

November 2024



Dr. Scott Schulz
soschulz@sbcglobal.net

Greetings GLAO Family,

I am humbled and honored to have the opportunity to serve as the GLAO President for 2024-2025. I follow a long line of outstanding GLAO volunteer-leaders, from whom I have learned so much. I look forward to serving our organization and profession over the next year, and hosting our annual session in Grand Rapids, September 18-20, 2025.

I would like to thank our Past-President, Dr. Kelton Stewart, for his leadership and dedication to our organization. He worked tirelessly this last year through many impactful issues and finished the year with a stimulating and informative combined annual session in St. Thomas, VI. It was so great to relax and learn with many of you at this incredible event. During the Annual session, Dr. Stewart received the GLAO President's award and Dr. Dale Anne Featheringham received the 2024 GLAO Distinguished Service Award.

Stay informed. Look to your email for the GLAO E-News and for invitations to join our informative and informal GLAO Coffee Chats held on Saturday mornings four times a year. Our chats have been very informative and well-received by the membership. Our most recent GLAO Coffee Chat featured Dr. Jashleen Bedi, who provided updates about the 2024 National Orthodontic Health Month and AAO Bullying Bites Campaign.

Your GLAO board was busy this year updating our strategic plan working to ensure our mission and direction align with our members' needs and the AAO priorities. We have made it more practical and added measurable outcome assessments, so we can better serve our members. The GLAO's updated strategic plan can be viewed on our website.

A number of our GLAO leaders have been busy this year with some unexpected changes at the State Dental Board level. In some of our states, talks of removing language that defines a dental specialist threatens to allow virtually any dentist to advertise as a specialist. These challenges are being addressed by our AAO legal team and GLAO leadership. Get involved! Stay current with your state AAO leadership, and speak up to have your voice heard by the state dental boards.

I look forward to serving you and our profession this year. Please reach out to me or any of your GLAO leaders with suggestions of how we can better support you, your practice, and your AAO.

I wish you all a meaningful and wonderful holiday season.

Warmest Regards,
Scott O. Schulz, DDS, MS
GLAO President

Mark Your Calendars and Plan to Attend!



Member News

**Thank you to all who attended and supported
the 2024 GLAO/MASO
Annual Session in St. Thomas!**



The Annual Session provided great opportunities for sunshine, relaxation, networking and education for doctors, residents and staff! The theme **Reflect * Refresh * Renew** was evident throughout the annual session. Residents from Indiana University and University of Maryland facilitated the **Residents Forum**, providing an opportunity for engagement and discussion among our future leaders in the profession. The **GLAO/TP Orthodontics Resident Scholarships** were awarded during the GLAO Annual Member Business Meeting, where GLAO leaders were recognized for their commitment to the profession. Educators from the GLAO/MASO regions met at the annual **Educators Meet Up**. The annual session again featured the **Giving Smiles Project**, which provided attendees the opportunity to give back to the local community (see more in the article below).

A special thank you to all the companies who exhibited, providing the latest in orthodontic products and services, and thank you to our partners for their generosity and support. We look forward to seeing the GLAO members next year in Grand Rapids, Michigan!

[Click Here](#) to view photos from the 2024 Annual Session.

GLAO Giving Smiles Project

During the 2024 GLAO/MASO Annual Session, meeting attendees had an opportunity to participate in our **“Giving Smiles Project.”** GLAO and MASO collaborated to support a local charity to make a positive impact in the community where we held our meeting. This year, we chose to support the **Virgin Islands Conservation Society** to bring smiles to the local community. This organization and their **Refill Bottles, Not Dumpsters Project** aligns with the concerns of our GLAO and MASO members and efforts toward environmental sustainability and reducing plastics.



At the Annual Session, attendees had an opportunity to donate to this worthwhile cause and make a positive impact. For every \$10 contribution, a reusable water bottle can be provided for a student in the Virgin Islands.

For a total contribution of \$3,000, a water filling station can be installed in a school.

We are thrilled to report, total donations were \$3,384.04! This means we were able to provide funds to install a water filling station in a local school AND provide 38 reusable water bottles to the students!

Thank you to the following donors who made this possible!

