AMTA RI CHAPTER BOD MEETING

Wednesday, June 12, 2019

7:30 pm – 9:30 pm

Meeting Location:

Unique Fitness

263 Quaker Lane, West Warwick, RI

MINUTES

Members present: Pat Bachus, Claudia Botthof, Michaele Colizza, Kim Cook (via phone), Dale DeCelles (not signed in), Larry Gallagher, Debbie Kilty, Joanne Lozy, Kim Medeiros, Victoria Moutahir (via phone), Kenji Omori, Angela Perry-Place, Cassie Rawcliffe, Michelle Souza, Stephanie Welsh, Suzanne Wilcox (via phone)

Members absent: Alda Cordeiro, Jennifer Wilkicki

Meeting scribe: Kimberly Medeiros

President’s report:

June meeting. First time with FA and GR. Had their own breakout sessions which they will each report on.

National is launching a website redesign project. Digital marketing, LinkedIn, mobile strategies, video advertising. If any interest in attending National Convention sign up now. Consumer use survey: 19% of Americans receive massage. Massage is a bigger money making industry than the NFL.

AMTA strives for 65% approval rating, and have reached that the last 2 years. RI had 74% last year.

Member’s primary reasons for being with AMTA: Continuing Ed, Newsletter/Communication, In-person meeting

AMTA employs 65 people, 6 in call center. Over 700 calls in a day.

New pilot program: sharing of chapter volunteer resources. Testing with website/social media, newsletter/eblast/constant contact, and online elections. If chapters want to be part of the testing they need to let National know. We will be participating with this for our website. Kim M reports that this topic was discussed at last year’s President’s meeting and it is clear to see that National took the ideas that came from the members during that meeting and are now trying to implement.

Newsletter may change to “communications.” As long as 3 times per year. Washington state has smaller communications go out monthly from one of their committees.

On the hub, we can have folders that will be accessible to all of our volunteers. Ideas: roster, contracts.

In regards to Membership, have consistency for events. Deb presents idea of $25 education voucher as part of a “welcome.” Deb makes motion that going forward when membership contacts new members, along with our membership package our chapter will send a $25 voucher good toward a RI Chapter AMTA sponsored education event with a one year expiration. Kim M 2nds. All approve.

Kim M and Deb met with a rep from SBA. We received links we can put on our website. She also wrote an article for our newsletter. They offer a workshop titled “The Right Foot” focusing on small business start-up that travels around the state. We discussed possibly doing this at our next general meeting. May also work with them to put together a panel for topics such as lending or social media marketing.

FA report: Storage unit has increased over our budgeted amount. June training: key item from breakout -- switching accounting software, and regonline to cvent. Recent accounting changes have come from FASB to protect not-from-profit status. Kim C left the weekend feeling very supported.

GR June training report: Cassie found it helpful to put faces to names. National is looking out for the membership and the profession. Powerful experience to talk with other states about what each state is dealing with. Would change the format of the breakouts as it did not feel like there was enough time. Issue awareness voting strategy: top 5 issues. Too many tangents. There’s time for issues to be raised, but not for solutions. Cassie expressed these concerns to National. Joanne suggests the hub be used. Cassie reports that was brought up in the discussions. Kim M suggests moderators for each table like they do with AOD.

\*Larry presents committee report early because he needs to leave. Some issues at Special Olympics. There was some miscommunication with LouAnne. Due to construction they could only have 20 people and LouAnne had her own group put together in addition to Larry putting a group together. LouAnne’s group had to leave early which left only 4 therapists to finish out the day. LouAnne’s students would not take care-givers, only athletes. There were some empty tables at times. Better communication is needed to ensure proper coverage. Claudia is concerned that clients are signing in with CCRI. She feels that we should have our own table for sign-in. Kenji agrees. MS150 is a paid event so we will no longer be able to participate in that. We also do not have enough participation in Save the Bay so we will not participate in that anymore. We will maintain S.O. and Operation Stand-Down (Sept 13-14). This will allow us to open ourselves up to more community events, which may bring in new volunteers. Michaele suggests “thank you” cards to the few volunteers for the S.O.

