

MINNESOTA

Nellie Kim-Weroha, President

Alisa Madson, President-elect

Heather Horton, Secretary/Treasurer



Meetings

The 2021 MAO Annual Session was held on January 8, 2021 in a first-time virtual format. There was good attendance, and we received excellent feedback about the content and format. There were doctor and staff tracks and a noon hour business meeting. Dr. **Estee Wang**, President of the MAO, moderated the meeting and facilitated the question and answer interaction with participants. The doctor track was kicked off by HR specialist **Paul Edwards** and attorney **Nora Gustafson** of CEDR HR Solutions who presented *An A to Z HR Update for Minnesota Orthodontic Practices + Live Q&A* covering a broad range of HR topics with emphasis on federal and state policies related the COVID-19 pandemic and the new presidential administration. The morning session was followed by our annual business meeting during which we reviewed the initiatives of the past year including the letter to Governor **Walz** that was drafted by an MAO committee of member orthodontists chaired by Dr. Wang to allow for safe reopening of our practices; discussion and meetings with the Minnesota Board of Dentistry; and MAO committee creation to address the shortage of licensed dental assistants in cooperation with the Minnesota Dental Association; and a new initiative and committee to address tele-dentistry orthodontics activities in our state through the Minnesota state legislature. We also received updates from the Minnesota Dental Foundation and the University of Minnesota and Mayo Clinic orthodontic residency programs.

The business meeting was followed by three speakers: Dr. **Christian Groth** who presented on digital enhancements of fixed appliances, Dr. **Joel Johnson** who presented on CBCT technology, and Dr. **Kervin Mack** who presented on the pursuit of happiness in private practice. The staff track meeting presenter was **Tracy Martin** from Straight Consulting, who presented on Millennial Marketing.

We thank our President, Dr. **Estee Wang** and Executive Secretary, **Heidi Hemmen** for their hard work in organizing a very successful virtual meeting during a challenging year.

Philanthropy

MAO continues to support the AAOF with \$1,000 donation every year for 5 years (began in 2016).

University of Minnesota Honors program – AAO award for exceptional interest in the development of the oro-facial complex (\$500) and the MAO award for the student showing special ability, interest and promise in orthodontics (\$500 + textbook).

Minnesota's Heroes Orthodontic Program, launched by Minnesota Dental Foundation, provides free orthodontic treatment to children and spouses of Gold Star Families (immediate family of those killed in service to our country after September 11, 2001). So far two children have completed treatment and two children are being treated by Dr. **Estee Wang** and Dr. **Dan Sletten**.

Minnesota Dental Foundation Gala and Minnesota Mission of Mercy have been postponed until the pandemic situation has improved.

Members Update

We would like to thank Dr. **Deb Lien**, chair of the legislative affairs committee, for helping to run the AAOPAC for Minnesota. This year she is also heading the MAO committees to address the shortage of dental assistants and tele-dentistry.

We would like to thank Drs. **Deb Lien** and **Nellie Kim-Weroha** for serving on the AAO House of Delegates on behalf of the MSO. Dr. Kim-Weroha is also serving on the AAO Committee for Women Orthodontists.

Estee Wang

Maplewood, Minnesota