

August 2026

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President's Message

Dr. Mariela Anderson

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Summer is quickly winding down and, as always, it seems to have gone by far too quickly! I hope you and your families have had a chance to enjoy some well-deserved rest, relaxation, and fun.

With the start of a new school year, we naturally begin shifting back into a higher gear. But what better way to kick off the fall than by reconnecting with friends and colleagues, enjoying a little fun, and getting inspired by some outstanding continuing education?

I am **especially excited to invite you to the GLAO Annual Session, October 23–24 in Columbus, Ohio**, and this year's meeting is one you won't want to miss!

This year marks an incredible milestone: **100 years of the GLAO!** We will celebrate the people, ideas, and traditions that have shaped our organization over the past century and we won't just be looking back. Our scientific program is focused on **the future of orthodontics**, with innovative ideas, fresh perspectives, and plenty to spark conversation.

The meeting will take place at the **Hilton Downtown Columbus**, right in the heart of the vibrant Short North Arts District. If you haven't experienced the Short North, you are in for a treat!

Located between downtown Columbus and The Ohio State University campus, this energetic neighborhood is known as the "art and soul" of Columbus, with fantastic restaurants, independent galleries, unique shops, and plenty to explore.

[Click Here](#) to read more.

**YOU and YOUR STAFF are invited to the
2026 GLAO Annual Session
in Columbus, Ohio, October 23-24!**

**Early Bird Rate available until
September 17th!**

[CLICK HERE](#) to register.



**Meeting
Registration**

**Hotel
Reservations**

**2026 AS
Information**

The GLAO is ready to CELEBRATE 100 YEARS, and we want you to join us! We are looking forward to seeing you and your team October 23-24 in Columbus, Ohio!

This two-day program for doctors, staff, and residents will be held at the Hilton Downtown Columbus. Columbus, Ohio is easily accessible for most of our GLAO members and will provide an excellent opportunity for in-person education, networking, and celebration! [LEARN MORE](#)

**Thank you to our
Annual Session Sponsors!**

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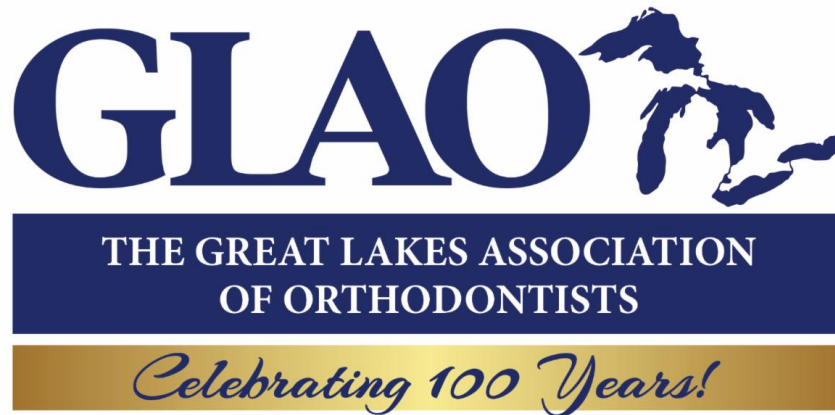
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GLAO 100th Anniversary Year!

