



**AAO Council on New and Younger Members**  
**Dr. Javen Durham**

**February 23, 2026**

Greetings,

The last meeting was in person at AAO headquarters in St. Louis February 7, 2026 went well. The council will hold a follow up virtual meeting March.

### **Membership Ambassador Program Overview**

The Membership Ambassador Program aims to increase **peer-to-peer engagement** to drive AAO membership growth and strengthen resident involvement.

### **Resident Champions**

- Every orthodontic school has a Resident Champion, except for one remaining school.
- Champions are nominated by Resident Directors and former Resident Champions.
- Communication among Resident Champions is conducted through WhatsApp to allow real-time collaboration and information sharing. This is governed by Kathy Langenfeld.
- Encourage incoming and non-member residents to join the AAO.
- Promote the value and benefits of AAO membership.
- Disseminate updates and information from AAO leadership to residents.
- Provide structured feedback to AAO regarding resident needs and concerns.
- Assist with scheduling **AAO in A Day** presentations at their institutions. (15 out of 75 schools scheduled presentations last year)

### **Faculty Champion**

- A Faculty Champion component is being incorporated to strengthen institutional alignment and mentorship support.

### **2 separate Tracks initiated at 2026 AAO**

#### **1. New Orthodontist Track ( 7 registered as of February 2026)**

- Date: Thursday of conference week
- Time: 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM

- Separate \$100 registration fee
- Dedicated speakers
- Evening networking dinner at The Hampton Social (Instagram-worthy venue designed to foster connection and community).

## **2. Resident Track (250 residents registered as of February 2026)**

Next in person meeting will be held at AAO headquarters February 5-6th, 2027.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Javen Durham, DDS  
GLAO Representative to the AAO Council on New and Younger Members

The Great Lakes Association of Orthodontists  
400 W. Wilson Bridge Road, Suite 120  
Worthington, Ohio 43085