

## ILLINOIS

**Eric Barnes**, President

**Scott Prose**, President-Elect

**Libby Graham**, Vice President

**Pranav Patel**, Secretary-Treasurer

### Upcoming/Recent Meetings – Speakers/Topics:

- March 30, 2020: Dr. **Willy Dayan** – *The Ideal Orthodontic Plan is Not Always Ideal Class I Occlusion*, sponsored by Invisalign iTero. **VIRTUAL MEETING**
- No September ISO Meeting to encourage attendance at the MSO Annual Session.
- November 2, 2020: Dr. **Rick McLaughlin** – Co-Sponsored by Forestadent.  
**CANCELLED MEETING**
- April 12, 2021: Dr. **Sandra Tai**, Sponsored by Invisalign iTero; **Tim Hines & Jason Kellem**, Sponsored by Hines Kellem Group at Merrill Lynch. **STILL PLANNING ON IN-PERSON, BUT MAY CHANGE TO VIRTUAL MEETING**

### Illinois State Updates:

It feels like an eternity since our Ad Interim in St. Louis just a few months ago, and what a different world we are in now. I really miss seeing my friends at dental meetings, and my family is tired of having me around the house.

Illinois, and the Chicago area in particular, have been affected with COVID-19 lockdowns and quarantines stricter than probably the rest of the MSO. Large groups are still prohibited; thus, all meetings have been cancelled. The economic effect of this has been catastrophic (greater than \$2 Billion lost revenue so far) on the tourism industry, as hotels, restaurants, airlines, ridesharing and many other entities have seen their businesses circle the drain. Truly heartbreaking! We are fortunate that dentistry has been able to return to work during the pandemic.

The ISO is dealing with its own struggles during this time. Before COVID-19, our attendance at meetings was declining as costs were rising. Speaker honorariums, management fees and venue costs have continued to outpace revenue from members' dues, exhibitors and registrations. As the saying goes, "Crises tend to accelerate trends already in motion", and we are certainly seeing that now, not just within the ISO, but in all organizations.

The ISO is a dues driven organization and will financially suffer if members decide to drop membership or obtain their CE elsewhere. We have formed a committee to study what members are looking for from the ISO in terms of CE (do they expect the ISO to provide all needed for licensure or have they begun to acquire it elsewhere), what kind of meetings do they want (an all-day format or half-day to allow seeing patients in the afternoon), do they prefer in-person or virtual meetings, etc. The first step is to review previous surveys sent to members and then create a new one factoring in changing trends associated with COVID-19. After that, a board retreat to focus on strategic planning will help guide the ISO for the future. Many of these challenges also face the

MSO, and similar efforts and leadership will be necessary for it to thrive as well. One point is obvious, the status quo is no longer sustainable.

In terms of dental activities across Illinois, all have been cancelled, postponed, or switched to virtual. The Illinois State Dental Society's Annual Session and House of Delegates is now virtual, using a reduced but essential set of resolutions directed towards the immediate business of the dental society. All board of directors' meetings have become virtual as well. My three-year term as an ISDS trustee comes to an end at this House, but it was an interesting time to be on the Board, and specifically, the Executive Committee, which met almost daily during the pandemic to manage ISDS response to the prohibition of all dental care except emergency care, and then to work with the department of public health to find a way back to practice for Illinois dentists.

The ISDS is looking into options to provide health insurance for its members, and has appointed a task force to create an association health insurance plan. A resolution will be brought forward to the 2020 House of Delegates creating membership categories for assistants and clerical staff in addition to the current dental hygienist category, allowing the entire dental team insurance coverage.

ISDS also created a task force to evaluate the dental society's response to COVID-19, analyze what ISDS did, what its strengths and weaknesses were, and how it can be better prepared to move forward should another crisis arise. Dentistry made the noble gesture of voluntarily shutting down except for emergency care to preserve PPE and help flatten the curve of COVID-19 exposures. Unfortunately, at the same time dentistry did not have a plan to get back to practice, and thus found itself at the whim of regulators with little understanding of our profession and safety practices. Avoiding such circumstances in the future will be of critical importance for this task force.

**D. Spencer Pope**  
Flossmoor, Illinois