



handprints

amta - rhode island chapter newsletter

December 2017 Newsletter



Presidents Address

Season's greetings and welcome to one and all. I hope your year ahead is filled with joy, health, and prosperity.

Our Chapter has just concluded its' 2nd Rhode Island Massage Therapy convention. I would like to thank all of the volunteers and attendees who made this event possible. We were visited and supported by our national President Dolly Wallace. Please see the article in the newsletter for more details.

Recently, there have been stories regarding Massage Envy in the media. The national website has posted a statement in regards to these reports. Please go to www.amtamassage.org to read this information.

Other news released on 11/30/2017 is the monthly report from the national Government Relations team. It has been sent to your email under AMTA heading subject November 2017 legislative briefing. This is information that has been previously discussed. It is showing that the Bill has been signed by the Governor and that the session is adjourned at this time.

The National Board of Directors nomination slate was emailed to each member for your vote consideration on November 15th. The Vote closed December 1st. Thank you, to all

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Board of Directors:

Michaele Colizza

President

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MichaeleColizza@yahoo.com

Regina Cobb

Board Member

508-954-2125

cobbr155@msn.com

Alda Cordeiro

Board Member

401-829-0293

justbreathemassage2@yahoo.com

of our members who voted. I am extremely grateful for all of the kind words of support for the slate of nominees. We all await the vote results in 2018.

Locally, our chapters annual election and members meeting will be held February 25, 2018. It will be held at the Radisson Hotel in Warwick Rhode Island. The positions which will be nominated and elected are:

1 board member
1 delegate
Secretary
President

A survey was sent to each member to poll our members regarding the desire to have electronic voting. It gave an in depth explanation of each way a chapter can vote. It was sent out on 3 separate occasions to try to capture as many poll responses as possible. Each collection of responses yielded less than 4% of our membership (total #of participants is less than 12% of our membership). The total number of the 3 poll responses is still less than the 20-25% of our membership that historically attends our face to face annual election and members meeting.

After multiple years of discussion, surveys of our members, discussions with the national office and presidents across the country. We will remain a state that votes from the floor. I encourage our members to revisit this topic in 3-5 years.

Please read the article written by Deb Kilty for specific details from the survey. Details regarding the time of our annual meeting on February 25, 2018 will be sent to you soon. Please support your chapter's efforts by attending this meeting.

I would like to close this letter by saying THANK YOU!!!! ♥,,,, XOXO !!!!!
It has been an incredible 4 year experience full of changes, challenges, and growth for our chapter, it's volunteers and our members.

The seventeen years serving the members in our chapter and others across the country, has been one of my life's biggest joys. There is no way, one single person can do this job. The team I have worked with made this journey possible. Each has made a permanent mark on my heart. I will cherish

Debbie Kilty

Secretary
401-339-1041
debbiekilty@yahoo.com

Roy Kenji Omori

Financial Administrator
401-864-1258
rkomori@aol.com

Welcome New Members!

New members:

Jessica Abreu
Dale DeCelles
Diana Furtado
Anthony Alvarez
Erin Botelho
Jillian Harris
Jennifer Peckham
Angelica Williams
Marissa Patton
Cecilia Murgo
Julienne Del Nero
Rachel Glatz
Marybeth Ross
Erica Cellini
Meredith Mills

Total RI Members: 507

Committees

Joanne Lozy

401-497-2111
Jlozy123@gmail.com
Awards Committee Chairperson
Gov. Relations Chairperson
Past President
Convention Planning Committee

Regina Cobb MSW, LCMT

508-954-2125
cobbr155@msn.com
Board Member
Crisis Massage Team Co-Coordinator

Roy Kenji Omori

401-864-1258
rkomori@aol.com
Financial Administrator
Social Media, Facebook and Yahoo
Group Administrator

Jennifer Wilkicki

401-935-3549

their support and friendship always.

I look forward to seeing you at future committee meetings, membership events and conventions.

With gratitude,
Michaele Colizza
AMTA-RI
Chapter President

VIDEO
Claudia Botthof

Greetings from the AMTA-RI library!

**A GREAT EDUCATIONAL RESOURCE
PLACE**

The library offers DVDs, Videos and books to rent for free for all AMTA-RI members. The library is conveniently located in West Warwick, RI across from the Christmas Tree shop at Unique Fitness & Massage Therapy. Call for an appointment before stopping by. The selections of DVDs, videos and books have a wide range of subjects from energy healing, to all kinds of different massage therapy modalities. There are also DVDs/books about Anatomy, Kinesiology and stretching.

Please, feel free to contact me with any comments, questions or requests for video nights.

Claudia Botthof
AMTA-RI librarian

At
Unique Fitness & Massage Therapy
263 Quaker Lane
West Warwick, RI 02893
B: (401) 615-2355
Text: (401) 749-0176
Email: info@uniquefitnessLLC.com

Government Relations

jlw531@aol.com

Membership Chairperson
2nd Alternate Delegate
Volunteer Coordinator
Convention Planning Committee

Claudia Botthof

401-749-0176
clbotthof@gmail.com
Video Librarian

Deb Kilty

401-339-1041
debbiekilty@yahoo.com
Secretary
RI Convention Planning Committee Co-Chair

Kim Cook

401-837-8079
kimjcook@yahoo.com
Website Chair
Convention Planning Committee

Frank Rapone

401-559-4318
frankrap200@gmail.com
Crisis Massage Team Co-Coordinator

Alda Cordeiro

401-829-0293
justbreathemassage2@yahoo.com
Board Member
Education Chairperson
RI Convention Planning Committee Co-Chair

