



3 May 2021

The Washington State Society of Orthodontists will meet in a General Assembly on 3 June 2021. Important pieces of business include review and ratification of proposed changes to the WSSO Bylaws and the election of new officers and Board Directors. Please register for this free session here: <https://tinyurl.com/whkds74>

Significant changes were made to the language and structure of our WSSO Bylaws. A copy of the new Bylaws is attached, and an executive summary of the major changes appears below. The Bylaws update was done in response to requests from the PCSO to standardize and streamline state bylaws. We also took this opportunity to alter the structure of the Board somewhat reducing the number of Bylaws-defined standing committees (previously denoted as "Divisions"). Changes of this nature require a vote of the general membership with a minimum quorum of 20 active members.

Presuming our Bylaws are ratified, a vote will be required for following slate of officers and Directors:

President: Michael Pickard
President-elect: Amrit Burn
Secretary: Sepi Torkan
Standing Committee Chairs:
 Communications: Nadia Farjo
Member at large: Bhoomika Ahuja
Member at large: [unfilled]

WSSO Directors remaining in their positions include:

Treasurer: Wei Tian
Standing Committee Chairs:
 Orthodontic Practice & Legislative: Keyvan Sohrabi
 Peer Review: Rod Dubois
Member at large: Corwyn Hopke

As always, we include the current PCSO Director, Barbara Sheller, in all of our meetings and rely on her council and experience to direct the WSSO.

I'd like to take this opportunity to offer my sincere thanks for non-returning Directors Patra Alatsis, Mariana Muguerza, and Michelle Neal. My term on the WSSO Board is also completed, and my heartfelt thanks to all of you for allowing me to serve for the past 5

years. It's been my honor and I'm confident that the WSSO is in good hands moving forward.

Geoffrey M. Greenlee, DDS, MSD, MPH
2020-2021 President

Executive Summary of WSSO Bylaw Revisions:

1. Article III, section A: membership is defined by the AAO so we don't have to change our bylaws when the AAO adjusts it's definitions
2. Article III, section F: WSSO had a "Termination of Membership" section. Since membership in the WSSO hinges on membership of the PCSO & AAO, this section was removed.
3. Article IV, section A.1: Board composition. Our bylaws limits us to 10 Directors (board members) total. We previously had many Division leadership roles to fill with only one member at large. This has been reimagined to better allow Directors to enter the board as at-large and then move into leadership roles. See #9 below.
4. Article IV, Section D. Term of Office—improved the clarity of WSSO term limits. Directors can only stay at large for 4 years or as a Standing Committee chair for 4 years. Additional years are possible if a Director become an Officer.
5. Article IV, Section E. Termination, Resignation, Vacancy and Absence—the WSSO Bylaws previously had this as Article VIII. It is now moved it up and the language updated to be in the Article dealing with the Board as a whole (Article IV).
6. Article VI—Committees & Members at Large (previously Article VIII)—this section was overhauled to eliminate the "Divisions" terminology of the WSSO Board of Directors. Divisions are replaced with Standing Committees. Two Divisions were eliminated—the duties for the Membership Division were assigned to the Secretary; the Orthodontic Practice and Legislative Divisions were combined into one Standing Committee. Reducing the number of Divisions/Committees allows for more members at large—a natural entry point for new Directors. Recommended language was added to define the types of committees the WSSO can be formed, who serves on them, and for how long. The Members at Large section was clarified.
7. Article VIII—Meetings of the Membership—this section was clarified using recommended language

8. Article XV—Policy and Procedure Manual—A new article indicating where processes and details about how the WSSO leadership works can be found. The manual is intended to be a more easily updated set of instructions that the board can alter and update without having to change the bylaw.