

Council on New and Younger Members (CONYM)

With the 2018 Annual Session in Washington, D.C. marking the end of the AAO calendar year, it also marked the completion of CONYM's first year serving as liaisons to other councils. From all accounts, this has been met with much success from both CONYM's standpoint and the other councils. The flow of information and collaboration between councils was enhanced and a better understanding was had by all as to the needs of our association's NYMs and what various councils can do to assist in serving them. CONYM looks forward to continuing this relationship into the future.

As CONYM has now served in the aforementioned liaison positions, the 2018 House of Delegates passed a resolution allowing for CONYM to select one member to partake in, as non-voting liaisons, all quarterly Board of Trustees Meetings. This resolution passed unanimously in the HOD and was a significant step forward for NYMs to ensure that their voices are heard at the highest level of our association.

The 2018 Annual Session in Washington, D.C. was a busy one for CONYM as the Council hosted its first "Lunch with Leaders" which was a rebranding of the AAO "Town Hall" event. Previous attendance had been lackluster due to poor location and timing as it was often up against general session lectures. This event was held in the exhibit hall during non-lecture hours and all attendees were given a boxed lunch. Attendees had the opportunity to sit with their constituencies CONYM representative as well as their respective Trustee. This seemed to meet with great success as we had over 80 individuals attend and an enjoyable time was had by all discussing AAO initiatives, AAO member benefits, and any questions/concerns that attendees had that they wished to voice with the BOT members that were in attendance.

CONYM also organized the annual New Orthodontist and Resident Conference as part of the Annual Session. This year's keynote speaker was **Andrew Tucker** from the McGill & Hill Group. Mr. Tucker spoke on achieving financial independence for the young practitioner who would like to start saving, but is riddled with student and practice debt which often makes this difficult. Following the lecture, informational roundtables were conducted with topics ranging from how to start a practice to legal pitfalls facing new business owners. This event was very well attended with a final tally of over 170 participants.

CONYM will continue to take part in GORP (Graduate Orthodontic Residents Program) with one of our council members hosting a booth to discuss AAO offerings for our future new and younger members as well as giving a presentation during the general session to give additional information on CONYM and how it serves our younger constituents.

The recently implemented Resident Champion Program continues to be a solid communication line between the AAO's BOT and the residency program with a designated resident within each program relaying information to and from the AAO to

the program's residents. This information exchange is vital as CONYM and the AAO attempts to capture our new and younger members while still in school and gain early interest in future involvement within the association.

CONYM continues to be involved with oversight on the AAO's mentorship program. After one full year in action, the Council has decided to continue forward with the individual mentorship arm of this program, but eliminate the group mentorship as this coordination and communication proved difficult for both mentors and mentees. Those who have participated in the individual mentorship, however, have had a very positive experience and we look forward to continuing with this.

In the Spring of 2018, CONYM members reached out to all new and younger members that had not renewed their AAO membership in an effort to secure renewals. By reaching out directly to these individuals, our Council members were able to have one-on-one conversations about our Council, the AAO, and all members' services/benefits that are offered. Of all the contacts made, we had a 58% success rate with renewals.

The BOT has formed an "Annual Session Task Force" following a survey from new and younger members, which stated that the length/timing of the Annual Session is a primary deterrent towards more of our newer members attending. This task force will study alternative registration options including a "weekend only" registration block as well as looking at the length of the Annual Session as a whole to determine if it should be shortened to accommodate the busy lives of our association's members. There is a feeling within the association that it is becoming increasingly difficult for our younger members to take off time to attend the entire Annual Session so the AAO is seeking other options to make attendance more feasible for all.

Thank you for the continued opportunity to represent the MSO and I look forward to continuing to serve.

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