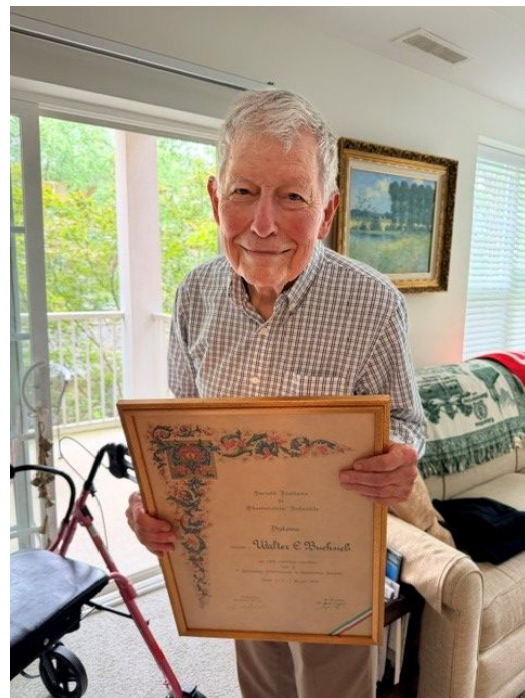


Dr. Walter C. Buchsieb, Sr: A Discussion on Teeth, Cars, and Really Important Thoughts for a Life Well-Lived

By: Dr. Dale Anne Featheringham

One of the highlights of my summer was having the privilege of interviewing Dr. Walter Buchsieb for this article. The GLAO was 3 years old when Walt Buchsieb was born. This makes him the keeper of almost a century of history. As we spoke, I was struck by how different things were "back then," but when I went home and reviewed my notes, I realized that there were a lot of themes that hold true for orthodontists today - the stress of getting into residencies, the ups and downs of practice situations, life throwing surprises, the struggle for work-life balance, and other familiar challenges that we experience. So please enjoy my summary and some advice from a 97 year-old with a sharp mind and a lot of life from which to draw.

[Click Here](#) to read more.



Member News

GLAO Would Like Your Input!

The GLAO leadership would like your input! To ensure our leadership and programs reflect the needs and perspectives of the organization, and to gather feedback on our virtual Coffee Chats, we invite you to complete a brief [survey](#). Thank you for your input and for your membership in GLAO.

**2026 GLAO Dr. David C. Hamilton
Distinguished Service Award to be**

Presented to Dr. Valmy Pangrazio-Kulbersh

The GLAO Dr. David C. Hamilton Distinguished Service Award is presented to individuals who have dedicated themselves to serving the interests of the GLAO throughout their careers. Their contributions exceed the commitments and duties of any elected or appointed office in the association. The Great Lakes Association of Orthodontists is proud to present this year's award to Dr. Valmy Pangrazio-Kulbersh of Bloomfield Hills, MI. This award is presented in recognition of and grateful appreciation for her contributions - both to the GLAO as an organization, and to the orthodontic profession in general. Her efforts are deeply appreciated by her GLAO friends and colleagues.



This award will be presented to Dr. Kulbersh during the GLAO Annual Member Business Meeting at the GLAO 2026 Annual Session on Friday, October 23, from 4:00-5:30pm at the Hilton Columbus Downtown. Please plan to join us in recognizing Dr. Kulbersh and her contributions to the GLAO and the orthodontic profession! View Dr. Kulbersh's biography [HERE](#).

Congratulations to Our Newly Retired Members!

Dr. Lucy DeGuzman - *Dublin, OH*
Dr. Henry Fields - *New Albany, OH*
Dr. Doug Gordon - *Greenville, OH*
Dr. William Mischler - *Floyds Knobs, IN*
Dr. Maria O'Reilly - *Marlton, NJ*
Dr. William Patchak - *Jackson, MI*
Dr. Lui Redigonda - *London, ON*
Dr. Ashley Reynolds - *South Lyon, MI*
Dr. Seema Sharma-Sayal - *Richmond Hill, ON*
Dr. Leon Siomka - *Fenton, MI*
Dr. Timothy Stroster - *Clarkston, MI*
Dr. Fang-Bin Sun - *Troy, MI*

The GLAO has been notified of the passing of the following members. Our thoughts are with the family members.

Dr. George S. Zimbalatti - *Redford, MI*
Dr. Joseph G. Zimbalatti - *Trenton, MI*

AAO Trustee Report

Eroding Trust and Distorting Public Understanding

Recently, I came across several social media posts containing misinformation about the American Association of Orthodontists (AAO). As someone who serves as an officer of the AAO, I felt a responsibility to respond. Rather than engage in a public argument with the author of the posts, I chose to share accurate information and clarify the facts in a respectful manner.



