

Commentary

Letter from the President

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November 13, 1974

Dear Colleagues:

Since the beginning of my career in oral myofunctional therapy in 1959 and spurred by the knowledge that I gained from Richard Barrett of Tucson, Arizona, and the late Dr. Walter Straub of San Mateo, California, it has been my desire to form an association of interested and dedicated individuals in the field of oral myofunctional therapy. In November of 1971 it appeared that this desire might come true. A small group of 13 people met in San Francisco to begin and formulate ideas for the inception of the International Association of Oral Myology. Since that time our association has grown to a membership of 175 throughout the world.

The association was not formed for the purpose of exploiting the interests of a small group of individuals and their approach to oral myofunctional therapy but for the purpose of welcoming all that are interested in this field and whatever new theories and ideas that they might have. Our dedication is to the patients that we work with and to the professions we may assist by gaining further knowledge in the field of oral facial muscle imbalance patterns.

The membership of the International Association of Oral Myology in their past meetings have set high standards and qualifications for membership which are outlined in the Constitution and Code of Ethics, and I am extremely impressed with the high caliber of people that have joined our association. Some research projects have begun and many of our members are now lecturing and teaching throughout the world. Our science is truly in its infancy, although the knowledge of the problems involving oral facial muscle imbalance patterns has been acknowledged since the inception of orthodontics.

Even though our membership is still small we are receiving applications each day. I would like to take this opportunity to ask our present membership to spread the word about our association and what our values and goals are as laid out in our constitution so that many more will become interested and perhaps join the association. The more new members that we have, the more that our association should be able to accomplish.

We feel that our journal is the first step in providing understanding and education to those that are interested in oral facial muscle imbalance patterns. However, in order for us to continue to provide the high caliber publications that we desire, it will be necessary to support it. This can only come through an increase in membership. This also holds true for many of the other projects that we wish to undertake, such as improved therapy techniques, research projects, better training programs for therapists, etc.

I wish to thank the present membership and especially the officers, board of directors, and committee members for all the many hours of hard labor they have donated for the betterment of the association and a special thanks goes out to Tom Robertson, the editor of our journal. The extensive number of hours that Tom has donated to this journal is far beyond the call of duty. I feel our entire membership should be grateful for this dedication.

Future association meetings are a board of directors meeting to clarify many of the aspects of our present constitution, such as qualifications for various levels of membership, and a general membership convention in Tucson, Arizona in June. The exact date of the convention has not been established at this time, but will be reported in the next quarterly journal.

Once again, I wish to thank all of those who have been so dedicated in the promotion of our association and of this journal.

Sincerely,

William E. Zickefoose
President, I.A.O.M.