

MIDWESTERN SOCIETY OF ORTHODONTISTS

Component Report MSO Board of Directors October 15, 2026 Meeting

Component Name: Wisconsin

Submitted By (Director Name): John Kittleson

Component Officers/Trustees:

President: James Kolstad

President-elect: Melanie Hammerbeck

Vice-President: Nicholas Branshaw

Secretary/Treasurer: Alison Mantel

Past-president: Dave Kennedy

Director to MSO: John Kittleson

Trustees: Mark Hanson, Brett Barton, Isaac Empson

Date of Report: 9/16/2026

Ongoing Initiatives: N/A

Legislative Efforts: Gov. Tony Evers signed the virtual credit card and network leasing bills into law. • 2025 Wisconsin Act 146 established protections for health care providers, including dental practices, related to insurer payment methods. Under the new law, insurers may no longer require providers to accept reimbursement through virtual credit card payments — a method that can carry additional processing fees for practices. • 2025 Wisconsin Act 229 requires insurers that rent or lease their dental provider networks to other entities to notify participating dental providers when entering, modifying or renewing contracts and disclose all entities that may access the network. Additionally, dental providers may opt out of participation with a rented entity without terminating their original insurer contract

New Initiatives: The Wisconsin Dentistry Examining Board is considering a proposed rule on dental practice record management, and the Wisconsin Dental Association has submitted a letter respectfully opposing the proposal as drafted. While WDA supports timely, reliable patient access to records, we are concerned that the rule could hold individual licensed dentists responsible for records systems, IT vendors, staff, cybersecurity, retention practices or business decisions they may not own, manage or control. As drafted, the proposal could create unintended consequences for dentists and practices statewide. It may put employee, associate and DSO-affiliated dentists at professional risk for decisions made by owners or corporate entities, and it could burden small, solo, rural and mobile practices by requiring dentists to identify successor record custodians even when none are available. These requirements may complicate retirements and transitions, discourage acquisitions, increase reliance on costly third-party custodians and make it harder to protect patient access to care and records.

Upcoming Meetings/Events (with dates): Annual session was recently held on Sept. 10-11th at the Brookfield Convention Center. The speakers were Jill Allen and Dr. Chris Teeters. Next year's meeting will be on October 14-15th at the Edgewater Hotel in Madison, WI. The doctor-only event will feature three speakers addressing whole health topics for both the patient and the orthodontist. Dr. Mike Verplanke and Mike Karegeannes will speak on TMD management. Dr. Ben Christiansan (sponsored by Solventum) will discuss sleep-disordered breathing and personal challenges in the profession. Dr. Bethany Valachi will focus on practicing pain-free dentistry.

Other:

Do You Need the MSO Board of Directors to act on any Component-related business at this time? Yes/No (if yes, state below and it will be addressed at the next Board meeting): No