



February 2025



Dr. Scott Schulz  
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Greetings GLAO family,

I am humbled and honored to have the opportunity to serve as the GLAO President for 2024-2025. I follow a long line of outstanding GLAO volunteer-leaders, from whom I have learned so much. I look forward to serving our organization and profession over the next year, and hosting our annual session in Grand Rapids, September 18-20, 2025. I would like to thank our Past-President, Dr. Kelton Stewart, for his leadership and dedication to our organization.

He worked tirelessly this last year through many impactful issues and finished the year with a stimulating and informative combined annual session in St. Thomas, VI. It was so great to relax and learn with many of you at this incredible event. During the Annual session, Dr. Stewart received the GLAO President's award and Dr. Dale Anne Featheringham received the 2024 GLAO Distinguished Service Award.

Stay informed. Look to your email for the GLAO E-News and for invitations to join our informative and informal GLAO Coffee Chats held on Saturday mornings four times a year. Our chats have been very informative and well-received by the membership. Our most recent GLAO Coffee Chat featured Dr. Jashleen Bedi, who provided updates about the 2024 National Orthodontic Health Month and AAO Bullying Bites Campaign.

Your GLAO board was busy this year updating our strategic plan working to ensure our mission and direction align with our members' needs and the AAO priorities. We have made it more practical and added measurable outcome assessments, so we can better serve our members. The GLAO's updated strategic plan can be viewed on our website.

A number of our GLAO leaders have been busy this year with some unexpected changes at the State Dental Board level. In some of our states, talks of removing language that defines a dental specialist threatens to allow virtually any dentist to advertise as a specialist. These challenges are being addressed by our AAO legal team and GLAO leadership. Get involved! Stay current with your state AAO leadership, and speak up to have your voice heard by the state dental boards.

I look forward to serving you and our profession this year. Please reach out to me or any of your GLAO leaders with suggestions of how we can better support you, your practice, and your AAO.

Warmest Regards,

Scott O. Schulz, DDS, MS  
GLAO President

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## ***Mark Your Calendars and Plan to Attend!***

**Registration Coming Soon!**



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## **Member News**



### **2025 AAO Leadership Development Conference**

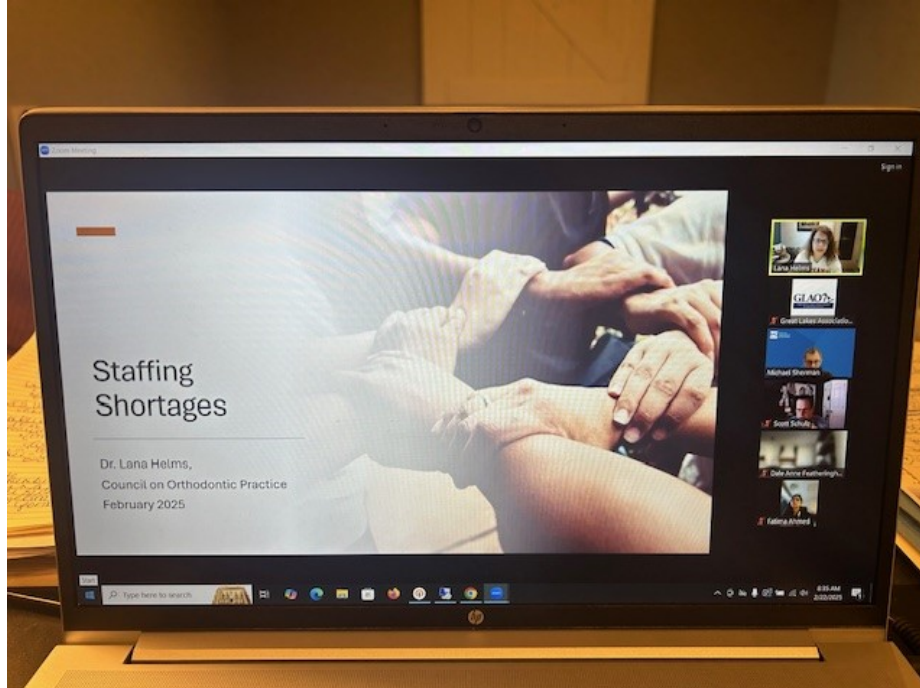
GLAO Constituent Leaders, Component Leaders, and Emerging Leaders participated in the AAO Leadership Development Conference on January 23<sup>rd</sup>

in Marco Island, FL. The conference provided an opportunity for participants to network with peers, enhance leadership skills, and learn about available resources! The GLAO was well-represented with participation from the following members: **Dr. Scott Schulz (MI), Dr. Felix Gen (OH), Dr. Michael Greene (ON), Dr. Joseph Deek (IN), Dr. Mamnoon Siddiqui (MI), Dr. Marian Wolford (PA), Dr. Wellington Rody (PA), Dr. Cullen Doyle (PA), Dr. Jen Boogaards (ON)**. Planning Committee members included **Dr. Michael Sherman, Chair (ON), Dr. Kaitrin Kramer (OH), Dr. Jashleen Bedi (MI), Ms. Debbie Nunner (GLAO)**. Thanks to all these members who took the time to participate in this conference!



