

Begin with the end in mind....

Recently the GLAO Board of Directors, Council Reps and the Component Directors met in Ann Arbor for our Ad Interim Meeting. Yes, we had a good time touring the Michigan Stadium and enjoying Zingerman's sandwiches, but we also spent a good deal of time thinking about and planning the future of our organization. The board arrived a day early to review and revise the organizations strategic plan. It was a very productive meeting. Let's begin with the end in mind. In the end, our goal is to follow our mission statement: *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.*

We plan to support our mission statement by following the four goals of our strategic plan:

- I. LEADERSHIP & REPRESENTATION - Effectively represent the GLAO membership
- II. ADVOCACY - Promote the Specialty of Orthodontics
- III. EDUCATION & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT – Provide and promote educational opportunities for members
- IV. MEMBER ENGAGEMENT – Encourage participation of the GLAO membership

We have attached a link [here](#) for you to see the way we plan to achieve our four goals.

A big event on the horizon that we hope all members will be involved with is the upcoming Trustee election. Chris Roberts has been our Trustee for the past eight years. He has done a great job and we will be sad to see him go but happy that he will be moving into a higher role in the AAO. We are so fortunate this year to have four members running for the GLAO Trustee position. What you may not realize is that the Trustee we elect will ultimately end up as the AAO President. The Trustee position is quite a commitment to our professional organization.

We will utilize the preferential voting method and will again have an electronic ballot. Please be on the lookout for information regarding the ballot. This is your chance to give input on our leadership. Your vote counts! The GLAO is the only constituency that provides for a system in which every active member can vote on officers, Trustee and Delegates. Don't waste this unique opportunity. Information will come to you through both conventional mail and e-mail.

I am very excited about our Joint Annual Session with MASO in Toronto at the Fairmont Royal York Hotel. Registration for the meeting should be open in May. Due to the fact that the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF) will also be happening at the same time, it will be very important to reserve your hotel room early and to make travel arrangements. The [GLAO website](#) is a great resource for the Annual Session. I encourage you to make your hotel reservations at the host hotel, the **Fairmont Royal York** as soon as possible. To receive the discounted group rate, make your reservation through the GLAO/MASO room block online through our [personalized group reservation site](#) or by calling 1-888-495-2126 or 1-866-540-4489 (reference the **GLAO/MASO block**).

As a reminder, the US Department of State and Homeland Security's announcement of the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative states that all US citizens, Canadians, citizens of the British Overseas Territory of Bermuda and citizens of Mexico must obtain a passport or another accepted secure document to enter or re-enter the United States. [Click Here](#) for more information. For international

visitors, please visit [Citizenship & Immigration of Canada \(CIC\) website](#). Start planning now. I look forward to seeing everyone in Toronto.

In the end, our common goal is to support each other and our association. Begin with that end in mind. Happy spring.

*Josephine Weeden, DDS, MS*

GLAO President