Lou Ann Botsford

401-486-9113
labots@cox.net
Sports Massage Chairperson

Angela Perry-Place

401-965-9928
amptigger@aol.com
Twitter Administrator/Social Media Chair
RI Convention Planning Committee member

Kim Gregorzek-Medeiros

860-617-1546
kimberly_e_g@hotmail.com
Jr. Delegate
RI Convention Planning Committee member
Membership Committee: Senior members contact

Government Relations

The Government Relations team is keeping it's eyes and ears open for anything that may impact our profession. Our National Government Relations office keeps us abreast of legislation that is happening at both the local level and across the country. If you are interested in keeping abreast of legislation regarding massage therapy locally and nationally you may do so on the American Massage Therapy Association web site. Follow this web address

<https://www.amtamassage.org/regulation/index.html> to learn more. You are also welcome to contact the American Massage Therapy Association Rhode Island Chapter Government Relations team through me (Joanne Lozy) at JLozy123@gmail.com. Your Government Relations team wishes you a safe, healthy and prosperous year.

Debbie Kilty, Frank Rapone, Michaele Colizza, Kim Cook, Angela Perry-Place, Pat Bachus, Cassie Rawcliffe and Joanne Lozy

Government Relations

At the March Elections meeting this year I announced I would be stepping down as Chair of Government Relations at the end of the year. Cassie Rawcliffe advised me she would like to step into the Chair position. I have been working with Cassie to help her learn the different aspects of the position.

We encountered a political event this past July with the Department of Health's announcement they would be updating their Rules and Regulation for massage therapy.

This was a good initiation for Cassie and I'm pleased to say she handled it very well. I feel I will be leaving the Chair position and my fellow massage therapists in good hands.

It has been my pleasure to serve you.

Although I will no longer be the Government Relations Chair I will still be active in serving the AMTA RI Board and Committees.

Anyone wishing to volunteer in any capacity please be sure to contact anyone of the people listed on the AMTA RI Chapter website <http://ri.wp.amtamassage.org> . This or the AMTA RI Facebook page are great locations to find out what's going on locally and nationally for massage therapists.

Joanne Lozy, LMT
Government Relations Chair
AMTA RI Chapter

The Government Relations team is always

Ellen Field

401-742-7569

ellenfield8034@msn.com

Newsletter Editor

Sr. Delegate

Sean Duffy

401-486-9571

scduffy2006@yahoo.com

2nd to Sports

Michelle Souza

401-418-1735

michellelmt1177@gmail.com

1st Alternate Delegate

Marlo Lawrence

401-662-4045

molly6@cox.net

Membership Committee: New member contact

Upcoming Meeting Dates

All AMTA-RI Chapter Board Meetings are open to the public.

The following is a list of dates and times of upcoming board meetings:

January 3, 2018

February 7, 2018

February 25, 2018 Annual Meeting

Times and dates are subject to change.

Please contact our Secretary

Deb Kilty

at 401-339-1041 or via email

at debbiekilty@yahoo.com

prior to any meeting for

confirmation on date, time and location.

Check in the next newsletter or on our website for future meeting dates.

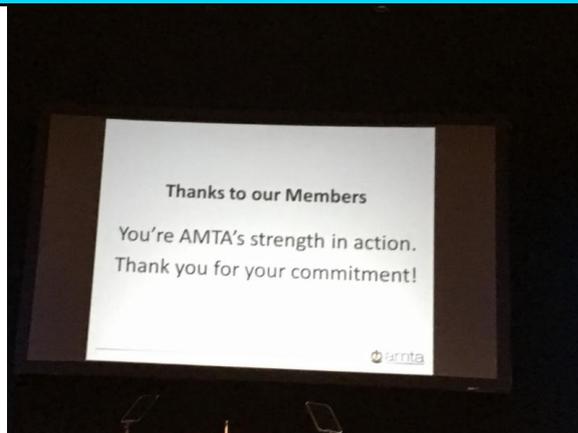
Opioid Crisis

Recently, in an effort to thwart the growing tide of opioid addiction in the country, the Attorneys General of 37 States plus the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico have

looking for people interested in joining the team. If you want to learn more please contact me at JLozy123@gmail.com or 401 497 2111.

Joanne Lozy LMT
Government Relations Chair

Congratulations to Rhode Island's own **Michaele Colizza** on being elected to the National Board of Directors for 2018! Congratulations to everyone elected this year!



added their names to a letter sent to Marilyn Tavenner, the president/CEO of America's Health Insurance Plan (AHIP). The initiative is to encourage insurance companies to better cover alternative modalities as the first line of defense against pain. This project was initiated by West Virginia Attorney General Patrick Morrisey. The American Massage Therapy Association worked closely with Attorney General Morrisey. You may read about it by connecting to <http://www.ago.wv.gov/Pages/default.aspx>

Rhode Island is one of the 37 States that attached it's name to the letter. The Government Relations team is mobilizing to address how this will affect our state and our profession. We currently have sent a letter to Rhode Island Attorney General Peter Kilmartin thanking him for supporting the initiative. We will keep you apprised as we learn more.

Membership Benefits

AMTA Offers the Strongest Benefits in the Profession!

From education to award-winning publications to broad liability insurance, AMTA membership gives you the tools you need to grow and thrive in the massage therapy profession.

In fact, 100 percent of your membership dues are invested back into you in the form of benefits and advocacy for the profession. Professional Membership

[Graduate Membership](#)

[Student Membership](#)

[School Membership](#)

[Supporting Membership](#)

Questions? Call 1-877-905-0577 during business hours or email us.



Michele Colizza, Pat Bachus,
Alda Cordeiro

New Member Benefit!

AMTA is proud to team up with industry leading practice management software, ClinicSense. ClinicSense offers massage therapists everything they need to manage their practice, including SOAP notes, online scheduling, online intake forms, invoices, gift certificates and more. Best of all, AMTA members save 25% on monthly fees for life!

