

May 2024



Dr. Kelton Stewart
keltstew@iu.edu

As I craft this message to you all, we have already traversed 21 weeks of 2024 and are rapidly approaching the end of the spring. Over the last several months, each of you have explored and implemented various strategies to enhance the productivity of your clinics, expand your knowledge and abilities through continuing education, and realign your efforts to cultivate a better work/life balance. These numerous actions have led to various outcomes, including the enhancement of your professional experience.

[Click Here](#) to read more!

I strongly encourage you to share your thoughts and recommendations to the GLAO Leadership by completing the following survey (use the provided QR code to access). We are actively working to identify the needs and preferences of our members and your feedback would be invaluable in our efforts to develop professional development and networking opportunities that meet your needs.



[REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!](#)



Plan to attend the
2024 GLAO/MASO Annual Session
at the the Westin Beach Resort and Spa at
Fisherman's Reef, US Virgin Islands

- [Register Today!](#)
- [An outstanding educational program is available for doctors and staff!](#)

[LEARN MORE!](#)

***Join your GLAO colleagues for a COFFEE CHAT
Saturday, June 15th, 8:30-9:30 am ET***



GLAO Virtual Coffee Chats provide an opportunity for informal discussion and interactions with GLAO leaders and colleagues on topics of interest.

The next GLAO Coffee Chat on Saturday, June 15th, 8:30-9:30am will feature an advocacy discussion by GLAO PAC Captain, **Dr. Dale Anne Featheringham**, discussing:

- **"Remember your roots!"** - A discussion about the AAO National Advocacy Network, and how it forms the foundation for state, and also federal, advocacy work through grassroots initiatives.
- **An update on the "state of states"** - How AAO legislative work is making an impact for patient a health and safety, and for protection of the profession.

The GLAO President, **Dr. Kelton Stewart** will serve as Moderator for the interactive discussion.

Sign up today to receive your Zoom link and add it to your calendar.

[SIGN UP HERE](#)

Member News

2024 GLAO Distinguished Service Award to be presented to Dr. Dale Anne Featheringham

The GLAO Distinguished Service Award recognizes a GLAO member who has served the Association in various capacities through the years in an exemplary manner. The Great Lakes Association of Orthodontists is proud to

present this year's award to Dr. Dale Anne Featheringham. This award is presented in recognition and grateful appreciation for her contributions - both to the GLAO as an organization, and to the orthodontic profession in general.



[Click here](#) for more information on when the award will be presented and for Dr. Dale Anne Featheringham's Biography

Thank You for Your Leadership

Dr. Riyad Al-Qawasmi (MI) was elected to serve as the GLAO Representative to the AAO Council on Membership, Ethics, and Judicial Concerns (COMEJC). Thank you to **Dr. Stephen J. Belli** (OH) for his many years of service in this position.

Dr. Javen Durham (MI) was elected to serve as the GLAO Representative to the AAO Council on New and Younger Members (CONYM). Thank you to **Dr. Kaitrin Kramer** (OH) for her service in this position.

Dr. J. Martin Palomo (OH) was elected to serve as the GLAO Representative to the American Association of Orthodontists Foundation (AAOF). Thank you to **Dr. Mark Berkman** (OH) for her many years of service in this position.

The GLAO has been notified of the passing of these members. Our thoughts are with their family members.

Dr. W. R. Dodge - *Bellefontaine, OH*
Dr. Timothy M. Williams - *Harbor Springs, OH*

2024 AAO House of Delegates



*Thank you to the GLAO Delegator: **Dr. Mariela Anderson, Dr. Jashleen Bedi, Dr. Allison Bergdoll, Dr. Tarek ElShebiny, Dr. Nelson (Nick) Herst, Dr. Valerie Martone, Dr. J. Martin Palomo, Dr. Scott Schulz, Dr. Drew Smith, Dr. Kelton Stewart, Dr. Josephine Weeden.** Also present were: **Dr. Kaitrin Kramer (AAO Trustee-at-Large), Dr. Michael Sherman (GLAO Trustee to the AAO), Ms. Debbie Nunner (GLAO Executive Director).***

AAO Trustee Report

AAO's New Initiative: The Mental Wellness Task Force

We all face the challenge of overcoming setbacks. It seems to me that one's ability to bounce back from these setbacks can be an indication of one's resiliency. Mental health challenges can magnify the toll a setback takes on an individual's resiliency and their ability to bounce back. In my opinion, the balance of orthodontic practice and personal life often depends on how you prioritize self-care and well-being. AAO has a recently formed a Mental Wellness Task Force to investigate resources that we can make available to members so that, in the face of adversity, you and I can be better prepared to "pick ourselves up, dust ourselves off, and start all over again.

