

Commentary

President's Message

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President's Message

Gayle P. Snyder, M.A.

President, International Association of Orofacial Myology

Historically the President's Message has been an opportunity for the incoming President to thank his/her predecessors and also to list the objectives and goals of the present administration. I welcome this opportunity and would like to thank the Association for placing their trust in my abilities. I want to stress that the Association will grow and prosper in relationship to the support and active involvement of the members of the IAOM.

Since joining this Association almost ten years ago, I have watched it grow and develop through the energy and creativity of its members and the guidance of its elected officers. Advancements within the recent past alone have been remarkable. Among these are: establishment of a clearly defined administrative structure; written policies and procedures to facilitate smooth operation of the Association; adoption of a Revised Position Statement on Oral Myofunctional Disorders by ASHA; development of our own research organization, (CROM); IAOM sponsored courses developed by the Special Education Committee; and most importantly, recognition and increased dialogue with related national professional organizations.

We now have an opportunity to fulfil what must have been the dream of the founders of the IAOM. We have an opportunity to see the specialty area of Oral Myofunctional Disorders achieve the recognition and credibility it so rightly deserves. Now that I find myself in a position of leadership I would like to share with you my goals for the next two years.

My number one priority will be to encourage all IAOM members to become actively involved in the Association. Continued growth and recognition of our specialty area requires the efforts and energy of all members. I realize that not everyone feels comfortable holding an office or chairing a committee, however, there are many ways to become involved. I sincerely urge you to ask any of your Association officers how you can help. You will be welcomed with open arms! Let's work together to create our future.

My second priority will be to encourage all members to achieve IAOM Certification status. I sincerely congratulate those members who have achieved this status, applaud those working on Certification, and strongly encourage those members not yet certified to begin that process in the immediate future. The benefits of your labor include increased knowledge and skills in your chosen field and indicates that you are an informed and qualified professional. The IAOM is achieving recognition as the professional Association of Oral Myofunctional Therapists. We are proud of our standards and our Certified members. I strongly urge all active members to become certified now.

Thank you again for the trust and responsibility that you have given me. Together we will create the future we want. Together we will make it happen!