



Council on Membership, Ethics and Judicial Concerns (COMEJC)

Spring 2026

HOD Resolutions

- COMEJC is submitting resolutions to the 2026 AAO House of Delegates to propose the following:
 - Amend Financial Policies to add dues amounts (percentages) for Life Active Academic members. This is intended to put practice into policy, as Life Active Academic dues are not formally documented currently.
 - Amend Financial Policies to make Service member dues a percentage of Active dues, rather than a flat dollar amount. This will ensure Service dues are adjusted automatically along with Active dues, which is how other member categories (e.g., Life Active and International) are handled.

Membership Trends

- COMEJC continues to monitor membership data and trends, including 2025-26 membership renewals. Through January 2026, 93.8% of Active members have renewed, down from 95.6% at the same time in 2025. There are several key drivers of the decline, including new and younger members (0-9 years in practice), mid-career members (10-19 years), both men and women, and members in OSOs. Post-drop renewals/rejoins have also slowed significantly during December and January.
- Despite a renewal decline among Active members, most other prominent member categories have improved year over year:
 - Life Active Members – 95.5% renewed, up from 95.1% year-over-year.
 - Student Members – 95.8% renewed, compared to 93.4% year-over-year.
 - International Members – 88.1% renewed, compared to 84.9% year-over-year.
 - International Student Members – 47.5% renewed, compared to 46.9% year-over-year.
- As of May 31, 2025, the AAO's market share is 84.6% among U.S. orthodontists (down from 85.8% in 2024) and 48.4% among Canadian orthodontists (down from 83.2%). These numbers are updated annually as fiscal year-end.
- In response to growing membership challenges, COMEJC has submitted a motion to the Board of Trustees to establish the Membership Ambassador Program (MAP). The purpose of the MAP is to drive grassroots engagement, and ultimately recruitment and retention, among volunteer leaders through a defined structure and roles. If adopted as proposed, the program will launch as a pilot with two AAO constituents for the 2026-27 membership year.
- COMEJC has formed a subcommittee to investigate whether a changes is needed to the current dues/assessment amounts paid by Canadian members. Currently, Canadian members receive a 20% reduction on dues and assessments compared their U.S. counterparts.

Member Programs

- 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 2026, 27 accredited orthodontic programs have scheduled or hosted the Resident Vitals presentation, up from 12 for all of 2024-25 and 18 for all of 2023-24. In addition, 21 programs have scheduled or hosted the Financial

Management for Residents presentation, up from 8 for all of 2024-25 and 15 for all of 2023-24.

- In total, 41 of 75 accredited programs (55%) have hosted at least one of the AAO's three presentation offerings, including the AAO Legal Course, in 2025-26.
- AAO is currently piloting the "AAO in a Day" concept where programs host all three AAO presentations in a single day. To date this academic year, the University of Puerto Rico and University of Toronto have participated.
- 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 8, 2027 at AAO headquarters in St. Louis, Missouri.

Sincerely,

Dr. Riyadh Al-Qawasmi

GLAO Representative to the Council on Membership, Ethics and Judicial Concerns (COMEJC)