

November 8, 2020

As I write this message today, our country has just completed a historic national election in the midst of a global pandemic. Regardless of which candidate(s) you supported, it should be encouraging to all to see that a record number of Americans exercised their right to vote. During elections there is always pressure and influence to pick a side. Candidates, political parties, and partisan entities spend a tremendous amount of energy and resources demonizing their opponents and emphasizing our differences. The results of this election certainly demonstrate that those efforts have been extremely effective in creating a deep national division. The theme for our GLAO annual session meeting next fall and really for the entire next year is "Back on Track Together." The pandemic has created significant disruption in all of our lives. All of our routines and rituals from school schedules to our family holiday celebrations have changed and most of us just want things to get back on track. If we are to effectively meet the challenges that are before us, we must do so TOGETHER. America and our democracy have not been successful because we all think and act alike, but rather because we have been able to recognize and respect the value and strength of the diversity in our opinions. In my youth, I had an opportunity to compete in many team athletic competitions. My teammates did not all look or think alike, but we each brought unique talents to the team and were bond by a common goal of winning the next contest. Sometimes we were successful and sometimes we were not. Whether we won or lost, however, there was always another game to prepare for and rarely much time to spend celebrating the victory or lamenting the defeat. If our country and our profession are to get back on track there is much work to be done and more contests that lie ahead of us. My hope and belief is that we as a nation can unite TOGETHER around common goals. As leaders in our practices and our communities, our profession must recognize that we can and should play a meaningful role in helping to heal our nation's divisions. It is my honor and privilege this year to serve and represent you, the orthodontists in the Great Lakes region. Know that whatever challenges you may be facing in your practices the GLAO leadership team is here as an important part of your team. If we can be of any assistance do not hesitate to contact me. I wish you and your families safety and good health during this holiday season and look forward to us being together next fall in Indianapolis.

Respectfully,  
Anthony Puntillo (dr.p@pandcsmiles.com)  
GLAO President