Soon, I look forward to reporting back to you about the resources that the AAO Mental Wellness Task Force has assembled to help you reduce the friction of everyday life.

[Click Here](#) to read more.



Dr. Michael W. Sherman
msherman@aaortho.org

ABO News and Information

The American Board of Orthodontics (ABO) is proud to announce that 63% of the American Association of Orthodontists (AAO) are now board certified! Board certification continues to set the standard of care for the specialty.

We are leading the way - together!



Dr. Anthony M. Puntillo
ABO Director
dr.p@pandcsmiles.com

Future Examination Dates Announced

- **Written Examination:** The 2025 Written Exam will be held on April 9, with online registration scheduled to open November 6, 2024. The exam will be administered at Pearson-Vue Centers in the United States and Canada. Applicants must have graduated or be currently enrolled in an advanced specialty education program in orthodontics and dentofacial orthopedics in the United States or Canada, accredited by CODA. Orthodontic residents must have completed 18 months of their program by the Written Examination date to be eligible to take the exam.
- **Scenario-based Clinical Examination:** The ABO February 2024 Scenario-based Clinical Examination was conducted February 22-23 at Pearson-Vue Testing Centers Worldwide. A total of 329 orthodontists were certified during the 1st and 2nd Quarters of 2024, including the February examination, which had an **89% pass rate**. In addition, 21 orthodontists completed their 10-year certification renewal requirements. Please visit the [ABO website](#) for a complete listing of names by constituency for this time period.

Certification Renewal Reminder

ABO certification renewal is an important component of the board certification process. Successful completion of the examination is required every 10 years to maintain an active board certification status. Board-certified orthodontists are notified 3 years prior to the expiration date printed on their certificate that they are eligible to take the Certification Renewal Examination. You have two options to renew, including an Online Board Case Exam or a Mail-In Case Report Exam, along with completing continuing education credits from four online AJODO examinations. Online materials are available to prepare for the Certification Renewal Examination and include a Study Guide with FAQs, and a video, summarizing the process.

[Click Here](#) to read more.

ABO Announces Newly Recertified Orthodontists

“On behalf of the American Board of Orthodontics, I congratulate the orthodontists who have recently completed the Board certification or certification renewal process,” said Dr. Timothy Trulove, ABO 2023-2024 president. “They are to be commended for their professional commitment by becoming Board certified, and it demonstrates their willingness to protect the public through the delivery of excellent orthodontic care.”

The following are the newly certified orthodontists in the GLAO:

Dr. Anna Maria Betlej
Dr. Jade Nicole Cook
Dr. Brett Crell
Dr. Christy Dunham
Dr. Lily Etemad
Dr. David B. Jarvie
Dr. Andrea Jennings
Dr. Yidi Liu
Dr. Arpen Mahal
Dr. Joffre J. Martin
Dr. Maria Ossa
Dr. Matthew Parrish

Dr. Sonni D. Pellillo
Dr. Stephanie Ann Quinn
Dr. Remington Branford Richardson
Dr. Sylvie Sarment
Dr. Jiabao Sun
Dr. Sydney Morgan Twiggs
Dr. Diana Villarreal
Dr. James Volovic
Dr. Paul A. Ward
Dr. Michael Weber
Dr. Annika Kristin Wessel
Dr. Grant A. Zakhar

The following are the newly certified International orthodontists in the GLAO.

Dr. Ahmed A. Elbira
Dr. Lyn George Hajjar

Dr. Jia-Hong Lin

The following are the recertified orthodontists in the GLAO.

Dr. Christopher L. Crane

Dr. Brendan O'Neill

AAO PAC

AAOPAC Celebrates 30 Years with Outstanding Success!

2024 marks the 30th anniversary of the AAOPAC. It seems appropriate that on such an occasion, the PAC would have a banner year.

After last year's record year in PAC contributions, your AAOPAC team set a higher and more ambitious goal for the fiscal year 2023-2024. Our goal this time was \$430,000.00.

At the end of the AAO Annual Session in New Orleans, your PAC contributions totaled \$456,216.89! This incredible increase in our advocacy power is a testimony to the hard work and skill of your advocacy team at AAO, and to our membership's growing awareness of the power of advocacy, and their willingness to participate in the effort.

