

## **2017 House of Delegates Report by Anita DeVito**

On September 13, 2017, Jeannie Fuller and I attended the AMTA House of Delegate (HOD) meeting at the AMTA National Convention in Pasadena, CA. as your delegates.

The HOD day began with a morning of Chapter Leadership Training (CLT). This year there were three trainings. The first was a presentation on the AMTA; its past, present, successes, and vision for the future. The AMTA vision and its plan for the future are dependent on member input through responses to surveys that are sent out by national. So please let your voice be heard by filling out surveys.

The next component of CLT was on “Developing and Sustaining Chapter Boards”. This presentation had many interesting pieces, including sections on open communication, creating safe places, managing transitions, managing conflict, and setting and implementing chapter goals.

The third training was called “Volunteer Involvement in the Budgeting Process”. We had interesting discussion groups brainstorming educational and social events that the chapters could hold at low cost. Suggestions included massage exchanges, pot lucks, game nights, family days, modality swaps, free speakers, conference calls to ask the expert, Yankee swaps, bar and/or food hops, group hikes, craft days, and mentoring programs. I look forward to our chapter initiating a few of these for our members.

### **The House of Delegates**

Prior to the convention, I had emailed all of our Maine Chapter members for your thoughts on the Position Statement (PS) and Recommendation that were up for review and vote by the delegates. All of the responses I had received back were positive in favor of both the statement and the recommendation.

### **Position Statement Proposal: Massage Therapy Can Provide Significant Benefit as a Component of Integrative Health Care**

Discussion against this PS centered around two issues. 1. The use of the word significant. Because “significant” is used in research and is equated with statistical significance and this PS is a literature review and not a research paper, some delegates felt the use of the word “significant” was inappropriate. 2. Some delegates wanted the PS to read, “massage therapy as done by massage therapists”.

This PS Proposal was passed and is now the official position of the AMTA.

### **AMTA Indiana Chapter Recommendation: Chapter Allowance of Dues Received from National for Student Membership Classification**

The few comments against this recommendation were concerned that if approved it would cause student and school memberships to rise. Some thought the money should come from other sources including a pool of funds set aside for chapters that needed it.

The HOD voted to pass this recommendation. It will now go to the National BOD for review.

### **Assembly of Delegates**

This was the final HOD. Next year the new Assembly of Delegates (AOD) will begin. Delegates will still be elected and there will only be two per state. Under the HOD some states had as many as 6 delegates.

The AOD will be reviewing Position Statement Recommendations (PSR). If a PSR is approved by the AOD, it will be sent to the National BOD with comments from the AOD discussion. The national BOD will then assign it to a work group made up of people with knowledge in the area specific to the PSR to research and write the Position Statement in the form of a journal quality article. The article will then go back to the national BOD for review and final approval. The liability for the position statement will lie with the Board. If the work group finds there is not enough research to support the PSR the AOD will be informed.

During the afternoon, we broke into groups and reviewed three Position Statement Recommendations. We had to decide from the recommendation as it was written if there is research to support the position; does it fall within our scope of practice; and could it lead to educational and certification opportunities.

There is a learning process ahead for the AOD. It is hoped that these changes will give the delegates more involvement and greater input to our organization.

At the end of the session we had a toast to mark the ending of the HOD and the future of the AOD.