



Indiana Association of Orthodontists Report

February 2026

The Indiana Association of Orthodontists (IAO) membership meeting was held on Friday, October 19th, 2025 in conjunction with the GLAO meeting in Grand Rapids, MI. Agenda items discussed included a membership report of 244 members, with 61 being retired and 183 being active members, and the treasurer's report. The IAO has a high membership renewal rate typically. Our account balance currently has a reserve amount, with part of the balance in an interest-bearing account. Dr. Jamie Lazin has contacted all IAO members to determine interest in participating in locum tenens care during an unplanned practice absence. 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: vacancy
Director-at-Large: Jeff Roberts
Indiana Component Director to the GLAO: Lana Helms
Indiana Legislative Liaison: Tasha Hall
Immediate Past President: Andrew Raber

We currently have two vacancies on the IAO Board. Please contact Dr. Ariel Wong or Dr. Jamie Lazin if you would like more information on serving. We will also be electing a new Indiana Component Director to the GLAO this fall.

We discussed the current Indiana Dental Practice Act and that language has been eliminated protecting the ability to advertise as a specialist. If any Indiana orthodontists are made aware of instances where specialty advertising has been misleading to the public, please contact an IAO board member.

IAO members voted to pay for new IUSD Orthodontic graduates to take the Part 2 ABO exam after graduation. The IAO will reimburse \$500 to new graduates for successful completion of the exam. The IUSD Orthodontic Clinic Renovation (2.5 million dollars) was officially opened in October, 2025.

The IAO Board is currently discussing possibly having the fall membership meeting in conjunction with the GLAO meeting in Columbus, Ohio on either Friday, 10/23 or Saturday, 10/24 over lunch.

It has been a distinct pleasure to serve the Indiana Component as your representative to the GLAO Board since 2020. Don't forget to periodically visit our IAO website, iaotoday.com. I hope to see you in Orlando at the IU Alumni Reception and AAO meeting. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me by email at lrhelms@sbcglobal.net.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Lana Helms,
Indiana Component Director to the GLAO