dictate fees but rather recommend clarity of the financial structure of care early in one's discussion with the prospective client, thus minimizing future misunderstandings.

ORTHODONTIC STAFF APPRECIATION DAY: As approved by the Board of Trustees the AAO Staff Appreciation Day is being instituted as the first Wednesday in June. This focused celebration acknowledges valuable feedback acquired in a 2019 AAO membership survey.



Team observance is determined by the individual office and may extend as long as the individual practice chooses.

PRACTICE TRANSITION SEMINAR: In lieu of the traditional Practice Transition Seminar held in-person at the AAO Annual Session, the BOT has voted to transform and expand this program to a year-round practice transition resource via the AAO member website. Traditionally the in-person seminar capped at 100-150 attenders. Under this new program member access will be unlimited, accessible at any time of day or night. This new change allows for far greater participation by our overall membership. Transition categories will continue to include practice sales, start-ups, partnerships, associateships, OSO/ DSO opportunities and beyond. These resources will continue to also be available at the AAO Annual Sessions.

PRACTICE OPPORTUNITIES AND CAREERS PROGRAM (POC): This confidential on-line program aims to match members searching for associateships, partnerships, sales, etc. During 2020 the program showed dramatic increase in participation. Job posting upgrades are available, incorporating ZipRecruiter, and resume critique is offered if desired. Member and non-member employers may also post orthodontic staff positions. As you use the program please notify the AAO POC so the site remains current.

REVIEW OF ADA-CERP AAO WEBINAR EDUCATION RESOURCES: Content review of on-line learning activities was accomplished, delineating the subgroup of lectures relevant to CE status: lectures published within the last 36 months will remain in the CE library; lectures 4-5 years old will be kept in the CE library if they are within the top 50 lectures viewed; lectures over 5 years since publication will be archived (excluded from CE status); a comment box was recommended to assist in post-lecture assessment of content.

ORTHODONTIC STAFF CLUB (OSC): Doctors are encouraged to promote the Specialized Orthodontic Assistant program as well as clarify the benefits of membership on-line (website access, fee discounts, and the like). The AAO Orthodontic Facebook page offers communication by both Doctors and Staff alike while posting information/ education opportunities relevant to all parties.

The next COOP F2F meeting is scheduled to take place on November 5-6, 2021, at AAO Headquarters in St. Louis.

Cheers to a new year! May 2021 be a year of encouragement, peace and unity for you and yours!

*Gratitude is offered to Dr. Lara Minahan, Chair of the Council on Orthodontic Practice and representative of the MASO, for her contributions to this written overview as well as to her exceptional leadership of the Council throughout this past year.



AAOF
Dr. Michael Foy
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I have served on the AAOF (Foundation) Board for the past three years representing the RMSO. The Foundation is the charitable arm of the AAO for research, disaster relief and Donated Orthodontic Services (DOS). Each year over 40 applicants submit their proposal for consideration of a grant award. The Foundation relies heavily on generous donations from the AAO membership and estate giving. I find the DOS to be a great way for AAO members to give their services to the underprivileged. I graduated from the Saint Louis University dept. of Orthodontics with an M.S. in Orthodontics. We meet by Zoom in November of each year and when travel permits in February at the AAO headquarters.



PAC Representative
Dr. Morris Poole
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As you know, 2020 was an important election year, with not only a presidential election, but also 435 House of Representatives and 35 Senate races. This year, the AAO continued its efforts at the federal level to advocate for its members, including participating in policy discussions to make sure orthodontists concerns are understood as regulatory agencies (OSHA, CDC, HHS) make decisions about the safe operation of businesses. The AAO's federal lobbying firm, Cozen O'Connor Public Strategies, began working with the AAO in March and has been instrumental in



building relationships between the AAO and regulatory agencies during the pandemic.

Recently, the AAO, through the support of the AAOPAC, has been championing efforts at the federal level that support our members as health care professionals and small business owners, including:

- In January, 2020, nine members of Congress, including five dentists and four physicians, sent a letter to the FTC and FDA to express their concerns regarding SmileDirectClub. See more [here](#)
- Advocating for small business relief for its members in the coronavirus relief packages
- Creating the COVID-19 Task Force
- Meeting with OSHA representative to obtain clarification regarding guidance for dentistry
- Hosting a webinar in March with Cozen O'Connor to relay information about the PPP loan
- Inclusion of a regulation from the Secretary of Labor that employers with less than 50 employees may be exempt from the emergency paid sick leave requirements
- Urging members of Congress to support legislation to increase funding for the PPP and EIDL program
- Participating in over 50 virtual meetings with members of Congress since May
- Participating in policy discussions to make sure orthodontists have a seat at the lawmaking table
- Providing an avenue for members to contact their legislators via Voter Voice
- Collaborating with the ADA and FEMA to secure PPE for dentists across the country
- Working to support the Ensuring Lasting Smiles Act, a bipartisan bill that would ensure that health plans cover medically necessary dental procedures as a result of congenital anomalies
- Meeting with the CDC to receive updated guidance for clarification on dental settings during the COVID-19 response
- Providing members with information about HHS Provider Relief Funds
- Meeting virtually with all five members of Congress that are dentists
- Advocating before the CDC concerning PPE and COVID-19 assistance

For more information, please visit the AAO's member [website](#) and click on "News".

Looking Forward: Advocacy in 2021

Federal:

- AAO and AAOPAC will continue working with our team at Cozen O'Connor
- AAO staff and AAO members met virtually with over 50 legislators since May, with more opportunities to come
- As it does every year, AAOPAC will revisit its giving plan in February, once members of Congress are assigned committees
- The Professional Advocacy Conference will be virtual in 2021- look for more information in the coming weeks
- If you have not yet contributed to the AAOPAC this year, there's still time! You can also set up payment plans on the website, as little as \$5/month
- Dr. Steven Siegel, MASO Trustee, is doing a match program this December! If you contribute to the AAOPAC now, your contribution will be doubled!

Ways to Get Involved:

- Interested in any potential meetings with members of Congress from your state? Let us know!
- Participate in Voter Voice activities
- Do you have an issue that you would like the AAO to help advocate for?
- Know about something going on in your state that might affect AAO members, either negatively or positively? Let us know!
- Do you know any legislators?
- Interested in the Professional Advocacy Conference?

To learn more, contact the AAO's Government Affairs Associate, Gianna Nawrocki at ghnawrocki@aaortho.org or your RMSO AAOPAC Representative, Morris L. Poole at mopoole44@gmail.com.



AAO Trustee and ABO Director Search in Progress

The Rocky Mountain Society of Orthodontists is currently accepting applications for two important roles. If you would like to have an impact on your profession and its future, now is your chance! We are searching for our next trustee to represent our constituent society. We are also searching for board-certified orthodontists interested in applying for the ABO Director position. We encourage you to apply.

Applications will be accepted until June 30th, 2021. If you are interested in either of these positions, please contact our RMSO Executive Director, Jennifer Bennett, at jbennett@rmso.org and she can provide additional information. We hope that this gives ample time for all those interested to evaluate the requirements and time commitment of these roles.

Future Newsletters

Suggestions and ideas for future newsletter topics can be submitted to jbennett@rmso.org or lisa.austin4@gmail.com. We are also looking for help with the newsletter, please contact us if you are interested!

Dr. Lisa Austin, Editor