

AMTA – Alabama Chapter Member Meeting Minutes

4 May 2013

LaDonna Ward, AMTA-AL Chapter President calls meeting to order at 12:28 pm

LaDonna introduces and thanks the Board of Directors and Committee Chairs

President – LaDonna Ward

1st VP – Heather Harris (Not in attendance)

2nd VP – Roxanne Castille

3rd VP – Liz Mawhinney

Treasurer – Ron Joganics

Secretary – Pat Williamson (Not in attendance)

BOD at Large 1 – Cindy Taylor

BOD at Large 2 – Paul Wolff

Education Committee – Paul Wolff

Government Relations – Ron Joganics

MRT – Liz Mawhinney

Event Coordinator – Cindy Taylor

Nominations Committee – Roxanne Castille

Historian Committee Chair – Rebecca Overstreet

Website/Social Media and Membership Co-Chairs – Sharon Bryant

The Agenda is read and amended.

Wes Fortner motions to approve agenda as amended, Susan Kynard-Deavers seconds, voted and approved.

Wes Fortner and Michelle Burns are appointed Sergeant At Arms.

President's Report

Last year James Waslaski was at our convention to offer education. We had 45 attendees. It was at Perdido Beach Resort and very nice, also very expensive. She is very excited about the Island House rebuilding the class space to be awesome and being able to come back for convention. It is just as nice and costs less.

We also hosted an Ethics class in Florence, AL in August. We have a quarterly meeting every three months. If the budget warrants us to be able to put on a class we try to move the classes around the state so there are different offerings twice a year if not three times. One of the quarterly meetings is the board retreat where Board Members and Committee Chairs get educated on their positions and what the job entails. They also learn more about AMTA so they can bring it back to the membership and you can become more educated about the chapter and what needs to be done. We have job descriptions on the national level and on the local level. Don't be afraid to volunteer we will educate you.

In November we had Hal Richardson teach a class for the quarterly meeting. It was a great class for the lower leg and foot. All in attendance were very excited about the education received.

AMTA – Alabama Chapter Member Meeting Minutes

4 May 2013

February was the board retreat and it was very nice. We saved a lot of money staying at one house instead of going to a hotel.

Other than meetings we've had community service events. Bo Bikes Bama came through and AMTA-AL was represented at that event. Community service is one of the main focuses of AMTA and is our goal as an association. Public awareness and community service so that is one of the things AMTA represented at events around the state

National Massage Therapy Awareness Week. We had 5 different groups set up in their towns and do chair massage, Ronald McDonald House, in front of Wal-Mart, a nursing home and Orange Beach. We were trying to bring awareness about massage. So I want you to participate in bringing public awareness about massage into your communities. Let us know when you do it we will promote it on Facebook, the website, and newsletter. NMTAW is usually always in October.

Massage Mingles are a place where massage therapists AMTA and non- AMTA can get together and visit. Take it upon yourself to do a Massage Mingle in your town. Once we get to know each other you'll want to go do things with others and get together and volunteer together. AMTA is the only organization that brings people together to do community service. So the board came up with Massage Mingles. You get to know each other and get to talk and plan ways to bring massage awareness to your local community. One fun thing to do at Massage Mingles, speed massage (like speed dating), the person getting their hands massaged tells about themselves for 10 minutes, then swap.

More goals for our chapter are to get more Massage Mingles going and get more people involved so we can do more community service for our state, so everyone get involved and make it happen.

LaDonna introduces each committee chair present and defers to the committee chairs for committee activity reports.

There was a recruiting task that happened at many schools in the state. Over 180 students were contacted personally. Mike Donovan from the National office came and went with LaDonna to several massage schools explaining what AMTA was all about. LaDonna explained what AL chapter was about and how to become a member. When she came to Mobile, for the Ride to Recovery that came through Mobile and Orange Beach, we had 14 people volunteer to do massage on the wounded warriors in Mobile. It was awesome as a therapist to actually be there and get to massage the wounded warriors. There weren't as many at Orange Beach but one guy who will be joining MRT drove from Birmingham and someone from Scottsboro drove down and a local member (4 volunteers total) double from last year.

Approval from NCBTMB as a chapter was attained in April. Any education we give you, we send the class and teacher information and that class has to be approved, but it's still a smaller process. It's a good education for a massage therapist to receive and that a qualified teacher is teaching. It allows us to have classes approved even if instructor is not NCBTMB approved.

AMTA – Alabama Chapter Member Meeting Minutes

4 May 2013

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Treasurer Report – Ron Joganics

Every year we provide a budget to the National office for what we plan to spend. The budget is planned and discussed through the board and now presented to members

Fiscal Year is March 1 – Feb 28 of year.

It's broken down by quarter, main numbers in the total column, income for the year, and total available. In 2013 beginning balance is \$23,076; ending is \$9,951. The membership income is estimated at \$19,400. We will spend more than we take in.

Susan Kynard-Deavers motions to approve budget for fiscal year, Beverly Sims seconds, voted and approved.

LaDonna reports the expenses for Island House convention not as much as expected and that what was presented to the membership was as was presented to the National office.

Committee Reports

Website/Social Media – Sharon Bryant

We now have a Facebook Group and a Facebook Page. The Facebook Group was recently made private so that therapists can share and support each other without clients being able to see the group. The Facebook Page is our public space on Facebook for therapists as well as consumers. Please be sure to go Like our Facebook Page and join the Group.

