

It is with great humility that I accept the nomination as President Elect of the American Association of Certified Orthoptists. Thank you to those who nominated me and supported my nomination, and for this singular honor. Having worked so closely and so well for the past 2 years with current President Shelley Klein, the AACO Executive Committee, the AACO Board of Director's, and the membership at large as your appointed Vice President, I have come to understand fully the responsibilities of this new position of leadership and look forward to representing the AACO in a professional manner.

I have learned much in my 18 years as a certified orthoptist, my 27 years in ophthalmology, and after a decade on the AACO Board of Directors - initially as Eastern Region Representative from 2009 to 2011, as International Joint Commission on Allied Health Care in Ophthalmology (iJCAHPO) rep from 2011 to 2017, and during the 2 years in my current position as your Vice President. I am most proud of having helped the AACO navigate through some difficult times, mitigating financial crisis, assuaging member concerns and frustration while helping the leadership and membership find common ground and a direction forward. Our organization continues to heal, but I am proud that it has emerged financially sound and emotionally whole. I have been challenged but inspired by the hard work required to plan the National Meeting. But I've learned something from this experience as well. So, when I step down from my role as your VP in October, I will present a newly drafted survival manual I'm calling *How to Plan the National Meeting*, to my successor, VP elect Laura Kirkeby. Congratulations Laura.

Best,



Alex Christoff
Vice President AACO
Baltimore, MD
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