Kelton Stewart
Diane Johnson
Anthony Puntillo
Valerie Martone
Marian Wolford
Dale Anne Featheringham
Scott Schulz
Girish Deshpande
Debbie Nunner

Michael Kessler
Leeann McCullough
Seth Margulies
Gordon Groisser
Amrita Bhan
Shellie Pennington

Congratulations to the Newly Elected Officers for 2025!



(Left to Right) Dr. Michael Sherman, Trustee; Dr. Marian Wolford, Secretary/Treasurer; Dr. Scott O. Schulz, President; Dr. Mariela Anderson, President-Elect; Dr. Fatima Ahmed, Vice President

2024 GLAO Awards Recipients!



Dr. Kelton Stewart received the GLAO President's Award



*Dr. Dale Anne Featheringham received the
2024 GLAO Distinguished Service Award*

The Lindsey O. Kesling Orthodontic Resident Scholarship 2024 Award Recipients Announced

TP Orthodontics, Inc. in partnership with the GLAO, offers scholarships to residents attending orthodontic programs in the GLAO region. The *Lindsey O. Kesling Orthodontic Resident Scholarship Award* was created by TP

Orthodontics, Inc. to give back to the orthodontic community in a way that helps residents, by easing a small part of their financial burden. Applicants submitted an essay on humanitarian / volunteer efforts made by the resident during their years of attendance at their orthodontic residency program. Since 2017, a total of \$79,500 has been awarded in scholarships and \$20,000 in TP Orthodontics product vouchers distributed. Thirty-one residents have received scholarships, to date.

We are pleased to announce the following recipients of the 2024 Lindsey O. Kesling Orthodontic Resident Scholarships:

Dr. Jennifer Nguyen - University of Western Ontario

Dr. Deborah Simmers - Indiana University

Dr. Allen Sara – Seton Hill University

Thank you to TP Orthodontics, Inc. and congratulations to these residents who are making a difference in their communities! Scholarship applications and additional information can be found at www.glao.org.



TP Orthodontics, Inc.



Lindsey O. Kesling

ORTHODONTIC RESIDENT SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEWLY RETIRED MEMBERS!

Dr. Lisa Davis - *Aiken, SC*
Dr. Diane Johnson - *Mooresville, IN*
Dr. Michael Lanzetta - *Clarkston, MI*
Dr. William Quest - *Mooresville, IN*
Dr. Dennis Ward - *Avon Lake, OH*

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

Dr. Jerrold J. Behringer - *Charlotte, NC*
Dr. Raymond W. Najem - *Canfield, OH*

I would like to share with the GLAO membership some of the initiatives that have come out of the recent meeting of the AAO Board of Trustees (BOT).

The BOT approved the creation of a Task Force to review and update the 2019 White Paper on Obstructive Sleep Apnea. We expect that this Task Force will be reporting back to the BOT around the time of AAO Annual Session in Philadelphia



Dr. Michael W. Sherman
msherman@aaortho.org

The BOT approved the replacement of the existing New Orthodontist & Resident Conference with two distinct seminars:

1. one to provide learning content for Orthodontic Residents and;
2. one to provide professional development content for New Orthodontists (0-10 years in practice.)

The AAO Council on New and Younger Members be charged with developing this content and coordinating speaker selection with the Committee on Conferences and Meetings. These distinct seminars will be offered at Annual Session beginning in 2026.

The BOT approved the creation of the Inclusion and Engagement Award with the criteria as follows: The Inclusion and Engagement Award is open to any AAO member in good standing. Nominations for the award shall come from a constituent, component, WFO-affiliated organization, or an AAO member in good standing. This award is not necessarily given each year. In the years where a recipient has been selected, the award will be presented at the annual SCIE event that takes place during the AAO Annual Session.

[Click Here](#) to read more.

ABO News and Information

ABO News

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.

Written Examination Certification Coordinator | Nicole Huson
Nicole@AmericanBoardOrtho.com

Scenario-based Clinical Examination: The next Clinical Examination will be administered September 17, 2025 (The examination will be held at Pearson-Vue Centers Worldwide. Beginning in 2025, the ABO will transition to one fall Scenario-based Clinical Examination per year.

Clinical Examination Coordinator | Kim Koch
Kim@AmericanBoardOrtho.com

[Click Here](#) to read more.

