

2015 American Massage Therapy Association Meeting
Pittsburgh, PA
August 19, 2015
House of Delegates – Delegates' Report

Submitted by Nevada Chapter Delegates: Brent Bornemeier and Paul Lofgreen 9/15/2015

David L Lawrence Convention Center, Pittsburgh, PA – August 19, 2015: The American Massage Therapy Association's House of Delegates (HOD) annual Business Meeting started at 1pm with a Welcome from House of Delegates Operating Committee (HODOC) Chair Lisa Curran-Parenteau. Lisa said encouraging words to all Delegates and congratulated everyone on another year of proposed Recommendations and Position Statements.

AMTA National President Jeff Smoot also welcomed Delegates with encouraging words and then invited us all to the Presidents Reception that evening. Then, Lee Stang, the HOD Moderator, welcomed everyone and introduced herself to the Delegates. Lisa also introduced Parliamentarian Rick Greely to the Delegates. The entire HODOC was introduced with standing applause.

The Pledge of Allegiance and Silent Reflection were conducted, respectively by HODOC members Roxanne La'akea Young and Laura Stevenson-Flom.

The reports from the HODOC Chair were given by Lisa Curran-Parenteau. This report included two submitted Position Statements, and three Recommendations. There were 143 registered Delegates, and 137 Delegates checked into the HOD meeting. Hailey Strampel, Position Statement Review Commission Chair, reported that Position Statements had been reviewed, approved, and were ready for Delegate discussion and voting.

Lee Stang gave a short tutorial on the voting equipment and explained how voting works. The first vote cast was in order to get an accurate count of Delegates. This vote also established the 2/3 total Delegates present, established a quorum, and established the voting points. The voting points showed the actual weighted points, majority of actual weighted points and 2/3 of actual weighted points.

Next, a motion to adopt the HODOC's proposed Agenda to the HOD was presented. The motion was proposed by a Delegate Jacqueline from North Carolina, and a second was given by Carrie a Delegate from Michigan. A vote was cast to adopt the Agenda: For: 137, Against: 0.

The Rules and Procedures were presented by the HODOC and were called to approve. Brenda, a Delegate from Pennsylvania made the motion, and Henry, a Delegate from Wisconsin seconded the motion. A vote to adopt Rules and Procedures was cast: For: 137, Against: 0.

We then participated in three Mock presentations to demonstrate proper procedures and to become familiar with the voting equipment. This was an extremely beneficial exercise!

Position Statement 1: "It is the position of the American Massage Therapy Association (AMTA) that massage therapy may assist in the rehabilitation of burn scars."

The Position Statement was presented by Delegate Sabrina Lopez from Virginia. The Delegate read the background information, and the rationale. The Moderator asked for comments from the floor.

There were several delegates who questioned the semantics of the proposal, e.g. the use of "may vs can", etc.

Additionally some questions arose as to the elimination of some research that had been presented in 2014. Ms. Lopez explained that it had not been eliminated but, rather included in various summaries.

The Moderator moved a motion to call the question into a vote when no one came forth to comment. A vote was cast:

Position Statement 1: FAILED

Position Statement 2: "It is the position of the American Massage Therapy Association (AMTA) that regulations, in statute and/or rules, should provide options for portability of credentials which meet the required licensing, certification, or registration of massage therapists across the United States."

The Position Statement was presented by Maureen Stott, a Delegate from Connecticut. The Delegate read the background information, and the rationale. The Moderator then asked for comments from the floor.

For Comments:

- This works for a future goal
- Empowers AMTA members to move forward
- Plain simple good idea
- Doesn't say how we are to be regulated, so this gives AMTA an advantage to send a message to high level officials about what we want.
- We are a mobile society and need to recognize this and move forward

Against Comments:

- There is no money for the smaller states to get credentials in order to change their regulations.
- How can we make a state change their laws, then the scope of practice, and tests for each state?
- We need to create a set a national standard first then create this statement.
- AMTA needs guidelines

Position Statement 2: PASSED

The HOD meeting was called for a break at 3pm. All Delegates were allowed to leave the floor and to communicate with other colleagues within the area. Many Delegates exchanged pins and gifts. After the break, a roll call was taken of the seated Delegates. As they counted, they sat down in their chair. The total number of Delegates was 137. The Moderator welcomed everyone back and called for the first Recommendation.

