

February 10, 2021

Our members come first: It really is all about you.

COVID-19 has been catastrophic for many of us. The stresses that we (ourselves and our employees) have endured may have taken their toll on our physical and/or emotional well-being. The AAO is working toward being at the front and center for mental health support for staff and the orthodontists by researching and hopefully recruiting an endorsed provider of support in this area. Also, we will continue to deliver messages about COVID considering the differences between the state and local concerns, as well as global concerns.

At the GLAO, due to the hard work of Dr. Valerie Martone, we are all more sensitive to under representation of the diversity of our membership in leadership roles such as AAO councils, AAO committees, AAO task forces and on the AAO BOT. An **Inclusion & Engagement Task Force** has been appointed by the AAO President with the following charges:

- 1) Work to support and inspire diverse groups within the AAO by helping to develop tools and pathways to leadership so that many groups are contributing as AAO Trustees, Delegates and Council Members.
- 2) Identify obstacles for involvement in the AAO and make recommendations to encourage changes in governance, communication and recruitment that will help the unique needs and issues that diverse orthodontists face and decrease the obstacles for AAO membership among all members, but especially diverse members.
- 3) Identify the unique needs and issues that face diverse orthodontists and implement plans to address these needs and issues thereby increasing the value of membership for all AAO members,

For those of you that are not involved with the moving parts of the AAO. The AAO has many councils, committees and task forces that are composed of volunteer leaders, most of whom are active members of the AAO. Many of these groups have a liaison to the Board of Trustees (BOT), a trustee that serves as a resource to the council/committee and as a conduit between the group and the BOT. For many years, the Trustee assignments have changed automatically on an annual basis. With the addition of our At-Large Trustees, we are changing liaison assignments from an automatic progression model to an expertise and interest-based model.

OSOs/DSOs are becoming a large source of opportunities and employment for many of our members. A **Task Force** has been formed and its purpose is to inform the AAO of matters important to OSO/DSO ownership and help shape solutions the AAO can provide to address them.

The 2021 Annual Session has been postponed and re-booked to occur over the dates of June 25-27, 2021 in Boston, MA and this meeting will offer a fully virtual companion event. Get your vaccine ASAP so that you will be available to attend this outstanding event.



I encourage everyone to stay safe and stay healthy. I look forward to seeing you in Boston.

If you have any questions regarding the AAO and what we can do for you, please feel free to reach out to me.

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