

MIDWESTERN SOCIETY OF ORTHODONTISTS
TOP 10
Highlights from the Ad Interim Meeting
March 2024

1. The MSO board and delegates convened at the AAO headquarters on March 8th for their 2024 Ad Interim meeting. President Spencer Pope presided. Gwen Berlekamp, CAE, was introduced and welcomed as the new Executive Director.
2. Delegate Chair Dr. Nellie Kim-Waroha detailed all the resolutions received to date that will go before the House of Delegates (HOD) at the AAO Annual Session in New Orleans, May 2-7. In addition to Chair Kim-Waroha, the MSO delegation includes Vice Chair Dr. Emily Willett, Dr. Deborah Lien, Dr. Spencer Pope, Dr. Jahnvi Rao, Dr. Dennis Sommers and Dr. Estee Wang. Alternate delegates are Dr. Bronwen Richards and Dr. Jenna Walburn.
3. President Pope and the Executive Committee asked the MSO Board to approve the following Diversity state to ensure we have an adopted statement reflecting our commitment to diversity: "We believe that diversity is a strength Ensuring the involvement of our diverse membership will make the MSO stronger and more cohesive. We are committed to drawing on the difference in who we are, our experiences, and how we think to better serve and represent our organization, our members, our communities, and our patients." By board vote, the statement was adopted and will be added to the MSO Policy Book.
4. Dr. Bronwen Richards, Chair for the upcoming 2024 MSO Annual Session, reported work is well underway to plan a robust and informative Annual Session which will be held in Chicago at the Loews Chicago O'Hare Hotel, October 25 – 26. The conference will include two tracks of learning: a Clinical Track and Business Practice Track and doctors are encouraged to bring their staffs. Registration will open later this Spring/Summer.
5. A search committee will convene this Spring to oversee the nomination and selection process in identifying candidates to serve as the next MSO Trustee to the AAO Board beginning in 2026 succeeding Dr. Mike Durbin. The nomination process will open later this Spring – watch for an email announcement. By vote, Dr. Spencer Pope was selected to Chair the MSO Trustee Search Committee.
6. Dr. Deborah Lien reported on the recent Professional Advocacy Conference held at the end of February in Washington, D.C. Due to our overall advocacy efforts, we're seeing great accomplishments especially at the state level and the AAO continues to be at the forefront stressing importance of orthodontists to the public.
7. The AAOPAC had a great year in terms of fundraising, but the work is far from complete. The AAO is looking to fill the role of PAC Captains in several states and their work includes seeking donors and keeping members informed about the AAOPAC efforts. Anyone interested or to learn more should contact Dr. Durbin MDurbin@aaortho.org.
8. The MSO Board congratulated Dr. Dennis Sommers, former Director from North Dakota and current Delegate to the HOD, for being inducted into the inaugural class of the AAOPAC Hall of Fame. Congratulations on this well-deserved recognition, Dr. Sommers!!
9. The Earl E. Shepard Distinguished Service Award committee met in advance of the MSO Board meeting and selected Dr. Kim Stafford, Nebraska, as the 2025 recipient and will be presented to her at the 2025 MSO Annual Session in Minneapolis. Dr. Pat Foley will receive the Shepard Award at the upcoming 2024 MSO Annual Session.
10. Several AAO staff members joined the meeting to provide updates on several important initiatives including the Tech Transformation Initiative. This comprehensive, multi-year effort to update technology and platforms is designed to better serve members and provide easier access to information how you want it and when you want it. AAO CEO Trey Lawrence is featured in a new video detailing the effort.