Dr. Michael W. Sherman
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While doing so, I found myself wondering what motivates someone to knowingly spread misinformation in the first place. Specifically, what personal benefits might a person perceive from posting false or misleading information on social media? Curious about the answer, I did some reading and reflection.

[Click Here](#) to read more.

ABO News and Information

ABO Announces Newly Certified and Recertified Orthodontic Specialists

St. Louis, Mo., August 5, 2026 – The American Board of Orthodontics (ABO) announces that during the first half of 2026, two orthodontic specialists became board-certified, while 67 specialists renewed their ABO certification, reaffirming their commitment to excellence in orthodontic care. To view the complete list of newly certified and recertified orthodontists by constituent society, [click here](#) or visit the ABO Across the Board blog.



Dr. Anthony M. Puntillo
ABO Director
dr.p@pandcsmiles.com

ABO Board Certification is a voluntary credential that represents an orthodontist's personal and public commitment to the standards of specialty practice and lifelong learning. Recognized by patients, practitioners, and professional partner organizations, the ABO serves as a trusted mark of excellence and commitment to quality orthodontic care.

[Click Here](#) to read more.

AAO Foundation Highlights:

At the AAO Annual Session in Orlando the following awards were presented:

- Dr. Thomas Cangialosi was presented with the 2026 Jarabak Award during the AAO Leadership Reception. Dr. Cangialosi was nominated by his constituency (MASO) to receive the award for his dedication and accomplishments in orthodontic teaching and research.
- Dr. Maria Costanza Meazzini, Research Director of the Cleft Lip and Palate Center in Milan, Italy presented the 2026 Salzmann Lecture during the AAO Annual Session.



Dr. J. Martin Palomo
GLAO Representative to
AAOF
jmp5@case.edu

[Click Here](#) to read more.

AAOPAC

AAOPAC Board Race to 10

The AAOPAC Board *Race to 10* challenges each Constituent Region to achieve at least 10% member participation in AAOPAC giving between June 1 and December 1. While contribution levels will vary, the focus is on broad engagement and collective impact. Every member has a role to play in advancing the specialty and protecting patient access to quality care. Progress will be tracked and shared throughout the campaign to foster friendly competition, with recognition opportunities for top-performing groups (including bragging rights and a traveling trophy for the winning Constituent Region).

Help the GLAO win the race! [View the dashboard and contribute today!](#)

The Ninth Biennial Burstone Symposium

**ALIGNING INNOVATION:
Strategic Biomechanics for Excellence in the Aligner Era**

November 6, 2026

NCAA Conference Center
700 West Washington St
Indianapolis, IN 46204

This year's Burstone Symposium will feature an exceptional panel of distinguished speakers—Maz Moshiri, Lee Boyd, Mahya Farnia, and Hakan Turkkahraman—each bringing a powerful blend of scientific insight and extensive clinical experience in clear aligner therapy. Their collective expertise spans biomechanics, treatment planning, and real-world case optimization, offering attendees practical strategies to enhance efficiency, improve

outcomes, and confidently manage a wide range of orthodontic cases with aligners. Participants can expect to gain valuable, evidence-based knowledge that translates directly into elevated patient care and practice success.

[Click Here for the Symposium Brochure](#)

Ohio State Lobby Day

Ohio State Lobby Day to be held on October 22nd

Ohio Members: Join the AAO Advocacy Team for the 4th Annual Ohio State Lobby Day on October 22nd! It will be an exciting day at the Ohio Statehouse in Columbus, and a great way to get involved with advocacy. Lobby Day will be held on the Thursday prior to the GLAO Annual Session.

