

# StraightTalk

FLORIDA ASSOCIATION OF ORTHODONTISTS

SPRING 2022



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FLORIDA ASSOCIATION OF ORTHODONTISTS

# ■ President's Message



Dr. William Neale

The first weekend in March is always a special time for the Florida orthodontists to come together for our annual dose of **camaraderie**. Thirty-five years ago, I started my orthodontic practice in Fort Walton Beach, FL, and Dr. Peter Bayer, a prominent local orthodontist and the then FAO president, reached out to invite me to my first FAO annual meeting. He described the meeting as a unique setting where **Florida Orthodontists** come together to learn, and develop life-long professional and personal relationships, checking the competitor label at the door. He described it as meeting to **experience true camaraderie**, which is defined as “spirit of friendship and community between two people or a group of people, where the members of the group are comfortable around each other and they support each other.” This definition has truly described my experience over the years at the FAO annual meeting, and it continues to draw me back, year after year. Thank you Dr. Bayer for leading me into this experience.

I would like to personally invite **YOU** to the upcoming **IN-PERSON FAO Annual Session in Tampa on March 3-5**. Our annual session committee co-chairmen, Dr. TJ Albert and Dr. John Metz, have put together an amazing agenda that will provide an opportunity for major professional growth and the start or enhancement of lasting personal relationships. **Camaraderie at its best!**

## The Annual Session (March 3-5, 2022) Registration:

CLICK HERE >>> [www.faortho.org/meeting](http://www.faortho.org/meeting)

Please note the change in the meeting format, where we start on Thursday evening with a welcoming reception, and complete the annual session in the mid-afternoon on Saturday with a risk management course. We will have a day and a half between, filled with time together sharing and caring while we explore **The Digital Orthodontic Practice: Management, Clinical Treatment and Workflow** in providing quality orthodontic care and the **Digital Efficiencies Incorporated into these Modern Workflows** presented by the Atlanta Orthodontic Specialists (Rathburn, Rathburn & Sanchez), true pioneers in Digital Orthodontics.

This year we have adopted a general theme for our event as **Havana Nights**, where we will celebrate the significant Cuban influence on our Florida heritage and culture. We will sprinkle bits and pieces of this Cuban culture throughout the meeting and will culminate this experience at the **Havana Nights Reception**, where we will enjoy a festive evening with the taste and spirit of Havana; Dinner, music and honoring **Distinguished Service Award recipient, Dr. Jorge Coro**. While it is not required, Cuban attire is preferred: Guayaberas, fedoras, bata cubanas. Who knows, maybe there will be some Cuban cigars permeating the air.

The FAO started as a small study club in the spirit of friendship and community, where the members of the group were comfortable around each other and they supported each other. This will be our 82nd FAO annual session. We have grown. We have changed. Yet still we are friends, we are community, we are comfortable with and support each other... **Camaraderie at its best!**

## Come Join Us In Tampa!

Dr. Billy Neale  
Your FAO President

*PS: As always, we would like to invite you to reach out to me or any of the directors on the FAO Board for any professional questions, concerns, or suggestions. Please refer to [www.faortho.org/home](http://www.faortho.org/home)*

# ■ Congratulations, Dr. Coro!

By Dr. Henry Rozen



*Dr. Jorge Coro*

This year we honor Dr. Jorge Coro with the Distinguished Service Award. His service to our profession has been demonstrated in so many ways with his leadership as past President of the FAO and the South Florida Orthodontic Association. Dr. Coro has also served as a professor and mentor teaching at both the University of Florida and Nova Southeastern University. He has been a leader and sponsor of international meetings of the MEAW technique and Research Foundation. His passion for our profession is infectious and we all appreciate everything Dr. Coro has done for Orthodontics. It is truly our honor to present the FAO Distinguished Service Award to Dr. Jorge Coro this year!

# ■ Dentists Day On The Hill

By Dr. Angela McNeight



*Dr. Angela McNeight*

We had a wonderful day at The Florida Dental Association's Dentists' Day on the Hill (DDOH) in Tallahassee! The evening before, it was fun to celebrate 25 years of DDOH on the rooftop of the Hotel Duval. The next day, I was able to meet with legislators to discuss issues such as student loan repayment, community water fluoridation, keeping dental separate in the Medicaid program, and the non-patient-based dental licensure exam. This year's theme was "Prevention Works" and I truly feel that we were able to get that point across to our legislators during our in-person meetings with them. FAO is pleased to support members that attend this annual event by reimbursing \$200 in travel expenses for up to ten FAO members. Stay tuned for 2023 DDOH information.



## ■ Join the Conversation!

Each month you can join the conversation led by a fellow Florida orthodontist as we discuss current and relevant topics on our private group [Facebook page](#). Our goal is to keep this a space where we can have open and ongoing conversations related to practicing orthodontics in the Sunshine State. Members are welcome to post any time on our group page, we look forward to continuing the conversation on social media.

Be sure to follow our Public Social Media accounts too: Facebook @FAOrtho  
Instagram @FAOrtho



## ■ Nominating Committee Report

The following are the recommendations of the Nominating Committee to be voted on at the Annual Business Meeting on **March 4, 2022, at 1:00 p.m.** that will be held in conjunction with our Annual Session at the Renaissance International Plaza. Members interested in serving in leadership roles are encouraged to inform an FAO officer.

