

Commentary

Letter from the President

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Letter from the President

Dear Members:

A big vote of congratulations goes out from all of our membership to the staff and authors, of the first issue of our IAOM Journal, a tremendous job and effort that was beautifully accomplished.

I have not met one member of the dental or speech professions that has not applauded the association for its efforts.

I wish to take this opportunity to say to all the members of the health associated professions that this is only the beginning of the high caliber projects that the association wishes to undertake.

The association is not a single unit but a team that respects the abilities and efforts of each of its members, and it is this team's idea to provide better education, better research, better therapy techniques in the field of oral myofunctional therapy.

I suppose the reason for a demand for perfection from many of our certified active members is that they have been in clinical practice for a number of years and have seen the results of their practice, as have their referral sources, and have such strong convictions as to the value of myofunctional therapy. Nothing more could be expected than perfection.

One of the basic problems that our association has to face is the quality and the amount of training that is now being given in this country today.

Many members of the dental and speech professions are condemning myofunctional therapy, myofunctional therapists, and myofunctional therapy programs because of the lack of discretion being used in who is being trained, the amount of time spent in supposedly training a qualified myofunctional therapist.

Several of the members of the International Association of Oral Myology give private training courses, but I know of no instances where any individual training therapist has certified a myofunctional therapist with a single short course.

Perhaps at this time the standards set in our constitution for certification of private oral myofunctional therapists or oral myologists (both terms being synonymous) are the association's best assets, and we are proud that we have set our standards high.

I am very happy to report that our membership has taken a rapid increase since the arrival of our new journal. I am sure with the proper publicity the membership will more than triple during the next year.

The convention is coming up in June as many of you know by now. The program looks excellent and I hope that we will have an outstanding turn out.

In closing, I wish to extend my best wishes to the entire membership. Keep up your good work and I will see you *all* in June in Tucson.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "William E. Zickefoose". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

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