

Missouri

John Firth, President

Jeffrey Cavanaugh, Secretary/Treasurer

Mike LaFerla, Past President

This report, as last time, is short because COVID-19 has resulted in the cancelation of about all in-person meetings. Unfortunately, the Missouri Kansas Ortho Meeting that is scheduled for every other year in Kansas City had to be delayed indefinitely. The past two times it has been held in the Boulevard Brewery meeting room. The speakers have been very informative and the location has been great. 2021 starts with renewed optimism in the hope for normality but so far the new normal is still with us.

In Joplin, KCU's new dental school has continued forward. They have hired the first dean of the dental school, Dr. **Linda Niessen**, and she has been working on getting accreditation completed. The ground breaking is planned for later this year and opening is scheduled for fall of 2022 with an initial class size of 60. They have a rural and underserved health plan focus to expose their students to areas of need for the underserved.

Hopefully, with the inoculations proceeding forward, the AAO will be able to have the annual meeting in Boston and the MSO will be able to hold the fall meeting in Milwaukee.

Michael LaFerla

Joplin, Missouri