



### ***Greetings AAAOM Members and Colleagues:***

We welcome you to the AAAOM! As past members of the AAOM and AOM Alliance, we recognize that many will have questions regarding issues pertaining to your membership status with the AAAOM. To that extent, we have compiled a list of questions and answers that address many questions pertaining to Membership Status, Unification, and Other Issues. We do ask your patience in our transition of old AAOM or AOM Alliance information documents to that of the AAAOM. As you can understand, this transition represents a huge endeavor that involves the hands-on effort of the entire AAAOM Board, and we are moving forward on all fronts as rapidly as possible. Again, if you have questions about the reunification, please contact Leslie McGee, the new President of the AAAOM at [mcqi2@yahoo.com](mailto:mcqi2@yahoo.com).

### **Questions and Answers Regarding Re-Unification**

#### **Membership**

#### **Q. If I have membership in both the AAOM and the Alliance, will my membership automatically be extended?**

**A.** If you have a professional level membership in good standing in both organizations, your new membership in the AAAOM will be appended to include the remaining renewal terms of both. As an example if you have a 5-month term remaining in your AAOM membership and a 6 Month term for AOM Alliance, your AAAOM renewal will reflect an 11 month term remaining in your renewal cycle. The effective date will be February 1, 2007. In using this example, a membership with a combined value of 11 months to termination would renew January 1, 2008. To discuss this matter, please contact the AAAOM office toll free at 866-455-7999.

#### **Q. Can I get my membership dues refunded?**

**A.** There is no mechanism in place to refund memberships. The reunification of the profession represents an extraordinary leap for our profession and all resources at hand are needed to expand our support and services to our members, our influence and leadership in the health community, and our expansion of awareness and outreach activities. Please contact the AAAOM office at 866-455-7999 or [info@aaaomonline.org](mailto:info@aaaomonline.org). We will respond in a timely manner.

#### **Q. If I have a lifetime membership in one organization and a yearly membership in the other, what membership do I have in the new organization?**

**A.** If you have a lifetime membership in either the AAOM or the Alliance, you will automatically have a lifetime membership in the AAAOM.

#### **Q. Will my membership benefits remain the same?**

**A.** Combining our operational infrastructures will allow us to increase benefits. We will be announcing enhanced benefits in the Spring of 2007.

#### **Unification**

**Q. Why did the Alliance and the AAOM decide to form one organization?**

**A.** The directors were responding to overwhelming requests from the membership, schools, and others to create a single organization. In addition, the best way to move the profession forward is to have one strong, unified organization that can represent acupuncture and Oriental Medicine.

**Q. But what about the differences between the AAOM and the Alliance?**

**A.** There was general agreement that the differences between the two organizations no longer justified having two organizations vying for the same membership. It is important for the complex needs of our profession to be addressed from within one house.

**Q. What was the process for appointing a new board of directors?**

**A.** It was important to both organizations to have equal representation. Therefore the Alliance provided the new president and secretary while the AAOM provided the new vice president and treasurer. As board terms expire, election of new directors for vacant positions will commence at the AAAOM International Conference and Exposition at the Annual Meeting in October 2007, and each subsequent year thereafter. You are invited to access biographies and contact information for the newly form AAAOM Board at [www.aaaomonline.org](http://www.aaaomonline.org).

**Q. Why did the re-unification occur now?**

**A.** There are many important issues that need to be addressed, and it was felt that the sooner we have a strong, united voice, the better it would be for the profession.

**Q. Why wasn't the membership consulted on this before it happened?**

**A.** The membership of both organizations have regularly given input to the leadership that a single national association is the best way for our profession to achieve its goals.

**ISSUES**

**Q. Is the AAAOM just for TCM practitioners?**

**A.** The AAAOM represents all professional acupuncturists. There are also membership categories for students, schools, businesses, state associations, allied members, the public and other parties who have an interest in the profession.

If you don't see your question answered here, please contact the office. We would love to hear from you and address your request.

**AAAOM Membership Categories and Rate Structures**

**AAAOM Membership Categories:** Following, please find a complete listing, description a membership rate for all AAAOM Membership categories:

**Student (\$50):** Enrolled full or part time in an accredited school of Oriental Medicine. The student applicant must forward to the AAAOM a copy of their student ID card.

