

AMTA RI CHAPTER ANNUAL MEETING

Meeting Location

Radisson Airport Hotel, Warwick, RI

Sunday, February 25, 2018

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: Pat Bachus, Lou Ann Botsford, Claudia Botthof, Regina Cobb, Michael Colizza, Kim Cook, Alda Corderio, Ellie Field, Debbie Kilty, Joanne Lozy, Kim Medeiros, Angela Perry-Place, Kenji Omori, Frank Rapone, Cassie Rawcliffe, Michelle Souza, Suzanne Wilcox, Jen Wilkiki

MEMBERS ABSENT: none

Meeting called to order 9:10 am

Roll Call and introduction of the chapter board members

Call for New Business: None

Approval of agenda: All in attendance approve the agenda

Michael's presidential address:

Welcomed everyone, including special guests from out of state and NH and MA chapter presidents.

Mentioned radio spots that AMTA has started to promote AMTA therapists across the country, including I(heart) radio's count down with Mario Lopez. I(heart) radio reaches 1400 radio stations across the country so virtually every part of the US is being reached. National surveys have shown that AMTA massage therapists are the most trusted massage therapists in the country. AMTA celebrates 75 years of health and wellness.

Electronic voting was discussed often this year. There was an expose in our newsletter with great detail regarding the voting style options and member survey that was conducted. Please review the past newsletter for details on this subject.

Crisis Massage Team: In accordance with national regulation there are components of business and legal aspects that prevent the co-usage of the crisis massage team logo and the AMTA logo, as well as the collection of funds through the AMTA-RI chapter for the team. We will continue to support this beloved team, through complementary advertising and table spaces at our meetings. The national office will work closely with our chapter during the transition of the CMT into an individual entity. Regina Cobb will have more on this later.

Insurance challenges: months ago, a decision was made by the US attorney general and signed by 30+ state attorneys general, including the RI attorney general, to incorporate the acceptance of massage therapy as an approved source of care

related to pain and opioid crisis patients. Karlo will speak with us today regarding what's happening at our state level.

Financial challenges and growth opportunities: Two years ago, chapters were challenged to spend down chapter excess reserves and to use them to benefit our members. After polling and surveying our members the top three requests were education, government relations efforts and convention. We acknowledged this request by putting our chapter money into education, taking a financial risk in creating the highly praised first RI Massage Therapy Convention in 2016. We expected a loss in the first year due to the set up of fees, materials, and simply the fact that it was a new concept. In year 2 we also recognized that there was going to be financial loss and reached out to the national association. They guided us in making a very difficult decision. The question became, do we not hold the event after making large deposits and cut our losses, or chance holding the event and have possible gains after making large nonrefundable deposits with hopes of breaking even. Unfortunately, it was not financially successful. Our attending members, vendor and educators had high value, high praise and much appreciation for the event. In looking at our numbers post-convention, if we'd had just 20 more attendees, we would have broken even. Based on this information we will put the following plan into motion: National office will financially support the chapter until we recover and correct our current debt. We will structure our education offerings to individual events as done prior to the convention. We will revisit the convention in 1-2 years. We plan to explore opportunities to work with other states in conjoined educational experiences, and continue to develop concepts to bring low cost education to our members.

Michaele mentions the envelopes on the table that members can use to make a donation to the chapter. Since chapter contributions were eliminated at the time of renewal, all of the chapters across the country have felt the financial pinch.

Massage Envy: Thanks Lynn Garvey and Mike D'Amara for being with us.

Michaele and others met with local Massage Envy owners/managers. A "Massage Envy Safety Advisory Council" (please see attached PowerPoint slide) has been created and is developing a 6-point plan for public safety and the safety of therapists by Massage Envy. The six points are: prevention, reporting, investigations, review, support, and guidance. Locally there are 62 AMTA members working for massage envy. Michaele mentions that Mike and Lynn will be present for at least a portion of today's meeting and are available if anyone has any questions.

Michaele reflects on the growth of the chapter over the term of her presidency.

Growth in membership numbers; the development of the RI state board of licensed massage therapists; the development of the RI massage therapy convention;

chapter awards received. Michaela thanks all members for allowing her to serve as chapter president. Michaela asks for all board and chairs to come to the front for a rose ceremony.

Financial Administrators Report: Kenji Omori reports on the fiscal year 2017-2018 final numbers and the budget for the upcoming fiscal year 2018-2019.

As of 2017 chapters are no longer required to obtain membership approval by vote from the general members at the annual meeting. The chapter financial administrator is only obligated to report the fiscal year budget that was planned during a board meeting by the current board to the members.

Committee Reports:

Education and Convention: Alda reports that she is working on upcoming workshops for the chapter. Nothing has been finalized yet. Deb K reports that there will be no convention for 2018, the chapter has opened talks with other NE chapters to discuss the possibility of a multi-state event.

Membership: Jennifer Wilkicki reports NYC bus trip was successful. Working on membership meet and greet event.

Sports: Lou Ann Botsford reports upcoming sports massage team events; special Olympics, MS105 (compensated event); save the bay; operation stand down for veterans. Core group will be going to Boston Marathon.

Video Library: Claudia Botthof reports planning free video viewing night 2nd Thursday of each month.