Continuing Education Requirements for RI AMTA Chapter Licensed Massage Therapists

Below is a review of information for continuing education requirements. All information has been obtained directly from the body to which it pertains.

Continuing education (CE) requirements for the State of Rhode Island:

For renewal of the RI License to practice massage therapy there must be a total of 6 hours per year or 12 hours biennially. Any course offering content that is considered to be within our legal scope of practice is accepted. The limitations and/or any restrictions are based on the RI statute defined legal scope of practice. For more detailed information regarding RI State Licensing requirements visit:

<http://sos.ri.gov/documents/archives/regdocs/released/pdf/DOH/7016.pdf>

Continuing education (CE) requirements for AMTA Professional membership:

Beginning with the first full year of Professional Active membership, members of the American Massage Therapy Association (AMTA) are required to complete 48 clock hours of continuing education (CE) every four years.

Education programs used to fulfill this requirement must meet the following general description:

"an organized education experience directly related to massage therapy, which is offered under responsible sponsorship, capable direction and qualified instruction." This can be experiential learning, theoretical or research. Responsible sponsorship includes:

AMTA sponsored education, such as online courses, National Convention, Schools Summit, Fascial Therapy Continuing Education program and chapter events

Continuing education courses offered by massage schools, colleges or universities

Regional workshops by NCBTMB or state-approved providers

Home study courses that include an assessment, such as online courses, workbooks, DVDs,

etc.

For more in-depth information or for answers to any specific questions please contact AMTA Member Services at 1-877-905-0577 (8am-5:30pm CT M-F) or visit the website at:

<https://www.amtamassage.org/index.html>

Continuing education (CE) requirements for NCBTMB:

For board certification renewals: Required every 2 years are 24-hours of Continuing Education from NCBTMB Approved Providers (including 3 hours in Ethics, 3 hours in Research and no more than 4 hours in self-care). Also accepted are medical and business courses from any accredited college and/or university.

For more in-depth information or for answers to any specific questions please contact the NCBTMB customer care center (M-F, 8am-5pm CT) at 1-800-296-0664 directly or visit their website at: <http://www.ncbtmb.org/>

Deb Kilty, Secretary

Manual Lymph Drainage

CERTIFICATION COURSE

with René Janiece, LMT, NCTMB, CLT



March 19 - 24, 2018

- Gain valuable new skills
- Attract more clients
- Improve treatment success
- Approved for 45 CEUs by the NCBTMB



WHAT IS MLD?

Manual Lymph Drainage (MLD) is a very gentle manual treatment that has been proven effective since its introduction by Dr. Emil Vodder, MT, PhD, in the 1930's. When skillfully applied, MLD dramatically enhances lymph formation and promotes drainage within the superficial and deep systems of the lymph vascular network. This helps reduce edema (swelling) associated with many conditions. MLD also promotes general relaxation and cleanses (detoxifies) the skin and superficial fascia.

PREREQUISITES:

This course is designed for **Licensed/Registered Massage Therapists** who have completed at least **500 hours of massage training** or are certified by the **NCBTMB**.

The course is also open to PTs, PTAs, OTs, COTAs, ATCs, RNs, and MDs but these professionals should first consult with Klose Training to ensure this is the appropriate class.

COURSE LOCATION:

Body Kneads Yoga Studio
1145 Reservoir Ave. Cranston, RI 02920

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This **5½-day (45-hour)** MLD certification course is based on the techniques developed by **Dr. Emil Vodder, Ph.D., MT**. When skillfully applied, this therapeutic form of soft-tissue mobilization dramatically enhances lymph formation and promotes drainage within the superficial and deep systems of the lymph vascular network. During this course, students will be instructed in anatomy and physiology of the lymphatic system. Basic MLD treatment sequences as well as MLD treatment sequences for mild, medically uncomplicated upper and lower extremity lymphedema will be demonstrated and practiced. Each day will be divided into two sections: theoretical and hands-on application.

TUITION & PAYMENTS:

The total cost of registration is \$950.00
(*plus a one-time \$30 processing fee
for credit card payments)

QUESTIONS:

Contact Eddie at Body Kneads:
(401) 453 - 4263 or eddie.bodykneadsinc@gmail.com

EARLY BIRD SPECIAL:
SAVE \$100 -- REGISTER & PAY
BEFORE DECEMBER 31, 2017



FOR MORE INFO & REGISTER ONLINE:
www.BodyKneadsInc.com/MLD-Course-Registration

Congratulations To Rhode Island's own Michael Colizza on being elected to the National Board of Directors for 2018!
Congratulations to everyone elected this year!

See complete article below from the National AMTA website.



Tellers Report - New National Board Directors

December 5, 2017

The American Massage Therapy Association (AMTA) is happy to announce that 94.5% of Professional Members voting in the AMTA National Board Election approved the slate of new board directors to take office on March 1, 2018. The new or returning board members will be Christine Bailor-Goodlander (NY), Angela Barker (WV), Michael Colizza (RI), Patricia Phillips (WA) and Scott Raymond (CT). They will join five continuing Board Directors – Steven Albertson (IL), Christopher Deery (PA), Kimberly Kane-Santos (PA), Ed Sansbury (NC) and LaDonna Ward (AL) – for FY 2018-19. On March 1, 2018, President-Elect Joan Nichols of Georgia will become AMTA President and current President, Dolly Wallace (MI) will continue on the Board as Immediate-Past President.

The Board of Directors sets the direction for AMTA and its commitment to advancing the massage therapy profession. The slate process and election allow the association to best ensure that board members have the skills and knowledge to direct AMTA as it continues its rapid growth, and have the choice ratified by the membership.