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## ***GLAO Coffee Chats***



GLAO members met via Zoom on February 22nd to discuss Staff Shortages - What Can We Do? Staff shortages continue to be one of orthodontic practice-owners' top concerns. GLAO Representative to the AAO Council on Orthodontic Practice, Dr. Lana Helms, shared updates on AAO efforts and resources. GLAO Virtual Coffee Chats provide an opportunity for informal discussion and interactions with GLAO leaders and colleagues on topics of interest. If you have an idea for a future Coffee Chat topic, send it to [GLAO@AssnOffices.com](mailto:GLAO@AssnOffices.com).

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## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEWLY RETIRED MEMBERS!

Dr. Martin Chin - Toronto, ON  
Dr. Herbert Dulaney - White Cloud, MI  
Dr. Timothy Glupker - Zeeland, MI  
Dr. Susan Grimm - Wooster, OH  
Dr. Patricia Gutsche - Malvern, PA  
Dr. David Haas - Fairlawn, OH  
Dr. Scott Jamieson - Marquette, MI  
Dr. Dean Kiourtsis - Worthington, OH  
Dr. William Krieg - Franklin, MI  
Dr. Robert Larson - Fishers, IN  
Dr. Nick Palmer - Clinton Township, MI  
Dr. Michael Vancheri - Punxsutawney, PA  
Dr. Algirdas Vaitas - Bloomfield Hills, MI

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**The GLAO has been notified of the passing of these members. Our thoughts are with their family members.**

Dr. Martin M. Dudas - Belle Vernon, PA  
Dr. Owen J. Kilbane - Pittsburgh, PA

## AAO Trustee Report

### AAO Volunteer Efforts by time commitment: What is a good fit for you?

In a few short weeks the AAO House of Delegates (HOD) will be meeting in Philadelphia during AAO Annual Session. The HOD is the ultimate decision maker for the AAO and meet only once or twice each year. The HOD considers how to move our association forward by considering “Resolutions”, a fancy name for “motions”, that will shape our AAO in the future (short term and long term).



Dr. Michael W. Sherman  
[msherman@aaortho.org](mailto:msherman@aaortho.org)

As a member of the GLAO and AAO you can review the resolutions that will be considered by the HOD. Assuming you have an opinion supporting/ opposing a specific resolution, you can share your opinion either directly, through your own testimony either online prior to or, in person at reference committee hearings. Alternatively, you can share your opinion indirectly by reaching out to GLAO leadership so that they can have a better understanding of the needs and concerns of the members. Below is a list of some of the issues that will be considered by the HOD this year. At this time, not all the Resolutions that will be considered by the HOD have been submitted for review. Also, I have provided a few dates/deadlines for you to share your thoughts.

[Click Here](#) to read more.

## ABO News and Information

**The American Board of Orthodontics (ABO) is proud to announce that 63% of the American Association of Orthodontists (AAO) are now board certified! Board certification continues to set the standard of care for the specialty. We are leading the way - together!**

### **Future Examination Dates Announced**

**Written Examination:** The 2025 Written Exam will be held on April 9, with online registration currently closed. **This year's exam will include, for the first time, multi-select questions (10-25%).**



Dr. Anthony M. Puntillo  
ABO Director  
[dr.p@pandcsmiles.com](mailto:dr.p@pandcsmiles.com)

The exam will be administered at Pearson-Vue Centers in the United States and Canada. Applicants must have graduated or be currently enrolled in an advanced specialty education program in orthodontics and dentofacial orthopedics in the United States or Canada, accredited

by CODA. Orthodontic residents must have completed 18 months of their program by the Written Examination date to be eligible to take the exam. To assist in preparation for the examination, a [2025 Written Exam Reading List](#) along with practice questions are located on the [ABO website](#).

**Written Examination Certification Coordinator | Nicole Huson**  
[Nicole@AmericanBoardOrtho.com](mailto:Nicole@AmericanBoardOrtho.com)

**Scenario-based Clinical Examination:** The Fall 2024 Clinical Examination was administered to 368 examinees on September 17, 2024 with a pass rate of 88.6%. The examinations are held at Pearson-Vue Centers Worldwide. Beginning in 2025, the ABO will transition to one fall Scenario-based Clinical Examination per year. [Registration](#) is now open for the September 17, 2025 examination.

