

## **IOWA**

**Nick Smith**, President

**Mike Crall**, President-Elect

**Rachel Stiles**, Vice President

**Clayton Parks**, Secretary/ Treasurer

The 2020 ISO Annual Meeting was held via Zoom on Sunday, October 4, due to COVID-19 restrictions. Our main discussion at this meeting was regarding Expanded Function training for Registered Dental Assistants. Currently, the law addresses general dental concerns, which does not translate well to orthodontic practices. One of our members is putting together a training program specifically for orthodontic assistants to present to the Iowa Dental Board for approval.

On the legislative front, there are currently several bills working their way through the Iowa Legislature of interest to orthodontists:

1. Regarding SF54, after weeks of negotiations, the Iowa Dental Association has reached a compromise for the orthodontics bill. The bill creates the following requirements for **new patients** before beginning orthodontic treatment:
  - An initial in-person or teledentistry examination of the teeth and supporting structures; or
  - The patient provides the portion of the dental record related to a dental examination of the teeth and supporting structures from within the prior six months to the dentist providing orthodontic treatment.
  - When conducting an initial dental examination, it must include any appropriate radiographs or digital imaging that is necessary to develop an orthodontic diagnosis and treatment plan.

For purposes of this bill, a new patient is one that the dentist has not provided care for or otherwise consulted with during the two-year period immediately prior to the patients' most recent appointment.

2. HF390 - Requires notice prior to discontinuing fluoridation in public water supply systems.
3. HSB71 - Provides dentists with the ability to administer vaccinations for influenza and COVID-19.

The 2021 ISO meeting is scheduled for October 10-11 in Iowa City, and the Iowa Mission of Mercy is scheduled for November 5-6 in Des Moines.

I'm looking forward to starting my journey as the Iowa Director to the MSO and hope to meet many of you in person soon!

**Melissa Bernhardt**  
West Des Moines, Iowa