

IAO Component Report

The Indiana Association of Orthodontists membership meeting was held on Friday, October 18th, 2024 in conjunction with the GLAO meeting in St. Thomas. Agenda items discussed included a membership report of 238 members, with 58 being retired and 188 being active members, and the treasurer's report. The IAO account balance currently has a reserve amount. Our membership discussed moving part of the balance to an interest-bearing account and this action was approved. Other items of discussion included national advocacy updates affecting our profession. Proposed amendments to our bylaws were passed by the membership. These include allowance of virtual attendance and voting by the membership. Another change to the bylaws is that the Advocacy Liaison for Indiana will be invited to the board meetings but will not have voting privileges. Election of officers was also held at the IAO meeting and are as follows:

President: Ariel Wong

Vice-President: Joe Deek

Secretary-Treasurer: Jamie Lazin

Northern Director: Emily Tang-Watson

Central Director: Paul Ellis

Southern Director: Kevin Coghlan

Director-at-Large: Jim Thompson

Director-at-Large: Jeff Roberts

Indiana Component Director to the GLAO: Lana Helms

Indiana Legislative Liaison: Tasha Hall

Immediate Past President: Andrew Raber

Membership Non-renewals: Most of the non-renewals contacted cited reasons of either pending retirement or recent graduates (<10 years) who are concerned with ROI of membership. Some cited reasons of finding more value in online groups and their meetings. Also, some doctors working for OSO's thought their dues were being paid by the corporate entity and didn't understand that they were responsible for their dues.

The IAO Board of Directors met on January 19th, 2025. The Board decided to host its annual membership meeting in conjunction with the GLAO meeting in Grand Rapids on Friday, September 19th over the lunch break. Lunch will be provided

for those in attendance. We also discussed graduation gifts for Indiana University residents and changing the type of gift this year.

The Indiana Legislature is in session. There are no active bills currently the IAO or Indiana Dental Association are taking action on. Medicaid reform and access to care continues to be budgetary concerns according to the governor's report on legislative priorities at the beginning of the session.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at lrhelms@sbcglobal.net

Respectfully submitted,

Lana Helms