

Crossroads

This past year has been one of change at the AAO. We have a new CEO in our headquarters in St. Louis, Ms. Lynne Thomas Gordon. Lynne has brought not only new leadership, but new ideas. While we have very strong membership numbers, we must continue to provide value to keep our members. The AAO is heavily reliant on dues revenue. The AAO Board of Trustees is exploring ways to generate non-dues revenue in order to provide the programs and services needed to help our members become successful, without increasing dues.

The AAO has been very successful lobbying at the state level on issues of specialty recognition, specialty advertising and teledentistry. On the federal level, the AAO originated RAISE Act, which broadens the funding options of Flexible Spending Accounts. Last year it was introduced and passed in the US House of Representatives but did not make it into the Senate schedule before congress adjourned and the 116th congress was sworn in in January. As such, the RAISE Act will need to be reintroduced into the US House. With the current gridlock in Washington DC, the AAO is evaluating where our energy and funds are best utilized on the state and federal level.

While AAO leadership continues to look to the future, so is the GLAO leadership. Under the leadership of President John Monticello and Past President Jocie Weeden, committees have been established to answer key questions about the future of our constituent association. Are our geographic boundaries still relevant in the digital age? What value are we providing our members? How can we hold an annual meeting that our members will want to attend and bring their staff? All difficult questions which we must periodically ask. Several other constituents are asking similar questions as their futures seem uncertain.

Finally, your representation on the AAO Board of Trustees is also at a crossroad. My 8-year term as your trustee is coming to an end. The next time the GLAO eBulletin is published, Dr. Michael Sherman from Thornhill, Ontario will have taken my place as I move on to be AAO President-elect. Michael has a long history of leadership at both the GLAO and AAO levels. He will serve you very well. It has been an honor to represent the GLAO on the AAO Board. I sincerely thank you for the opportunity. Please feel free to contact me with your questions or comments while I continue to serve AAO members and ultimately the patients we are privileged to treat.

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