

Trustee's Corner – Passion and Enthusiasm



I just returned from the AAO Emerging Leaders Conference. The passion for our profession and how much everyone cared for keeping our profession at the highest possible level was palpable. The enthusiasm for wanting to be engaged and part of the effort needed going forward was refreshing.

This group that came together is part of the future leadership for our profession and this is a really good thing.

Interest in being part of the conference was high as 150 people applied for 75 places. NESO had 22 who wished to participate and 11 were selected. A great group. Mariana Haughey, co-coordinator of the NESO eNews, was one of the participants. We have teamed on this report so you can get the perspective of both myself, as trustee, and of Mariana, as emerging leader.

For the last several months there has been e-mail conversation among all the participants with discussions on many of the issues facing our profession as well as what the AAO had to offer in support of the members. The Board of Trustees (BOT) read everything but our role was to listen and gain a fuller understanding of what was really important to these members.

The meeting itself was a continuation of these conversations. It was important that the participants understood what, as an organization, we are already doing and how we can have action plans going forward. On issues that drew the greatest interest and passion (unsupervised treatment/DIY, student debt, advocacy, education, consumer awareness) the conversation was stimulating and the BOT will be acting.

At the end of the day we all agreed that our highest priority is protecting the consumer. That we continue to provide the very highest level of care possible and make sure they hear the message that AAO members are the ones with the highest training and best experience to create beautiful healthy smiles. ▶

Best Regards,

John Callahan
NESO Trustee



Drs. Satish Pai, Kenner Misher, Frank Schiano, Diana Eshhaki, Christopher Murphy, Larry Friedman, John Callahan, Jodi Parker, Mariana Haughey, Olivia Yue, Renee Pompei at the AAO Emerging Leaders Conference.

I felt very fortunate to participate in the Emerging Leaders Conference. It was a great opportunity to meet colleagues from near and far, to spend the day learning about the AAO and brainstorming possible ways to help advance and protect the profession that I love. This conference is a great initiative by the AAO to listen to what we, young professionals, have to say and to include us in the conversation. I was pleased to learn that many of the issues that were brought up during the meeting were already being addressed by the AAO in some capacity. It was also encouraging to know that they listen to what we have to say. As an example, there is a redirect of our communications to the public and our members with the intent of having a stronger message to the consumers differentiating ourselves from the GP and different messaging to our members in an effort to keep them aware of AAO actions/activities.

Being part of the conference inspired me to become more involved and to contribute as much as I can in our local community to help shape and further develop our profession. Right now that contribution is taking the form of volunteering for the eNews. If you would like to become involved as well, please let us know. There is always room for help. ▶

Mariana Haughey
Co-coordinator of the eNews

As always, feel free to contact us with any questions.

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