

April 2, 2022

Colleagues and Members of the AOA House of Delegates:

It is with immense pleasure that I write a letter of endorsement for Margaret M. Read, OD, MBA, FAAO as a candidate for Trustee of the American Optometric Association.

It is with obvious pride that I write this letter for a former student whom I have known and appreciated since her student days at Southern College of Optometry. I have watched her career trajectory up and through her position as President of AFOS and now beyond in her current appointment. She has been very steady in her growth in the profession as can be seen in her curriculum vitae and biography. It makes me extremely proud to see former students roll up their sleeves and ask how they can help – and then get to work!

I want to speak about her as a person. When Marrie asked me to write this letter, I asked her two simple questions:

1. Are you ready?
2. Are you up to the task?

I expected nothing more than her response – I am ready, and I am up to the task! This shows the necessary character and work ethic of a person who represents our profession as a member of the AOA Board of Trustees.

One small event during her third year in optometry school needs repeating here. During the spring semester, I gave a final examination over cumulative material from the entire quarter. Marrie was pregnant and had her baby on Saturday before the final examination on Monday. Marrie showed up for the examination. She obviously passed the course. This speaks volumes about her character and commitment from very early in her career. It should come as no surprise that her career trajectory has a continual upward trend.

As a member of the Board of Trustees, I would expect no less and even more in her commitment to the profession of optometry. I endorse Margaret M. Read without reservation for the position of Trustee for the American Optometric Association.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Glen T Steele", written over a horizontal line.

Glen T Steele, OD FCOVD FAAO
Member and Past Chair of the InfantSEE and Children's Vision Committee
Professor of Pediatric Optometry
Southern College of optometry
Memphis, TN