



NCCAOM Volunteer Spotlight: featuring Maryanne Travaglione DAOM, L.Ac., Dipl. OM (NCCAOM®),

By Melissa Dow, Manager of Volunteer Development and Special Projects

The NCCAOM Committees, Panels and Taskforces, who are appointed by the Board of Commissioners, assist in governing by investigating, deliberating, and analyzing special issues on behalf of the Board.

Some of NCCAOM's committee members have served the organization for many years in varying capacities, on various committees, taskforces or panels or as an NCCAOM Board Commissioner. Their work often goes unseen by the public, but they are an integral part of our organization. In this newsletter we are featuring one of these dedicated and valued volunteers, Dr. Maryanne Travaglione, Dipl. O.M. (NCCAOM)®.



Maryanne Travaglione has been one of our longest serving volunteers for the NCCAOM, beginning her service in 2003, at total to date of eighteen years. She went on to become a Commissioner on the NCCAOM Board from 2004-2006 and has served on several different committees since then, including the Bylaws Committee, CNT Taskforce, External Relations Committee, Eligibility Committee, PEDC, PDA Advisory Panel, Recertification Committee for a number of years and the Foundations of Oriental Medicine Module which soon became the FOM Exam Development Committee, which Maryanne helped create and which she now Chairs, in addition to Chairing the Council of Examination Development Committees (CEDC).

Dr. Travaglione received her DOM in 2009 preceded by her Masters in OM in 1993 from PCOM, graduating Summa Cum Laude. She has been an Associate Professor at both Mercy and Touro Colleges in New York City as well as a Department Chair, Clinical Supervisor and Lecturer at Pacific College of Oriental Medicine for a span of twenty-two years. More recently, Maryanne has been a lecturer in virtual learning environments for various Doctoral programs and has been a contributing author to various publications.

She is NCCAOM Board Certified in Oriental Medicine and holds licenses in New York and California.

The NCCAOM is grateful for her faithful years of volunteer service to our organization. Her dedication to the work of the NCCAOM and the profession are outstanding examples of excellence in healthcare and volunteer work.



NCCAOM: What motivated you to apply as a volunteer for the NCCAOM all those years ago?

Maryanne Travaglione: I was teaching at Pacific College of Oriental medicine and was asked to participate in an item writing weekend. Dr. Christina Herlihy was the NCCAOM CEO at the time, and I was so impressed by her leadership skills that I thought I could learn a great deal from being around her and decided to then to participate. Unfortunately, Christina died within the year, so I didn't get enough time to learn her leadership secrets but did remain with the team she had in place which included the present CEO Mina Larson and the leadership of exam development, Pam Frommelt and Yvonne Sanders.

What kept you coming back as a volunteer?

I enjoy the comradeship and the intellectual stimulation. I find sitting in a room with some wonderful minds who are educated in different countries and styles of practice keeps me growing in my understanding of this amazing healing practice

How have you observed growth in the NCCAOM as an organization throughout your years of serving?

The NCCAOM grows in its effective assessment of candidates as it adheres to the evolving standards required by its accredited body, the NCCA. This commitment to maintaining the highest level of accreditation standards makes me proud to be a part of the exam development for our community.

What do you wish other people knew about the fields of Acupuncture and Herbal Medicine?

The high level of education and standards needed to practice. Our patients and our own community should be aware of the standards that are required to be maintained to have a valid and reliable assessment tool. Our exam process is rigorous, and I do not believe the community at large understands the financial commitment needed to maintain these standards, nor do they understand this was what was required to be an accepted medical intervention covered and allowed to practice in such diverse settings such as hospitals and with the VA and to be covered by any insurance. The NCCA standards adhered to by the examinations provided by the NCCAOM is the gatekeeper requirement for this advancement of our medicine into the mainstream.



What might someone be surprised to know about you?

That I was born in the projects of the South Bronx and moved to the theatre district in the 70's as my parents died and was on my own at 15. I put myself through college at Fordham University with a BA in lighting design and for a decade I worked off Broadway in theater. I still love theatre and the community of people who make it happen eight shows a week.

What do you do when you're not working?

Currently I have moved to Italy where I spent a number of years in my early 20's and where I had purchased a property right before the pandemic hit. Originally, I had thought it would be a place for my future retirement, but everything changed and here I remain. I enjoy long walks in hills of Pontremoli and early morning swims in the Magra river and studying....still trying to develop some skills with Chinese texts.

Anything else you'd like to share?

I would like to close with explaining the importance of having a national examination and I would encourage folks to look up the standards set by the NCCA to fully appreciate the work involved by the NCCAOM for the ability of our providers to have their health care practice accepted in the United States.