

Council on Governmental Affairs (COGA) November 2021

COGA held their virtual meeting in September. Nathan Mick is the new AAO Director of Advocacy and was introduced to the group. The AAO is developing a policy issue survey for the general membership to gain member perspectives on different issues and we would like your input when the survey is released.

The BOT has formed a Task Force to review COGA and AAOPAC and study how dollars, budget and volunteers' time are used to address advocacy needs.

The 2022 Professional Advocacy Conference will take place April 4-6th. Members and residents may attend. Invitations will be sent to AAOPAC contributors and you may contact me with any questions about the conference. A virtual and in-person Conference track is being planned due to the uncertainty with COVID. At the conference, we get an update on what is happening in Washington and meet with Senators and Congressmen to advocate for legislation affecting student debt, small businesses, the RAISE Act and the Ensuring Lasting Smiles Act.

Teledentistry is one of the most common themes on regulatory fronts. The AAO continues to advocate with state dental boards to help write legislation regarding teledentistry laws. Please share any stories of retreatments with the AAO so that we can communicate more effectively with legislators. Check out www.orthofacts.org, which is a public page, to see a collection of AAO Advocacy messaging with the supporting scientific data. You can printout handouts on DTC as it relates to standard of care and informed consent for orthodontic treatment.

Please contact me if you would like to get involved in advocacy. We need you!

Yours,

Valerie Martone