



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



October 2010

Texas Association of Acupuncture & Oriental Medicine E-Newsletter

In This Issue

[Strategic Planning](#)

[TAAOM Continuing Education](#)

[State & National Elections](#)

[Texas Legislative Session](#)

[Acupuncture Board Meeting](#)

Strategic Planning Meeting Set for Houston

The TAAOM Board of Directors has set the first 2010 Strategic Planning Meeting for Houston on Sunday, November 7, 2010 at the American College of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine located at 9100 West Park Drive. The planning session will begin at noon and will end at 6:00 p.m. This working meeting will focus on the association mission statement as well as the goals, objectives, and funding needed to fulfill the TAAOM mission. Beverages and snack items will be provided, but to make the most of the limited available time, there will be no breaks for lunch or dinner. 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 and will be accompanied by her husband, Chris Toh, who has graciously volunteered to assist in translating. Considerable effort has been put into coordinating a date, time and location to make participation possible for as many people as the meeting location can accommodate. For those who cannot make this meeting, a second strategic planning session will be held on Sunday, December 5, 2010 in Austin at a location to be determined. The Austin session will build on the work done in Houston while hopefully incorporating additional valuable input.

TAAOM Continuing Education November 13 - Houston

The TAAOM is offering continuing education in Houston on November 13th to help acupuncturists in their professional development and in meeting their licensure renewal requirements under Board rule 183.20 which requires 17 hours of approved education each year. One hour of the mandated annual continuing education must be in ethics. The upcoming continuing education will help to meet basic renewal requirements while building a stronger foundation for optimal care of patients. You still have time to sign up for both Meridian Balancing as well as Acupuncture Ethics. Your professional development is essential for maintaining a current fund of knowledge while complying with the state requirements for license renewal. To register go to [online registration](#).

State and National Elections on the Horizon

Election day is less than a month away. On Tuesday, November 2nd, U.S. citizens will have the opportunity, privilege, and responsibility to cast their votes for state and federal candidates for political office as well as to vote on important local issues. The TAAOM recognizes the diverse political views of its membership, and is not endorsing any particular party or candidate; however, the TAAOM does encourage member participation in the political process. For the collective views of the acupuncture community to be reflected in election results, your involvement is absolutely necessary. This is your country. Your vote does matter. Register and vote. If you don't, who will?

Texas Legislative Session to Begin in January

On January 11, 2011, the Texas Legislature will kick off its 82nd Session. Faced with an anticipated budget shortfall of 10 to 20 billion dollars and the polarizing problems associated with redistricting, this session is expected to be a particularly challenging one for passing legislation. State agencies, including the Texas Medical Board and the Texas State Board of Acupuncture Examiners, are facing significant cuts in order to balance the overall state budget. Redistricting typically takes up limited time and causes political tension that undercuts other agenda items. In the midst of these problems, the TAAOM will undoubtedly be called upon to respond to legislation that could impact on the scope of practice of acupuncturists, chiropractors, physical therapists, and others. Reimbursement and insurance related issues may also draw attention despite the distractions posed by budgeting and redistricting. The TAAOM leadership is poised to monitor and respond to legislative developments, but active involvement of the membership and others in the acupuncture community will likely be needed. For periodic updates during the session, check your email or go to www.taaom.org. To volunteer for grassroots lobbying, email TAAOM.ExecDir@gmail.com.

Acupuncture Board to Meet November 12, 2010

The Texas State Board of Acupuncture Examiners will hold its next board meeting and related committee meetings on November 12, 2010. The meetings will be held in Austin in the main conference room, Room 225, Tower 2, 333 Guadalupe. To access the board and committee agendas, the Acupuncture Practice Act, and agency rules, go to www.tmb.state.tx.us. This meeting is open to the public. The TAAOM will have one or more representatives in attendance to monitor and provide input.