

**AMTA-DC Chapter  
Annual Meeting  
February 9, 2014**

**I. Call to Order**

The annual meeting of the AMTA-DC Chapter was called to order at 6:30 pm. The meeting took place at Mount Pleasant Massage Therapy, 1749 Irving St. NW, Washington DC. Eighteen (18) chapter members were in attendance: Melissa Martini Hall; Jaime Bernardo; Jessica LaGarde; Elizabeth Shrader; Cary Bland; Randy Calabray; Annie Roberts; Jules Gettler; Pamela Birchett-Street; Barbara Jazzo; Luann Fortune; Connie Ridgway; Kelly Bowers; Solana Shaw; Becky Wilkinson; Rebecca Carle; Raymond Franklin Vaughn; Bayliss Beard

**II. Roll Call and Introductions**

Board members and committee members introduced themselves and their roles for AMTA-DC Chapter; general membership introduced themselves and their businesses.

**III. Call for New Business or Additional Agenda Items**

No new business or agenda items.

**IV. Approval of Agenda**

Motion to approve the agenda was moved and seconded; motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

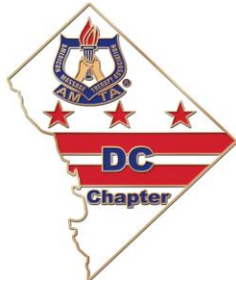
**V. Approval of 2013 Business Meeting Minutes**

Motion to approve the minutes from the Annual Business Meeting held on Feb. 10, 2013 moved and seconded; motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

**VI. President's Report**

Chapter President Melissa Colburn reported back to the membership on accomplishments from the previous year. Highlights for 2013 include:

- (a) The board strengthened its social networking capacity, focusing on updating the website, moving from paper to digital distribution of the quarterly newsletter, creating a chapter Facebook page, and updating and culling the membership roster for the listserv and Constant Contact databases.
- (b) The board is working to clarify and take advantage of our "tri-state" regional structure by collaborating more closely with AMTA chapters in Maryland and Virginia to promote our respective events, clarify with National which DC-based massage therapists (who may happen to reside in MD or VA) should be included as DC members, and share experiences across the "tri-state" area, particularly regarding legislative initiatives.
- (c) National has waived the requirement for chapter fees; this new policy does not directly affect our DC chapter as we waived chapter fees several years ago.



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- (d) The board strongly supports volunteerism among the membership. Volunteering our time – either to the chapter board or to community message efforts – is a great way to stay connected, combat isolation, and promote message to the public. Melissa proposed the “1% Solution” where each AMTA-DC member commits to donating 1% of his/her time to the professional chapter, approximately 24 minutes per week or about 1 hour 45 minutes per month. Additional community-based volunteer opportunities will be highlighted on the website calendar and in the newsletter and calendar of events. (See “New Business and Announcements” below.)

**VII. Treasurer’s Report**

Treasurer Annie Roberts distributed copies of the proposed budget for FY2014-2015, provided a brief description of line-item expenditures, and responded to questions regarding the proposed budget. A motion to approve the proposed budget without modification was seconded and approved by unanimous vote.

**VIII. Committee Reports**

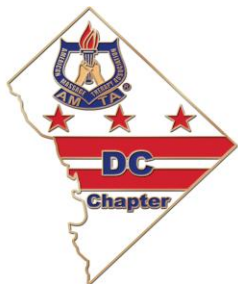
**(a) Communications**

As noted above in the President’s Report, the Communications Committee is in the process of developing a communications strategy to improve social networking capacity and strengthen outreach to new, lapsed, and potential members. The communication committee seeks members who can dedicate small amounts of time to discreet tasks such as proofreading or developing a meeting agenda; the committee also needs a chair.

**(b) Continuing Education**

Several continuing education opportunities are planned for 2014, including:

- **World Skin Project:** A 4-hour workshop for LMTs to learn to identify possible skin cancer and educate their clients as to the importance of skin health. To be held Saturday, May 4 2014 at Vida Fitness from 1:00-5:00pm. \$25 for AMTA members; \$40 for non-members.
- **Free CPR/First Aid:** A requirement for licensing renewal, the free classes are offered by the District of Columbia every third Saturday of the month at One Judiciary Square. Contact [Jason.Williamson@dc.gov](mailto:Jason.Williamson@dc.gov) for further information and registration.
- **Ethics:** Another requirement for licensing, the committee is looking into sponsoring a group on-line ethics class. AMTA member Luann Fortune offered to teach a class for free as a fundraiser for the chapter.



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**(c) Membership**

Latest report from National indicates that there are 156 AMTA members in DC. Review of the roster revealed that several DC members who live in Maryland are not on the roster. Melissa will follow up with national to reinstate DC members who are not on the list.

**(d) NMTAW**

In October, the AMTA-DC Chapter planned and executed a “flash mob”-type of public awareness campaign on the benefits of massage. About 15 massage therapists gathered at Farragut Square with chairs and tables to do a midday flash mob. Volunteers filmed the activity and edited the videotape. The committee plans to post the video on YouTube and on the website.

**(e) Government Relations/Legislation**

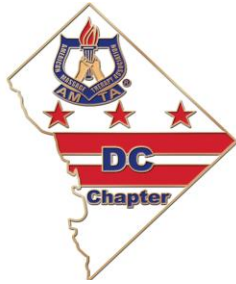
Committee chair Barbara Jazzo summarized the situation to date regarding enforcement of DC’s massage establishment licensing regulations (MEL regs). In a letter to CM Mendelson, Mayor Gray acknowledged that the MEL regs were unenforceable. The Massage Therapy Licensing Board interprets this to mean that the establishments owned and operated by LMTs would not be required to comply with the regulations; MEL regs only apply businesses that offer massage but are not owned by LMTs (i.e. gyms, salons). Barbara Jazzo, Luann Fortune and Connie Ridgway provided the historical context for the establishment of the licensing board and the regulations of the massage industry in DC.

**IX. New Business**

No new business was offered.

**X. Nominations and Elections: Chapter Board Positions**

- (a) President: Melissa Martini Colburn was nominated by Jaime Bernardo and she accepted the nomination. Two calls for nominations were issued, with no additional nominations forthcoming. The call for nominations for the position was closed and a vote was taken. In favor: 18 members; oppose: 0 members; abstain: 0 members.
- (b) Second vice-president: Cary Bland was nominated by Melissa Martini Colburn and he accepted the nomination. Two calls for nominations were issued, with no additional nominations forthcoming. The call for nominations for the position was closed and a vote was taken. In favor: 18 members; oppose: 0 members; abstain: 0 members.
- (c) Secretary: Elizabeth Shrader was nominated by Jessica LaGarde and she accepted the nomination. Two calls for nominations were issued, with no additional nominations



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forthcoming. The call for nominations for the position was closed and a vote was taken. In favor: 18 members; oppose: 0 members; abstain: 0 members.

**XI. Officers' Installation**

The oath of office was duly administered to the newly-elected officers. Officers signed and submitted Codes of Conduct for their positions.

**XII. Nominations and Elections: House of Delegates, Alternate**

- (a) The alternate delegate will serve a one-year term.
- (b) Connie Ridgway was nominated by Jaime Bernardo and she accepted the nomination. Two calls for nominations were issued, with no additional nominations forthcoming. The call for nominations for the position was closed and a vote was taken. In favor: 18 members; oppose: 0 members; abstain: 0 members.

**XIII. Final Comments and Adjournment**

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.