"It's wonderful to see so many of our members taking interest in electing our National Board," said AMTA President Dolly Wallace. "Our membership continues to increase and our Board provides the kind of teamwork and volunteer commitment that make AMTA the most trusted name in the profession. I want to thank members for their participation."

Tellers Report

- Total Number of Eligible Professional Member Voters – 65,976
- Total Number of Voters – 4,513
- Percentage of Eligible Voters Participating – 6.8%
- Percentage of Voters Approving the Board Slate – 94.5%



SAVE THE DATE! February 25, 2018 AMTA RI Chapter General Member Meeting is happening!

Deb Kilty, Secretary

Sunday, February 25, 2018 the AMTA RI Chapter will be holding the annual General Member Meeting with Elections! This is the time to have your voice be heard and your vote counted!

The following positions will be voted on at this meeting: Chapter President, Chapter Secretary, Chapter Board Member and Representative to the Assembly of Delegates (formerly the House of Delegates).

Abbreviated position descriptions are available below.

Chapter President:

Purpose: The Chapter President sets the direction and pace of the Chapter's activities based on the vision that has been determined by the Chapter membership, Chapter Board of Directors, and other Chapter Officers. The Chapter President serves as a leader, planner, mentor, mediator, and facilitator.

Eligibility: In addition to being a Professional member in good standing and signing the Chapter Volunteer Code of Conduct, she/he must meet one or more of the following requirements:

1. Completed one term year as a Chapter Board member within the last three years.
2. Completed one term year as a Chapter committee chair within the last two years.
3. Completed one term year as a National Standing Committee Chair or National Board member within the last two years.

CONTINUED FROM ABOVE:

Term of Office: The Chapter President shall be elected every even year for a term of two (2) years or until a successor is elected, not to exceed two (2) consecutive elective terms.

Chapter Board Member:

Purpose: Chapter Board Member will assist the Chapter President in achieving Chapter goals

and implementing decisions made by the Chapter Board. Eligibility: In addition to being a Professional member in good standing and signing the Chapter Volunteer Code of Conduct, she/he must meet the following requirement:

1. Completed one year of AMTA membership

Term of Office: One Chapter Board Member shall be elected every odd year for a term of two years or until a successor is elected. One Chapter Board Member shall be elected every even year for a term of two years or until a successor is elected. Time Commitment: The time commitment averages approximately 5-8 hours per week, depending on Chapter activities. The time commitment may be higher before and/or during certain Chapter events or actions.

Chapter Secretary:

Purpose: The Chapter Secretary is the official keeper of the Chapter records and is responsible for maintaining and updating Chapter records during her/his term of office.

Eligibility: In addition to being a Professional member in good standing and signing the Chapter Volunteer Code of Conduct, she/he must meet the following requirement:

* Completed one year of AMTA membership.

Term of Office: The Chapter Secretary shall be elected every even year for a term of two (2) years or until a successor is elected.

Delegate to the Assembly of Delegates (AOD):

Purpose: Delegate represents the massage therapy profession in the AOD and related activities as they pertain to the profession in their state.

While not an eligibility requirement, the Delegate position should not be considered as an "entry level" volunteer position. Applicants for the position of Delegate should be encouraged to consider the following questions when choosing to become a candidate for the position.

1. What is the context of health and wellness in my state?
2. What are the things that are impacting massage therapy in my state? (including but not limited to):
 - a. Education requirements
 - b. Regulation
 - c. Continuing education
 - d. Cultural issues
 - e. Socio-economics
 - f. Diversity
 - g. Employment practices

- Eligibility:
1. Must be a professional member in good standing for at least 1 year
 2. Must be assigned to the Chapter they are elected to serve
 3. Must have a basic understanding of technology (e.g. email, online discussion boards, mobile applications)
 4. Must sign the AMTA Chapter Volunteer Code of Conduct and AOD Code of Conduct.
 5. Shall not be an AMTA National Board member, National Standing Committee Chair, National Commission Chair, or the Moderator of the Assembly of Delegates.

Term of Office: The Delegate shall serve a term of office of two years, beginning at the same time as chapter officers' terms and shall be elected in alternating years. The delegate shall serve no more than three consecutive elected terms.

If you are interested in running for one of the positions that will be available on February 25, 2018 please see the complete position description on our website; <http://ri.amtamassage.org/>. Or contact Deb Kilty at debbiekilty@yahoo.com for more information.

**WATCH YOUR EMAIL FOR DETAILS ON REGISTRATION, WHERE TO BE, WHEN TO BE AND WHAT THE FREE CONTINUING EDUCATION WILL BE!
VOTE! VOTE! VOTE!**

NOTICE TO THE MEMBERS OF THE RI CHAPTER OF THE AMTA

On February 25, 2018 the AMTA RI Chapter General Member Meeting will take place. This is the annual meeting of all members of the RI chapter to elect new board members. Each year the RI chapter board and volunteers work hard to put together a great day filled with elections, guest speakers, lunch and continuing education credits for all in attendance. The RI chapter is proud of the fact that this meeting has always been available at no cost to all AMTA members whether from RI or our neighboring NE states.

The RI chapter is asking all that register to please be mindful of the fact that even though the meeting is at no cost to the member there is still a cost for the chapter. The charge for the meeting space, food and CE presenters comes out of the chapter finances. The RI chapter is asking that anyone that finds they are unable to attend to please notify the meeting coordinators via email at least 48 hours prior to the meeting time. If you are unable to give a 48-hour notice of cancellation the RI chapter will be contacting you to ask that a suggested donation of \$25 be made to the chapter to help defray the cost of the meeting.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Deb Kilty, Secretary

AMTA RI Hospitality!!



