

Straight Talk NEWSLETTER



NOVEMBER 2024

President's Message

Confrères,

The fall season is now upon us we have just completed our Fall General Meeting. As you all know, Distinguished Service Award was given to Drs. Bryan Thompson and Antonios Mamandras not only for their contributions to our profession but also for their being a part of the education of almost everyone in the room. I found this mind-boggling to say the least. This was a glorious evening of emotion and fraternity where members stayed long after the evening concluded for socializing and to catch up with those they had not seen for the longest time. There were 80 reservations for dinner and unfortunately another 20 had to be turned away due to lack of space. I sincerely hope that this is a both a sign of interest to come and the strength of our profession. I hope the all of you will attend the next meeting in April as those that were absent missed an incredible evening.



Your executive is engaged in ongoing negotiations regarding expanded duties for qualified Level 2 Assistants. We are now well into our second year of this effort with the help of the AAO. I encourage all of you to join the AAO as they are pledging monetary and legal support in this effort. It does appear that there is light at the end of the tunnel and many of us are working diligently at achieving this goal. Special thanks to Dr. Michael Sherman who is the spearhead in this effort.

Recently the CAO in conjunction with the CDA have approached the Government regarding a framework for both a manageable and a well implemented version to include Orthodontics in the CDCP. Over the summer the Presidents of each province united to meet virtually with the CAO President to outline the common concerns of the provinces with respect to adjudication of the CDCP Programme. A common letter was drafted and sent to the Minister of Health Mark Holland. A preliminary meeting was held on Friday November 8th with Senior Policy Advisor Stephanie Claxton to begin the conversation. We have asked for Ontario to be involved in the negotiations as half of the orthodontists in this country practice in Ontario. I will keep you all informed as the situation develops.

There will be a Core 1 virtual webinar on November 25th for 3 Core 1 credits. This is another benefit of your OAO Membership. The title is "The 10 Most Prescribed Drugs: What You Need to Know". It will run from 6-9 pm. Please [click here](#) to register.

President's Report (cont'd)

The dues notices are coming out for the upcoming renewal. The option to renew at a reduced rate for 2 years is still available and I encourage all of you who have not yet put yourselves on a 2-year renewal to do so. It reduces your costs and helps the OAO. Note, for those of you who are already on the 2 year subscription, there are no fees due this year. If you are uncertain please contact [Shirley Yuen](#) at the OAO office regarding your status.

Finally, as we approach year end, both our licences and CE credit portfolio are due. Please make sure that you are on time for both.

In conclusion, know that we have the greatest profession in the world. We improve the lives of people and get paid to do so. What a lucky group we truly are. It is my pleasure to serve this group of amazing practitioners and friends.

Dr. Joel Schacher
OAO President

Treasurer's Report

I hope I hope you and your families are doing well as the weather cools down and we prepare for the holiday season! Our association's financial situation is fairly steady. Our reserves remain unchanged, and our membership numbers, sponsorships, and meeting proceeds fund administrative work as well as specific projects (Category 1 courses) and conference benefits (e.g., speakers, including meals). If you believe there is space for improvement, please contact us; the executive is always looking for ways to provide value to your membership in addition to our volunteer work and advocacy.

Thanks again,



Dr. Maxwell Abraham
Treasurer
info@abrahamorthodontics.com

OAO Executive Council

Dr. Joel Schacher
President

Dr. Girish Deshpande
Past President & GLAO Rep

Dr. Ashley Phuong
Vice President

Dr. Maxwell Abraham
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Membership Update

In November 2023, we introduced a new membership renewal package that allows members to renew and pay for two years at the same time. This new plan was well received, and we will continue this offering in 2025. The membership increase will be minimal.

Members can also attend dinner meetings for free. We will continue to offer hybrid meetings, giving members the choice of attending in person or virtually. It would be wonderful to see a full house once again for dinners. Our next OAO Spring Business Meeting will be held on April 3, 2025. Watch for more details to come.

I encourage all orthodontists to become OAO members and support our initiatives. If you know of any orthodontists who are not yet members or haven't renewed their membership, please encourage them to join or renew. Remember, unity is strength.

