

MINNESOTA

Alisa Madson, President

Gregory Ross, President-elect

Heather Horton, Secretary/Treasurer



Meetings

Under the leadership of Dr. **Nellie Kim-Weroha** with program directors Dr. **Estee Wang** and Dr. **Greg Ross**, the 2022 Minnesota Association of Orthodontists Annual Meeting was held in-person at the new Intercontinental Hotel at the Minneapolis-St. Paul Airport on January 7, 2022. The meeting theme title was *Sleep Medicine/Airway Symposium - Orthodontics, Surgery, and Myofunctional Therapy Solutions*. The featured speakers were orthodontist Dr. **Audrey Yoon**, oral and maxillofacial and sleep surgeon Dr. **Stanley Liu**, sleep medicine physician Dr. **Michael Howell**, orthodontist Dr. **Greg Ross**, and oral myofunctional therapist **Kaye Baumgardner**. Member orthodontists were able to invite their medical and dental colleagues to this event to enhance networking between medical and dental fields on this pertinent topic. There was a tremendous turnout and we received much positive feedback from attendees. Attendees included orthodontists from neighboring states, general dentists, oral myofunctional therapists, and dental hygienists, among others. The meeting was generously supported by medical and dental sponsors.

The MAO is looking forward to the MSO annual meeting in 2023 which will be held at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota.

Members Update

Dr. **Heather Horton**, Secretary/Treasurer, is also President of the St. Paul District Dental Society this year. The St. Paul District Dental Society presented a resolution to the MDA House of Delegates in September 2021 that would allow unlicensed dental assistants the ability to take photos and intra-oral digital impressions under direct supervision. The MDA passed this resolution and will now approach the Minnesota Board of Dentistry (MBD) to make this change.

Dr. **Deb Lien**, chair of the legislative affairs committee, is continuing to help to run the AAOPAC for Minnesota. She continues to work with the MBD to strategize ways to increase the number of licensed dental assistants in the state. Along with the Minnesota Dental Association, we had advocated for the elimination of the written LDA dental exam. The MBD has since ruled that the exam will not be eliminated but will be rewritten as it has recognized that there are shortcomings to the exam. The University of Minnesota has developed an 80-hour program to train radiology to non-licensed dental personnel. On the AAOPAC front, there is a tele-dentistry task force that will be working on potential legislation to help safeguard patients from improper tele-dentistry. THE AAOPAC conference will be held April 4-6, 2022 in Washington, DC.

Dr. **Steve Litton** continues to serve as the President of the Minnesota Dental Foundation (MDF). The MDF is planning the Minnesota Mission of Mercy in July 29-30, 2022 after having had to cancel the event for the last two years due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Minnesota Mission of Mercy recruits dentists from around the state to provide free dental care to thousands of people in need. The MAO has made a donation to the Minnesota Mission of Mercy on behalf of the members.

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 SCWO (Special Committee of Women Orthodontists), ASPC Miami (Annual Session Planning Committee), and CCON (Committee on Conferences).

Estee Wang

Maplewood, Minnesota