



Greetings!

Welcome to AMTA Maryland Chapter's Newsletter for February. We have follow-up from our Strategic Planning meeting and survey, Government Relations news and a date for our Legislative Day, Continuing Education information, a Message from our President Sabrina, as well as some Coffee, Conversation, and Anniversaries, even a new way to earn some CEUs - please read on!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year! I hope you all enjoyed your holiday and that 2016 has wonderful things in store for you. Looking forward, we have some great things planned for this year that we're very excited about.

First, thanks to those of you that responded to our recent survey. Based on your input, we will be offering regional events to help make those Maryland required CE classes both affordable and close to you. We will have marvelous activities and encourage your attendance and participation to help us reach our full potential.



I'd like to encourage you to consider becoming involved with the Chapter. Volunteers are an integral part of the AMTA and key to providing networking opportunities, Government Relations efforts and Continuing Education opportunities to our members. One can spend as many or as few hours in a volunteer role as you would like. If you have a little spare time and a heart for service to your profession, we would love to have you serve with us. Simple things such as time for a cup of coffee and a chat or hosting a meet up in your area can make a big difference. Do you like to post on Facebook? Take a few seconds out of your day to add a post to the AMTA-MD chapter page. Do you like writing? You could write an article for our newsletter. Are you good with grammar? We could use a newsletter proof-reader or two. Do you have leadership skills you'd like to share? We currently have two open positions on the Chapter Board of Directors. There are myriad ways to volunteer. Please let us know if you are interested in playing a part in volunteering with the chapter by emailing president.amta.maryland@gmail.com.

As president it is my goal to foster an open and friendly environment that ensures your voice and ideas are heard and considered. We are an open and inclusive board and we will be communicating with you about chapter activities frequently. My phone and email are always open to you. Tell us what is important to you, what is going on in your practice and life, and what you need and want from your AMTA-MD chapter. Please reach out any time - I really want to hear from you.

STRATEGIC PLANNING MEETING UPDATE

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SURVEY RESPONSES



On January 16th your AMTA Board Members and Delegates met in Annapolis to spend time considering member input from the survey and planning the year ahead.

The survey told us that **Continuing Education** was everyone's top priority. Hands-on advanced classes were as important as the basic classes required for renewal, and many would like an annual convention format as well. For 2016, we are focusing on one day events around the state that will offer the required Ethics, HIV/Communicable Diseases, and Cultural Diversity credits you need. We will keep the price as low as possible, and include lunch. A wonderful way to get your credits and network with other local therapists.

Class dates and locations will be announced as soon as they are secured.

Communications was noted as a place for improvement as well. We are planning at least four major newsletters, including this one. We will also send smaller announcements about specific events and activities more frequently. Please mark these emails as important so that they show up in your in-box! We also encourage you to like our [Facebook page](#) and join our private closed [Facebook Group](#) to stay connected with your local chapter.



Government Relations was also important for many. AMTA stands out in this area because we are your trade association that is active on a state legislative level. We are working to create an autonomous State Board of Massage Therapy Examiners. AMTA invests in a lobbyist, we have a voice in the state house, and are excited to present this important legislation for 2016. Read on below for more details.

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

2016 IS AN IMPORTANT YEAR

A legislative draft has been prepared regarding the AMTA objective to introduce legislation creating an autonomous State Board of Massage Therapy Examiners. When enacted, two independent Boards will be authorized: The State Board of Massage Therapy Examiners and The State Board of Chiropractic Examiners.



The next step is for the bill to go to committee hearings, and we will keep you posted on all the news and specifics as we receive them. At this time, the intent of the bill is to maintain all of the current regulations, and simply create a separate board. Once that goal has been achieved, other

changes can be considered.

Many AMTA members have been working hard to bring this to reality over the years. We are very grateful for them all, and welcome your participation in the process as well.

LEGISLATIVE DAY

Wednesday, March 16th 9am - 3pm

Dear AMTA Members,

In cooperation with Senator Klausmeier, we have been able to confirm March 16th as the AMTA Legislative Day in Annapolis. The Miller East Conference Room on the first floor of the Miller Senate Office Building has been reserved for the AMTA from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.



