



2019 Nevada Delegates Report

Submitted by: Elizabeth Benion, NV Chapter Delegate

Assembly of Delegates Meeting

Wednesday, October 23, 2019

1 PM – 5 PM

The Westin Indianapolis
241 W. Washington St.
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

The American Massage Therapy Association (AMTA) 2019 Assembly of Delegates (AoD), comprised of elected members from 51 states, convened to discuss, debate, and present individual and chapter opinions regarding two Proposed Discussion Topics (PDT) and a vote on one Position Statement Proposal Idea (PSPI) and to conduct other business, as designated in the final agenda (attached).

The meeting area was cordoned off and Delegates took their seats at 1:00 pm promptly. Delegates were assigned to two discussion tables throughout the meeting. One table for the PSPI and PDT #1, then after the 3:00 pm break, were switched to a new table for PDT #2. A Facilitator was assigned to each table to make sure everyone got a chance to speak and to ensure the discussion stayed focused and respectful.

Jessica Ferrer, Member of the Assembly of Delegates Advisory Committee (AoDAC), addressed the Delegates, welcomed everyone, and wove positive and inspirational quotes into her speech.

Greg Hurd, AoDAC Member, lead the assembly in reciting the pledge of allegiance. Olivia Nagashima, AoDAC Member, led a silent reflection

Christopher Deery, AMTA National President, gave a few remarks and wished the Assembly a good session.

Lee Stang, AoD Moderator, took over leading the meeting to complete 2019's Assembly Business, calling the Meeting to order. Accountability for Delegates in attendance was recorded via manual count of standing Delegates who sat after their sequential number was called. Attendance was recorded: 87 Total Delegates were in attendance.

- Two-Thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) of Total Delegates in Attendance was determined: 58
- Majority of Total Delegates in Attendance was determined: 44

Next, Ms. Stang motioned for the Rules of Procedure for the Assembly to be approved. First by Roxanne Young, Second by Pat Bauchus, - Approved by AoD.

Ms. Stang then motioned for the 2019 Agenda to be approved. First by Maureen Hoocke, Second by Thomas Whitmore – Approved by AoD.

The business of the AoD commenced with Delegate Aaron Gustafson (OR) making the proposed PSPI presentation, reading the Summary Rational of Whitney Lowe & the Oregon Chapter PSPI: "Online education is an appropriate method to deliver curriculum content for non-psychomotor subjects in massage therapy entry-level training and continuing education."

- The Pros were in support of this proposed PSPI becoming an established statement backed by the AMTA and supported and guided by current research. Proponents expressed the statement could help in areas ranging from allowing for learning content to be the most current and more in-line with other medical professions that have online education in their curriculum, to helping with access and educator pools for remote areas and more flexible schedules for working students.
- The Cons ranged from the vetting of the courses and not removing the in person nature of learning for anatomy, to the question being asked: should this even be a focus for AMTA since there are other issues deemed more important to members, as well as, AMTA needing to adjust member requirements which currently states 500 hrs. from an in-person school is needed. There was some support for a hybrid style, where the learning could be done online, but there would still be a hands-on component/lab.
- There were a lot of questions pertaining to what voting "yes" would actually do/mean and if the exact language was what we were voting on. It was confirmed by Ms. Stang that voting "yes" would move the PSPI onto the Board of Directors (BoD) who would assign the PSPI to a Work Group (Search for quantity and quality research to support), the BoD then forms a 2nd work group to write the Position Statement, and then it would go back to the BoD for a vote. She also clarified we were voting on the "idea" of the PSPI not the exact language as written. Position Statements are reviewed by AMT every 3-5 years (or earlier if needed).

The vote was done by secret ballot, by checking off “yes” or “no” on a piece of paper. The Moderators at each table collected the ballots. The vote total was 51 = Yes, 36 = No. The vote did not receive 2/3 majority and therefore did not pass.

Debra B. Gallup’s (SC) proposed PDT (#1) was introduced and read to the AoD: “What specifically does “speaking the same language” mean in relation to massage therapy becoming more integrated in healthcare?”

- The discussion on the proposed PDT (#1) was varied, from needing to be “on the same page” as a whole in general about our profession first, before focusing on using “medical language” as a standard, to making sure we’re not alienating anyone who does not work in a medically focused practice and speaking to “all” therapists. The suggestion of doing role playing in school to be more comfortable using medical language was given. Someone asked are we even “speaking at all” to our client in term of client intake, SOAP notes, etc...

Ms. Stang summarized the AoD’s opinions and will report them back to the BoD.

We took a break at 3 pm and switched tables to a new discussion group for PDT #2.

Sue Barrett’s (CT) proposed PDT (#2) was introduced and read to the AoD: “As massage therapists, how do we show the measure/accomplishments of our advanced studies and skills in massage education to healthcare professionals and the public?”

- The discussion and suggestions on the proposed PDT (#2) touched on many areas, from support for a national standard (maybe AMTA created) and then AMTA educate the medical profession about the standard, to having “certificate levels” in specialized areas listed on the “find a therapist” section of AMTA’s website. At the individual therapist level, comments focused on the conversation actually being about marketing not education, that individual therapists should be marketing themselves and treating people ethically and honestly. Certification comments revolved around there being no consistent regulation and certification in massage therapy, being clear about what “certified” means, and an “attendance certificate” in a class does not mean “certified.” The issue of cost and being able to afford more certifications and education was mentioned.

Ms. Stang summarized the AoD’s opinions and will report them back to the BoD.

Ms. Stang adjourned the 2019 Assembly of Delegates Meeting at 4:50 pm.



The Nevada Chapter Delegates would like to thank all the members who participated in our Survey in October and assisting us in representing them during the 2019 Assembly of Delegates Meeting in Indianapolis, IN.

The official minutes/report from the AoD meeting will be available in late January and will be shared with the Chapter members.

A Delegate position will be open for election of any AMTA Nevada Chapter member in good standing in the April 2020 timeframe - to indicate your interest in becoming part of the association in this capacity, please visit the chapter's webpage at <http://amta-nv.org/chapter-news/amta-house-of-delegates-nevada-delegation>.

If any member is interested in volunteering with the Assembly of Delegates Advisory Committee, please contact Colleen Leeders at ckleeders@amtamassage.org