



AO NOW

NEWSLETTER OF
ALPHA OMEGA
International Dental Fraternity



STEVEN SPITZ - International President

In September, a fantastic group of Alpha Omega members gathered for a *strategic planning session* in Boca Raton, Florida, to brainstorm future long-term plans for the fraternity. We

put together a 3-year action plan that includes, among other pieces, the member experience, brand identity, and program impact. We began to set goals of increasing membership, creating strong alliances with partner organizations, training for our faculty advisers, creating more benefits for our members, and increasing communication with our chapters.

We quickly began implementing this process and began by reinstalling the *Regency* program. Each geographic area with an Alpha Omega chapter will now have a liaison, or Regent, to help pass information between the individual chapters and the international body. We have been working diligently with our student chapters to make sure that all members have a follow up address and location in our system, to assure they are transferred to their local alumni chapter upon graduation.

We are also looking to update the word *Fraternity* to *Society*, as many of our student chapters have expressed difficulty in meeting and succeeding due to rules of their school either banning fraternities or incorrectly lumping professional fraternities with social fraternities. It has, therefore, been suggested we change our organization name to *Alpha Omega International Dental Society*. We will have a resolution regarding this topic during the business meeting, which is open to all, at the international convention in LA, and I am confident this will raise lots of questions and discussion.

I look forward to seeing you in Los Angeles at our International Convention December 26th – 31st.

Smile Always,

2019 International President

**STAY PART OF THE
AO COMMUNITY**
MORE THAN 4,000 WORLDWIDE
MEMBERS IN THE OLDEST
INTERNATIONAL DENTAL
ORGANIZATION IN THE WORLD.

Steven Spitz, DMD - Boston
International President

Alan Moltz, DDS - Illinois
International President-Elect

Glen Meyer, DDS - Cincinnati
International Treasurer

Gail Schupak, DMD - New York
International Secretary

Marvin Sonne, DDS - Detroit
International Communications Officer

Steven Marsh, DDS - Cleveland
Immediate Past International President

Avi Wurman, DDS - Toronto
Past International President Advisor

AO Calendar of Events

DEC 26 | 2019 AO CONVENTION
LOS ANGELES, CA

2020

JUN 26 | CHICAGO INT'L MEETING
CHICAGO, IL

DEC 25 | 2020 AO CONVENTION
ST. PETERSBURG, FL

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MESSAGE FROM INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER MARVIN SONNE



As we move closer to convention, I wish to make you aware of 3 very important Constitutional amendments that will be brought up in Los Angeles next month. We are sending these to you now so you can have plenty of time to think through them. If you have any questions, please let us know.

The issues involved are renaming our Meritorious Service Award and changing our name.

2019-01

Whereas, the Meritorious Service Award is presented to a member who has demonstrated outstanding and exemplary service at the international level of Alpha Omega for over ten years, and

Whereas the member cannot have ever served as International President or be currently serving on the Board of Directors, and

Whereas PIP Ben Williamowsky's service to dentistry was synonymous with everything that the Alpha Omega Meritorious Service Award represents,

Therefore, be it resolved that this Award be known as the Ben Williamowsky Alpha Omega Meritorious Service Award.

2019-02

Whereas Alpha Omega is a member of the American Dental Fraternity Council and this organization is disbanding and no longer requires Alpha Omega to have the word fraternity in the name, and

Whereas, including the word fraternity in documents may preclude individuals from joining, and

Whereas removing the word fraternity from all legal documents can be conducted through a cost-effective process,

Therefore, be it resolved that the International Council will remove the word fraternity from Alpha Omega's official name.

2019-03

Whereas we are an international organization with members located all around the world, and

Whereas we want the organization to be known as a dental society,

Therefore, be it resolved that International Dental Society be added following the title Alpha Omega to become our official name.

In September 2019, Alpha Omega conducted a Strategic Planning seminar in Boca Raton, FL. Attendees came from an across-the-board array of AO's who took a serious view of who we were, who we are and who we should be/will be going forward. The focus was on **Member Experience, Brand Identity and Program Impact**. A goal of 2023 was established to have the policies and activities needing to be implemented to have their intended effect.

1. We will create program opportunities which are locally and regionally focused.
2. Mentorship will be actively engaged.
3. We will provide philanthropic opportunities that support sustainable charitable efforts for member involvement.
4. Programs will be established that can provide collaborative opportunities between chapters.
5. We will provide and promote an increase in overall participation in educational programs.
6. We will achieve ratings by our members that meet or exceed expectation.
7. A social media task force will be established.
8. Our Regency system will be re-established.
9. We will look to increase sponsorship.
10. Our Speaker's Bureau will be made more active.

