



**Special Committee on Women Orthodontists (SCWO)**  
**Valerie Martone DMD, MSD**

**August 15, 2023**

One of our charges is to recognize the unique needs and issues that face Women Orthodontists and make recommendations to improve the value of membership in the AAO for all members. One of our challenges is to better inform members about our efforts. This is important because women AAO members are not renewing membership at the same rates as their male counterparts. This is important because the number of female and diverse orthodontic graduates is rising each year. You will begin to see more interactions with between this committee and Councils and Committees, more information at meetings and on social media.

Another charge is to identify obstacles for involvement in leadership and make recommendation to our current leaders. Encourage changes in governance, communication and recruitment that will help shape the future of AAO leadership to reflect the diversity of its membership. This year we held a Women's Leadership Challenge to help women become better leaders in their practice and in this organization. We found several obstacles in participating in the program and are in the process of revising the leadership program for the next year. Please encourage your female friends to take part in this program.

The last charge of this committee is to work to support and inspire Women Orthodontists by helping to develop tools and pathways to leadership so that women are contributing a AAO Trustees, Delegates and Council members. This should be a goal for all AAO members.

Respectfully submitted,

Valerie Martone DMD, MSD  
GLAO Representative to the Special Committee on Women Orthodontists