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Looking for 2020 Clear Vision!

The United States government has been opened and closed so often that we are never certain if anyone is ever working in Washington DC. One person's opinion of whether that is good or bad depends on what news network you watch or listen to! Fortunately, our GLAO government is always open for business and working harder than ever to make a difference. We continue to get energized, motivated and dedicated volunteer members coming forward to work with our GLAO Association Management partners to help us lead and support our specialty of orthodontics.

Last year, the GLAO Board updated and approved our Strategic Plan. The Plan was modified to reflect the changes that the AAO had made and individualized it to reflect the needs of the Great Lakes members. Our main thrust is to make the GLAO relevant to the members in Ontario, Western Pennsylvania, Indiana, Ohio and Michigan.

So what is a Strategic Plan?

The Strategic Plan is a living document, created to provide us guidance and vision into who we are and where we should be going for the next three years. It focuses our sight on what is important and where our energies should be directed. If you have not seen it, it is available on the GLAO web site for members to review. <https://www.glao.org/common/pages/UserFile.aspx?fileId=944638> The GLAO Strategic Plan has four main Goals and Objectives:

- Effectively Represent the GLAO Membership
- Promote the Specialty of Orthodontics
- Provide and Promote Educational Opportunities for Members
- Engage the GLAO Membership

This must be periodically reviewed and updated to reflect changes in our specialty, membership, mode of practice and the needs of our members. There are currently many changes happening to our specialty: technology; scope of practice; clinical guidelines; State, Province and Federal regulations; internet speeds, security and reliance; social media importance; tele-dentistry and DIY practices, and relationships with general and pediatric dentists. All of these concerns can influence the quality outcomes we demand of ourselves yet are often beyond our individual control.

The GLAO is the voice of the orthodontists in the Great Lakes region and must represent the unique interests of our members. We are all orthodontists and generally have the same ideals, but we can have some different needs, concerns and expectations from those of some of our colleagues on the east coast, west coast, mid-west and south. The AAO has 8 regional Constituencies each representing a different part of the United States and Canada. The GLAO's job is to represent our concerns at the AAO level to assure we have a voice in national decisions reflecting our values.

The specialty of orthodontics is evolving; another GLAO responsibility is to Promote the Specialty of Orthodontics. Specialist expertise is critical in the decision making and monitoring of treatment

progress. The collection of “Big Data” by some has created a means whereby artificial intelligence is being utilized to create patient treatment plans based solely on bite registrations and clinical presentation without regard to radiologic, soft tissue and functional relationships or any underlying pathology. 100 years of orthodontic and dental research is being dismissed with video and DIY orthodontics resulting in compromises to oral health and stability. The GLAO is able to utilize the resources of the AAO and its legal team to advocate for oral health and patient safety.

Orthodontic Education is readily available through many opportunities. In 2017 the GLAO created a Task Force to explore what modifications could be made to our Annual Session Continuing Education to make it more relevant for our members. We do not want our Annual Session to be an AAO light, but rather, a unique learning experience that is more user-friendly. We will be within easy driving distance for our members 75% of the time while still having an occasional meeting with another Constituency in more resort locations for family enjoyment and colleague interaction. We hope to provide more hands-on, clinical team training and explore child care opportunities for newer members with young children.

Please save the dates for this year’s Annual Session, **“Sun, Sand and Smiles”** on September 12-15th. We will be at the Marriott Harbor Beach Resort in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. We have negotiated nearly half price on hotel rooms (\$150/night), child-care on-site and round-trip airline tickets are less than \$250 from most regional airports. We will be partnering with orthodontists from the Middle Atlantic Society of Orthodontists (MASO) and have arranged half-day seminars for doctors and staff, golf opportunities and a Saturday night beach BBQ party. Educational topics with great speakers to include: “Clear, Mostly Sunny with a Chance of Showers - Orthodontics in the 21th Century”- Dr. Mark Hans, “Managing Obstructive Sleep Apnea in a Busy Orthodontic Office” - Dr. Martin Palomo, “What Every Orthodontic Assistant Should Know” –Dr. Doug DePew (Trapezio), “Esthetic Guide for Canine Substitution” - Dr. Neal Kravitz, “Bringing Your Office Into the Digital Age” -Dr. Christian Groth, “Personal Cybersecurity: How to Better Protect Yourself Online” –Mr. Steve McEvoy and “The Business Side of Dentistry: Are You Maximizing Your Wealth?” –Mr. Craig Feinberg.

Our fourth Strategic Plan Goal is to “Engage the GLAO Membership”. By definition this may be hard to describe, but in concept, it is to assure that we are a relevant organization responsive to our member’s needs, representing their interests at all levels and making membership something to desire verses simply another organization for our credential file. The GLAO leadership, in concert with the AAO, is working to address some of these developing pressures. Task Forces have been established to review weaknesses in our processes and to present means to improve them. Leadership will review the findings and move forward with opportunities for improvements for our members.

We are the GLAO and we are 1015 members strong. We are dedicated to addressing the desires of our members and to return us to the days when we had professional comradery with 500 to 700 of our fellow members, meeting once a year to learn something new, renew old friendships and establish new friends with orthodontists in our region. **Let’s get involved, bring your family and team to Fort Lauderdale in 2019 for clear vision in 2020.**

Respectfully,

Dr. John Monticello

GLAO President