



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



September 2010

Texas Association of Acupuncture & Oriental Medicine E-Newsletter

In This Issue

[Continuing Education Offerings](#)

[BOD Streamlines Operations](#)

[BOD Moving Forward on
Strategic Planning](#)

[TAAOM Legislative Committee](#)

[Professional Designations](#)

[Acupuncture Stakeholders
Meeting](#)

TAAOM Continuing Education Offerings

It isn't too late to sign up for TAAOM Continuing Education (CE) scheduled for the near future. Go to [sign up page](#) to register for one or more of the following approved CE courses: Meridian Balancing, November 13, 2010 (Houston); and Acupuncture Ethics, November 13, 2010 (Houston). Your professional development is important for your continued licensure in Texas as well as for the advancement of the association and the profession. Don't miss out on these great educational opportunities.

TAAOM BoD Streamlines Operations

The TAAOM Board of Directors (BoD) recently acted by written resolution to address various administrative matters with an eye toward streamlining communications and operations. BoD action by written resolution rather than action during a meeting requires a two-thirds majority vote instead of a simple majority in order to ensure that the related decisions by resolution are well thought out and non-controversial. Operating under the authority of TAAOM Bylaws, Art. XI, the BoD passed a resolution addressing a number of matters. In addition to the routine approval of the June BoD meeting minutes, the written resolution formalized the name of the Legislative Committee, authorized a process for approving needed legislative-member recruitment correspondence, established a process for updating website content, and allowed for easier coordination of needed strategic planning meetings. A copy of the resolution will be maintained with the corporate books in Austin.

TAAOM BoD Moving Forward on Strategic Planning

The TAAOM Board of Directors and association personnel are continuing to move forward on the development of a new strategic plan. Building off of prior planning and new ideas, the resulting plan will help to refocus and maximize the effective use of available resources. The dates for strategic planning meetings in Austin and Houston have not yet been set; however, in preparation for these working meetings, association governance documents have been under review for needed revisions and implementation. The strategic plan will establish the association's future goals and objectives.

Input from TAAOM members and prospective members is welcome and interested acupuncturists and acupuncture students are encouraged to be involved. Budget planning will also take place in these meetings in order to re-align resources with stated goals and objectives. The resulting strategic plan will provide guidance to the Board of Directors and the staff as to how best to utilize available resources and prioritize projects. It is hoped that with a refocused strategic plan the TAAOM will be able to more effectively address the needs of association members as well as the profession of acupuncture. Email alerts with more details will follow when the Austin and Houston planning meetings have been set.

TAAOM Legislative Committee

Over the summer, the newly reconstituted TAAOM Legislative Committee met for organizational purposes in further preparation for the upcoming 82nd Session of the Texas Legislature. The Texas Legislature is set to convene on January 11, 2011, and the TAAOM leadership expects that the acupuncture community will see bills filed that could potentially impact on acupuncture practice and patients. Recommended actions from the committee included: (i) initiating a mail campaign for the joint purpose of legislative awareness and member recruitment (ii) identifying the legislators for both members and non-members to assist in developing a grass roots lobbying structure (iii) reviewing and streamlining of the bill proposed on behalf of TAAOM during the last legislative session (iv) coordinating a gala and annual meeting in Austin during odd numbered years to take advantage of timing of legislative initiatives and in Houston during even numbered years so that there is support for both communities and the schools in each region (v) revising the Rules, Guidelines and Procedures of the TAAOM to formalize the committee's name as the Legislative Committee and to allow for more than two members at large on TAAOM committees [See page 5, Art. X, Committees 1. A., (1) - (9)]. BoD action on these recommendations has been initiated. For more information on the TAAOM Legislative Committee and to become involved, go to the Legislative link on the TAAOM website www.taaom.org.

Professional Designations

After discussions with TAAOM representatives and other stakeholders, the Texas State Board of Acupuncture Examiners (TSBAE), through its Texas Medical Board (TMB) support staff, recently took action to offer increased guidance to licensed acupuncturists on how to best designate their licensed status as well as how to use the doctor designation in compliance with the Healing Art Identification Act. The agency website now has frequently asked questions (FAQs) pertaining to acupuncture professional designations. Go to [TMB website](#). The next public meeting of the TSBAE is scheduled for November 12, 2010.

Acupuncture Stakeholders Meeting

On July 20, 2010, the Texas Medical Board (TMB) staff held a stakeholders meeting on behalf of the Texas Acupuncture Board. In attendance were three members of the TAAOM and the TAAOM Executive Director. Discussion centered primarily on handling the licensing and regulation of visiting senior acupuncturists who may want to teach at a school, and the plans for regulation to be implemented with the development of doctoral level education for acupuncturists. Discussion also took place on continuing education credit for acupuncturists who take ethics courses outside the profession of acupuncture. Feedback provided at this stakeholders meeting is expected to be reported to the full Texas Acupuncture Board at its November 12th meeting. The meeting will be held in Austin at 333 Guadalupe and is open to the public.