Attendees will have the opportunity to meet with Ohio lawmakers and staff to advocate for important issues impacting current and future orthodontists followed by lunch. An optional, self-guided tour of the Capitol will be offered at the end of the day. The advocacy team plans to continue conversations with state legislators on specialty advertising, the importance of an in-person examination before orthodontic treatment, policies related to dental student loan repayment programs, and the importance of patient health and safety across the Buckeye State.

For more information and to register, please visit

<https://aaortho.quorum.us/event/2026OhioSLD/>

or email advocacy@aaortho.org.

GLAO Component Updates

Below are links to the most current reports.

[Indiana](#)

Dr. Lana Helms..... lrhelms@sbcglobal.net

[Michigan](#)

Dr. Brandon Shoukri..... bshoukri@umich.edu

[Ontario](#)

Dr. Girish Deshpande..... drgdeshpande@gmail.com

[Ohio](#)

Dr. Dale Anne Featheringham..... dafortho@yahoo.com

[Pennsylvania](#)

Dr. Wellington Rody, Jr..... Wjr34@pitt.edu

AAO Council Featured Reports

AAO Council on Orthodontic Benefits (COB)

The AAO Council on Orthodontic Benefits met in person in June 2026. This was my first meeting as the GLAO representative. I have big shoes to fill after Dr. Tasha Hall's successful tenure on the Council.

We had a very productive meeting and are excited about the continued momentum. The Council remains focused on staying at the forefront of insurance-related developments, developing useful resources for AAO members, and pursuing code revisions that better reflect the needs of a modern orthodontic practice.



Dr. Leah Stetzel Miller
stetzelleah@gmail.com

[Click Here](#) to read more.

AAO Council on Scientific Affairs (COSA)

During Annual Session 2026 in Orlando, Florida, COSA members judged 32 William R. Proffit Resident Scholar Award presentations and 17 Table Clinic presentations. COSA members moderated 17 Oral Research presentations and the Hellman, Sicher, Graber lectures. 315 E-Posters were available for viewing during Annual Session.



Dr. Marilia Yatabe
msyatabe@umich.edu

[Click Here](#) to read more.

Below are links to the most current AAO Council Reports.

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

Dr. Jashleen Bedi.....jbedidmd@gmail.com

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

Dr. Valerie Martone.....valeriemartone2@gmail.com

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

Dr. Riyadh Al-Qawasmi.....alqawara@udmercy.edu

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

Dr. Javen Durham.....DRD@eaganortho.com

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

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

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Dr. Lana Helms.....lrhelms@sbcglobal.net

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

Dr. Marilia Yatabe Ioshidamsyatabe@umich.edu

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.

GLAO Information

GLAO Seeks Candidates for the GLAO Trustee Position

As Dr. Michael Sherman's final term as GLAO Trustee will conclude in 2028, a new GLAO Trustee will be elected in 2027, to begin to serve in May, 2028, following the AAO Annual Session.

[View the Election Process for the new GLAO Trustee.](#)

For those members interested in serving as GLAO Trustee who would like to be included on the list of candidates proposed to the membership at the GLAO Annual Business Meeting on 10/23/26, a letter of interest addressed to the GLAO Nominating Committee is due by 9/8/26.

[View the article from Dr. Michael Sherman](#), which includes an overview of the Trustee roles and its responsibilities to the AAO and to the GLAO.

Share your knowledge and expertise:

Submit an article for consideration in the GLAO e-news, our quarterly e-news bulletin, by emailing GLAO@AssnOffices.com. GLAO Coffee Chats provide informal opportunities to engage with other members. If you have a topic in mind or would like to facilitate a discussion, contact GLAO@AssnOffices.com!

AAO Information



Empowering Your Today. Defending Our Tomorrow.

By being an AAO and GLAO member, you are joining your colleagues in advancing the entire orthodontic specialty. Renew with **YOUR** professional association today:
aaoinfo.org/renew

Renew Today

[Click Here to Renew](#)

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[Click Here](#) and sign into Facebook and follow our page.



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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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