Dennis F. Rasmussen
AMTA Lobbyist

Join us in Annapolis on March 16th. As you have read above, 2016 is an important year, and having a strong presence will be important. Come spend a day in Annapolis, meet Legislators and their staff, provide chair massage, and make a difference for Massage Therapists in Maryland. Sally Mendoza is organizing our group - if you can come, or want more details, please contact Sally at vp2.amta.maryland@gmail.com.

SILVER SPRING COFFEE & CONVERSATION

Thursday, February 25 at 11 AM



Join Sally Mendoza, Julie Weitz, and Jane Adams at Panera in Silver Spring on the 25th at 11am.

Address: Panera Bread, 12285 Tech Road, Silver Spring, MD 20904

RSVP: [Facebook Event](#)

Topic to be discussed - Massage Therapist Self-Care: What do you do for self-care?
Come out and join us for a little coffee, camaraderie, and convo!

If you are interested in hosting a Coffee & Conversation in your area, contact Robin Anderson at robinanderson1218@gmail.com.

Want to know more about how to do it? Visit our website to learn the [7 Easy Steps to Hosting a Coffee and Conversation meeting](#).

CPR REQUIREMENTS

New requirements for Registered Massage Practitioners

During a renewal year, we know there are a lot of questions and curiosities. We want to be sure that everyone knows about the change in CPR Requirements that went into effect in April 2015.



Title 10.43.17.04 section A-9. States " CPR at the Healthcare Provider Level" is required for massage licensure.

Previously, only Licensed Massage Therapists were required to hold Healthcare Provider Level CPR, now Registered Massage Practitioners, are also required to have this level of training.

OUR VISIT TO THE MARYLAND BOARD OF CHIROPRACTIC & MASSAGE THERAPY EXAMINERS + NEW CEU OPPORTUNITY

This morning Sabrina, Amelia, and Sally (your President, VP1, and VP2) accepted the invitation of Board Vice President David Cox, to come and introduce ourselves and give them an idea of our goals and plans. It was a pleasure to meet everyone, especially the three LMTs on the board - David Cox, Gwenda Harrison, and Karen Biagiotti.

Amelia gave a short presentation sharing our Continuing Education and Networking Goals, as well as three concerns that we hear about frequently: Human Trafficking, Portability, and our place at the table as Health Care Providers.

One highlight of the meeting was the adoption of a new rule change. To encourage licensees and practitioners, as well as chiropractors to attend the monthly meetings, CEUs will now be awarded for attendance. Simply put, LMTs and RMPs can earn up to 3 CEUs by going to these meetings. One CEU will be awarded for each meeting attended, up to three can be used towards your renewal. When you arrive, be sure to sign-in and provide your license/registration number.

Meetings are on the second Thursday of the month, [here is the schedule and other information.](#)

AMTA MARYLAND'S WEBSITE

The new website is up and running at md.amtamassage.org.

Please bookmark it and use it as a resource. Classes, events, and other communication will be posted there for your convenience.



WHO TO CONTACT?

GET INVOLVED - ASK QUESTIONS - SHARE INFO

Sabrina Lopez, President

Reach out to Sabrina with all your general and finance chapter questions:

president.amta.maryland@gmail.com

Amelia Mitchell, 1st Vice President

Submit articles, photos, and event information to Amelia for the newsletter and Facebook:

vp1.amta.maryland@gmail.com

Sally Mendoza, 2nd Vice President

Talk to Sally about membership activities and Legislative Day:

vp2.amta.maryland@gmail.com

Rosa Compton, Secretary

Ask me if you have questions about previous chapter meetings:

secretary.amta.maryland@gmail.com

Robin Anderson, Delegate

Ready to sponsor a local Coffee & Conversation? Email Robin for details:

robinanderson1218@gmail.com

MILESTONE ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to our members celebrating milestone anniversaries with AMTA

25 years

Mary Jo Shook

20 Years

Judith Acosta, Denise Anthony, Carol Haddad, Tina Jones Robinson, Nicole Landry, Jerri-Lynn Pilarski, Elizabeth Thomas

15 Years

Pamela Broomall, Jacqueline Mathwich, Rae Rahne, Maksim Simakhodskiy

10 Years

Christine Henck, Angela Russell, Susan Zabriskie

5 Years

Adam Steinfeld, Phyllis Burson, Tancredi Tagliaferri, Calvin Wilson, Amy Johnson, Vicki Boorman, Sarah Lawson, James Pettigrew