Crisis Massage Team: Regina Cobb & Frank Rapone report that the Crisis massage team change to an independent entity will not affect the team in any major way. Trainings will still be run as they have been at the Special Olympics Building. The Crisis Massage Team is under the jurisdiction of Homeland Security and REMA with special privileges to enter crisis scenes. Upcoming events: March 18th Training for new and/or renewing members; EMS Conference at Crowne Plaza, April 24th. New website is being constructed. RI has joined NY, NJ and CT in a gun safety taskforce that will be looking into background checks. Future training being planned for working with burn survivors.

Assembly of Delegates: Kim Medeiros & Ellie Field report on the changes that have taken place over the last two years in the House of Delegates. One position statement was presented and approved. One recommendation was also presented and approved to be put in front of the National board of directors.

The Assembly of Delegates will now be considered more of a think tank. Any future delegates should have their finger on the pulse of healthcare and massage in their states.

Newsletter: Ellie Field reports that the newsletter belongs to the members; deadlines for submissions are always at the end of the newsletter and she hopes to receive articles, photos etc.

Government Relations: Joanne Lozy & Cassie Rawcliffe report recap of year in GR. Joanne announced at the 2017 general member meeting that she would be stepping down as GR chair and Cassie Rawcliffe has been training since then to become the new GR chair.

Guest Speaker: Karlo Berger: Regina Cobb, Victoria Moutahir, Jenny Xie, Sue Vandal, Sheldon Townsend, Nicole Wayland, Karlo Berger and others started getting together and looking more seriously at the reimbursement issue in RI. Council was sought from various political people that were known by this group. This group was told that they should start attending meetings and figuring out just what was going on in RI and how massage might fit in. Some attended the state's opioid task force meeting, the massage licensing board meeting and in December Regina and Victoria attended the Health Insurance Advisory Council meeting. Regina and Victoria were asked to speak to the council regarding doctors now saying that massage should be the first line treatment for low back pain; hospitals now requiring non-pharmacological therapies for pain treatment as part of their accreditation; and that massage needs to get covered by insurance, especially in light of the states opioid crisis. The public needs affordable alternatives to highly addictive drugs to treat pain. There is so much support for massage from insurance commissioner and the medical community. Last month Victoria was contacted by the AG's office and said "Attorney General Killmartin is very interested in pursuing this issue as he truly believes in the healing benefits of massage therapy and that the AG's office was going forward in filing a bill"

This bill if passed, does not require any massage therapist to accept insurance, what it does mandate is that insurance cover PT, OT, MT and acupuncture. The AG's office wants to drive the campaign for this bill, they want to see massage covered and they are willing to negotiate with the insurance companies to make this happen. This is not going to be easy as the insurance companies will try to block this bill or whittle it down. With enough effort this year or next year we will have some form of coverage for massage. We need members to get involved, ie: members with computer skills and writing skills. We will be heading to the state house in April to lobby for this bill. Asking people to descend on the state house with massage chairs and tables. We want all state reps that want a massage to get one that day. If you want massage therapy to fully enter this new era please sign

up! AG's office is working to set a date for the massage day. It is looking like it might be a Tuesday 3-5pm.

Elections: Kim Cook elections coordinator

Kim explains floor nominations process and how to vote.

Cassie Rawcliffe, Alda Cordiero and Claudia Botthof will be the tellers today.

If someone accepts a nomination they should see Angela at the registration desk to check eligibility and sign code of conduct.

Nominations for office of President: Pat Bachus nominated Deb Kilty, Deb Kilty accepts. No other nominations for president

Nominations for Board member: Victoria Moutahir is nominated for board member and accepts; Jennifer Wilkicki is nominated for board member and accepts; no other nominations for board member

Nominations for Secretary: Deb Kilty nominates Kim Medeiros, Kim Medeiros accepts. No other nominations for secretary

Speeches given by Deb Kilty, Kim Medeiros, Victoria Moutahir and Jennifer Wilkicki.

Kim Cook states that because there is only one nomination for President she would like to make a motion to accept Deb Kilty by acclimation for position of president, seconded, vote taken, more than 50% of membership present in favor.

Kim Cook states that because there is only one nomination for Secretary she would like to make a motion to accept Kim Medeiros by acclimation for position of president, seconded, vote taken, more than 50% of membership present in favor.

All ballots are collected to determine new board member.

Nominations for Assembly of Delegates: Jennifer Wilkicki is nominated and accepts; Pat Bachus is nominated and accepts; Ellie Field is nominated and accepts; Deb Luhrs is nominated and accepts. Jenny Xie in nominated and declines; Kim Cook is nominated and declines; Karlo Berger is nominated and declines.

Speeches are given by Jennifer, Pat, Ellie and Deb.

All ballots are collected to determine new AOD representative.

Joanne Lozy, Awards Chair acknowledges members present that are celebrating significant anniversaries. Lynn Garvey, 30 year member amta!

Frank Rapone, 20 year member amta!

Deb Peacock, 15 year member amta!

Many other members are also celebrating significant anniversaries. List was made available at the awards table!

Election results: President: Deb Kilty
Secretary: Kim Medeiros
Board Member: Victoria Moutahir
Delegate: Pat Bachus

All board and chairpersons are sworn in.
Meeting Adjourned 1:00 pm

Continuing Education for the afternoon by Greg Hurd.