

**2016 American Massage Therapy Association Meeting  
Milwaukee, WI  
October 26 – 29, 2016  
House of Delegates – Delegates' Report**

Submitted by Nevada Chapter Delegates: Paul Lofgreen and Eileen Charles 11/26/2016

Wisconsin Convention Center, Milwaukee, WI – October 26, 2016: 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 AMTA National President Nathan Nordstrom 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 Lisa Parenteau and Jessica Ferrer.

The reports from the HODOC Chair were given by Lisa Curran-Parenteau and Susan DeLegge. There were 143 registered Delegates, and 135 Delegates checked into the HOD meeting.

This session was quite different than sessions in the past in that there were no position statements or recommendations to discuss. Instead it will consist of involve Governance posing certain questions to the HOD during the collaboration session. You will have the opportunity to discuss these topics in break-out groups (similar to caucusing) then come back together and speak on the floor of the House to the topics. We will conduct this within the structure of 'Roberts Rules'.

In preparation for this collaboration Lee Stang made active use of the HOD Forum by posting some preliminary questions to the forum. They were designed to stimulate our thinking, creativity, knowledge base and get us about topics related to the discussions in this years' House. She stated "I believe this will be a fun, dynamic process; one that will be educational and thought provoking for all. As you think about these questions there is often no absolute right or wrong answer. We are looking for your thoughts as Delegates and Alternates.

I strongly encourage each of you to participate in the Forum discussions as questions are posted. Do not hesitate to offer:

- Opinion
- Fact based information
- Questions that these discussion items may stimulate
- Alternatives to the status quo"
- Ideas and thoughts based on other organizations you may be familiar with and how they do things.
- Etc."

The questions posed in the Forum and then presented in the business meeting were:

- 1- What are the most important responsibilities of the Delegate?
- 2- When you head to convention as a Delegate/Alternate what do you see as your purpose? Do these differ at all with the purpose of the House of Delegates?
- 3- Think about the format/structure of the HOD. Are there things that could be changed to improve its operations, adjust its purpose, change how it works or something else?
- 4- As you think about the process we use to approve Position Statements what are some other ways that this could be done?

During the course of the meeting each question was displayed and we broke into groups of approximately eight people. In our group, the discussion was always lively and spirited with each person making significant comments. The most difficult task was keeping the comments relevant to the question posed. After about 15 minutes the discussions were eased and the microphone open for a representative of each group to present the answers the group had come up with. There were several instances where the HODOC requested clarification and from individual members. Each group was given a notepad to record the discussion. These were turned in to the HODOC at the end of the meeting.

One decision of the HODOC raised a few eyebrows. Since the caucuses were not deemed to be a formal part of the meeting, Alternate Delegates present were invited to participate in the groups but not present at the microphone. This appeared to have no adverse impact. The Nevada State Alternate Delegates present were David Otto and Brad Enerson who actively participated in the conversations.

It was a pleasure to have Mavies sit in on the meeting.



Eileen was an effective, active participant in her first year as a Delegate.

The crowd was orderly, interactive and fun!



Overall the meeting was very productive and we await anxiously the Boards decision and comments. If you have an questions about the AMTA House of Delegates or comments in regard to the questions presented to the HOD's, please feel free to contact your elected Delegates, Paul Lofgreen or Eileen Charles.