AAOF



aaofoundation.net

AAO FOUNDATION

November 2024



FOUNDATION OFFERS DISASTER RELIEF

The AAO Foundation is already receiving applications for assistance due to devastation from Hurricanes Helene and Milton in the Southeast. If you'd like to contribute to this fund, please scan the code or visit our website to make a donation today.



aaofoundation.net

GIFTED SMILES CONTINUES GROWTH

With applications being received daily, the Gifted Smiles Program is looking to grow the volunteer base of AAO Members. Please consider accepting a Gifted Smiles patient from your own community. Volunteer today: aaofoundation.net/volunteer

[Read More](#)



Dr. J. Martin Palomo
GLAO Representative to AAOF
jmp5@case.edu

[Click Here](#) to read the AAOF Fall November 2024 Update.

AAO PAC

As of October, GLAO contributions to the PAC are \$16,564.58. The GLAO goal for fiscal year 24-25 is \$47,200.00.

This might be a good time to once again ask the eternal question.

Why contribute to the PAC?

Let's review.

From Forbes, regarding bankruptcy of Smile Direct Club:

With its stock price tumbling, SmileDirectClub was pressured to spend on acquiring customers to demonstrate its business could grow, said Eric Snyder, chairman of bankruptcy at the Wilk Auslander law firm.



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

“And then you combine that with the legal battles they had (and pushback) from orthodontics industry...all those things together just made it really hard for them to stay competitive,” he added. “They’ve been losing just tremendous amounts of money over the last couple of years.”

From Reuters regarding suspension of shipping of Byte aligners;

“Dentsply Sirona said it had suspended shipment and processing of new and recently placed orders for Byte Aligners and Impression Kits

Dentsply Sirona said its decision was made in consultation with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and it would work closely with the federal agency and other regulatory authorities. The company said that certain state regulatory requirements have hurt its teeth aligner business model.”

A few things we managed to avoid in the past(as compiled by former PAC chair Dr. Bill Crutchfield)

Ergonomic Laws: These laws would affect how we practice. Imagine having to provide additional breaks and ergonomically correct chairs and desks.

HIPAA Laws: HIPAA laws in the Affordable Care Act would have required health services to be provided in a private setting. The majority of orthodontists practice in an open bay concept. We would have had to provide an individual room for each patient. This would have been a costly retrofit.

1099 Rule: Initially part of the Affordable Care Act, it would require a business to provide a 1099 form to any business to which we paid \$600 or more. Think of all of your suppliers. Then imagine having to send a 1099 form to each one every year.

FSA Elimination: The initial Affordable Care Act eliminated the Flexible Spending Account. Nationally, almost 2/3 of orthodontic care expenses are supplemented by FSAs. Once averaging around \$5000 per family, it

dropped to zero. We have gotten it back to \$2500, and it is now at \$2600 (indexed for inflation).

Medical Device Tax: Included in the Affordable Care Act, this 2.3% excise tax imposed upon the manufacturers of medical devices includes just about everything an orthodontist uses. This tax, directly or indirectly, is passed on to the consumers.

AAOPAC dollars have played a role in all the above.

Why contribute to the PAC?

That is why.

GLAO Component Updates

Below are links to the most current reports.

Indiana

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

Michigan

Dr. Brandon Shoukri..... bshoukri@umich.edu

Ontario

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

Ohio

Dr. Dale Anne Featheringham..... dafortho@yahoo.com

Pennsylvania

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

AAO Council Featured Reports

AAO Council on Communications Update

CONSUMER AWARENESS PROGRAM (CAP) – FISCAL YEAR 2025

The CAP is the only mass advertising campaign promoting orthodontists as specialists and educating the public to see an orthodontist in person. The CAP program currently focuses on digital marketing, with the goal of driving quality traffic to the consumer website.



FY24 Performance June 1, 2024 – October 31, 2024:

Dr. Jashleen Bedi
ljbedidmd@gmail.com

- **185M impressions served** – This means that CAP ads appear across platforms like Google display, Paid Search on Google and Bing, YouTube online video, Facebook, and Instagram.
- **Over 8.2M video views**
- **6.5M ad clicks**
- **Over 5.6M consumer website page views**
- **Over 2.15M Find an Orthodontist locator visits**

[Click Here](#) to read more.

