

## Trustee Report (November 2024)

I would like to share with the GLAO membership some of the initiatives that have come out of the recent meeting of the AAO Board of Trustees (BOT).

**The BOT** approved the creation of a Task Force to review and update the 2019 White Paper on Obstructive Sleep Apnea. We expect that this Task Force will be reporting back to the BOT around the time of AAO Annual Session in Philadelphia

**The BOT** approved the replacement of the existing New Orthodontist & Resident Conference with two distinct seminars:

1. one to provide learning content for Orthodontic Residents and;
2. one to provide professional development content for New Orthodontists (0-10 years in practice.)

The AAO Council on New and Younger Members be charged with developing this content and coordinating speaker selection with the Committee on Conferences and Meetings. These distinct seminars will be offered at Annual Session beginning in 2026.

**The BOT** approved the creation of the Inclusion and Engagement Award with the criteria as follows: The Inclusion and Engagement Award is open to any AAO member in good standing. Nominations for the award shall come from a constituent, component, WFO-affiliated organization, or an AAO member in good standing. This award is not necessarily given each year. In the years where a recipient has been selected, the award will be presented at the annual SCIE event that takes place during the AAO Annual Session.

**The BOT** approved the Mental Wellness Task Force's plan that will:

1. Build awareness of mental wellness overall and within the orthodontic community by providing content through: a. leveraging diverse member testimonials; b. messaging aimed to help others and c. providing credible third-party content.
2. Enable members to understand the state of their own mental health and the importance of monitoring it over time by providing mental wellness screeners that report risks and provide suggestions on how to improve their own mental wellness.
3. Provide a range of resources for all members and, as appropriate, targeted to specific member segments (Residents, Women, etc.) giving members the ability to take action to address mental wellness overall and specific challenges they may be facing.
4. Provide easy access to resources by creating a webpage on the AAO member website where all resources can be accessed.
5. Drive awareness and usage of AAO Mental Wellness resources by implementing an integrated marketing campaign to launch in January 2024 leveraging Mental Wellness Month and with monthly communications of relevant timely topics utilizing third-party content.
6. Support existing mental wellness proposed legislation relevant to orthodontists and understand specific member needs on this topic.
7. Integrate mental wellness AAO-wide by requesting all AAO Councils and Committees to consider and when/where appropriate implement new Mental Wellness initiatives and/or to incorporate mental wellness focused elements in existing initiatives.

**The BOT** approved a change to the AAO Medically Necessary Definition to modernize the language without altering its purpose to read:

*“Orthodontic services treatment to prevent, diagnose, minimize, alleviate, correct, or resolve a malocclusion (including but not limited to oral or craniofacial abnormalities anomalies, and traumatic or pathologic anatomical deviations impacting the dentofacial structures) that create atypical function, atypical phenotypic presentation, cause pain or suffering, physical malformation deformity, significant malfunction, aggravates a condition, or results in further injury or infirmity.”*

If you have any questions about or wish to discuss any of these initiatives, please reach out to me.

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Trustee

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