

MIDWESTERN SOCIETY OF ORTHODONTISTS

TOP 10 TAKEAWAY'S: 2025 AAO Annual Session



1. The AAO celebrated its 125th anniversary last week in Philadelphia by throwing the “Biggest Party Ever” at the AAO Annual Session. Nearly 9100 attendees (including 2100 first-timers), 173 speakers, and more than 2400 exhibitors all met up in the City of Brotherly Love for a busy three-day conference. The city was a beautiful backdrop for our conference. Be sure to mark your calendars now to attend the 2026 Annual Session in Orlando, Florida, May 1-3, 2026.



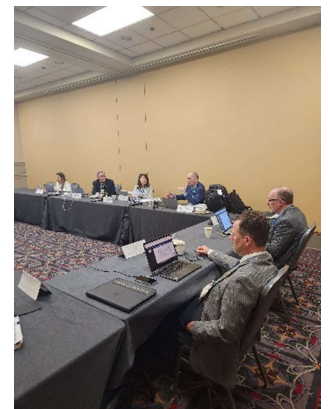
2. A conference highlight included the keynote presentation by Olympian Simone Biles, the most decorated American gymnast in history with 11 Olympic medals and 30 World Championship medals. Biles spoke about her upbringing in foster care, her advocacy on behalf of mental health, the value of teamwork and the intense nature of competition preparation.



3. The House of Delegates (HOD) kept the MSO delegation busy during the conference. In all, the constituent delegations considered a total of 26 resolutions.



The MSO delegation included (pictured left to right): Dr. Jahnvi Rao, Dr. John Kittleson (alternate), Dr. Jenna Walburn, Dr. Mike Durbin, Dr. Nellie Kim-Weroha (Delegate Chair), Dr. Spencer Pope, Dr. Deb Lien, Dr. Dennis Sommers, Dr. Melissa Bernhardt (alternate), Dr. Emily Willett (Vice Chair).



4. Thank you to Dr. Nellie Kim-Weroha (pictured right) who has served as the MSO Delegation Chair for the past three years. For her service she received a commemorative award during the second House of Delegates (HOD). Dr. Emily Willett will serve as the Delegation Chair beginning with the 2026 HOD.



5. Thank you to Dr. Mike Durbin for his many years of service as the MSO Trustee to the AAO Board of Trustees (2017-2025) including this past year as Secretary-Treasurer. Durbin was presented with a commemorative award and Courtesy Resolution during the second House of Delegates.

Durbin will serve as the 2025-2026 AAO President-Elect and as AAO President 2026-2027.



6. Congratulations to Dr. Lee Graber as the 2025 recipient of the AAO's James E. Brophy Distinguished Service Award. Receiving the award, Dr. Graber is pictured below left with Dr. John Callahan. An MSO contingency of friends and colleagues were on hand to help in the celebration. Congratulations to Dr. Graber for this impressive honor.



7. During the second House of Delegates, AAO announced the 2026 recipients of its service awards, and they are:

- AAO Outstanding Contribution Award (Non-Orthodontist): Former AAO CEO Lynn Thomas-Gordon
- AAO Humanitarian Award: Dr. Judah Garfinkle
- AAO James E. Brophy Award: Dr. Larry Tadlock

8. Congratulations to the MSO Delegation for being one of only three constituents to contribute 100% to the AAOPAC during the conference. Way to represent!

9. Congratulations to Dr. Rolf "Buzz" Behrents, editor-in-chief of the AAO's two peer-reviewed journals, [the AJO-DO](#) and [the AJO-DO Clinical Companion](#). A courtesy resolution was read and standing ovation received during the 2nd House of Delegates. It was announced that Dr. Jae Park will assume editorship of the journals beginning June 1, 2025.

10. The opportunities to connect with friends and colleagues are plentiful at the AAO Annual Session. Enjoy the following photos taken over the course of the three-day event. See you next year in Orlando!!

