



T A A O M  
Texas Association of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine



February 2011

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

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### TAAOM to Celebrate New Year & UNESCO Recognition

To usher in the New Year and to build camaraderie among the association and the Texas acupuncture community, the TAAOM will be hosting a dinner in the Houston area. The dinner will be at the China Bear Restaurant located at 12755 S.W. Fwy in Stafford starting at 7:00 p.m. on Saturday, February 26, 2011. The TAAOM will also use this gathering to celebrate the decision of the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), a specialized agency of the UN, which acted favorably through its Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, to approve the nomination of acupuncture and moxibustion of traditional Chinese medicine. See the related note below. The American College of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (ACAOM) has generously offered to donate the costs for this social event so that TAAOM members and prospective members can celebrate the promise of the New Year and network for the benefit of the profession and those it serves. There is no charge to attendees for this event or the meal. Members, non-members, students, and prospective members are all invited and encouraged to attend.

### TAAOM Annual Meeting - Mark Your Calendar for March 27<sup>th</sup>

Mark your calendars. The TAAOM will be holding its Annual Meeting in Austin, Texas on Sunday, March 27, 2011. AOMA Graduate School of Integrative Medicine has graciously agreed to provide room space for the meeting which will start at 10 a.m., and is expected to conclude mid-afternoon. A formal written notice will be sent to current members. If you have not renewed your membership or think it may have lapsed, email [taaom.membership@gmail.com](mailto:taaom.membership@gmail.com) for assistance in renewing. Members, non-members, students, and prospective members are welcome at the Annual Meeting, but only current members may vote. Specific location information will be included in the upcoming written notice and will be posted on the events section of the association website at [www.taaom.org](http://www.taaom.org).

### TAAOM Strategic Plan Gains Final Approval

The association Board of Directors met by conference call on February 16, 2011, and unanimously approved the proposed strategic plan which was recommended by the two working groups from Houston and Austin whose combined efforts last year resulted in a cohesive plan to focus the TAAOM's future efforts. A new mission statement was adopted which simply states the mission as: "To understand and address the needs of Texas Oriental Medicine professionals and the communities they serve by promoting high quality standards, providing a unified voice, and supporting the profession." Three primary goals were also established along with specific and measurable objectives. To read a complete copy of the TAAOM Strategic Plan, go to [www.taaom.org](http://www.taaom.org).

### TAAOM Sending Representative to AAAOM Meeting

The association is pleased to announce that it is sending a representative to the upcoming March 13 - 14 meeting of the American Association of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (AAAOM). The meeting will be held in Baltimore, and may prove to be a landmark gathering. This meeting is specifically designed as an opportunity for representatives from AAAOM and the various state associations to meet face to face so that they can brainstorm and take input on how best to integrate the state associations as chapters of AAAOM. It is thought by some that by doing so the state organizations will get the advantages of improved infrastructure, coordinated advocacy, and membership of AAAOM members who do not yet belong to their state-level associations. With strength in numbers and more far-reaching coordination, AAAOM will in turn become stronger in its national advocacy efforts. The goal is to create a situation in which the state associations take ownership of the national association through participation on equal footing with one another. There appears to be a strong sense at the national level that AAAOM must make sure that states have a

viable role in the advancement of the profession and that national serve not as a dictating entity, but instead as a vehicle for moving forward in a unified fashion.

## 9,000 Needles Showing a Sold-out Success

The January 16th screening of 9,000 Needles was sold-out, and by all accounts was quite a memorable success. This special screening was presented by the TAAOM as a community awareness effort and with a portion of the proceeds going to benefit the TAAOM. Many thanks to the film's director whose attendance made the screening particularly special. The film's director, Doug Dearth, along with his wife, Beth, arrived early and stayed late to promote the message of the movie and further its underlying goals. Both play essential roles in The Devin Dearth Foundation, which is dedicated to helping those suffering from debilitating injuries and disease while fostering access to a more global healthcare community. Documenting an American's efforts in traveling to China to receive treatment and therapy for the ravages of a stroke, the film is an eye-opener for those new to acupuncture, and an inspiration for those who are already advocates for the oriental medicine profession. For more information on The Devin Dearth Foundation go to [www.devindearth.org](http://www.devindearth.org) and to find more specific information on the film itself, go to [http://9000needles.com/9,000\\_Needles/Welcome.html](http://9000needles.com/9,000_Needles/Welcome.html). For more information on the TAAOM or to become a member, go to [www.taaom.org](http://www.taaom.org).

## Texas Legislature: A Low Activity Struggle

The 82nd Session of the Texas Legislature, which began on January 11th and runs through May, has a ways to go and plenty of work ahead. Legislators are slowly coming to grips with a work agenda that is heavily burdened by budgeting challenges that are unprecedented in recent memory. While the House and Senate struggle to address a projected budget deficit in the billions, veterans of the process have recognized that this is not the year to try to pass other legislation. With the budget problems taking center stage, and the historically contentious process of political redistricting waiting in the wings, bill filing has been at the lowest level seen in years. Compared to prior sessions only a third of the usual number of bills have been filed. Many are expected to die with little to no fanfare. Aside from non-controversial legislation to enhance temporary licensing for acupuncturists and address post graduate training needs, the oriental medicine community does not appear to be the subject of legislative interest; however, the TAAOM is keeping an eye out for filings prior to the March bill filing deadline and is being particularly watchful of legislation that might be filed to implement a consolidation of state health care provider licensing agencies. This concern has drawn more attention in light of Governor Perry's comments about the need to do so for a more efficient and cost-effective system of government. To read a basic overview of the legislative process, check out the legislative page of the TAAOM website at <http://www.taaom.org/legislative.html>. TAAOM will continue to monitor, report, and act on acupuncture related legislation throughout the ongoing session.

## Cultural Heritage of Acupuncture Recognized by UNESCO

As noted in the TAAOM ENews of January 2011, it bears repeating that the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), a specialized agency of the UN, acted favorably through its Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, to approve the nomination of acupuncture and moxibustion of traditional Chinese medicine. With this action UNESCO will implement various measures in the years ahead to safeguard and promote this important aspect of cultural heritage so widely revered and respected in China and internationally. This long awaited recognition and status has been welcomed by the worldwide oriental medicine community. TAAOM applauds this action and sees it as one more positive step in furthering world peace by encouraging the interchange of ideas, culture, and scientific achievements while advancing education and improving the human condition.

## TAAOM Newsletter - Advertisers Wanted

The Winter 2010-2011 edition of the TAAOM hard copy newsletter is in final production. At this time, advertising space is still available. Advertising for this newsletter that is widely circulated among Texas acupuncturists is both affordable and effective. It also helps to support the profession and the TAAOM. To obtain rates, reserve space, and receive an advertising contract, email a request to [taaom.execdir@gmail.com](mailto:taaom.execdir@gmail.com).