

American Society of Acupuncturists Activity Report

November, 2015

Purpose

The ASA is a collaborative coalition of independent, state-based acupuncture associations in the United States who share as their mission the desire to support public health through the promotion of acupuncture and Oriental Medicine. It is a maturation of the organization formerly known as the Council of State Associations (CSA). The CSA now exists as a continued collaboration within ASA, and the decision making power of the ASA resides with its Council. The Council is comprised of the paid organizational members of the ASA. The ASA became an official, incorporated entity within the District of Columbia in July of this year, and is a 501(c)6 entity. The initial voting membership of the ASA includes 24 state associations including:

- California State Oriental Medical Association
- Acupuncture Association of Colorado
- Connecticut Society of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine
- Acupuncture Society of DC
- Florida State Oriental Medical Association
- Florida Acupuncture Association
- Illinois Association of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine
- Indiana Association of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine
- Acupuncture Association of Louisiana
- Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine Society of Massachusetts
- Maryland Acupuncture Society
- Maine Association of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine
- Michigan Association of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine
- North Carolina Association of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine
- New Hampshire Acupuncture and Asian Medicine Association
- New Jersey Association of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine
- New Mexico Society for Acupuncture and Asian Medicine
- Acupuncture Society of New York
- Oregon Association of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine
- Pennsylvania Association for Professional Acupuncture
- Vermont Acupuncture Association
- Acupuncture Society of Virginia
- Washington East Asian Medicine Association
- Wisconsin Society of Certified Acupuncturists

Initial Board of the American Society of Acupuncturists:

- David W Miller, MD, LAc, Chair, Illinois
- Eric R Buckley, DOM, LAc, Vice Chair, Oregon/New Mexico
- LiMing Tseng, LAc, Secretary, Vermont
- Candace Sarges, LAc, Immediate Past Chair/Acting Treasurer, New Jersey
- Lindsay Meade, DOM, Member-at-Large, New Mexico

Annual Meetings

The CSA maintained the effort to have annual meetings for more than 6 years, the last of these being in Columbia, MD, 2015. The ASA will continue this practice, and looks forward to its next annual meeting in conjunction with the AOML meeting in March of 2016.

2015 Key Issues and Events

- **ASA Official Announcement**

The ASA made its official announcement in Acupuncture Today in September of this year. That article can be found here:

<http://www.acupuncturetoday.com/mpacms/at/article.php?id=33070>

ASA continues to develop its infrastructure, including web-based presence, marketing and branding, and member benefits.

- **AOM Day**

In October 2015 the ASA Public Relations Committee continued with provision of materials for this year's AOM Day campaign. In collaboration with NCCAOM and Acupuncture Media Works, events were held at a number of schools around the country, and a practitioner action packet was created for free distribution. The materials and news surrounding that effort can be found here: <http://www.aomday.org/get.html>

- **Collaboration with the Acupuncture Now Foundation**

The ASA has continued to develop its relationship with the Acupuncture Now Foundation, and Lindsay Meade, ASA Member at Large, will be sitting on the board of the ANF and working on project development.

- **Dry Needling**

This continues to be an issue of national significance, fought on a state by state basis. ASA is forming a coalition of subject matter experts on this topic to work on developing national strategy. Initial meetings have been held with key SME's as well as with NCASI leadership.

- **ISO**

The ASA held a large community call for the purpose of educating the community on the work of the International Organization for Standardization. The actual meeting of the ISO held in China was attended by Eric Buckley, ASA vice-chair.

- **Relations with other National Organizations**

ASA is a resource to national AOM stakeholders in efforts to get information out to the general practitioner base. ASA maintains as open and transparent a process as possible, and seeks to keep state associations informed on all relevant efforts occurring that affect the field, and keep all stakeholders informed of state activities that also affect the practice of AOM in the U.S. Please feel free to contact us at any time to reach a wide base of state leaders, or to make connections with particular states. We value collaboration, and look forward to sharing in the continued development of the field.

ASA leadership has participated in both national calls held by NGAOM, and remains in contact with other national leadership groups. We have begun a relationship with IHPC, and look forward to attendance at the SAR conference in November in Boston. The ASA leadership is committed to fostering positive relationships for the benefit of the community as a whole.

Other work

- **Branding and Marketing:** We have engaged Rich Silivanch <http://www.silivanch.com/> to work on branding for the ASA. He is actively engaged with this work.
- **Securing of IRS recognition of 501(c)6 status:** The board is submitting the required applications for this.
- **Web Development:** Jordan Barber of NY is working on a replicable website model for state associations. Rich Silivanch is also working with the Board to create a wireframe for an ASA national website.
- **Opioid Task force:** The board is in discussion with ANF and other stakeholders to work towards the creation of an inter-professional task force to assure acupuncture is considered as a first line treatment in the prevention and treatment of opioid addiction. This is in preliminary stages.
- **Member Benefits:** The board is exploring member benefits to be shared by organizational voting members with their individual members.

Respectfully Submitted: David W Miller, MD, LAc (Chair, ASA), Eric Buckley (Vice-Chair, ASA), LiMing Tseng (Secretary, ASA), Candace Sarges (Immediate Past-Chair, ASA), Lindsay Meade (Member-at-Large, ASA)