

Recommended Guidelines for AOA Member Nominators

- Contact the candidate you wish to nominate to ensure they are interested in AOA Membership before nominating them.
 - Provide them with AOA's focus on leadership principles and development and add your own, personal value proposition (what you enjoy about your membership in AOA and how it is different than other orthopaedic societies, how AOA programs have helped you learn and grow in your career, network with leaders in other subspecialties, etc.).
- Once the Candidate has been approved for membership at the Annual Meeting, mentor and encourage their leadership growth:
 - Send them a congratulatory note after the Annual Meeting when the slate is approved. (Nominators are copied on the emails to the candidates announcing their approval into membership).
 - Highly encourage them to attend the AOA Annual Leadership Meetings the following June where they are officially inducted and receive their pin, celebrate at the new member toast, and learn more about how they can get the most benefit from their AOA membership at the New Members Orientation.
 - Engage with the nominee before the meeting and encourage their participation in these new member sessions.
 - Plan to attend, invite your nominated candidate, and schedule time with them at the meeting.
 - When together at AOA events, make a point to introduce them to those you know outside of their specialty for the cross-subspecialty networking that is unique to the AOA, one of the benefits of AOA membership.
 - Encourage them to participate in AOA activities, events and programs as a way to increase the value of their membership to both them and their institution or practice. Forward information on upcoming programs/events you receive from AOA with a note of encouragement (I think you would find value in attending this event, for example). This also helps give you a reason to reach out and connect with them regularly to see how they are doing.
 - Nominate them for AOA volunteer positions.

New Member Expectations

Per the Bylaws, you must attend one AOA meeting/event every three years for the first 10 years of membership. Participation at AOA events not only provides you with insight into critical issues in Orthopaedic leadership but helps build your network of orthopaedic leaders outside of your subspecialty, a unique benefit of the AOA.

You are highly encouraged to attend the first AOA Annual Meeting the following June after your election for official induction into the AOA to walk the stage and receive your pin.

Take advantage of the AOA orthopaedic leadership development programs offered, such as APEX or the Emerging Leader Forum for those within their first 10 years of clinical practice, to help prepare you for future leadership positions.

Use the FAOA designation in your signature line to show your commitment to orthopaedic leadership and identify yourself as one of only 10% of U.S. orthopaedic surgeons who have earned it.

Nominate other candidates for AOA membership who are great leaders or have great leadership potential.

Participate in AOA surveys. Your feedback is important and helps shape the direction of the association to engage the orthopaedic community to develop leaders, strategies, and resources to guide the future of musculoskeletal care.