### FAO

President: Dr. Thomas (TJ) Albert (automatic)  
Vice-President: Dr. John Metz  
Secretary/Treasurer: Dr. Arghavan Welch  
Director 1: Dr. John Cordoba  
Director 2: Dr. Andy Brown  
Director 3: Dr. Eddy Sedeño, III  
Director 4: Dr. Jodi Prine

### SAO Florida

Director: Dr. Jeremy Albert

# 2022 FLA-MOM

## TALLAHASSEE

## MARCH 11-12, 2022



REGISTER TO VOLUNTEER AT [FLAMOM.ORG](http://FLAMOM.ORG)

# ■ Emergency Preparedness



Dr. Ralph DeDomenico

## Planning for the Unexpected – Who Can You Count on in an Emergency?

Today in the field of orthodontics we come across many aspects of emergencies. It could be a bracket loose, a wire poking, a lost retainer or a dog chewed my aligner. Or it could be a more serious problem such as a loose expander, broken lingual arch or a reaction to some component in the SS braces or plastic trays.

All these emergencies are routine in the average day of an orthodontic office. But, what do you do when the office has to be closed unexpectedly?

If you're a solo private practice owner, you are likely tied to the office, and have an attachment like "golden handcuffs," as somebody wrote years ago. So how do we handle emergencies?

We might have an answering service and they take the calls from patients or we might have a capable orthodontic assistant taking calls and rescheduling patients. And though your practice can likely handle a modest amount of rescheduling, it's good to have a colleague, an **orthodontic buddy**, available so that to handle more complicated emergencies. These can fall into different categories – practice emergencies, or personal emergencies.

## Practice Emergencies

You may encounter a broken pipe, a broken window, a break in, a sewer back up, a hurricane, a flooded parking lot that floods the office or worse – a fire. These emergencies are **practice emergencies** that threaten the day-to-day functioning of the orthodontic practice. What do you do when you have no office to practice out of? There are serious, and possibly long-term, complications to these emergencies.

How do you protect yourself? Obviously, you need insurance. Building insurance, loss of income insurance, disability insurance, and flood insurance (do not fail to obtain that insurance).

**But you also need a buddy to help you out.** A trusted colleague can provide you a place to practice on a temporary basis until you are back functioning again. Now, you may have a satellite office that you can use, but not all of your patients may want to travel to the location. Having a buddy nearby may allow you to see a patient or two in their office, or you may even practice in their office for weeks or months.

So you need this **buddy** for daily practice emergencies and for more catastrophic emergencies. Or better yet, you need a buddy system where multiple doctors can cover your office.



*Maximize your membership in the FAO by attending in-person networking events, where you can develop relationships with colleagues you can rely on in an emergency.*

## Personal Emergencies

When faced with a personal emergency, you may need to rely on your buddy or buddy system even more. Something like a temporary sickness or need to travel unexpectedly like for a death in the family, can usually be handled on a **short-term basis**. Easy, you just close down for a few days and reschedule patients. Insurance will **NOT** cover this. Your buddy network may need to step in to help with a patient emergency.

But what if you experience a long-term sickness which is not a few days, such as prostate cancer? Or an accident, like falling off a ladder while cleaning your gutters and breaking a collar bone or something worse... or tearing your ACL while on a ski trip or doing some wakeboarding... or smashing your finger in a car door?

In these cases, you may need office overhead Insurance and disability insurance if longer than 90 days and a **bunch of Buddies** to handle your patient load.

Or you could have more serious accidental injury or death. Now you need buddies to maintain your practice and keep it viable for when you do come back to work or to find a buyer for the practice to help your family. **It now becomes crucial to maintain that patient base for an eventual sale.**

Every orthodontist should have a plan for unexpected problems if you do not have an associate, or partner.

**Many areas have a Disability agreement that is put together with multiple doctors in a surrounding area to cover for each other in long term or short term circumstances like the above. This agreement may be helpful to each other as well as to your family.**

If you don't know of such an agreement exists in your area, start making some calls to your colleagues as there may be one already. If not, create one NOW.

### **A Buddy System is a form of insurance that you cannot buy.**

Multiple Buddies taking care of each other... Camaraderie in your community... Not competition, but a friend in need. This is why, as members of the FAO, we meet as friends yearly and get to know one another. You never know when you may need a friend.

The banner features a blue header with the Florida Association of Orthodontists logo on the left and the text "Save The Date 2023" in large, light blue letters on the right. Below the header is a photograph of the Renaissance Tampa International Plaza Hotel, with palm trees in the foreground. The text "Annual Session" and "March 3-4, 2023" is centered over the image. At the bottom, the hotel name "Renaissance Tampa International Plaza Hotel" is written in a large, black, sans-serif font. A small Renaissance logo is visible on the building in the background.

Florida Association of Orthodontists  
Component  
AAO American Association of Orthodontists

# Save The Date 2023

Annual Session  
March 3-4, 2023

Renaissance Tampa International Plaza Hotel

# Florida Association of Orthodontists

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Visit our website...  
[www.faortho.org](http://www.faortho.org)

## FLORIDA ASSOCIATION OF ORTHODONTISTS OFFICERS 2022-2023

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# DENTISTRY & SYSTEMIC HEALTH: MOUTH, MIND & BODY CONNECTION



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SAVE THE DATE!  
JUNE 23-25, 2022

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