October meeting:

We are all in agreement that we should bring it back, with vendors for one day. Membership is asked to look at venues. Lunch included. Deb would like to charge a small fee for this meeting. Vouchers will not be applicable for this. Could offer discounted vendor table to members who have products to sell. Michelle suggests a “yard sale” table. Michaele says she has seen this done as a silent-auction style.

IMTRC: Kim M reports that all of the presenter slides and research posters are available at massagetherapyfoundation.org. The slides and posters are very comprehensive so most of what we heard can be seen there. Opioids and chronic pain were of course a large part of the presentations. Facts and figures were presented about the staggering issues associated. There is a clear need for integrative care. This is where research becomes so vital. Many of the presenters discussed the difficulties involved in researching massage therapy (how to standardize, qualify, and quantify). The only way around this is to keep doing more! It was pointed out time and again that more research is needed. Kim felt that it was clear that we as LMTs are being heard in the medical community though. There were also presentations regarding anxiety, low back pain, and arthritis with varying conclusions (again, more research needed) but in most cases positive. Kim particularly enjoyed a case study presented by Doug Nelson in which he focused on helping a client to be more aware of his back by training him to sense where Doug was touching. The client was able to become more accurate, but more interesting is that the client reported less back pain following these sessions which included no actual “therapy.” Shows how important our body awareness really is.

Pat was inspired to do some searching about where the opioid epidemic began. She read from some of the literature she found.

Membership new business: Body World and the Cycle of Life coming to Boston Museum of Science June-Jan 5. Michelle and Stephanie will look into making this happen for our chapter and try to connect with CT and MA

Committee reports:

Membership: Working on Salt Cave event. Looking to provide events that focus on therapist self-care. NMTAW: brainstorming ideas. Michaele says there are toolkits on the hub. Michelle went to Lincoln Tech advisory board. Met David from ME. Wants to open discussion of separate meet and greets with ME.

Education: Dale reads for Alda. May 19 Thai foot spa 43 attendees. Good net profit. CPR June 4, 28 attendees. Future: Reiki 1 day with Bill Downing proposed for Sept. Contract has been sent to Bill. Michaele suggests Sept 8 vs 15 to not interfere with Operation Stand Down. Orthobionomy for Fall, 1 day. Intro to Trager with Linda McConnell. No current movement on that. We held this in 2016 and had 25 attendees. Thinking late 2020 or early 2021. Any ideas for local presenters? She would like to offer 4- one day classes. Deb suggests contacting Doug Nelson to coordinate for when he is coming to CT. Doug was sent an email but she hasn’t heard back. Alda emailed Lee Stang for a 2020 class. She also contacted David Lobenstein. He is very interested in coming in January-April. Options: 4 day pregnancy, 2 day pour don’t push, 1 day solution is the sides (1 day upper body, 1 lower body), 1 day rocking techniques, 1 day inner thigh. Michaele suggestes Elaine Stillerman for pregnancy. Ask David to do 3 days: 2 days of solution is the sides, and 1 day inner thigh.

GR:

* Statute S576 up for vote before the health & safety committee on Tuesday evening (6/11/19); goes to the Senate floor on Thursday if passed. Referred to the house for passage
* Attended Lobby day (05/08/19); info handed out about statute amendments & research AMTA conducted on pain management and RI specific stats on cost savings
* Good press coverage from channel 6 referencing AMTA's research and stats
* No massage therapy board meeting in May/rescheduled for 6/12/19. Very short open session & moved into closed session
* Attended presidents meeting in Evanston
* Confirmation of LLEAD grant approval ($15,000.00)
* Once legislature passes, membership will be polled to determine direction of the chapter
* **Things we are watching:**

Decriminalization of sex trade

* Led by representative Anastasia Williams, Providence (D)
* Wants to form a committee comprised of 2 representatives, state/local police, representatives from community organizations,  DOH, & representatives from the sex trade (coyoteri.com)
* Other states are interested in RI participating in a pilot legislative study, which aims to provide a new legal approach to sex work. RI is being considered due to its demographics,  small size and prior history eith legal prostitution from 2003-2009
* We need to protect the public/profession by defending/eliminating the use of specific language, as this could put the public at risk and further damage the profession. Already trademarked the phrase "massage therapy" with passage of statute; looking at other language such as massage, bodywork, therapeutic etc

Kenji motions to adjourn. Kim M 2nds. Meeting adjourned at 9:49.