

AMTA RI CHAPTER ANNUAL MEETING

Meeting Location

Holiday Inn, 3009 Tower Hill Rd,

South Kingstown, RI

Sunday, March 10, 2019

MINUTES

Members present: Pat Bachus, Claudia Botthof, Kim Cook, Alda Cordeiro, Larry Gallagher, Debbie Kilty, Joanne Lozy, Kim Medeiros, Victoria Moutahir, Kenji Omori, Angela Perry-Place, Cassie Rawcliffe, Michelle Souza, Suzanne Wilcox, Stephanie Welsh, Jennifer Wilkiki

Members absent: Regina Cobb, Michaele Colizza, Dale DeCelles

Meeting scribe: Kim Medeiros

Meeting called to order at 9:30. Deb welcomes all. Thanks Massage Envy for breakfast. Thanks Massage Warehouse for goodies in bags. Thanks Annie Powell and World Skin Project for education today.

Call for new business. None.

Approval of Agenda. Approved.

Presidential address:

Deb acknowledges Cassie Rawcliffe for the work she has done on behalf of our GR committee. Applied for and received grant. Working with Dept of Health to define MT and scope of practice, arranged coalition for licensing act, attends meetings of health insurance commissioner, lobby day, our meetings, and state board of health meetings.

This year our chapter provided education through the year. Alda took sabbatical but we are excited to welcome her back. In Alda's absence Kim Cook stepped in. Kim found new venue and set up CPR and two CEU events. Profitable enough to pay off debt. Kim is presented with President's award.

Thanks to board and committees. Our chapter has 71% value rating.

Several reps attended National Convention. CVOP was free and had 7 attendees. Non-opioid pain symposium held at CCRI. Regina and Victoria took part. Chapter had table and handed out information.

Chapter held social event at Gregg's restaurant and has new video "hot seat" interview.

Ray Moriyasu received Hall of Fame award.

Held 2018 "Advance" meeting after election meeting. RI was the first chapter to receive "Chapter Advancement Initiative" training from national. Program is available to all chapters once a year. Saves the chapter money.

We strengthened our committees this year adding 3 new volunteers: Stephanie Welsh in membership, Dale DeCelles in education, and Larry Gallagher as CSMT chair. Chapter has one open chair position: Newsletter editor. Deb is covering this position at the moment.

National: Increased continuing ed, scholarships, GR to protect, actively engage with various levels of government. Defended use of "trigger point." Over 88,000 members. 553 in RI.

Welcome to CT president Becca Tornis Baker and MA president Greg Hurd. New National President Christopher Deery, President Elect Angela Baker. National Convention is in October in Indianapolis, Indiana.

3 reps going to International Research Conference in May, Pat Bachus, Kim Medeiros, and Deb Kilty.

Today we vote for one Board Member, Financial Administrator, and one Delegate. Three years ago the board created an attendance policy for elected officials in order to establish quorum and receive valuable feedback at meetings. Please consider the attendance policy if choosing to run for a position.

Pat Bachus reads statement from Michaele Colizza, Immediate Past President. Michaele is in Denver for the national board meeting.

Financial Administrator's report:

Increased education income. Committees and board members cut back on expenses to catch up from losses. No longer paying Newsletter editor.

Committee reports

Sports: Larry Gallagher has taken over the committee chair position from LouAnn. The Sports Massage Team has made a natural transition to a Community Service Massage Team in order to spread out to more, non-sport events. Boston Marathon, Special Olympics, Save the Bay, Operation Stand Down. Opportunity to share techniques and to work along side other passionate therapists.

Library: Books and DVDs are available to rent. Paula K donated books to our library. We accept donations.

Membership: Michelle Souza and Stephanie Welsh have joined the team. Student orientation at CCRI, social event at Gregg's in NK, coffee and tea event in Warwick. Michelle introduces herself. She has been calling or emailing new members to welcome them. Stephanie introduces herself. They welcome any new ideas.

Education: 2 upcoming education events: 1 day workshop: May 19 Thai foot spa. \$20 discount for registering today. June CPR. See Alda if any questions or suggestions.

GR: Last year, the Attorney General's office had written and proposed bills 7499 & 2537, which enabled therapies such as massage, acupuncture, PT, OT, and chiropractic care to be used as effective pain management alternatives to pharmacological treatments; coverage of such treatments would be made

possible by mandating reimbursement from insurance. Hearings for the bills were conducted in both the House and the Senate; in the end both requested for additional research.