Our website is growing and we try hard to keep it up to date. Every month the new members and milestone members are updated on the homepage, we have an Events page where you can go to see what activities and meetings are coming up and get details. We've already mentioned that we recently added a Job Bank that is free. The website is a service we offer to our membership so please use it and let us know if you have comments or suggestions.

Membership – Sharon Bryant

The Membership Committee receives reports each month from the National office and we have been working with those to develop reports that let us use the information to help retain membership. We take those member lists and send out email to all new and transferring members, thank you for renewing your membership, member milestones, etc. If you are not getting emails from us, please let me know before you leave today so we can figure out why.

Also, we have developed and are sending out a welcome package to new members that includes chapter information and a t-shirt.

We are working hard on retaining our membership so if you have a few minutes each week and would be interested in making a phone call to another member and asking a

AMTA – Alabama Chapter Member Meeting Minutes

4 May 2013

few questions and then reporting back, then please sign up for membership committee or let me know. It only takes a few minutes out of your week to make a big difference.

MRT – Liz Mawhinney

MRT helps responders after emergencies and disasters. It's a very important group inside AMTA. We will be training in all four regions so if you're a liaison talk to me so we can do the training in your zone. Before the training we'll do a Massage Mingle. Hopefully we'll have it set up for Saturday / Sunday in each of those areas. We'll be appointing a local Captain so you can develop relationships with local emergency personnel.

Need to have practice drills so we have teams that can be assembled and see how fast we can get mobilized. If you're interested, there's a sign-up sheet please let us know. You need training first so you can get the badge to get on sites and we can go do this.

Government Relations – Ron Joganic

Attends state board meetings. Used to be 10 now there are 4. Changes to the law are proposed, not approved the big impact is that fees will go up. Also fees for schools and instructors will increase. HB-290 if you're interested in finding it on the internet you can read about the proposed changes. If you have any questions call Ron

Historian – Rebecca Overstreet

I am trying to keep files and records for our Chapter. Up to this point they have been in boxes and storage so I'm organizing and making hard copy and digital copy so I need help with that. Also I want to start making scrapbooks with the pictures for conventions and meetings so we can take that to the National office and show that we are here and we're working.

Event Coordinator – Cynthia Taylor

Next year we'll be having the convention in Birmingham. We are looking at 3 different hotels. We will probably be at the Marriott. If anybody has this strength I'd love to have some help.

Education – Paul Wolff

I hope everyone enjoyed the selections for this convention. Still have more to go with Reiki and Yoga and Facebook. Right now we're looking at next year's convention for education and considering Susan Salvo. She is an author and has been in massage a long time. She has a list of specialties and modalities that will go onto the website for people's input and let you vote on what you'd like to see. To make sure we get what people really want. We want to draw more folks and trying to select educators who are reasonably priced so we can keep the chapter profitable so we can reinvest in us and in getting quality instructors and CEs.

Awards

Ron Joganic received Meritorious Award at National Convention last year. He was recognized for the time devoted to the chapter and massage and services he does in his community.

AMTA – Alabama Chapter Member Meeting Minutes

4 May 2013

LaDonna Ward will be receiving the chapter Meritorious Award this year.

Newsletter – Kristie Williams (not present, Report given by LaDonna Ward)

The Newsletter Chair has accomplished the distribution of the newsletter. It no longer costs us anything to print. The only cost is stamps to send and that is only to the people who said they do not want it via email. Kristie was not able to be here today. She is saving the chapter close to \$700 / year by going green with emailing the newsletters. And now only has to send out a few newsletters. The reason it's free is that we're selling ads on the newsletter so that money covers any expenses.

Elections

Non-members and non-voting members were identified by our sergeants at arms.

1st VP, 3rd VP, Treasurer, BOD #1, Delegates and Alternate Delegates were elected.

Roxanne will presented the statements from nominees, LaDonna distributed ballots.

Nominees for 1st VP

Heather Harris

The President called for nominees from the floor three times. There was no response from membership.

Nominees for 3rd VP

Cindy Taylor

The President called for nominees from the floor three times. There was no response from membership.

Nominees for Treasurer

Ron Joganic

The President called for nominees from the floor three times. There was no response from membership.

Nominees for BOD at Large 1

Sharon Bryant

The President called for nominees from the floor three times. There was no response from membership.

Wes Fortner makes a motion to accept the ballot as it stands, Becca Overstreet seconded, voted and approved. All positions are filled with the only candidate running.

Nominees for Delegates

Pat Williamson – not present, Roxanne read her nominee statement

Kristie Williams – not present, Roxanne read her nominee statement

AMTA – Alabama Chapter Member Meeting Minutes

4 May 2013

Cindy Taylor – Made a statement for nominee

Sharon Bryant – Made a statement for nominee

Roxanne Castille – Made a statement for nominee

Ballots were collected by Sergeants and Arms

The delegates in order of how many votes were as follows:

Cindy Taylor – Delegate

Sharon Bryant – Delegate

Roxanne Castille – 1st Alternate Delegate

Kristie Williams – 2nd Alternate Delegate

Door Prizes and Raffle were conducted

LaDonna asks for volunteers to sign up in corridor for committees and thanked everyone for their attendance in this meeting and convention.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:50 pm.