

May 15, 2020

2020 GLAO Delegate Chair's Report

If the coronavirus has done one thing, it's taught us flexibility...

In typical coronavirus fashion...we got to experience yet another "new way of doing things" for our House of Delegates meeting this year. After the difficult decision was made to cancel the AAO Annual Session, it was decided to hold a **Virtual House of Delegates**. The AAO Speaker, Dr. Jeff Rickabaugh, tasked the delegate chairs of each of the 8 constituencies of the AAO to work with our delegations to come up with an acceptable slate of resolutions for this Virtual House. On May 1st, the AAO conducted its first ever Virtual House of Delegates! Thanks to a lot of prep work beforehand, and the flexibility of our delegates, the Virtual House was a success.

Serving for the GLAO as delegates and alternate delegates this year were: **Jocie Weeden, Walt Schratz, Paul Reed, Valerie Martone, Tony Puntillo, Richard Kulbersh, Drew Smith, Richard Marcus, John Monticello, and Martin Palomo, and myself, serving as chair.**

Tony Puntillo served as Chair of the Virtual Reference Committee. Thank you to Tony for completing this somewhat high-pressure task!. His efforts made the Virtual HOD run more smoothly.

Thank you also to our delegates, and our AAO Trustee, **Michael Sherman**, who spent countless additional hours before the Virtual House of Delegates reviewing resolutions, weighing in on the proposed agenda for the HOD, and learning new technology to be able to raise a virtual hand in the meeting for commentary, and for voting.

Thanks also to our administrative team of **Debbie Nunner and Karla Dunbar** who kept things organized with virtual meeting reminders, setting up Zoom calls, and providing online polling mechanisms.

Finally, I had the opportunity of serving as Chair of the Delegate Chairs (this is a rotating position, and it just happened to fall to GLAO on this unusual year!). I was grateful to the other 7 delegate chairs, and the spirit of collaboration amongst the AAO delegates. This was truly a group effort!

A proud moment occurred for the GLAO during the Virtual HOD, as one of our own, Dr. Chris Roberts, was sworn in as President of the AAO! Congratulations to Chris!!!

The complete summary of the resolutions considered, and their outcome, is available on the AAO website under "Governance", in a document entitled "**2020 Actions Taken Chart**". I've also included a highlight of some of the more noteworthy resolutions:

- **Dues-** Dues were held at the same rate as last year, \$793.00
- **Consumer Awareness Program Assessment-** The assessment amount for last year was \$600. It was originally slated to go up to \$800 for this year, but a resolution was passed that lowered the assessment to \$300 for this year, and sets it at \$600 per year for the next two years, in an effort to help our members. The additional funding to make up this deficit will come out of our excess liquid reserves, so the CAP program can continue to operate at full steam.
- **At-Large Trustee-** A resolution was passed that allows the Board of Trustees to add up to three at-large trustees, selected based on diversity or expertise, with the goals of having our Board more accurately reflect our membership, and to fill in gaps in expertise as needed.
- **Council on New and Younger Members Voting Rights-** CONYM members have been serving as liaisons to AAO Councils and Committees, but have not previously had the right to vote. This resolution provides a vote for a CONYM member who serves on a council or committee.

Please note that the agenda considered for the Virtual House of Delegates was a pared down list of the resolutions that were submitted. All resolutions that the delegations decided not to consider in the limited format of this year have been saved, and will be on the agenda for next year.

I am appreciative of the group effort discussed above, and of the dedication and commitment of our delegates who served the GLAO well, amidst wearing many hats and trying to figure out important decisions for their practices and families.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions about any of the resolutions.

Stay healthy and well,

Dale Anne Featheringham
GLAO Delegation Chair