AMTA RI Convention Exhibit Hall 2017



AMTA President
Dolly Wallace



2017 RI MASSAGE THERAPY CONVENTION

The 2017 Rhode Island Massage Therapy Convention was a HUGE Success!

The 2nd Annual Rhode Island Massage Therapy Convention, October 27-29, 2017 at the Crowne Plaza in Warwick, RI was the place to be!

Our theme for the weekend was "Massage is Hope". A poster greeting all of our attendees had these words of wisdom :

*"Hope sees the invisible, feels the intangible and achieves the impossible"
Hope changes everything...Massage is Hope!!*

The convention started on Friday with classes starting at 5:00 and so many great classes to choose from! James Waslaski presented his Orthopedic Massage for lower body conditions; Doug Nelson, newly elected president of the Massage Therapy Foundation, and new presenter to our chapter delivered classes on The Mystery of Pain as well as Precision Neuromuscular Therapy (PNMT) for the Arm and Hand and Shoulder. There were also classes on CranioSacral Therapy, Reiki, Thai Foot Reflexology, Ethics, How to do Deep Tissue Massage Easily and Effectively, Self-Care Healthcare for the Massage Therapist, Zero Balancing, The Principles of Trager, and The Practitioners Guide to the Grief and Dying Process. If you didn't make it to this years' convention you missed out on some awesome continuing education!

After class on Friday night the RI chapter hosted a cocktail reception in our exhibit hall, all the exhibitors were set up with their many items for sale and mini treatments to experience! Everyone was entertained by the wonderful music of a local artist trying to make it big, Kayleen Wright! The hors d'oeuvres were being passed around, there were stations set up of all types of food to satisfy all cravings!

The RI Convention Committee would like to thank all of the exhibitors that came out to support our chapter and its members! CBD Clinic; doTerra Essential Oils; Elements Massage; Helios Health Products & The Wellness Factor; Inner Peace; Krystal Blue International; Massage Envy; The Newport Massage School (SAMA); Oakworks/NE Trager Association; Structural Energetic Therapy; Structural Relief Therapy; Swiss Just; Upledger Institute and Zero Balancing Health Association!!

As always representatives from the Rhode Island State Board for Licensed Massage Therapists were on hand to help answer any questions that RI LMT's may have had.

The RI Convention Committee would also like to give special thanks and recognition to Massage Envy; Upledger Institute and Natural Awakenings for being sponsors for the second year in a row!

AMTA's National President Dolly Wallace joined us for the weekend! Dolly was treated to some unique RI delicacies Allie's Donuts, Del's Lemonade, clam cakes and NY System wieners. Dolly was schooled in the proper way to drink a Del's while she was here! Dolly was such a good sport, our committee wanted to run a contest "Where's Dolly!". She supplied us with photos spanning many different years of her life, they were scattered around the exhibit hall, 1 point was earned for each selfie with one of the photos posted in the hall and 10 points was awarded for a selfie with Dolly in person! Our big winner was Greter Barcelo with the most points in the Where's Dolly contest, she was the winner of a Total Body Support System! Generously donated by Body Support Systems, Inc.

Prizes weren't the only things handed out at the Saturday night banquet. Many awards were presented by our chapter president, Michaele Colizza. The most prestigious award that the RI chapter gives out is the RI Chapter Hall of Fame, this year's recipient was Patricia Bachus. Pat has served the RI chapter for many, many years and has worn many hats within the chapter not the least of which has been chapter president. Pat is so deserving of this award, it was a highlight of Saturday night's banquet! Volunteer of the year was awarded to Deb Luhrs for her outstanding work in RI with a pilot project with CODAC East Bay Drug Treatment Clinic to introduce massage therapy to the patients. Unfortunately, Deb couldn't join us so her award was accepted on her behalf by Michelle Souza, one of the therapists working with Deb on her project. Deb was able to be with us for some of the weekend in the exhibit hall as part of a

project being conducted by Karlo Berger, AOBTA, AMTA, LMT, teacher at CCRI, to get LMT's signed up for their National Provider Identifier (NPI) Number.

Alda Cordiero received the chapter meritorious award at the National Convention in Pasadena this past September, her award had been presented to her by national president Dolly Wallace and since Dolly was able to be with us for our convention she recreated the moment! And I'm proud and humbled to say that I was the recipient of this year's President's Award given in recognition and gratitude for outstanding support to chapter members, chapter board and profession.

The RI convention committee members, during the course of the weekend, received many great comments and complements. After the close of the convention a survey was sent out to all attendees for feedback. We, on the committee, are always looking to improve each year! I'd like to share some of the comments that were received from this survey here with everyone that was not able to attend.

"Enjoyed everything. Reg. Desk was extremely helpful."

"Very generous sample bags given out for attending"

"I truly enjoyed this convention. It was the funnest learning environment I think I've been to in quite a while. The people were very friendly, and willing to help with any questions, and the experience overall was just wonderful."

"- THANK YOU for providing food for attendees!! As an anxious traveler in a new state, I can't tell you how much it helped to not have to leave to find food.

- I never made it to breakfast so I can't rate them, but I'm sure they were just as fabulous as the other meals were.

- One of the attendees at my table for dinner Saturday night had a food allergy and I was very impressed at the lead server's handling of the situation and efforts to make sure she got a meal she would enjoy."

"Doug Nelson PNMT class was very well presented, informative and clearly a technique that has results."

"Susan Coffey's Reiki I workshop was better than most I have attended in my 14 years as an MT."

"I loved the variety of classes and enjoyed all of mine!"

"I really enjoyed the self-care class"

"There were a lot of vendors for a state conference. Nice job!"

