



**GLAO Component Director**  
**Dr. Dale Anne Featheringham**

**5/13/24**

Dear Ohio Orthodontists,  
Everyone take a deep breath....because ready or not here comes summer!

I have been busy attending the Cleveland Society of Orthodontists meeting in April, to discuss happenings in the Great Lakes with Ohio members. Specifically, I urged all members in attendance to plan to attend the Great Lakes Annual Session in St. Thomas.

In addition, I gave an update on Ohio Advocacy issues and urged members to get involved in grassroots advocacy by donating to the AAO PAC, or by considering a position in the National Advocacy Network. Since "advocacy" is the role that The Ohio Association of Orthodontists has chosen to make our foundational mission, taking on a role in advocacy is the next step to protecting our patients and our profession at home in Ohio. I gave the example of Dr. Walter Buchsieb, who is a regular PAC contributor and remains active and concerned with all issues AAO, including those on the federal and state level. Some of you may remember that Walt had a role representing GLAO as Speaker of the House for the AAO. He is a regular donor to the PAC, despite being over 95 years old! I encouraged our members to get involved with advocacy on some level in our state, and discussed opportunities to participate in grassroots advocacy that are available through the National Advocacy Network.

Ohio members will benefit from an "Ohio State Session Rundown, which will be a virtual meeting on May 16<sup>th</sup> to give an insider's view of current AAO policy priorities in Ohio, the current political landscape, what is happening at the Ohio State Legislature and what to expect looking forward. This will be put on by our lobbyists, Aaron Ockerman and Isaac Northrup of Ockerman Consulting and Dave Battocletti of Government Associates, and myself.

The Ohio Association of Orthodontists is excited to welcome their next board member, Dr. Felix Gen, to help move the organization forward. Dr. Gen will plan to attend the Leadership Conference at Marco Island next January. In addition, the OAO will be looking for more ways, channels and meetings to engage those members that do not attend the Cleveland Society of Orthodontists meetings.

Respectfully submitted,

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GLAO Ohio Director

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