Recommendation 1 from Indiana chapter:

Subject: Human Trafficking: A Recommendation to the American Massage Therapy Association Board of Directors that the AMTA Board assemble a work group or operations committee to research and recommend a plan that the AMTA can use to support material and create a guide for working with Homeland Security, Human Trafficking Task Force and other organizations working on the Human Trafficking issue. The Moderator called for comments from the floor.

For Comments:

- Local police do not always listen so having guidelines to work on a national level is important.
- Working with the Polaris Project would be part of this. Human trafficking currently involve 14 million victims.
- Provides us a voice to educate local law enforcement.
- Demonstrates our concern for this national/international issue that involves our industry.

Against Comments:

- AMTA is NOT a law enforcement agency and should stick to our scope.
- Revise to state that AMTA will proactively contact local law enforcement agencies.

- Well intended but purposeless. Exceeds our scope

Recommendation 1: PASSED

Recommendation 2 from Wisconsin chapter.

Subject: A Recommendation to the American Massage Therapy Association Board of Directors that the AMTA Board offer complimentary, online CE's for its members. To advance the art, science and practice of Massage Therapy. The Moderator called for comments from the floor.

For Comments:

- Increase Member retention and recruitment.
- Set us apart from other groups.
- Compete with AMBP.
- Revenue if smaller, online classes lead to larger hands on classes.

Against Comments:

- Devalues CE's. Increased cost to AMTA.
- Free anything is not valued.
- Face to face education is better.
- Increased work/expense for AMTA

Recommendation 2: FAILED

Recommendation 3 from Wisconsin chapter.

Subject: A Recommendation to the American Massage Therapy Association Board of Directors that the AMTA Board create a model journalist/media education kit for chapters to send to authors and publishers in response to negative representation of massage therapy in media.

The Moderator called for comments from the floor.

For Comments:

- Uniform tool kit elevates the profession.
- Gives the profession a loud voice.
- For but training needs to be extensive.
- Gives the AMTA a "universal" voice.
- Each chapter board can decide their own fees.
- Members need to know how to respond.
- Helps lobbyist's funds.

Against Comments:

- Not everyone is trained how to respond to the media. Could make things worse.
- Expediency and expertise. National has already demonstrated it can and does respond rapidly and knowledgeably to negative publicity. It should be left in their hands

Recommendation 3: PASSED

The Moderator congratulated the HOD for another successful year of voting. She also thanked everyone for the professional participation. She commented that everyone on the HOD is significant and appreciated.

The meeting then changed its focus onto the candidates for the new HODOC. Each candidate came up and talked about how they can help on the new HODOC and why they wanted to be elected. The candidates then returned to their seats in order to cast a vote. The vote was in four sections. Each time

Delegates voted on one person that they thought was the best fit for the job. A total of six candidates came forward:

- Jennifer Findlay (VT)
- Laura Stevenson Flom (CT)
- Deborah Gallup (SC)
- Alessa Leming (VA)
- Donna Webb (NY)
- Roxanne Young (HI)

The votes were cast to fill four open positions for the HODOC. The four candidates with the most votes were; Laura Stevenson Flom, CT, Deborah Gallup, SC, Donna Webb, NY, Roxanne Young, HI. Since then, the HOD determined that there was an eligibility issue with Roxanne and replaced her with the next runner up, Jennifer Findley, VT. The HOD erupted with applause for the new members voted into the HODOC.

The Moderator called for any new business to be brought to the floor:

The only item was a recommendation that the online forum be open year round for Delegates. This will be discussed by the HODOC

The Delegates then performed an evaluation of the HOD meeting. This was done on the electronic voting machines, and there were a total of 20 questions that the HOD answered to evaluate the meeting.

A motion to close the 2015 HOD meeting was made and a second came after. The motion was met and the Moderator called to close the HOD meeting at 5pm.

In speaking recently with the AMTA the finalized meeting minutes are expected to be mailed to the delegates within the next week.