Membership Report as of November 2024:

	November 2024
Standard	99
Standard 2-year	69
Academic	5
Academic 2-year	3
Graduate	6
Student	30
Honourary	6
Academic Retired	1
Lifetime/Retired	97
Total Membership	316

Upcoming and 2025 Meetings

- OAO Core 1 Lecture
November 25, 2024
Virtual
- OAO Spring Business Meeting
April 3, 2025
Pan Pacific Hotel, Toronto, ON
- CAO Annual Conference
September 18-20, 2025
Québec City, QC
- GLAO Annual Session
September 18-20, 2025
Grand Rapids, Michigan, USA
- OAO Fall Business Meeting
November 6, 2025
Sheraton Centre Hotel, Toronto, ON



GLAO Report

GLAO/MASO joint session was held at the vibrant beach city of St Thomas, US Virgin Islands (USVI), on October 16-20, 2024. It was at the beautiful Westin Beach Resort and Spa at Frenchman's Reef in St. Thomas. It was a very well attended session as it allowed continuing education along with some fun at the beach! A number of Ontario orthodontists attended the session, and it was nice to see them have fun with their families and staff.



The new GLAO board was introduced at the AGM in St Thomas. Our own Dr. Mariela Anderson was elected as the vice president and will be taking over from Dr. Scott Schultz next summer as the president of GLAO. Dr. Michael Sherman continues to be on board as the AAO Trustee along with me as your component director.

TP Orthodontics, Inc. in partnership with the GLAO, offers scholarships to residents attending orthodontic programs in the GLAO region. Since 2017, a total of \$79,500 has been awarded in scholarships and \$20,000 in TP Orthodontics product vouchers distributed. Thirty-one residents have received scholarships to date. We are pleased to announce the following recipients of the 2024 Lindsey O. Kesling Orthodontic Resident Scholarships:

- Dr. Jennifer Nguyen - University of Western Ontario
- Dr. Deborah Simmers - Indiana University
- Dr. Allen Sara – Seton Hill University

Thank you to TP Orthodontics, Inc. and congratulations to these residents who are making a difference in their communities! Scholarship applications and additional information can be found at <http://www.glaog.org/>.

The 2025 GLAO annual session will be held at Grand Rapids, Michigan. Dr. Schultz has promised it to be an exciting event with some great CE programs while providing a great opportunity for fun and professional development for you and your whole team. All the OAO members are encouraged to attend, as it promises to be an exciting event. Please visit the AAO website for further details and do not forget to mark your calendar! Here is the link for you to register - <https://www.glaog.org/meetings-education/2025-annual-session>

The GLAO is keeping the membership engaged with biannual e-newsletters and virtual coffee chats. The virtual coffee chats provide an opportunity for informal discussion and interaction with GLAO leaders and colleagues on topics of interest. The last coffee chat was about Bullying awareness amongst school children presented by Dr. Jashleen Bedi from Michigan.

The AAO Leadership Development Conference will be held just prior to the AAO Winter Conference in Marco Island, FL on January 23, 2025. Dr. Michael Greene will be attending, representing the OAO. The AAO Annual Meeting registration is open for their meeting in Philadelphia in April. The GLAO Delegation will be representing GLAO and welcomes ideas for resolutions to put forward on behalf of members.

Now the good news! GLAO/AAO have pledged to continue their support and help with OAO's workforce initiative with more financial support. This should go a long way towards bringing success to Workforce initiative for Ontario orthodontists.

GLAO Report *(cont'd)*

I look forward to contributing and representing Ontario orthodontists at the GLAO/AAO.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Girish Deshpande.
Ontario Director, GLAO

CAO Report

Annual Scientific Session

The most recent CAO Annual Session was held in beautiful Kelowna, BC on Sept 19-21, 2024. Over 650 attendees enjoyed lectures on the topic of deep bites and vertical control. Attendees also enjoyed a large exhibitor showing. We intend on continuing the success of this meeting next year at the 2025 CAO Annual Session which will be held in Quebec City, QC on September 18-20. Mark your Calendars now to join us! More info can be available here - <https://www.cao-aco.org/en/conference>. Registration and hotel booking will open in mid-March.

CDCP

Earlier this month, the CAO Leadership met with the Federal Health Minister's office to discuss the orthodontic component of the CDCP. At this meeting the interests and concerns of all provincial and territory stakeholders were communicated from the CAO directly to Health Canada. A discussion on how the CDCP could be implemented while keeping both the patients and practitioners in mind occurred. It was determined that although an official working group has not been formed as requested by the CAO, the government has requested a series of additional meetings with CAO leadership to work through the concerns that were presented by the CAO on behalf of all orthodontists in Canada. Looking forward we hope to contribute to the development of a plan for the rollout of orthodontics in 2025. This timeline will give us time to continue working on clear answers and direction for our specialty's inclusion in the program.

Respectfully Submitted,



Dr. Sean Chung
CAO Rep

OAo Fall Business Meeting Highlight

The Fall Business Meeting held on November 7, 2024 was an unforgettable evening as we came together to honor and celebrate two remarkable individuals, Dr. Antonios Mamandras and Dr. Bryan Tompson, who were presented with the Distinguished Service Award.