AAO Council on Education Update

The Council on Education (COE) met in-person at the AAO Headquarters in Saint Louis on September 9th, 2024. Some of the highlights are described below.



Dr. J. Martin Palomo
jmp5@case.edu

Updates from the American Board of Orthodontics

- Dr. Kadioglu reported that 63% of AAO Orthodontists are now board certified. A link for the [ABO portal](#).
- The 2024 Written Exam was administered in April, with 443 examinees and a 99% pass rate.
- The next written exam is scheduled for April 9, 2025. Open registration starts on November 6, 2024.
- Residents must have completed 18-months of their program by the Written Exam to be eligible to take the exam. For questions, please reach out to Nicole Huson Nicole@AmericanBoardOrtho.com
- The Feb. 2024 Scenario-based Exam had a total of 329 orthodontists certified with an 89% pass rate.
- In 2025, there will be one Scenario-based Exam per year on September 17, 2025. Registration opens September 18, 2024. For scenario test questions, programs should reach out to Kim Koch, Kim@AmericanBoardOrtho.com
- Certification Renewal is required to maintain active board certification and may be started no earlier than 36 months prior to expiration.
- Interested in being an Examiner: to be an Examiner, the minimum is five years after board certification. It is at least a 16+ hour commitment.

[Click Here](#) to read more.

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. Riyadh Al-Qawasmi..... alqawara@udmercy.edu

Council on New and Younger Members (CONYM)

Dr. Javen Durham.....DRD@eaganortho.com

Council on Orthodontic Education (COE)

Dr. J. Martin Palomo.....jmp5@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

Get Involved in the GLAO

Consider Serving the GLAO in a Leadership Capacity:

GLAO Delegates to the AAO:

The AAO House of Delegates is the ultimate governing body of the AAO and meets every year at the AAO annual session. Members of the Great Lakes Association of Orthodontists serve as our representatives to the AAO House of Delegates. Delegates and Alternate Delegates are elected annually by the GLAO membership. Those elected will serve a two-year term.[Click here](#) to view the position description.

If you are interested in serving the GLAO as a Delegate at the 2026 and 2027 AAO House of Delegates, please submit a letter of interest to the GLAO office at GLAO@AssnOffices.com by March 1, 2025. If you have any questions about this position, please contact the GLAO office (877-274-6420; GLAO@AssnOffices.com). Thank you for your consideration!

Share your knowledge and expertise:

Submit an article for consideration in the GLAO e-news, a quarterly e-news bulletin to GLAO@AssnOffices.com. GLAO Coffee Chats provide informal opportunities to engage with other members! If you have a topic in mind or would like to facilitate a discussion, contact GLAO@AssnOffices.com!

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.

GLAO E-News:

EDITOR

Dr. Tasha E. Hall

Indianapolis, IN
317-773-5515

tashahall828@gmail.com

GLAO Officers:

PRESIDENT

Dr. Scott O. Schulz

Traverse City, MI
231-929-3200

soschulz@sbcglobal.net

PRESIDENT - ELECT

Dr. Mariela Anderson

Stratford, ON
519-273-4466

manders1@uwo.ca

VICE PRESIDENT

Dr. Fatima Ahmed

Superior Township, MI
734-971-3368

ahmedfa@umich.edu

SECRETARY/TREASURER

Dr. Marian Wolford

Erie, PA
814-835-3888

drmarianwolford@yahoo.com

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Dr. Kelton Stewart

Indianapolis, IN
317-278-1087

jkeltstew@iu.edu

GLAO Staff:

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Debbie Nunner, CAE

Worthington, OH
877-274-6420

Debbie@AssnOffices.com

ASSOCIATION SERVICES COORDINATOR

Karla Dunbar

Worthington, OH
877-274-6420

Karla@assnoffices.com



The Great Lakes Association of Orthodontists
400 W. Wilson Bridge Road, Suite 120
Worthington, Ohio 43085
(877) 274-6420 (ph), (614) 221-1989 (fax)
| glao@assnoffices.com | www.glao.org/ |

Great Lakes Association of Orthodontists | 400 W. Wilson Bridge Road Suite 120 |
Worthington, OH 43085 US

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