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**Dear OAA Members,**

As you can see from the March 28 correspondence and resignations from the OAA Board, the organization is in crisis. This is not the first time. In the mid 1990's, we encountered a crisis. We had 2-3 Board members, low membership, no money, etc. We re-grouped and built a strong and vibrant association. We focused on services for Oregon LAc's and securing the stability of AOM in Oregon. Accomplishments over the years include legislative advancements, an informative newsletter, successful conferences, increasing membership, a good working relationship with the Oregon Medical Board, a website, Treasures of Oregon talks, etc.

By the late 1990s and early 2000's, running the organization was easy. It took about 3-5 hours a week, not including Board meetings. The budget was simple. Annual meetings were one day, about 30 people attended. In 2003, numbers and activities started to flourish. By 2006 and 2007, about 150 people attended our conferences. In 2006, it took 40-50 hours a week to operate. 20-30 hours a week were from me.

During this expansion, much time and energy was devoted to the items above. Our intentions were good-for growth of the organization, education and support of Oregon LAc's, etc. It is clear now in hindsight, that not enough attention was paid to developing the infrastructure to support that burst of growth.

In 2006, I began transitioning away from volunteering for the OAA. At the end of 2006, I stepped down from the Board. In June 2007, I significantly decreased my involvement in the office operations. I was tired, and in retrospect, I could have done a better job with the changeover.

The OAA was started in 1975. I became involved in it in 1987, and served on the Board from 1992-2006. In it's 33rd year. Now, OAA's house needs major reconstruction. The bottom line for me is to see that AOM flourishes in Oregon, and we need a strong organization for that. I am willing to temporarily step back in to do a proper changeover for OAA if the members choose so. You, the members, are the organization. You must decide on the future of OAA, the future of your profession. See the attached letter.

***Attend the membership meeting\* this April 12 to decide what the next step for OAA would be. Attend the conference on April 12-13. 8.5 hours of presentations. Make this event a success. We need volunteers to help put on this conference. Email the OAA at: oaa@pobox.com.***

\*The OAA membership meeting is open to non-members as well. Only LAc members have voting rights. Registration forms & details on our "old" website, [www.oregonacupuncture.org/old/](http://www.oregonacupuncture.org/old/).

Please direct correspondence to the OAA at: oaa@pobox.com.

The agenda for this meeting will be sent to you soon, and will be posted on the website.

The future of OAA is in *your* hands!

Sincerely,

Natalie Arndt, LAc