From the Editor

The International Association of Orofacial Myology: Purposes, Membership, Code of Ethics

International Association of Orofacial Myology

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The International Association of Orofacial Myology

The efforts of a small group of clinicians interested in orofacial myofunctional disorders brought about this professional organization in 1972. Its steady and sustained growth has been most gratifying.

AN INVITATION . . .

We continue to welcome new members. If your interests coincide with ours, there is a category of membership available for you. We heartily invite you to join us in our continuous attempts to improve our profession.

PURPOSES OF I.A.O.M.

To encourage the basic scientific study of orofacial structures, functions, and development.

To provide information and to develop and expand services concerning orofacial myofunctional disorders.

To promote professional growth and encourage high professional standards.

To stimulate the exchange of experience, ideas and professional procedures.

To provide an effective relationship with members in all agencies and professions that are related to orofacial myofunctional disorders.

To promote professional training at the college or university level.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

One of our paramount goals is to assure that those persons rendering treatment for orofacial

myofunctional disorders be qualified to provide such therapy. We strongly encourage all active and clinical members to complete certification. In order to become certified, it is necessary to (1) satisfactorily pass a written proficiency examination and (2) arrange for observation by a member of the Board of Examiners who will evaluate the competency of the applicant in the actual therapy situation. Members of the Board are numerous, and are located in most parts of the U.S. and some foreign countries. It is the responsibility of the applicant to arrange for this on-site evaluation, to reimburse the Board of Examiners for expenses incurred therein, and to fulfill this requirement at any time after becoming a member but certainly within six months after completion of the written examination.

The written proficiency examination is an open-book test which the applicant is given 12 months to complete. Outside sources of all types may be used in collecting information and formulating answers.

Membership Classifications for the International Association of Orofacial Myology

Certified: A *Certified Member* shall be identified as a member holding *active* or *clinical* membership who has satisfactorily completed a written I.A.O.M. Proficiency Examination and who has been evaluated for competency in patient treatment by a member of the Board of Examiners of the I.A.O.M.

Active: An *Active Member* shall be identified as a member who holds a four-year degree in a health-related field from an accredited institution, who is licensed in his/her profession where licensing is applicable, or who is professionally qualified where no licensing laws exist. Persons in this category shall be

expected to take an active role in the affairs of the I.A.O.M. Those actively providing therapy would be expected to work toward becoming a certified member.

Clinical: A *Clinical Member* shall be identified as a member who does NOT hold a four-year degree, but who is engaged in providing therapy for patients with orofacial myofunctional disorders. The clinical member must be employed by an *Active* or *Certified* member, or must demonstrate to the I.A.O.M. an acceptable experience background in lieu of a degree. The clinical member is expected to work toward certification.

Associate: An *Associate Member* is a member who subscribes to the purposes of the I.A.O.M., and who demonstrates an interest in the work of the profession. An *Associate Member* may also be a student in a related field of study. The *Associate Member* is NOT eligible to hold office in the I.A.O.M., is NOT to provide any form of orofacial myofunctional therapy and is NOT eligible to vote in the affairs of the I.A.O.M.

Honorary: An *Honorary Member* is one who has been selected by the Executive Committee of the I.A.O.M. for significant contributions toward the advancement of the I.A.O.M. principles. The honorary member does not pay annual dues, may not hold office in the I.A.O.M., is not to provide any form of orofacial myofunctional therapy and is not eligible to vote in the affairs of the I.A.O.M.

unless he/she holds the classification of certified, active or clinical member.

Life: A *Life Member* is one who has attained the age of sixty-five (65) and who has held membership for ten (10) consecutive years immediately prior to attaining the age of sixty-five (65). This category must be applied for in writing to the Executive Committee of the I.A.O.M. by the member. If this person fulfills the above requirements, the member shall automatically receive *LIFE* membership status with all the privileges of a member without payment of dues each year thereafter.

Dues for Certified, Active and Clinical categories shall be \$50.00 annually. Dues for Associate category shall be \$40.00 annually.

Members in all categories receive *The International Journal of Orofacial Myology* and all other publications of the Association.

All members are required to adhere scrupulously to the Code of Ethics established by the International Association of Orofacial Myology.

Address All Inquires To:

International Association of Orofacial Myology
P.O. Box 540
Green Forest, AR 72638

Code of Ethics of the International Association of Orofacial Myology

PREAMBLE

This Code of Ethics has been created to encourage the highest standards of integrity and ethical principles. This code of ethics has been created by the International Association of Orofacial Myology in hopes of helping raise the standards of practice among those who work with orofacial

myofunctional disorders. Any act that is in violation of the spirit and purpose of this code of ethics shall be deemed unethical. It is the responsibility of each member to advise the Executive Committee of the I.A.O.M. of instances of violation of the principles incorporated in this code.

SECTION A

The ethical responsibilities of the member require that the welfare of the person he/she serves professionally be considered paramount.

1. The member who engages in clinical work must possess appropriate qualifications. This member must be certified by the International Association of Orofacial Myology or be actively working toward receiving this certification. Student clinicians in a training program may treat patients only under direct supervision of a certified member.

2. The member must not provide services for which he has not been adequately trained, and/or licensed (if applicable).

3. The member shall not accept patients for treatment when benefit cannot reasonably be expected.

4. Whenever "just cause" for continuation of treatment cannot be shown, or benefit cannot be evidenced, the member's responsibility is to release the patient from treatment.

5. Diagnosis and treatment may only be administered on a person-to-person basis, not by telephone, letter, or any other form of impersonal communication. This does not preclude the member from calls and letters for follow-up.

6. Professional ethics prohibit the guarantee of the outcome of any therapeutic procedure(s).

7. Every patient's confidentiality must be respected. No information received professionally shall be revealed to unauthorized persons without authorization from the patient and/or the legal guardian.

8. The member shall use every resource available, including referral to other specialists as needed, to provide the best service possible for the patient.

9. The member shall maintain adequate records of professional services rendered.

SECTION B

The member has certain duties and responsibilities to other professions.

1. The member shall seek professional discus-

sion of theoretical and practical issues toward the colleagues or members of allied professions.

2. The member shall attempt to establish professional relations with members of other professions.

3. The member shall attempt to inform other professionals concerning the services rendered by the International Association of Orofacial Myology.

SECTION C

The I.A.O.M. member has special responsibilities which are not included in Section A or Section B.

1. The member may not use any dishonest or misleading information in advertisements. The member must follow the specifications set by the local dental, medical and/or speech and hearing associations.

2. The member may not refuse service on the basis of race, religion or sex.

3. The member shall be active in educating the public regarding the profession of Orofacial Myology.

4. The member shall be willing to share his/her knowledge, new research and therapeutic techniques with other members of the I.A.O.M.

5. The member shall not use the name of the International Association of Orofacial Myology to promote classes or products or any other profit making venture. This does not preclude the member to announce membership status or offices held in the I.A.O.M. in a vitae or resume.

6. Members shall not accept third party payment insurance plans in excess of fees for service or for fees of services not rendered.

7. The member may not participate in activities which constitute a conflict of professional interest.

8. The member shall present products he/she has developed to his/her colleagues in a manner consistent with high professional standards.

9. The member shall cooperate fully with the ethical inquiries into matters of professional conduct related to this Code of Ethics.