

Special Committee on Women Orthodontists (SCWO) August 15, 2022

The SCWO held its WONS Program at the AAO Annual Session and it was very well received. Approximately two hundred women attended the program and enjoyed mimosas and a preview of the Women's Leadership Program to be presented by Tonya Monsef and Phyllis Brock in January. The women gathered to meet and connect with one another and learned of the need to celebrate ourselves and take credit for our accomplishments. The program was electric and eye opening. I cannot wait for the January program.

The Women's Leadership Program will begin in January 2023 with a pilot program of 80 women. It is designed to give women the tools, skills and confidence needed for leadership. The AAO has been very supportive of this program and we hope to develop women leaders and to provide a data base of women who are interested in leadership at a component, constituent or AAO level. Please keep an eye out for future details.

The committee is continuing its work on encouraging changes in governance to encourage more women in leadership roles to reflect the diversity of its membership, to develop tools and pathways to leadership so that women are contributing as council members, AAO Delegates and AAO Trustees and to identify the unique needs of women orthodontists and to improve the value of AAO membership for them.

Sincerely,

Valerie Martone