Commentary

President's message: Status report on initial goals

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President's Message

Galen L. Peachey, M.Ed.

President, International Association of Orofacial Myology

When I began formulating my thoughts regarding this presidential message, I re-read what I had written for my first message in the July 1989 issue of the I.J.O.M. This exercise of re-reading was both rewarding and enlightening for me. I listed the following goals for my tenure: 1) double our membership in two years, 2) establish more courses at the university level, 3) establish an interdisciplinary task force on research, and 4) develop a position statement defining competency and standard required for clinical practice of Orofacial Myology.

For this July issue of the I.J.O.M., I would like to provide a status report regarding each of these goals.

GOAL #1 Membership — Our membership during this first year has remained essentially the same as last year. I am not discouraged by this for our future looks quite promising. There appears to be a good chance that the American Speech/Language/Hearing Association will adopt a revised position statement on Oral Myofunctional Disorders, thus rescinding the 1974 A.S.H.A. Position Statement on Tongue Thrust. A new position statement on Labial-Lingual Posturing/Function will most certainly have a major impact on the I.A.O.M. and its membership. The A.S.H.A. legislative council will vote on this resolution at the annual convention in Seattle, November 1990. I recommend all I.A.O.M. members who are also members of A.S.H.A. to contact their state legislators and encourage an affirmative vote on this issue.

GOAL #2 University Level Course — I am quite pleased at the progress being made in this area. For the first time in the history of the I.A.O.M., our association is sponsoring and staffing a four day training course in Orofacial Myology, to be held at Northwestern University in Chicago, August 1990. It is my hope this course will be held biannually to provide meaningful information to persons interested in Orofacial Myology.

GOAL #3 Research — To date we have not established an interdisciplinary research team, but we have initiated a special research committee comprised of individuals with initiative and vision. This committee began a short-term research project during the June convention and are working vigorously establishing the groundwork necessary to undertake long-term research. I strongly encourage anyone interested in research in Orofacial Myology, members of the I.A.O.M. or nonmembers, to contact Diana Nelson or myself regarding participation. Both of us can be contacted through the I.A.O.M. office, P.O. Box 2143, Saratoga, CA 95070-0143.

GOAL #4 Competency and Standardization — During the June 1990 I.A.O.M. convention, we held our first "Calibration" session regarding the boundaries of our expertise. It is hoped that this session and others like it will assist the I.A.O.M. in establishing detailed parameters of practice.

In conclusion I must say I am proud of our past and encouraged for our future. I do feel compelled, however, to express a personal concern. The I.A.O.M. is you — the members reading this message — not the Board of Directors. During the past year as I served in the capacity of President of the I.A.O.M., I received only TWO letters from members with input, suggestions, comments and/or complaints. This number excludes the Board of Directors and committee members. Mathematically that means 1% of the association membership was "active" in the matters of your association. I believe that we must all be involved if we are to progress. Please become involved by expressing interest in being a committee member, holding an office, supporting the I.J.O.M., or for purely selfish reasons. Our progress as an association will directly effect you, your clients and your referral sources. Become a voice — you will be heard!