Our team has been present and supportive through this legislative process by advocating/providing testimony at the state hearings, enacting the ENGAGE system through National for the electronic petition calling for support of the bill from our membership, participation on lobby day last April, composing letter writing campaigns to representatives and senators, being present at the health insurance commissioner meetings, and directly contacting the AG's office stating support for these bills from National AMTA. Our GR team, National GR, and members from our chapter were also present at the opioid symposium in October. We were able to provide information to the public about our most recent research study conducted by AMTA. (On a side note, the study provided invaluable information about the integration of massage therapy for pain management, it's effectiveness, and opioid use reduction when alternative treatment is used. The research also demonstrated an overall cost savings for insurance by integrating our work, instead of utilizing pharmacological treatments alone. If you have an opportunity to read this research in full, it is available on the national AMTA website and was presented at last August's national convention in Washington DC. We also have a copy on the back table if you would like to look it over today.

More recently, these bills, renamed 5120 & 68, were reintroduced for this year's legislative session. A hearing was scheduled for the House in late January, resulting in being pulled by the sponsor prior to being heard; notification of its return to the docket could be at any time. The Senate hearing took place this past Thursday. Again, requests for additional research was determined at the conclusion of the hearing. We plan to continue our support and bring awareness of the positive impact and effectiveness that massage therapy has on pain management.

Representatives from GR were also present at all quarterly public meetings throughout 2018 with the massage board at the department of health. Last May, discussions about amending our current practice act & statute were presented again. These talks have been happening for many years and the urgency to follow through with these legislative changes became more apparent than ever. After consulting with both our president and the National GR team, we were encouraged to amend the legislation by applying for a \$20,000.00 LLEAD grant, which was approved in late July. The grant enabled us to hire our current lobbyist, Bill Fischer from True North Communications, with whom we have worked with in the past. A call for the formation of a coalition team was made to our members, ABMP, and other LMT's throughout the state. We had a great response; the coalition was born and our work began. The coalition team met every other week from October through December, working diligently on the massage therapy practice act, all while maintaining the following goals:

- 1. Protection of the public through the establishment of high standards for entry into the profession**
- 2. Protection of the public through the regulation of practice and recourse to effective disciplinary action**
- 3. Fair and consistent regulation applying to the whole state**
- 4. The right of massage therapists to define their practice, through proposed legislation and through regulation under an authoritative or advisory board of massage therapy**

5. The right of massage therapists to practice within the scope of massage therapy practice and free from any requirement (state or local) to obtain any other occupational license

Thank you to the members of the coalition for their hard work and dedication to this project. Thank you to Deb Kilty, Suzanne Willcox, Chris Adamo, Angela Perry-Place, Joanne Lozy, John Baletto, Dale DeCelles, Laura Embelton, and Dana O'Neil. It was inspiring to see the collaborative effort made as a team to make positive changes to such an important piece of legislature.

The work for this first phase is now complete, and we await our existing legislation to be called up on the docket for the House and Senate. Our practice act has been sponsored by both Representative Bennett and Senator Miller and has been sent to the legal department through the state for review. When notified, we will provide testimony, advocating for our proposed amendments to be passed into law. As things develop and progress forward, we will keep our membership informed and as always, please feel free to notify me should you have questions.

Awards: Joanne recognized anniversaries of 15 years or more by mailing certificates. These anniversaries are also listed in the newsletter. Joanne also writes and submits our chapter's nominee for Meritorious Award.

Elections: Michelle Souza, Pat Bachus, and Joanne Lozy will be vote counters.

Board Member:

Michelle Souza nominates Jen Wilkicki

Larry Gallagher nominates Kenji Omori

Financial Administrator:

Angela Perry-Place nominates Kimberley Cook

Delegate to the Assembly of Delegates:

Nomination for Cassie Rawcliffe

Speeches.

Kimberley Cook is named Financial Administrator, Cassie Rawcliffe is delegate.

Lynn Garvey speaks on behalf of Massage Envy. Tuition reimbursement now available. Self-care initiative rolled out with the help of AMTA.

Lunch while votes are counted.

Kenji Omori is named Board Member. All members of the board and committees are sworn in.

Education: Annie Powell presents on behalf of the World Skin Project.