The bottom line was that this very engaged group of members, younger and older, officers and board members and regular AO's, too, spent valuable time reviewing Alpha Omega. We ARE different today than we were in 1907 as times have changed but we are still composed of the same basic body of dentists. We are not only focused on getting our students into dental school and then graduating. Our community service activity, Tikkun Olam, is an even greater source of our strength. CE is an ever-expanding activity as is our various philanthropic undertakings. Anything and everything that can bring us all even closer together will be done so that Alpha Omega will thrive long into this millennium.

You will hear more about this plan as we move forward. If you have any ideas or suggestions or comments, please speak up. Let us know your thoughts. AO is YOUR organization. AO is about US, not they or them.

Fran and I look forward to seeing you in Los Angeles at our convention in December. If you haven't yet decided to attend, but are even remotely considering attending, it is not too late. Sign up. Los Angeles is awaiting your arrival. See you soon.

It has been an honor to serve as your International Communications Officer for 2019.

AM ALPHA OMEGA CHAI: LONG LIVE ALPHA OMEGA

Marv Sonne
2019 International Communications Officer

SNAPSHOT



HIGHLIGHTS



2019 AO EXTERNSHIP REPORTS

Thank you to our Externship Program Chair Dr. Andrea Heckler (Toronto chapter) and to the AO host cities who arranged visits for our students.



JAIME BARRON
University of Western Ontario Student
Externship City: **Toronto, ON**



This past summer, I had the privilege of participating in the AO externship program. When applying for the position, I was hopeful that the opportunity would provide me with further insight into the field of dentistry and help to connect me with dentists in Toronto where I hope to practice one day. Now that I have completed the externship, I can confidently say that the experience provides that and so much more. I was assigned to Dr. Sharon Perlmutter in Toronto and after getting in touch with one another, we decided to plan the assignment at the beginning of June. After sending a few emails back and forth and inquiring about my interests in specialization, Dr. Perlmutter was buzzing with ideas on how to make the experience impactful for me.

[◀ READ MORE ▶](#)

JANANI GURUKKAL
University of Louisville Student
Externship City: **Boston, MA**



When I first heard about the AO externship, I knew that I had to apply! I wanted to go to a city I had never been to, so I was Screen Shot 2019 09 19 at 11.26.08 PM excited that I was assigned to Boston! Dr. Lindi Ezekowitz and Dr. Matthew Lann graciously hosted me their home, which added to the experience since I was able to spend so much time with them. Dr. Ezekowitz organized five different offices, ranging from general dentistry to oral surgery.



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AARTI PRABHU
University of Louisville Student
Externship City: **Dallas, TX**



Our AO Externship took place in Dallas, Texas, this past August for one week, under the guidance with the AO alumni in the Dallas area. It was amazing to see so many recent graduates working in various sectors from private practice, from recently opening an office, to working at a corporate office. Each office we got to shadow, showed us unique avenues one can take as recent graduates <5 years out of school. Dr. Mariya Barnett was so amazing to host us in Dallas, and single-handedly coordinated the shadowing schedule of five various dental offices, each day was different, and exciting none the less!

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KARISEE SEGOBIN
University of Louisville Student
Externship City: **Washington, D.C.**



I just want to say I am thankful for the opportunity to shadow some wonderful AO dentists in the Maryland/DC area. It was a joy meeting Dr. Tipograph and I appreciate her and Dr. Simon for working so hard to fill my schedule with amazing people to shadow. Unfortunately, Dr. Simon had to be out of town the week I was shadowing and so I could not meet him.



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UPCOMING AO INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS

**2019 LOS ANGELES
CONVENTION**
Thursday, Dec. 26th – Tuesday, Dec. 31st

Wonderful Weather - Exceptional Restaurants - Shopping
 Museums - Culture - Outstanding AO Chapters



HOTEL
INTERCONTINENTAL CENTURY CITY
 2151 Avenue of the Stars, Los Angeles, CA 90067

Room Type	Dec 23 - Dec 29	Dec 30 - Jan 3
Superior Room (King or Queen)	\$309++	\$329++
Executive Suite	\$360++	\$389++

Reservation Policy: Hotel Reservation Policy: (1) night's deposit per room will be taken at the time of making the reservation. The deposit is fully refundable before December 1, 2019. After December 1, 2019, the deposit is non-refundable.

<http://bit.ly/2019AOHotelLink>

www.ao.org

2019 AO Los Angeles Convention
 December 26th - December 31st - 2019

◀ **READ MORE** ▶



ALPHA OMEGA
**INTERNATIONAL
MEETING**

**June
26th - 28th
2020**

Chicago International Meeting
 June 26th - June 28th - 2020



ALPHA OMEGA INTERNATIONAL DENTAL FRATERNITY

Welcome to the
2020 AO
 Sunshine City Convention

December 25th - December 29th 2020 St. Petersburg, Florida

2020 AO St. Petersburg Convention
 December 25th - December 29th - 2020

VISIT AO.ORG FOR MORE EVENT LISTINGS