

Council on Membership, Ethics and Judicial Concerns (COMEJC)
Report to the GLAO
Winter, 2020
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The COMEJC has had a busy year with a number of membership concerns. We are looking into a number of ways to increase and maintain membership. Along those lines we have been reevaluating our policies on student, international, and faculty membership. To that end COMEJC will be submitting resolutions to the 2020 AAO House of Delegates to:

- Amend the AAO's policy on **membership reinstatement** to allow members to reinstate up to two times (rather than one) without incurring a reinstatement fee. For those who incur a fee, it would be reduced to 25% of the total dues and assessment for the most recent lapsed year (rather than up to three years).
- Amend the AAO's policy on **dues waivers** to restrict non-members from applying and limit waivers to three years maximum covering a single event.
- Amend AAO Bylaws to increase the minimum membership requirement for **Retired members** from ten to 15 years, as well as require applicants to be members in good standing at the time of retirement.
- Offer **complimentary Student Membership** to students who have been accepted into, but not yet started, an accredited orthodontic program for the period of December 1 through May 31 immediately following acceptance into their programs. These Student members would receive online access to the *AJO-DO* during the complimentary period.
- Establish a new member classification for **non-orthodontic educators** who teach or research full-time at an accredited orthodontic program. Eligibility requirements and dues would be similar to the existing academic (non-United States/Canada graduates) classification.
- Amend AAO Financial Policy to move the **membership renewal deadline** from December 31st to October 31st.
- Increase **International Member dues** from 50% to 60% of full dues.

In 2019 the AAO worked extensively to develop a more accurate way of calculating its US market share number. When comparing a list of orthodontists as provided by the ADA and the AAO member database it is estimated that 84.9% of orthodontists are AAO members. I suspect that the numbers are higher because the ADA lists some members as orthodontists when they are not. The GLAO has a higher market share with 85.9%.

The AAO has a member outreach program which offers guidelines and talking points for us to use when contacting non-renewing members. This program along with contact information on each non renewed member was provided to GLAO component directors. The directors were asked to contact the members and provide a report of their efforts to the GLAO COMEJC representative. Four of the five directors provided a report. In September there were 75 non renewing members and in January there were 47. The GLAO had the second lowest percent of members dropped (4.7) of all 8 constituents.

COMEJC continues to monitor membership data and trends, including the 2019-20 membership renewal cycle that concluded on December 31, 2019. Highlights include:

- o Renewed 94.0% of U.S. Active members (compared to 94.5% in 2018-19) and 84.6% of Canadian Active members (compared to 84.9%).
- o Renewed 86.7% of U.S. Life Active members (compared to 88.7% in 2018-19).
- o Renewed 79.5% of International Members (compared to 77.9% in 2018-19). Of those renewed, 81.6% are current on their WFO memberships, with the remaining 18.4% at risk of being dropped for ineligibility if they do not reinstate with the WFO by May 31st.
- o 5.6% of members overall elected to use the new auto-renew feature, including 4.7% of U.S. Active members, 4.3% of Canadian Active members and 10.5% of International Members. These members will be automatically renewed for the 2020-21 membership year in June 2020.

COMEJC is working with the Council on New and Younger Members (CONYM) on possible amendments to the current five-year tiered dues structure for recent graduates. CONYM will discuss during its February 2020 meeting.

COMEJC's next meeting will be Friday, January 8, 2021 at AAO headquarters.