"- This was my very first conference experience and I came by myself without knowing anyone. Everyone was very welcoming and helpful. It was WONDERFUL and I would absolutely attend another RI AMTA Conference!! Thank you to everyone who worked so hard to plan and pull it all together!

Thank you for all the hard work

Well done Amazing"

"Thank you for your attention to the wide variety of details related to the attendees' experience. The upbeat energy was palpable."

"The range of class offerings, instructors and ability to interact with AMTA President Dolly Wallace was extra special. Your team's determination to support each other during the event was visible and incredible to witness.

Wishing you continued success and wellness! Warmest Regards and Enormous Gratitude for your hospitality!"

"The convention team was awesome and friendly.

It was nice having the National Office here."

"I really enjoyed this conference and the RI people I met. Thanks for a great weekend of education, networking, and fun."

"Great effort RIAMTA board and officers...much appreciated!"

As co-chair for the 2nd year I'm amazed at the incredible response that our convention and committee team has received! I'm incredibly proud of the work that the entire committee put forth in making the 2nd Rhode Island Massage Therapy Convention a great success! Thank you to all my team members for all of their hard work and many volunteer hours to make this possible. All of the extra time and effort is always with our members in mind! Thank you to all of

our presenters for delivering wonderful classes that were so well received! Thank you to all of our sponsors and exhibitors for always being so supportive of the RI chapter! And most of all thank you to all that attended! Without the support of our members from RI and all the surrounding NE states we wouldn't be able to produce such a wonderful event! We look forwarding to see all of you again at another AMTA RI chapter event!!

Deb Kilty, Co-Chair Convention Committee, Secretary

2017 RI MASSAGE THERAPY CONVENTION



Kim Cook and Angela Perry



Our President and Secretary
Michele Colizza and Debbie Kilty



Award Winners!!!



2017 RI CHAPTER ONLINE VOTING SURVEY RESULTS

Deb Kilty, Chapter Secretary

On October 17, 2017 the Rhode Island Chapter Board Members reached out to its membership with the following survey:

"In a public forum, the question was asked "Why hasn't the AMTA RI Chapter adopted online voting for the annual election of new board members?".

This topic has been discussed at several board meetings in the past two years. (Board meetings are always open to the public; meeting dates are posted on the calendar of events on the chapter website as well as published in the newsletter).

We ask that you read through the facts below, which were used by your board in determining to wait 3-5 years before coming to a final decision regarding an online voting policy (we currently are at the 3-year mark).

At the end of this information You, the members of the AMTA RI Chapter will be asked to answer one survey question.

Your board will use the outcome of this survey question to make its final determination as to whether or not the AMTA RI chapter membership will be asked to vote on adopting an online policy."

The following information was included in the survey in order to help the members make an informed decision when answering this one question survey:

Approximately 50% of all AMTA chapters have adopted online voting, most are large land area states which makes it difficult for members to physically attend meetings. Of these states the

largest percentage of members utilizing the online voting is 10% (National stated they have an 11% return of members voting online for the National Board).

While the electronic voting process is now free to set up within a chapter when it was first introduced there was a substantial cost associated with the set up and for a smaller chapter such as RI it was cost prohibitive at the time it was first introduced to the board members for discussion.

In the past 8 years, the RI chapter has seen a steady growth in the number of members that attend the annual election meeting. Rising from an average of 20-25 members in attendance to 60-80 members in attendance. While this may not seem like a large number this is an average of 20% of our membership attending

the annual meeting and voting, which is higher than the national average for online voting.

According to AMTA Bylaws, in order for a chapter to adopt online voting it must first establish, and the board must approvingly vote in a "standing rule" for online voting.(This then has to be sent to the National Office for approval which can take months). If the online election process is adopted there is no other voting option available to the chapter. The only way to vote is online. If no one announces candidacy for any particular board position prior to the elections being held, no one can be nominated from the floor the day of the annual meeting, that particular position will remain unfilled.

Excerpt from the AMTA By-Laws:

In the event of a vacancy on a chapter board, the chapter board may elect a candidate to fill the position until the next regularly scheduled chapter election. (Which means that, potentially, up to 5 people only will decide on a board member vs. 10-20% of the member population voting in person at the annual meeting.)

The following are the excerpts from the AMTA Bylaws pertaining to the chapter election processes:

Section 7. Elections

C. Direct Elections

1. A chapter may choose to hold elections during the Chapter Annual Meeting.
2. After nominations have been made, the candidates have the option of speaking to the voters.
3. A majority of valid votes by secret ballot shall elect, except if there is only one (1) candidate; then the election will be by voice vote.
4. If there is no election by majority on the first ballot, then there shall be a run-off election between the two (2) candidates with the highest number of votes.

5. Quorum and Voting

a. A majority of chapter members who are eligible to vote and in attendance when the business meeting convenes at the Annual Meeting shall constitute a quorum for voting and transaction of business.

b. If members withdraw, leaving less than a quorum as established in this paragraph, the members may continue to do business with AMTA Bylaws

October 2016 Revision 18 the provision that any action taken is approved by at least a majority of that quorum.

c. Election of officers of the chapter shall be by professional members in good standing attending the business meeting of the Annual Meeting.

d. Each person qualified to vote shall be entitled to only one (1) vote.

D. Online Elections

1. A chapter may hold online elections only upon proper adoption of Chapter Standing Rules as provided for in Section 11, Paragraph B.1 of this Article. (see below) The chapter must comply with the procedural document regarding online ballot elections.

Section 11. Bylaws and Standing Rules

A. Chapters shall adopt and be governed by National Bylaws and be part of and responsible to the National Association as provided for in these Bylaws.