Well done to all!

And well done to the GLAO Delegation, who once again had 100% participation in this year's PAC Challenge at the annual session. I hope this establishes a tradition that will continue. We can be proud of every one of our fine delegates, and proud to be in the GLAO.



Dr. Phillip Beckwith
GLAO Representative to
AAOPAC
pjbortho@aol.com

[Click Here](#) to read more

GLAO Component Updates

Below are links to the most current reports.

[Indiana](#)

Dr. Lana Helms..... lrhelms@sbcglobal.net

[Michigan](#)

Dr. Fatima Ahmed..... ahmedfa@umich.edu

[Ontario](#)

Dr. Girish Deshpande..... drgdeshpande@gmail.com

[Ohio - Ohio State Lobby Day](#)

Dr. Dale Anne Featheringham..... dfeatheringham@aaortho.org

[Pennsylvania](#)

Dr. Dana Craig..... dana.craig22@gmail.com

AAO Council Featured Reports

AAO Council on New and Younger Members

Greetings,

My name is Dr. Javen Durham, and I am excited to be joining the Council on New and Younger Members as the GLAO Representative. We have our first virtual meeting coming up in a few weeks, and our in-person meeting takes place in St. Louis in February. I will be sure to keep everyone abreast of any new developments.



Dr. Javen Durham
DRD@eaganortho.com

Our outgoing representative, Dr. Kaitrin Kramer, has the following information to share from the AAO Annual Session:

The New Orthodontist and Resident Conference Luncheon at Annual Session was a great success. The event was sold out! The keynote speakers included Drs. Neal Kravitz, Enrique Cruz, and Nathan Mick. We look forward to planning programming for next year. If there are any new ideas or feedback, please feel free to let us know.

Our AAO staff and CONYM have been working diligently to develop a New Ortho Engagement strategy with key goals. These include:

1. Build awareness and usage of AAO advocacy, education, and other relevant programs.

2. Develop AAO advocates among orthodontic educators.
3. Create a welcoming community where members feel engaged in the AAO and specialty.
4. Offer resources and programs that are based on members needs an easy to consume.

Before I close, I would also like to share information about myself. I am a third-generation Black orthodontist in Detroit, Michigan, which carries forward a rich legacy of dental excellence and community service. As a proud alumnus of the University of Florida, where I completed my undergraduate studies. I further honed my dental skillset by completing my orthodontic specialty at Howard University in 2022.

With my extra time I like to leverage my extensive education and heritage to mentor aspiring dental professionals and engage in local outreach programs aimed at promoting oral health awareness.

AAO Council on Governmental Advocacy

Orthodontists have health and safety concerns about direct-to consumer orthodontic treatment. Teledentistry laws govern the practice of dentistry not occurring in an office/clinic setting. Teledentistry laws and language vary greatly from state to state. COGA and the AAO Advocacy team are working hard to create model language to ensure that a patient must have, at minimum, an in-person exam before beginning orthodontic treatment. At our last in person meeting in February, COGA reviewed and gave input on proposed model teledentistry language. Model language for teledentistry allows the AAO Advocacy team to propose and help write teledentistry laws in the states. While Smile Direct is no longer in business, other players are trying to fill that void and we are vigilantly watching action in the states.



Dr. Valerie D. Martone
valeriemartone2@gmail.com

The Advocacy team has had some major successes over the last year. Model teledentistry language was passed in Nevada, passed the Senate and House in Florida (awaiting Gov. DeSantis's approval), passed the Senate and House in Georgia (vetoed by Gov. Kemp), passed the Senate and waiting in the House in Illinois. We are currently working on legislation in Pennsylvania.

There are many ways to get involved with advocacy. We need your help in each state to continue our grass roots efforts. Many roles need to be filled in the National Advocacy Network and there is a job for anyone interested. Please continue to support our advocacy efforts by contributing to the AAOPAC. By the way, the AAOPAC Lounge at the 2024 Annual Session was a lot of fun! We recognized our military members, watched the Kentucky Derby,

gave out free coffee, freshly baked cookies, snacks, provided charging stations and comfy chairs to give your feet a rest. The Professional Advocacy Conference will take place March 11-12, 2025.

Thank you for the honor of serving on COGA.

Below are links to the most current AAO Council Reports.

