

November 2, 2018

COGA REPORT

The Council on Government Affairs met in conjunction with the PAC Board on September 23-24 in Washington D.C., and included Capitol Hill visits on September 25.

We met with our team at Arnold and Porter, and reviewed 2018 wins in the areas of healthcare, education, and tax reform. The highlight of 2018 remains the passage of the Skinny RAISE Act in the House. We'll keep you posted on its progress as it winds its way through the system.

We had an in-depth review of the midterm races, and this provided information to make decisions on contribution levels for Republican and Democratic candidates in the House and Senate.

We also had a wonderful presentation by Katie Maassen, our AAO Director of Marketing and Communications, who discussed the marketing tools that are currently used to further our advocacy efforts. Katie and her team are committed to working with the AAOPAC/COGA to help bolster the AAO's efforts in communicating our advocacy initiatives.

Finally, we held a brainstorming session about future AAO policy initiatives, including teledentistry and our ability as practitioners to respond to online reviews.

The 2019 Professional Advocacy Conference will take place on February 26-27, with a political update on the afternoon on the 26th, followed by a dinner, and then Hill visits on February 27th. This format helps to minimize the time that our participating members have to be out of the office.

We encourage all of our members to participate in this important effort. People often cite their reason for not participating as, "I wouldn't know how to do it". The good news is...we train you! You don't need to have any prior experience or knowledge about legal advocacy before you show up...but you DO need to show up!

Respectfully submitted,

Dale Anne Featheringham, COGA chair