

AMTA-Me Government Relations Committee Zoom Meeting

4/28/19 @ 9am

In attendance: roll call

Anita De Vito

Kara Masters

Wendy Decker

Tarnya Constantino

Jessie Greenbaum

Alex Rheault (taking notes today)

Minutes approved from the last meeting.

New member wants to join via constant contact email to AMTA; has been added to the list.

Was not in attendance today.

Governance Committee Activity:

Tarnya finished grant application LLED from AMTA, and it was accepted. (for the lobbyist). We currently have a lobbyist and are looking for a new lobbyist to help us prepare for another bill in two years. This grant would be for next years session.

AMTA National required some updates on the testimonials from the last bill. They required a review and gave suggestions so Tarnya could submit it a week early. Due on the 1st of May. Discussion with Jason about question whether a board member is needed. It all looked fine according to Tarnya.

Wendy wrote papers or attended hearings. 1384 and 364 lumped together. It was a challenge to be prepared because they only gave two minutes combined for both. We do not submit ahead of time if we want to speak testimony. There are new rules. If you submit online you cannot testify at the hearing. If you want to speak you have to bring and pass in your paper at the hearing. They will accept the position papers. The paper has to be one page and must be summarized during the speaking portion.

LD 1384 is dead: license establishes scope of practice for holistic practitioners.

LD 364 is alive: An act to establish the right to practice for those who are not licensed: Reiki, Reflexologists, and others who do complementary or alternative methods. They would have to disclose what they do and don't do if they are not licensed, certified or registered. (Also I didn't mention this but testimony or position papers get sent in by a form now. They ended allowing email testimony and only will take the form now)

Lobbyist sent link with the updates from 4/26. Could he give us a summary of the bills or his work each quarter for the newsletter. <http://howecahill.com/legisweb/1223/>

Tarnya will send the original email to all.

Kara concern: bill is getting attention. Can we refocus and determine our immediate mission and focus? What do we aspire to separate from this bill?. Clarify our direction for advocacy of

a full license and training for LMTs. Focus on the people who have chosen to get licensed, rather than get into the ones and zeros of unlicensed folks who want to practice. Can we distinguish what we are doing apart from them? What is our current goal and how can we streamline on the positive area of focus?

Wendy: asserts that the state won't license people unless there is a danger to the public. This means that unless the state of Maine feels, for example, that Reiki practitioners are a danger to people they will never be licensed. A measure for people who are not licensed. Our lobbyist took interest because some massage therapists are not licensed and should have to disclose their status.

Our committee watches the legislature, so we can make sure bills like 1384 are addressed before they go through without our knowledge and decide what and how to pursue action. We were looking now at how to get a "practice act", which we are still unclear as to whether this is a good direction. We are researching what other states have and are doing. We are in a research phase.

Kara: We have concerns about training and the full disclosure by a practitioner about their experience. Is that our mission or direction?

Tarnya: The watching of the legislature is important so there isn't confusion about what we are pursuing and be aware of what is happening and be involved so we are included. We are not easily notified. We can subscribe to the site so we can receive regular notification. The steps to follow when a bill is being watched are on the website. She will follow up about AMTA finding a new lobbyist.

Anita: On government relations link on site

Wendy: our purpose is also to be ready to mobilize. This is the first year of the legislative session; this year is a long legislative session, so only emergency bills and bills that did not go through will be a focus. So it is in two years that we will focus on deciding whether to get a bill going. National will help us find a new lobbyist.

Kara: Should we provide a quarterly or monthly notification to members?. A well-crafted summary or a paragraph to help members understand our mission and activity in the newsletter would be helpful to encourage involvement and awareness. It will help Kara: location, regularity, and formatted. Put right up front in the newsletter so we represent our members, get feedback.

We can post either links or brief info and updates on FB and in our newsletter. In awe of the research and other phases. We could put a link and highlight it. Could lobbyist write a monthly brief summary?

Open Discussion with All LMTs:

Tarnya: **set a date** and follow up. Questions, concerns, or a topic. Some folks wrote in pages of information and feedback when the survey was completed. Examples of concern were mandatory CPR and other financial and travel issues with trainings and CEUs. For those who have a practice as self-employed, working other professions, and other financial challenges. We could do a doodle poll to select a good time. Constant Contact is the way we can

communicate with LMTs outside of Maine. (Anita buys the list; this list is from January 2019: over 2000)

Kara: where there recurring topics or themes. Please send the free and inexpensive options for LMTs to do CEUs and training.

Dates: June 14 Friday at 7pm or June 15 Saturday at 9am one hour.

Kara suggest we prepare a paragraph for a clear mission. We can repeat this kind of session.

AMTA Dates: 29April tomorrow evening is the Board Meeting at 7pm.

May 4th arrive 9-10 and leave 4-5pm. Volunteer training.

June 5 to 8 training Tarnya attends in Illinois.

Oct 24 to 26 National Convention

Retreat 1- 3 Nov

June 2nd Gov Committee Meeting

14 July Sunday at 9am Gov Committee Meeting

August wait on this month/can email updates and relevant

Wendy: should she contact lobbyist for updates. To suggest the summary of legislative items and bulleted for our format to communicate and share.

Anita: what is happening with apprenticeship bill: LD 1502.

Wendy: thinks it died. Wendy and Nationals wrote papers to it.

Jessica: LD 364 is the one we are following

Tarnya: Legislation of interest and priority legislation is visible on the document/link.

Meeting adjourned: 10:00 am

AGENDA

1. Welcome new committee member added to the roster: Robert Pettengil, have Robert tell the committee a little bit about himself.
2. What is everyone up to pertaining to committee: Tarnya-Grant application finished, submitted and accepted.
3. Update on bills. <http://www.howecahill.com/legisweb/1223/>. Go over email updates sent from current lobbyist.
4. Open Discussion with Maine LMT's.
5. Upcoming AMTA dates:
 - April 29th 7 pm Board Meeting
 - May 4th Volunteer Orientation 54 River Rd., Windham from 9am-5pm
 - June 5-8 AMTA GR Training
 - October 24-26 National Convention Indianapolis, IN.

6. Upcoming GR Committee meetings. Review and schedule • June 2nd at 9:00am• July or August
???Adjourn meeting