Dear AO Friends:

We hope that you, your family, and friends started the Jewish Year 5780 with health and happiness. May this continue into the coming year.

In September, several AO members, chapter leaders, and young dentists met in Boca, Florida to participate in a strategic planning session. The group identified goals to increase membership retention, non-dues revenue, and strategic partner engagement. The implementation phase has already begun with an exploration to rebranding AO’s name by replacing the word *fraternity*. Resolutions have been put forward to remove the word *fraternity* and change it to *society*. Delegates at the international convention will discuss the name change.

The AO International Los Angeles Convention next month promises to be a wonderful time for networking, connecting with old AO friends and making new ones, and enjoying the beautiful Southern California weather. There is still time to register so please visit ao.org for more details.

Our chapters have several upcoming events for you to participate in now. Membership dues are being collected by our chapters and thank you for being part of the only organization that represents Jewish dentists around the world.

Please send any news and events focused in Europe, Israel, and the UK to info@ao.org. Thank you for reading the AO News.

Nina Tetra
AO International Member-at-Large
AO UK Board Director
UPCOMING
AO INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

AO Lyon Chapter Event
December 12
READ MORE

Oral and Systemic Health
London
January 14
READ MORE

AO Los Angeles Convention
December 26th - December 31st
READ MORE

VISIT AO.ORG FOR MORE EVENT LISTINGS
When did you join Alpha Omega?

I joined AO as an undergraduate student, after being introduced through some of the London chapter members who I had spent time with work experience. From then, I was introduced to a community of like-minded dentists at evening lectures. I was then fortunate enough to be invited into council where I spent six years as an honourary treasurer.

What led you to AO?

Being AO Chairman (President) of London Chapter is an honour. My journey started as a student and one of my main aims this year is to grow our membership through our student base.

What led you to become Chairman of London Chapter?

It’s the community factor. Yes, the lectures are fantastic, but so are the smoked salmon bagels and chatting with other members! All whilst supporting the charitable causes supported by AO International and the AO London Charitable Trust.

Outside of dentistry and AO, how do you spend your time?

I am a mad Chelsea football fan and I enjoy spending time with my wife Amelia, who is a physician, and our daughter, Sophie.
CONGRATULATIONS TO AO LONDON ON THEIR 50TH ANNIVERSARY
A MESSAGE FROM CST TO ALPHA OMEGA

Just as the Alpha Omega fraternity aims to protect and preserve the oral health of all those in their care, CST aims to protect and preserve the wellbeing of the Jewish community in the UK. It is our mission to facilitate the flourishing of Jewish life, safe from prejudice and physical harm. With the help of a network of dedicated volunteers, we provide security to Jewish spaces and events across the country, while also working to combat, eliminate, and educate about antisemitism.

The importance of our work is brought into sharp focus by events around the world. Most recently in Halle, Germany, we saw a far-right terrorist murder two people, after a secure door prevented him from entering a synagogue and attacking the congregation during its Yom Kippur service.

The fact that this has occurred within the same year as the massacre at the Christchurch mosque, and the shootings at the Tree of Life and Poway synagogues in Pittsburgh and San Diego respectively, only reinforces the notion that religious communities are a target for those who wish to create terror. Alongside repeated increases in antisemitic incidents reported to CST and Police, the challenges to which we must be alert are ever evolving.

CST’s effective collaboration with Police and Government, as well as other religious and minority groups, with whom we share information and expertise, enables us to tackle hate crime, prevent terrorism, and fulfil our core mission. Despite the threats that face our community, the UK remains a place where life for most British Jews can thrive in safety. None of this would be possible without the work and commitment of our volunteers.

If you would like to be a part of our ongoing devotion to protecting the Jewish community, we always welcome new volunteers. To find out more, please contact us at recruitment@cst.org.uk, or phone on 020 8457 9999.
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

Mary Sonne
2019 International Communications Officer