



June 30, 2023

VIA Email to: GAELO Volunteer Contact List

To be removed from our email list, please contact [admin@gaelo.org](mailto:admin@gaelo.org).

## 2Q23 Membership Newsletter

Hello members!

Wishing everyone a happy summer. This quarter's newsletter includes an update on GAELO's upcoming presentation at the Georgia Council on Aging annual meeting on July 12, 2023, US 2023 legislative updates, recruiting, our summer reading list and GAELO's social media corner.

As always- we sincerely thank you for your support. We are here for you- please do not hesitate to reach out for more information about our available resources or how you can become more involved with GAELO. Contact info below.

### Key Progress & 2023 Goal Updates:

- **Non-Profit Application Status-** GAELO's 1023 application with the IRS is pending review. A bank account for the organization has been opened in preparation for fundraising
- **Upcoming Presentations**
  - GAELO Leadership will present on July 13, 2023 at the Georgia Council on Aging Annual Meeting
  - Representatives from GAELO will be co-presenting with Compassion & Choices at the Georgia Gerontology Society's annual meeting in July
- **Membership Growth-** In Q2, 39 individuals signed up for GAELO's mailing list

### Georgia Council on Aging- Time to Vote!!

We are so proud to announce that GAELO has passed the first hurdle to have Medical Aid in Dying included on the Georgia Council on the Aging (GCOA) 2024 Legislative Priorities list.

Thanks to Kaffie McCullough for spearheading this project! Kaffie is a Steering Committee member and GAELO's Legislative Liaison. She has prepared a short video which will be shown during our in-person presentation at GCOA's annual meeting on July 13, 2023, in Macon, GA.

After the meeting, GCOA members will be able to vote on whether they would like to see Medical Aid in Dying included as one of their 2024 Legislative Priorities. **Only members will be allowed to vote. Please consider joining GCOA** ahead of their annual meeting on July 13th so you will be qualified to vote! Annual membership only costs \$10, and anyone may become a member. Sign up [here](#).

## 2023 US Legislative Update on Medical Aid in Dying Laws

2023 has been a busy legislative season in the US for Medical Aid in Dying laws. Here is a summary of the activity across the country to date:

- **Vermont:** Gov. Scott signed a bill to drop the residency requirement for accessing Medical Aid in Dying. Vermont joined Oregon as the 2nd state to drop their residency requirement, opening up this end-of-life option to all Americans who wish to travel to either state.
- **Hawaii:** Governor Green signed into law HB 650, a bill that will make Medical Aid in Dying more accessible to terminally ill Hawaiians by improving the Our Care, Our Choice Act in 3 ways:
  1. It reduces the mandatory waiting period from 20 to 5 days
  2. Allows the Attending Provider to waive the waiting period if the patient is unlikely to survive
  3. Allows APRNs to practice as both the Attending and Consulting Providers
- **Nevada:** A medical aid in dying bill was vetoed by Governor Lombardo after passing the Nevada state house and senate. An overwhelming 82% of Nevadans are in support of the bill. Governor Lombardo was the first governor ever to veto a medical aid in dying bill.
- **Other states that have introduced a medical aid in dying bill during sessions this year or already have legislation in place:** AZ, CT, DE, FL, IA, IO, KY, MD, MA, MN, NH, NY, NC, PA,

## Recruiting

We strive to continue our growth throughout 2023 and would encourage you to pass along this newsletter to anyone who may be interested in receiving it in the future. New members can sign up for GAELO updates at [www.gaelo.org](http://www.gaelo.org).

We are currently seeking a permanent executive director, as well as individuals to assist with social media efforts, blog postings and presentation/media creation.

- Candidates for leadership positions with GAELO should be passionate advocates for our mission. Preferred experience includes: NPO operations/administration, medical professionals, constitutional professor or attorney, bio-ethicist, hospice or palliative care professional, faith leader, fundraisers, community organizer

If you or someone you know is interested in joining our leadership or learning more about our volunteer opportunities, please contact [admin@gaelo.org](mailto:admin@gaelo.org).

## **Message from Robert Fowler, GAELO Social Media Lead: Join the Digital Movement!**

Since launching our social media platforms last August, we at Georgians for End-of-Life Options (GAELO) have been steadily expanding our digital footprint. Our Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram accounts have become thriving spaces for dialogue, sharing vital resources, and connecting with you, our devoted community.

We've been busy curating and sharing content that illuminates our mission and amplifies the voices of those we advocate for. As we engage in discussions, like and share posts from our collaborative accounts, we are not only growing our follower base but also fostering a supportive community around end-of-life choices.

Our website, [GAELO.org](http://GAELO.org), is a treasure trove of information, updated monthly with fresh content and inspiring stories that shed light on our cause. And we have exciting news! This Summer, we plan to bring the website management in-house and launch a blog section, adding yet another layer of engagement to our digital presence.

But we need your help. We're on the lookout for a volunteer who can help us manage and contribute to this blog. If you have a flair for writing and a passion for our cause, this could be your chance to make a significant impact.

We're also seeking volunteers for our social media task force. If you're savvy with social media and want to help us amplify our message and foster relationships with other like-minded accounts, we'd love to have you on board.

In my time as Social Media Manager for GAELO, I've found the experience to be incredibly rewarding and a tremendous learning opportunity. It's more than just a role; it's a chance to be a part of a community that believes in the fundamental freedom and civil right to end of life choices.

Join us in this digital journey, lend your voice and help us make a difference in the lives of Georgians. **Reach out to us via our social media channels or our website to get involved.** Together, we can ensure that our message resonates far and wide.

-Robert Fowler

## Summer Reading List

Summer is a great time to relax and do some reading. If you are interested in hosting or joining a GAELO book club, please email us at [admin@gaelo.org](mailto:admin@gaelo.org). If you are looking for ideas for your summer reading list, here are three great suggestions. Check out a full list of books on our website, [here](#).

1. [\*\*In Love: A memoir of Love and Loss, by Amy Bloom\*\*](#)- NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • A powerful memoir of a love that leads two people to find a courageous way to part—and a woman's struggle to go forward in the face of loss—that “enriches the reader’s life with urgency and gratitude” (*The Washington Post*)
2. [\*\*The Art of Dying Well: A Practical Guide to a Good End of Life, by Katy Butler\*\*](#)- A reassuring and thoroughly researched guide to maintaining a high quality of life—from resilient old age to the first inklings of a serious illness to the final breath—by the *New York Times* bestselling author of *Knocking on Heaven’s Door*.
3. [\*\*Being Mortal, by Atul Gwande\*\*](#)- Named a Best Book of the Year by *The Washington Post*, *The New York Times Book Review*, NPR, and *Chicago Tribune*, now in paperback with a new reading group guide

## Keep in touch!

Looking for end of life resources? Want to get more involved? Any other questions, comments or concerns? Check out some of the resources below:

- Website: [www.gaelo.org](http://www.gaelo.org)
- Email: [admin@GAELO.org](mailto:admin@GAELO.org)
- Social: Follow GAELO on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [LinkedIn](#)!