

Council on Membership, Ethics and Judicial Concerns (COMEJC)
Report to the GLAO – Spring 2023
Stephen J Belli, DDS, MS, GLAO representative to COMEJC

HOD Resolutions

- COMEJC is submitting resolutions to the 2023 AAO House of Delegates to propose the following:
 - Amend the dues waiver policy within AAO Financial Policies to allow COMEJC to serve as the final approver of dues waivers, rather than the BOT.
 - Amend the dues waiver policy within AAO Financial Policies to more clearly define what constitutes the “act of God” condition and add a new condition for “significant financial hardship due to civil unrest of acts of military authority.”
 - Amend the dues waiver policy within AAO Financial Policies to increase the working limit for limited practice waivers from 350 hours per year to 400 hours per year.
 - Amend AAO Bylaws to add more definition to retired membership eligibility.
 - Amend AAO Bylaws to strongly encourage ADA membership at all times, in lieu of the current requirement to be an ADA member at the time of application for AAO membership.
 - Amend AAO Financial Policies to simplify the Service Member dues policy by eliminating reference to Service Member dues in their first three years of membership.
 - Amend the AAO’s Principles of Ethics document to add more detailed explanation of the rationale for decisions mad by an Investigating Committee or Hearing Committee.
 - Amend the AAO’s Principles of Ethics document to clearly state that termination of membership following receipt of notice of a complaint will not necessarily terminate the pending ethics proceeding.
 - Amend AAO Bylaws to remove details regarding disciplinary proceedings, which are already stated in the Principles of Ethics document.

Membership Trends

- COMEJC continues to monitor membership data and trends, including 2022-23 membership renewals. Highlights through January 2023, include:
 - Renewed 96.6% of Active Members (compared to 97.7% through January 2022), including 96.9% of U.S. Active Members and 91.0% of Canadian Active Members.
 - Renewed 96.5% of Life Active members (compared to 95.5% through January 2022).
 - Renewed 95.0% of Student Members (compared to 95.1% through January 2022).
 - Renewed 87.3% of International Members (compared to 89.6% through January 2022).

- 14.9% of all members have paid via auto-renew, including 15.7% of U.S. Active members (up from 14.5% all of last year) and 16.2% of International Members (down from 21.2%).
- As of May 31, 2022, the AAO's market share is 86.5% among U.S. orthodontists and 52.5% for Canadian orthodontists. This number is updated annually as fiscal year-end.

Member Programs

- In 2022, the AAO Board of Trustees approved a recommendation from COMEJC to develop a CE course for AAO members on ethical consideration for orthodontists. The course is being developed as a panel discussion to include COMEJC member Dr. Scott Arbit, Nanette Elster, former ADA staff member and current Editor for the American College of Dentists, and AAO General Counsel Trey Lawrence. The webinar is currently being scheduled for spring 2023. More information will be announced in AAO member communications soon.
- COMEJC continues to oversee the Resident Vitals and Financial Management for Residents presentations that are offered to residency programs annually (either in-person or virtually). Through January 2023, 20 orthodontic programs have scheduled or hosted the Resident Vitals presentation, which eclipses all of 2021-22 but is significantly less than the 54 programs that participated in 2020-21. Eighteen programs have scheduled or hosted the Financial Management for Residents presentation. Programs may request presentations at <https://www2.aaoinfo.org/programs-for-residents-and-educators/orthodontic-program-presentations/>.

COMEJC Meetings

- The next in-person COMEJC meeting will be Friday, January 5, 2024 at AAO headquarters in St. Louis, Missouri.