



# T A A O M

Texas Association of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine



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## Texas Association of Acupuncture & Oriental Medicine E-Newsletter

### In This Issue

[9000 Needles](#)

[Strategic Planning Meeting](#)

[2011 Legislative Session](#)

[Acupuncture Board Meeting](#)

[Monthly Dues Installment](#)

### 9000 Needles to Show at Alamo Drafthouse Cinema

The film, 9000 Needles, will be shown at the Alamo Drafthouse Cinema on Anderson Lane in Austin on Sunday, January 16, 2011 at 4:00 p.m. This special screening will be presented by the Texas Association of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (TAAOM) as a community awareness effort and with a portion of the proceeds going to benefit the TAAOM. Many thanks to TAAOM member Ann Mowat for her efforts in arranging this special event.

Conveniently located right next door to the Academy of Oriental Medicine at Austin, the Alamo Drafthouse Cinema on Anderson Lane will be a perfect venue for watching this award winning film. Known for its spacious seating and restaurant-like environment, both the uninitiated and return movie goers will find the Alamo Drafthouse to be a uniquely enjoyable theater experience. The film itself will go to the very heart of the acupuncture community as it details the difficulties faced by a U.S. businessman who faces obstacles in his care after a devastating stroke. His quest for effective treatment and recovery will lead him to China in search of the benefits of acupuncture and oriental medicine. The film is an eye-opener for those new to acupuncture, and an inspiration for those who are already advocates for the profession. For more information on the film go to

[http://9000needles.com/9,000\\_Needles/Welcome.html](http://9000needles.com/9,000_Needles/Welcome.html) Look to future TAAOM emails for information on tickets. As January 16th approaches, go to the TAAOM website for periodic updates [www.taaom.org](http://www.taaom.org) or check out the Alamo Drafthouse online at <http://www.originalalamo.com/>.

### Strategic Planning Meetings: Houston (Nov. 7) and Austin (Dec. 5)

The TAAOM held its first 2010 Strategic Planning Meeting in Houston on Sunday, November 7, 2010. The meeting took place at the American College of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine and was attended by association leaders and interested members from around the Houston area. This first meeting tackled the difficult task of identifying the values of the association and assessing the current association environment including strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats. A draft Mission Statement was produced at this meeting and is expected to undergo further revisions at the upcoming Strategic Planning Meeting in Austin on Sunday, December 5th. The December 5th meeting in Austin will be held in Room E of the Academy of Oriental Medicine at Austin (AOMA) which is located at 2700 W. Anderson Lane. The meeting will start at noon and will end no later than 6:00 p.m. This working meeting will resume the focus on the association mission statement as well as the drafting of goals and objectives needed to fulfill the TAAOM mission. To make the most of the limited available time, there will be no breaks for lunch or dinner; however, beverages and snack items can be purchased at adjacent businesses.

Participants are encouraged to have lunch before they arrive and to consider informally gathering afterward for dinner nearby. TAAOM members as well as non-member acupuncturists and acupuncture students are invited to attend and provide input on the direction the association should take over the next few years. The session will be facilitated by Debbi Toh of the TAAOM staff. Ms. Toh has extensive experience in strategic planning. The Austin session will build on the work done in Houston while hopefully incorporating additional valuable input. No later than January and as early as mid-December, the TAAOM Board of Directors will review the resulting strategic planning recommendations for adoption of a new mission statement along with strategic goals and objectives. Thanks to the American College of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine of Houston and to the Academy of Oriental Medicine at Austin for providing the necessary meeting space.

## Texas Legislative Session to Begin in January

After a frenzied campaign season and the November elections, members of the Texas Legislature are catching their breath before the start of the session on January 11, 2011. The Texas Legislature will start its 82nd Session with some daunting tasks ahead. Among the challenges to be addressed will be a budget that is expected to be billions of dollars short of projected needs. In November, state agencies were notified to find another 3% to be cut from their proposed budgets on top of the 5% cut already requested of most agencies. The impact on agency resources will be significant and will most likely lead to staffing changes, unfilled employee positions, and possibly a reduction in the number of agency board meetings. It may slow down the processing of acupuncture licenses and the passage of agency rules that regulate the profession. In addition, political redistricting will be a mandated priority of the Texas Legislature and it has historically been a source of great contention between political parties. These high profile battles on the budget and redistricting will likely combine to make the 82nd Session one of the most difficult in recent memory. Getting good legislation passed will probably be more problematic than usual, but on the other hand, stopping bad legislation should be a bit easier. Fiscal notes on proposed legislation will be more important than ever. The TAAOM leadership is ready to monitor and respond to legislative developments, but active involvement of the membership and others in the acupuncture community will still be essential for a favorable session. For periodic updates during the session, check your email or go to [www.taaom.org](http://www.taaom.org). To volunteer for grassroots lobbying, email [TAAOMExecDir@gmail.com](mailto:TAAOMExecDir@gmail.com).

## Acupuncture Board Meeting of November 12

The Texas State Board of Acupuncture Examiners held its last board meeting of 2010 on November 12th. The Education Committee met prior to the Board meeting to approve CAE providers and CAE courses as well as the minutes of the May 14th Education Committee meeting. The full Board covered a wide range of matters. Among them were integration of a separate Acupuncture section into the Texas Medical Board's existing electronic newsletter and updates to the frequently asked questions section of the website. A scope of practice subcommittee of the Board was created to focus on more clearly defining the scope of acupuncture practice in Texas with consideration being given to the problems reported about insurance carriers declining to pay for acupuncture billed under certain CPT codes. TAAOM members and the TAAOM Executive Director were on hand to

monitor the meeting and testify about CAE matters and the various issues pertaining to reimbursement and scope of practice. The Board also passed rules to streamline the approval of minutes and action items so as to more efficiently conduct agency business. To access the board and committee agendas, the Acupuncture Practice Act, and agency rules, go to [www.tmb.state.tx.us](http://www.tmb.state.tx.us). Board meetings are open to the public. The next meeting of the Texas State Board of Acupuncture Examiners will be January 21, 2011. The TAAOM will continue to have one or more representatives in attendance to monitor and provide input.

## Monthly Due Installment Program Update

The TAAOM is continuing to offer its program for paying association dues by automatic monthly installments via credit card. This method of payment was implemented to allow members the convenience of small automatic payments rather than making one larger payment by check or credit card each year. The program has been well received and is being used by a growing number of members. Once initiated, monthly installments continue until the member needs to update card information or chooses to notify the TAAOM to discontinue the installment program payments. Membership applications are available online at [www.taaom.org](http://www.taaom.org). Applications, changes in membership data, and membership dues matters can be addressed by emailing [TAAOM.Membership@gmail.com](mailto:TAAOM.Membership@gmail.com).