**Clinical Examination Coordinator | Kim Koch**  
[Kim@AmericanBoardOrtho.com](mailto:Kim@AmericanBoardOrtho.com)

[Click Here](#) to read more.

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## **326 Orthodontists Achieve American Board of Orthodontics Certification**

St. Louis, Missouri – January 21, 2025 – The American Board of Orthodontics (ABO) proudly announces the certification of 326 orthodontists from this past Fall 2024. This achievement reflects the successful completion of the ABO’s rigorous certification process, which includes both Written and Clinical Examinations. ABO Board Certification is a voluntary credential that represents an orthodontist’s personal and public commitment to the highest standards of specialty practice and lifelong learning. In 2024, a total of 659 orthodontists achieved ABO Board Certification.

“It is with great honor that we announce our Fall 2024 ABO-Board Certified recipients and recognize their outstanding achievement,” said Dr. Jae Hyun Park, President of the American Board of Orthodontics. “ABO certification reflects a dedication to lifelong learning and a continuous commitment to elevating the quality of patient care.”

[Click Here](#) to read more.

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## **AAO PAC**

### **Consider the National Advocacy Network Today!**

By now, you have probably met (or certainly heard of, or seen their names) Nathan Mick, Gianna Nawrocki, and Kim VanVeen. They represent our advocacy team at the AAO. They were brought on board in response to polling that revealed that

AAO members placed a high value on AAO lobbying and advocacy efforts. After only a few years, PAC contributions have increased by over 30%, and the percentage of AAO members who contribute to the PAC has increased from 2.5% to 6%. Plus, our efforts have expanded beyond the Federal level and into the States. This is quite an achievement. Thank them if you see them. They are doing splendid work for you.



Dr. Phillip Beckwith  
GLAO Representative to  
AAOPAC  
[pjbortho@aol.com](mailto:pjbortho@aol.com)

While you are at it, if by chance you are not a regular contributor to the PAC, thank those members who are regular contributors. Contributing members are fueling the efforts of our advocacy team, and all AAO members realize the benefits. If you are not a regular contributor to the PAC, I urge you to consider joining the advocacy effort. Organizations with the highest level of contribution have about 10% of members giving to their respective PACs. Wouldn't it be nice if the AAO was one of those organizations? Wouldn't it be nice to be part of that? If you have not contributed, please do so. If you intended to contribute but forgot, here is your friendly reminder. If you are reluctant to contribute, I hope you will give me the opportunity to discuss it with you. You can email me at [pjbortho@aol.com](mailto:pjbortho@aol.com). You can give to the PAC by using this [link](#).

## GLAO Component Updates

Below are links to the most current reports.

### [Indiana](#)

Dr. Lana Helms..... [lrhelms@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lrhelms@sbcglobal.net)

### [Michigan](#)

Dr. Brandon Shoukri..... [bshoukri@umich.edu](mailto:bshoukri@umich.edu)

### [Ontario](#)

Dr. Girish Deshpande..... [drgdeshpande@gmail.com](mailto:drgdeshpande@gmail.com)

### [Ohio](#)

Dr. Dale Anne Featheringham..... [dafortho@yahoo.com](mailto:dafortho@yahoo.com)

### [Pennsylvania](#)

Dr. Dana Craig..... [dana.craig22@gmail.com](mailto:dana.craig22@gmail.com)

## AAO Council Featured Reports

### **AAO Council on Orthodontic Practice Update**

The Council on Orthodontic Practice (COOP) currently has several subcommittees with new and

ongoing projects. Here are some highlights from different subcommittees:

### **Practice Management Forms and Brochures:**

This subcommittee has recently recommended revisions in content and production of the AAO Informed Consent Video. This 15-minute video was previously created for doctors to review informed consent with patients and responsible parties. This subcommittee also will review printed marketing materials recommended by the Council on Communication for distribution to general and pediatric dentists. The intent is to communicate and educate on appropriate timing of referrals for potential orthodontic patients.



Dr. Lana Helms  
[lrhelms@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lrhelms@sbcglobal.net)

**All Things Webinars:** We have great webinars coming up in the next couple of months. In March, join us to hear Dr. Ilyna Zinn share her own personal journey with Cleidocranial Dysplasia and review treatment considerations for CCD patients. Also in March, Brandon Collier will give a webinar entitled “The Attorney’s Are In: What to Know Before You Leave Residency”. Practice Transitions: This subcommittee has been working on a project to develop useful content for orthodontists desiring to start up, buy, and/or sell orthodontic practices. Between now and May, 2025, 3 different groups of micro volunteers with recent content experience plus professionals who work in these areas are in the process of meeting, brainstorming, and mapping fresh content.