[Council on Communications \(COC\)](#)

[AAO CAP and Member Communications](#)

Dr. Jashleen Bedi.....jbedidmd@gmail.com

[Council on Governmental Advocacy \(COGA\)](#)

Dr. Valerie Martone..... valeriemartone2@gmail.com

[Council on Membership, Ethics, and Judicial Concerns \(COMEJC\)](#)

Dr. Stephen Belli..... docbelli214@gmail.com

[Council on New and Younger Members \(CONYM\)](#)

Dr. Kaitrin Kramer.....kaitrinkramer2@gmail.com

[Council on Orthodontic Education \(COE\)](#)

Dr. J. Martin Palomojmp5@case.edu

[Council on Orthodontic Benefits \(COB\)](#)

Dr. Tasha Hall..... tashahall828@gmail.com

[Council on Orthodontic Practice \(COOP\)](#)

Dr. Lana Helms.....lrhelms@sbcglobal.net

[Council on Scientific Affairs \(COSA\)](#)

Dr. Marilia Yatabe Ioshidamsyatabe@umich.edu

[Special Committee on Women Orthodontists \(SCWO\)](#)

GLAO MEMBERS:

Click [HERE](#) to learn more about the AAOPAC and consider making a contribution.

Click [HERE](#) to learn more about the AAO Foundation and consider making a donation.

GLAO Information

GLAO Strategic Plan Updated

The GLAO Board of Directors met recently to review and update the GLAO Strategic Plan.

Strategies and measures that were developed to address the following goals:

- **Effectively represent the GLAO membership**
- **Promote & defend the Specialty of Orthodontics**
- **Provide & promote educational opportunities for members**
- **Engage the GLAO membership**

The GLAO Board of Directors, and all the GLAO leaders, work diligently on behalf of the membership to advance the mission of the GLAO: **The Great Lakes Association of Orthodontists, a constituent of the American Association of Orthodontists, shall advocate on behalf of its members and promote the value and advancement of the Specialty of Orthodontics.** View the Strategic Plan [here](#).

| THE GREAT LAKES ASSOCIATION OF ORTHODONTISTS | |
|--|---|
| STRATEGIC PLAN 2024-2027 | |
| MISSION | The Great Lakes Association of Orthodontists, a constituent of the American Association of Orthodontists, shall advocate on behalf of its members and promote the value and advancement of the Specialty of Orthodontics. |
| VISION & VALUES | The Great Lakes Association of Orthodontists reflects the vision and core values of the American Association of Orthodontists. The GLAO encourages inclusion and equity in all aspects of our activities and is committed to nurturing a culture that supports and promotes diversity. |
| LEADERSHIP & REPRESENTATION Effectively represent the GLAO membership | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Actively recruit & select qualified & committed candidates for GLAO leadership positions, reflecting the diversity of the membership & representative of GLAO Components• Solicit input from the membership & provide feedback & information to it from the membership• Present & review resolutions at the AAO House of Delegates on behalf of members• Represent the membership through the AAO Councils & when appropriate, Committees & Task Forces• Ensure transparency, fiscal stability & optimal operational effectiveness. |
| ADVOCACY Promote & defend the Specialty of Orthodontics | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Educate members on the benefits of the AAO AAC and encourage contributions & support of the AAO AAC• Increase component awareness of AAO legislative efforts & encourage use of AAO resources• Promote participation in advocacy efforts & assist the AAO in their efforts• Support AAO's advocacy efforts directed toward the issue of student debt• Encourage & educate component, members & their teams, to utilize available CAP program materials & resources• Facilitate communication & strengthen the relationship with specialty orthodontic residency programs within the GLAO to engage residents in advocacy |
| EDUCATION & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT Provide & promote educational opportunities for members | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide an engaging & relevant educational opportunity at the GLAO Annual Session• Communicate learning opportunities & resources to the membership, their teams & residents• Encourage AAO certification• Support and promote AAO's educational initiatives• Consider hosting virtual educational opportunities and promote existing AAO and GLAO educational programs and resources. |
| MEMBER ENGAGEMENT Engage the GLAO membership | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Facilitate interactive & timely communication with the membership• Promote GLAO & AAO member services & benefits to current & future members• Acknowledge members through the presentation & nomination of awards• Engage the membership through member participation in the Annual Session & Annual Business Meeting & promote member interaction• Host informal virtual communication forums to allow dialogue & information sharing between leaders & members.• Foster relationships with residents & promote their participation in GLAO & AAO |

Ten Things To Make Your Orthodontic Practice More Sustainable Today

The GLAO hosted Dr. Laurie Houston in an exciting Coffee Chat entitled "Improving Sustainability in your Orthodontic Office." She discussed several strategies that orthodontists could employ to reduce the negative impact we are having on the environment. Here are 10 actionable initiatives that you can implement today to be more sustainable in your office.



