1) The Midwestern Society of Orthodontists (MSO) was well-represented thanks to these MSO leaders serving as delegates at the 2017 American Association of Orthodontists (AAO) House in San Diego: Drs. Spencer Pope - Chair; Ali Fallgatter - Vice Chair, Mark Dake, Ara Goshgarian, Deb Lien, Ginny Mennemeyer and Dennis Sommers; alternates Ross Crist, Daniel Keith, Jim Klarsch and Kim Stafford.

2) Installations during the second session of the AAO House included Dr. Brent Larson as the AAO President-Elect and Dr. Mike Durbin as MSO’s incoming Trustee who served as valuable advisors to the MSO delegation. MSO’s delegation gave Larson a standing ovation at the conclusion of their Monday caucus for his wisdom, insight and leadership to the MSO delegation in his years of service.

3) The delegation welcomed the perspective of new delegate Dr. Mark Dake and returning delegate Dr. Jim Klarsch. Dr. Dan Keith excelled as the MSO’s new and younger member on the delegation and chaired the Town Hall during the AAO Annual Session.

4) MSO was well represented in Reference Committees with Dr. Ara Goshgarian serving on Reference Committee 1 and Dr. Jim Klarsch serving on Reference Committee 3. Dr. Ginny Mennemeyer served on the Committee on Credentials and Dr. Deb Lien on the Committee on Bylaws.

5) The following MSO leaders were recognized as retiring MSO Council members: Drs. Jim Klarsch (COC), William Wiltshire (COE), Mike Durbin (COHC), Dennis Sommers (COMJEC) and Jeffrey Nickel (COSA).

6) It was Dr. Lee Graber’s honor, on behalf of the James E. Brophy Distinguished Service Award Committee, to stand before the House of Delegates and announce that Dr. Steve Litton from Minnesota will be presented this award at the 2018 AAO Annual Session in Washington D.C. Dr. Brent Larson will receive the AAOF Louise Ada Jarabak Memorial International Teachers and Research Award at the 2018 AAO Annual Session.

7) A key House of Delegates issue impacted by MSO’s leadership was encouraging constituents to include a new and younger member to be a part of its existing constituent delegation.

8) Components should review their bylaws to be in compliance with approved AAO bylaws changes that removed the affiliate and associate membership categories and eliminated the requirement that members be in the exclusive practice of orthodontics. The House asked that the AAO work with other organizations on the removal of statutory barriers to orthodontists and encourage components to utilize the AAO’s Legal Support Fund to accomplish the goal as needed.

9) The House also directed the AAO to conduct strategic planning in 2017 - 2018, have the AAO Committee on Insurance investigate partnering with a healthcare provider to offer an Association Plan to AAO members; present a financial literacy program to all orthodontic residency programs in North America and partner to research the harm caused by unsupervised dental care.

10) The AAO House approved reducing the FY 2017 - 2018 AAO CAP Assessment from $800 to $600 and dues remaining the same.

See you at the 2017 GLAO-MSO-SAO Annual Session September 14 - 17 in New Orleans. Be watching your mail for registration materials to come or go to www.msortho.org for details.