[Click Here](#) to read more.

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## **AAO Council on Membership, Ethics and Judicial Concerns Update**

### **HOD Resolutions**

COMEJC is submitting resolutions to the 2025 AAO House of Delegates to propose the following:

- Amend the dues waivers policy to clarify that “primary caregiver” waivers should be used for individuals with medical necessities, and applications should be accompanied by a physician’s statement. Additionally, the amendment proposes a 25% waiver for members who take parental leave following the birth of a child.
- Change the nomination and selection process for Honorary Members to go through the Distinguished Service Awards Committee (DSAC). The resolution proposes for DSAC to determine the selection criteria, as well.



Dr. Riyadh Al-Qawasmi  
[alqawara@udmercy.edu](mailto:alqawara@udmercy.edu)



- Amend Bylaws to allow Retired Members to serve the AAO in appointive (but not elective) positions.
- Amend Bylaws to allow orthodontic interns to be eligible for student membership.
- Amend Bylaws to clarify that International Members may not practice or teach orthodontics or dentistry within the United States or Canada to be eligible for international status.

[Click Here](#) to read more.

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Below are links to the most current AAO Council Reports.

**[Council on Communications \(COC\)](#)**

**[AAO CAP and Member Communications](#)**

Dr. Jashleen Bedi.....[jbedidmd@gmail.com](mailto:jbedidmd@gmail.com)

**[Council on Governmental Advocacy \(COGA\)](#)**

Dr. Valerie Martone..... [valeriemartone2@gmail.com](mailto:valeriemartone2@gmail.com)

**[Council on Membership, Ethics, and Judicial Concerns \(COMEJC\)](#)**

Dr. Riyadh Al-Qawasmi..... [alqawara@udmercy.edu](mailto:alqawara@udmercy.edu)

**[Council on New and Younger Members \(CONYM\)](#)**

Dr. Javen Durham.....[DRD@eaganortho.com](mailto:DRD@eaganortho.com)

**[Council on Orthodontic Education \(COE\)](#)**

Dr. J. Martin Palomo .....[jmp5@case.edu](mailto:jmp5@case.edu)

**[Council on Orthodontic Benefits \(COB\)](#)**

Dr. Tasha Hall..... [tashahall828@gmail.com](mailto:tashahall828@gmail.com)

**[Council on Orthodontic Practice \(COOP\)](#)**

Dr. Lana Helms.....[lrhelms@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lrhelms@sbcglobal.net)

**[Council on Scientific Affairs \(COSA\)](#)**

Dr. Marilia Yatabe Ioshida .....[msyatabe@umich.edu](mailto:msyatabe@umich.edu)

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**GLAO MEMBERS:**

Click [HERE](#) to learn more about the AAOPAC and consider making a contribution.

Click [HERE](#) to learn more about the AAO Foundation and consider making a donation.

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# AAO National Advocacy Network Update

As the legislative process and elected officials are constantly changing, there is an emergent need to ensure our interests are best represented through state and provincial legislative bodies and within state and provincial regulatory bodies. The AAO's Political Action Committee (AAOPAC) has helped to fuel our advocacy success through contributions from eligible AAO members in the U.S., not just in Washington, D.C, but also in states throughout the country. Through AAOPAC over the last 30 years, vital Federal and State policy has been adopted and implemented to better improve the protection of patient health and safety – and ensure AAO member interests are represented as small business owners and healthcare providers. There has never been a better time to get involved at the ground level in the GLAO as an advocacy volunteer leader with the AAO – which is why we invite you to consider applying to serve as a volunteer on the award-winning AAO National Advocacy Network (NAN) and join the 83+ volunteer leaders who have already answered the call to lead.

Within the NAN there are opportunities to lead the charge within your home component and across the United States and Canada to inspire real, ground-breaking change –within your own community while also making a difference for the specialty and patients across the U.S. and Canada.

We are asking for you to consider getting more involved with AAO Advocacy in the U.S. and Canada now! There are two leading positions as well as 8 supporting team roles listed below:

- **Lead for AAO Advocacy, Component Advocacy Liaison (CAL):** open to U.S. and Canadian membership
- **Lead for AAOPAC, AAOPAC Captain:** open to U.S. Citizen or Permanent US Residents

[Click Here](#) to read more.

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## Get Connected

- Join the **GLAO Facebook Page!**  
[Click Here](#) and sign into Facebook and follow our page.



- **NEW! Join the GLAO on Instagram!**  
[Click Here](#) and sign into Instagram and follow us.



- Make sure the AAO has your current **email address** on file. We use that email address to stay in touch with you via e-blast like this one.
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## GLAO E-News:

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