1. Transportation
2. Reprocessing Instruments
3. Reusable Products
4. Launder Reusable PPE/Wraps on Site & Use Microfilter on the Washer
5. Retip Instruments
6. Choose Biodegradable Surface & Water Line Disinfectants and Evacuation System Cleaners
7. Ditch Plastic Barriers
8. Challenge Aligner Companies, Choose Compostable Aligner Material, and Recycle Brackets/Bands
9. Choose Sustainable Products
10. Use Recycling Programs

Ultimately, leadership is number one; read more [here](#)!

**Applications Available for the
GLAO and TP Orthodontics
2022 Lindsey O. Kesling Orthodontic
Resident Scholarship Award**

Scholarship application deadline is June 14th!

Applications for the 2024 Lindsey O. Kesling Orthodontic Resident Scholarship Award are now available. **The application deadline is June 14th** Recipients will be announced during the GLAO Annual Member Business Meeting at the GLAO Annual Session in St. Thomas, USVI, on Saturday, October 19, 2024.

The Lindsey O. Kesling Orthodontic Resident Scholarship Award was created to give back to the orthodontic community in a way that helps residents, by easing a small part of their financial burden. Lindsey Kesling just graduated from Indiana University and was beginning a promising career in the orthodontic industry when accidental exposure to carbon monoxide (CO) ended her life at the age of 22. Lindsey was passionate about orthodontics and the industry. Her great grandfather, Dr. Harold D. Kesling, founded TP Orthodontics, Inc. which is still owned by the family today.

TP Orthodontics, Inc. has partnered with the GLAO to offer the Lindsey O. Kesling Orthodontic Resident Scholarship Award annually, to residents from orthodontic programs in the GLAO region. Since the inception of the scholarship in 2017, over \$69,500 in scholarships has been awarded.

[LEARN MORE](#) about the scholarship eligibility requirements, application and submission process.

Thank you TP Orthodontics, Inc. for your ongoing support of the residents in the GLAO region!



TP Orthodontics, Inc.



Lindsey O. Kesling

ORTHODONTIC RESIDENT SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

AAO Information

Join the National Advocacy Network Today!

The legislative process, and those who serve in Congress, is constantly changing. Whether we seek to support legislation or regulation that will improve patient care or to prevent anything that could impede the ability to treat patients, it is important to be engaged in the process and proactive. With this comes an emergent need to ensure our interests are best represented at state and provincial legislatures and within state and provincial regulatory bodies. There has never been a better time to get involved at the ground level as an advocacy volunteer leader at the AAO – which is why we invite you to consider applying for the National Advocacy Network (NAN).

Within the NAN there are opportunities to lead the charge within your home

component and across the United States and Canada to inspire real, ground-breaking change – both within your own community and across state and provincial lines to the U.S. Congress and Canadian Parliament.

An inaugural opportunity exists in the form of the newly established and award-winning National Advocacy Network. Two distinct roles are available to U.S. and Canadian members, and we invite you now to join the outstanding roster of changemakers who have stepped up to lead the charge in not just raising AAOPAC contributions to aid our federal legislative and regulatory work – but to protect and defend the specialty at home.

There are two ways for you to become more involved:

- Component Advocacy Liaison (CAL): open to U.S. and Canadian membership
- AAOPAC Captain: open to US membership

If you'd like to learn more, text "NAN" to 52886, or email Kim VanVeen, AAO Specialist of Grassroots and Digital Advocacy (kvanveen@aaortho.org).

Together, we can – and will – lead the charge of protecting patient health.

Get Connected

- Join the **GLAO Facebook Page!**
[Click Here](#) and sign into Facebook and follow our page.



- **NEW! Join the GLAO on Instagram!**
[Click Here](#) and sign into Instagram and follow us.



- Make sure the AAO has your current **email address** on file. We use that email address to stay in touch with you via e-blast like this one.

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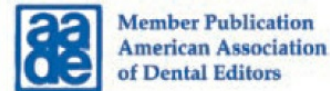
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