**First Year Practitioner (\$100):** Within the first 12 months (cumulative) of actively treating patients.

**Second Year Practitioner (\$150):** Between the 12th and 24th month (cumulative) of actively treating patients.

**Professional Practitioner (\$250):** Treating patients within and after the third year.

**Professional Partnership (\$225 ea):** Individual practitioners who work at the same office address. (One issue of American Acupuncturist will be sent to this address.)

**Joint Professional (\$200):** Applicants hold concurrent membership in the State Association. This applies to any of the applicant's office locations. The applicant must forward to the AAAOM evidence of such membership.

**Allied Professional (\$250):** Applicants who are licensed as RN's, Acu Detox, or other healthcare related fields of complimentary medicine.

**State Associations (\$250):** Applicant serves the needs and interests of OM Practitioners, and advocates for the profession and practice of Oriental Medicine. (Typically 501(c)(6) organizations.) *(\$25 per member, to a maximum of \$250)*

**Member Organizations (\$250):** Applicant advocates for the profession and practice of Oriental Medicine. May or may not be membership-based. (Typically is a tax-exempt organization.)

**School of OM (\$450):** An accredited institution of higher education focusing on the profession and practice of Oriental Medicine. Or, a publicly funded library holding academically-related research materials on Oriental Medicine.

**General Business (\$450):** Companies that serve and support the individual practitioner of Oriental Medicine.

**Friend of OM (\$50):** Non-practitioners who wish to support Oriental Medicine through their contribution.

**OM Advocate (Free):** Registrants will receive AAAOM's news alerts via e-mail, and can participate in AAAOM's national healthcare program.

### ***AAAOM Membership Benefits***

AAAOM benefits are the direct result of what our members have said they look for in Oriental Medicine representation. Through their membership dues, AAAOM members empower the Association to further their professional status and the cause of the profession, including:

- Leadership on behalf of Oriental Medicine to increase and maintain the current scope of practice and access to herbs through legislative and legal realms.
- Educating top officials at Health and Human Services (HHS), U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and communicating the significance of Oriental Medicine.
- Protecting the professions access to herbs.
- Working with national insurance companies to accept and increase coverage for Oriental Medicine modalities.
- Patient Referrals: Patient referrals through our online interactive Referral Search, via telephone and email request, via free Acufinder.com listing.
- Real Time Communication & Networking: Informing and educating members on new topics of interest (Scope of Practice and Management Issues) through the American Acupuncturist, the American Acupuncturist News Edition (quarterly), through the Qi Unity Report (our monthly E Newsletter), News Alerts, Action Alerts, special Task Forces and Blue Ribbon Committees and Discussion Boards.
- Public Awareness and Outreach Programs via press releases, OM articles and interviews with Media and Press, public information documents and regional and national OM Public Information Training Programs and OM Advocacy Events, and discussion boards.
- Malpractice Insurance: Our bargaining power has made it possible to provide AAAOM members with high quality malpractice insurance through the American Acupuncture Council (AAC). Visit "Insurance" at [www.aaaomonline.org](http://www.aaaomonline.org).
- National Health Care Program, providing Student Health Insurance, Practitioner Short-term Health Insurance (18 Month Duration), Life Insurance, and much more. Visit "Insurance" at [www.aaaomonline.org](http://www.aaaomonline.org).
- Biz-card Website: A one page website for practitioners desiring a web presence to deliver personal timely content to public visitors (April 2007)
- National Legislative Advocacy Program, providing direct access to state legislators, congressional and senate representatives and other decision makers at State and National Levels. ALLOWS "REAL TIME" ACCESS for grassroots advocacy campaigns designed to protect and advance the profession at a moment's notice.
- Job Target - Online Employment Board: list your resume for free, Research and apply for job openings across the nation and internationally.
- Discount Credit Card Processing: Increase the level of your sales by providing the convenience of credit card payment to your patients, and end trips to the bank by converting checks into electronic deposits.
- Document Repository (Online Library) providing member access to a myriad of OM research, resources and documentation.
- Product and Service Discounts with AAAOM business members – new offers available on a monthly and/or quarterly basis. Watch for Special Promotions of overstocked or special purchase products and services.

- Discounted CEU's: Registration Discounts for AAAOM's Annual Exposition and International Conference.
- OM Promotional and Educational Materials to attract and educate your patient base.
- Annual OM Research Forum: On a first come, first serve basis - Free participation in AAAOM's Annual Research Forum for and about the profession! Let your voice be heard as you participate in designing the future of your profession!