B. Chapters may adopt Chapter Standing Rules as a subsidiary addition to the National Bylaws and Policy. Any such Chapter Standing Rules shall not be in conflict with the National Bylaws governing chapters.

1. Proposed Standing Rule amendments affecting the powers and duties of the Chapter Board, and nomination and election procedures shall be approved by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the assembly at a chapter meeting.

This is the link to the amta Bylaws for anyone that would like to look into the full document:
https://www.amtamassage.org/uploads/cms/documents/amta_bylaws_october_2016_-_for_website.pdf

For anyone interested in viewing the complete amta policy manual you must first log into your account on the amta website; www.amtamassage.org and then search "policy manual".

The one survey question that was asked of the membership was this:
"Do you think the AMTA RI Chapter should adopt online voting?"

THE RESULTS

This survey was delivered to all RI members on 10/17/17 (505 active members at this time). In the initial two weeks that the survey was open the response totals were as follows:

13 yes responses

14 no responses

27 Total responses

5.3% of membership total responded to an online survey question regarding changing our chapter voting method to online voting.

An email reminder was sent out to those that had not yet responded on 11/1/17. The following are the responses received:

7 more yes responses

5 more no responses

Additional 2.3% of membership

And lastly another email reminder was sent out to those that still had not responded on 11/10/17.

The following are the responses received:

7 more yes responses

6 more no responses

Additional 2.5% of membership

A total of 52 responses out of a possible 505 for this online survey regarding a change to online voting for the chapter were received.

27 respondents for yes

25 respondents for no

At this point only 10% of our membership has responded to an online survey regarding online voting. Statistically 15% - 20% (or more) of our membership attends the general member election meeting.

ADDITIONALLY, THIS SURVEY WAS OPEN TO COMMENTS:

The comments received are listed below: The majority of the comments were in favor of not changing the voting procedure currently in place for the chapter at this time. If a comment warranted an answer the answer will appear in red after the comment.

1. Members who are active know who the players are in our chapter. MANY members aren't invested in the work of the chapter at all. They don't care to know about the issues. They aren't willing to go to a meeting. I can see where an unqualified candidate could easily win an online vote.
2. It seems like enough people attend the meetings to ensure a fair voting process.
3. I feel the online voting would make it difficult for those who are challenged by online use to

contribute.

4. I feel online voting is impersonal in that I don't get to meet a potential candidate and get to know them in person but I ultimately feel we need to be current with the times in this age of technology and wonder if there's a way to include videos on the voting page that each candidate submits. Online voting also lets members who cannot make a meeting able to vote remotely. If online voting is adopted members who are interested in running for an elected position would submit a resume and possibly a video for membership to see prior to elections taking place, just as this is done for the National directors.
5. While it is always nice to attending meetings in person, conflicts will always arise that will prevent some people from attending, even if they really want to be there. Online voting will allow those who are interested in participating to be able to, without being excluded because of other commitments.
6. I think more people will vote this way. I also feel that the body will need to be communicated to via email, social media, newsletter and website of who the candidates are and what their beliefs are.

Based on the number of responses to this survey the potential for a larger member population voting via online vs at the member meeting seems unlikely.

1. Nominations can be made at the Fall Meeting, then there is time for candidates to write a position statement, at least announce goals to be addressed in the coming year. If online voting is adopted there is no more nominations process, all candidates have to come forward on their own and submit a resume and a request to run.

According to these statistics, we have a good number of participants at the general meeting. I would like to see nominees file to be candidate 4 weeks prior to elections so we can read their bios and qualifications before we make a cold vote form a brief verbal statement. There is no stipulation in the AMTA policy manual allowing for resumes and/or bios prior to the general meeting when a chapter elects via nominations from the floor; even when a chapter has a commission on candidacy there is only the stipulation of 5 business days prior to the meeting. This was checked with the National AMTA Bylaws Committee Chair and the response is: There are no candidates prior to nominations from the floor- so there are not any candidate bios to post in advance of the meeting.

The process of nominations from the floor is cited in AMTA Policy. Chapters. Section XVIII. C.4.a-b.

1. I put my trust completely in your decision. I have not once to date in my 24 years of practice attended ONE meeting!
2. My only concern is the inability to nominate someone for a position in which no one is running. If no one declares candidacy prior to the online elections taking place then the current board can vote someone into that position thus giving potentially 5 people the ability to vote in a standing board member instead of having the opportunity for nominations from the floor on the day of the meeting
3. We are already better than the average! If prudent address again in 3 years
Thank you
4. While I am not able to attend many meetings due to family, my business, and outside job, I really believe in the people who run and stand up for our beliefs in the Massage Therapy field. The meetings provide a first-hand look and communication tool which has been eliminated in so many other ways as time goes on. I believe online voting will just add to the belief that we can accomplish so much more by staying behind our computers and not being face to face.
5. I believe that a small state like AMTA of Rhode Island should meet and greet the candidate for decision determination. There is nothing more valid than to meet the persons/people that will run a chapter

The results from this survey were delivered at the November 14, 2017 chapter board meeting. All 11 board and committee representatives present were asked to offer their opinion on the

survey results and the chapter voting procedures.

The following interesting observations were made by chapter committee chairs:

(taken from the minutes of the 11/14/17 board meeting)

Newsletter Editor: "I like the option of nominating people from the floor, having an empty seat because people are not bold enough to put their name forward is too bad".

Government Relations Co-Chair: "Prefers that in person vote, likes to look into the eyes of who you're voting for, likes to meet people and see what their values are, don't think you can do that online".

Website Chair: "Agrees we should keep voting at meeting. Feels that it is much easier to send in resume and photo for online voting vs. standing in front of the membership at the meeting and delivering a speech. Feels that those that are willing to do this are those that really want to serve the chapter and the membership".

