

MINNESOTA

James Haack, President

Estee Wang, President-elect

Heather Horton, Secretary/Treasurer

MAO had a successful Annual Winter Meeting on Friday, January 4, 2019. We tried a different location at the Envision Event Center in Oakdale, Minnesota and it was a great location with easier parking and shopping nearby. Thank you to Dr. **Cheryl Cermin** for putting together a wonderful doctors and team combined program. The Keynote speaker was **Rick Guidott**. He is a professional photographer in New York City who has changed his focus from high fashion models to people with albinism, Down Syndrome and other genetic conditions. He graciously gave each attendee a signed copy of his beautiful book, *Change How You See, See How You Change*. The afternoon speaker was Dr. **Kelly Wosnik**, a mental health specialist. She shared her perspective as a patient with cleidocranial dysplasia having undergone many years of dental and orthodontic treatments. Finally, we were honored to have Dr. **Brent Larson** share his journey as our AAO President. The next MAO Annual Session will be on Friday, January 10, 2020 at Envision Event Center in Oakdale. We will have Dr. **Ann Marie Gorczyca** present on variety of topics that will appeal to orthodontists and the whole team. We hope you will join us!



The MAO Board meets year-round to continue planning and addressing critical issues that affect our fellow members. Be sure to check our website, mnortho.org for membership information and updates on events. We thank Dr. **David Resch** for his time and support in

developing and maintaining the MAO website. We would like to thank the current committee members for their time and efforts in serving on behalf of our members. Dr. **Heather Carr** (Past-President, Program Committee and Nominating Committee), Dr. **Becky Maher** (Public and Professional Relations), Dr. **Chad Larson** (Membership Committee), Dr. **Greg Ross** (Dental Care Plans), Dr. **Deb Lien** (Legislative and Regulatory Affairs), Dr. **Alisa Madson** (Constitution and Bylaws), and Dr. **Rosemary Lelich** (Education Committee). We encourage members to contact the fellow board members with any concerns. We encourage you to consider serving on the Board. If so, please reach out to any of us.

Since the AAO's Consumer Awareness Program appears to be effective in reaching the targeted audience, the MAO Board decided to stop the AAO CAP match funding at the state level in September 2018. We will continue to share content on Facebook to promote AAO marketing messages. We encourage all members to share the AAO

information on your social media to help educate the public about the importance of seeking care by an orthodontic specialist.

We would like to thank Dr. **Deb Lien** for providing her talents to support the AAOPAC for Minnesota. For our state, Deb currently serves on MAO Legislative and Regulatory Affairs Committee along with Drs. **Donna Stenberg** and **Heather Horton**. They have done an outstanding job on behalf of MAO tirelessly meeting with the Minnesota Board of Dentistry to approve changes for Licensed Dental Assistants expanded functions and permitted duties. We encourage our members to attend the Minnesota Board of Dentistry meetings to have a voice as recognized specialist. We were fortunate to have the AAO legal counsel working with our state to help oversee the events at the dental board meetings.

On January 25, 2019 Dr. **Estee Wang** as our President-elect attended the AAO's Leadership Conference in Marco Island, Florida. On February 25, 2019, representing Minnesota were Drs. **Todd Thayer**, **Deb Lien**, **Nate VanLaecken** and **Brent Larson**. They took on the Hill in Washington D.C. at the AAO Professional Advocacy Conference, meeting with U.S. House of Representatives to advocate on various issues. We thank you for representing our state!



Congratulations to Dr. Brent and Cindy Larson for a successful year as AAO President! Along with Dr. John Kanyusik as Program Chair, the Planning Committee members, and AAO Headquarters team, the AAO Annual Session held May 3-7, 2019 in Los Angeles was outstanding!



MAO is proud to co-sponsor the MSO Annual Session from October 25-26, 2019 in Branson, Missouri. Please join us in congratulating our own, Dr. **Kevin Denis**, as MSO President. We invite you all to join us with your team and family for an excellent line up of speakers and fun!



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