

## **Missouri**

**John Firth**, President

**Jeffrey Cavanaugh**, Secretary/Treasurer

**Mike LaFerla**, Past President

This report is made in improved times as far as in-person meetings have been happening. The Missouri and Kansas Orthodontic Societies was held on February 4<sup>th</sup> in Kansas City at the Boulevard Brewery meeting room. The meeting was met with some very unpleasant weather which caused a few to stay home but we still had about 50 orthodontists and some staff present to listen to presentations by Dr. **Kyle Fagala** and Dr. **Nick Salome**. The meeting was well received and look forward to the next one. We have discussed possibly trying to team up with Illinois and hosting on odd years in St. Louis and keeping the even years in Kansas City. Stay tuned to see if there is interest. Please email me if you like the idea and would be interested in attending. We would also probably try to schedule during a home St. Louis Blues weekend game to add to the excitement.

In Joplin, KCU's new dental school has continued to move forward. The staff has continued to be hired and working to complete the curriculum. The school's first dean, Dr. **Linda Niessen** has been working on completing the accreditation. The ground breaking occurred and the school is taking shape. The initial class is scheduled for fall of 2023 with an initial class size of 60. They have a rural and underserved health plan focus to expose their students to areas of need for the underserved.

Please when planning your schedule to look at the MSO fall meeting which will be hosted in Austin, Texas in conjunction with the Southwestern Orthodontic Society.

**Michael LaFerla**

Joplin, Missouri