The general consensus was that the RI chapter should maintain direct voting with floor nominations at the annual general member meeting.

According to AMTA By-Laws: Proposed Standing Rule amendments affecting the powers and duties of the Chapter Board, and nomination and election procedures shall be approved by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the assembly at a chapter meeting. Since the results from this survey do not represent a 2/3 majority in favor of adopting online voting for the RI chapter the board members and committee chairs present at the November 14th board meeting agreed to maintain current chapter election procedures at this time.

If anyone has any questions regarding this survey, it's contents or outcome, please contact Deb Kilty, Chapter Secretary, at debbiekilty@yahoo.com

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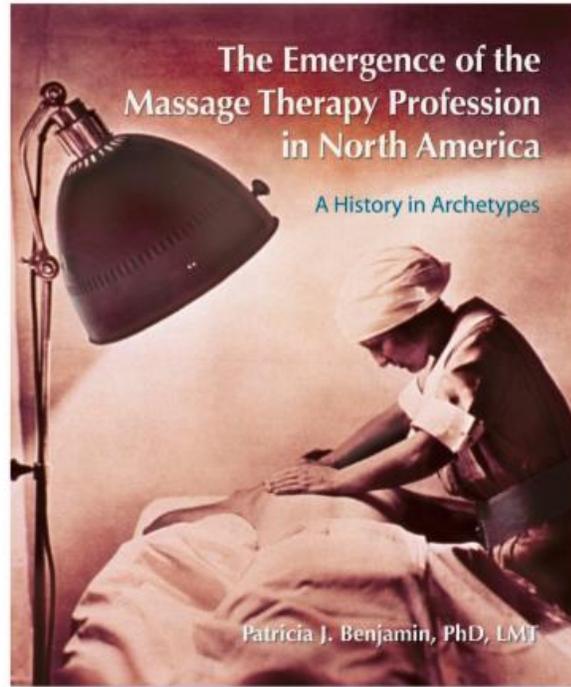
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**According to the September 2017
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“Revised pain management assessment
and management standards by the Joint
Commission require accredited hospitals
to ‘provide nonpharmacological pain
treatment modalities’ as a necessary
performance element.

The new standard, which takes effect
Jan. 1, 2018, is a clear recognition not
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NPI Number? Why?

You may have heard about this "NPI" number and wondered, "What is it and why should I get one." NPI stands for National Provider Identifier. The NPI number identifies you as a health care provider. There are two types of NPI numbers, 1. for individuals such as doctors, physical therapists, chiropractors, acupuncturists and massage therapists. 2. Corporations, hospitals or individuals that are incorporated or have an LLC. The list goes on, essentially anyone who provides a health care service and bills to a third party, insurance, medicare or medicaid is required to have an NPI. Perhaps you are thinking "This doesn't include me, I don't bill through insurance. I don't do this, and why should I obtain an NPI or even care?"

As the health care system changes, massage therapy is being recognized and used to help people in many more capacities. Massage therapists are now being found in cancer clinics, elder care, hospice and general health clinics across the country. As you realize, ours is a unique profession. We touch people in a different and positive way. No longer are we a profession considered synonymous with luxury and relaxation. Although relaxation massage is a much needed part of what we can provide to our fellow travelers in this crazy unpredictable life. However, we've seen profound benefits in what we do. As the health care system struggles to understand what and how the touch service we provide actually helps people, new research is being provided daily to back up the benefits of our trained professional touch. And yet we still encounter those that don't understand.

We still hear stories and receive comments that make us want to tear our hair out. Not just from individuals, but from government personnel both local and state. Fortunately we continue to moved forward. Many good therapist now work and volunteer in important health and governmental positions. Our profession continues to grow and gain the legitimization and recognition it deserves.

So, you're still not convinced how all this affects you. Well maybe at this time in your life it doesn't, but having an NPI helps the health care system realize just how many massage therapists there are out there. This is one more step in helping them realize how vital and needed our services are.

Right now we are lucky we still have the luxury of deciding whether we want to be in private practice, accepting private pay only or join the brave few who have plunged into the waters of insurance reimbursement. This open ended option, insurance/no insurance is a plus and one could only hope it remains.

Still not convinced you should apply for an NPI. Let me give you something else to think about, perhaps it will help sway you toward obtaining an NPI. I propose to you, a scenario: One beautiful blustery fall day one of your regular long time clients walks in the door and says "I slipped on some wet leaves walking into work a few days ago and jammed my shoulder. I know you can help me. My doctor wanted to prescribe PT. I told the Dr. my massage therapist can also help with my recovery and he gave me a script for massage too. Can you bill my workers comp?" Flattered, you now have to decide: 1. Do I have the skills to help her/him? 2. Do I send my client/paycheck off to someone else? Perhaps you are ok with that. Maybe you even know another massage therapist that has an NPI and bills workers compensation. 3. Do you even know where to start if you do decide to honor your clients request and bill workers compensation?

The first step to being ready for this possible scenario is having an NPI number already in place. It doesn't cost you anything but the time to register for it. If you don't ever use it, that's okay. It was free. The second steps to navigating the insurance system can be learned on the AMTA website. https://www.amtamassage.org/career_guidance/type/2 .

There are also links on the AMTA website to connect you to NPI and NPPES where you can sign up to receive a number, OR you could come to the Rhode Island Massage Therapy Convention, Friday evening October 27th, where Karlo Berger has generously offered to assist MT's in registering on Friday evening. Deb Luhrs and Sue Vandal will be there to help you on Saturday afternoon.

So I say to you "Stand up and be counted!" Having an NPI is a way to show our presence. WE are a positive influence to our community, health care system, State and the world.

Joanne Lozy, LMT

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