

# **Give Chapters a Hand: Awards of Excellence**

## **Iowa Chapter**

### **PART 2: EXCELLENCE AND INNOVATION IN PROGRAMMATIC AREAS**

#### **\* Newsletter**

Every member receives a chapter newsletter quarterly which includes reports from chapter officers and committee chairs, chapter and board meeting minutes, upcoming events, a welcoming and listing of new members, photos and updates of member events and activities, a listing and contact info for all chapter officers and committee chairs, ads and additional varied items of interest. The chapter newsletter has been mailed to each member and from input on member surveys to go "green" with the newsletter, the option is now available to receive the newsletter online. Member survey feedback to include more educational content in the newsletter has resulted with the board forming a committee to help implement that request in future issues of the chapter newsletter.

#### **\* Face to face community building experience**

The Iowa Chapter hosts two large chapter meeting events each year. The required Annual Chapter Convention is held in March of each year and an additional chapter face to face meeting is offered each September. Average attendance for each of these chapter meetings has been over 150 this past year. Education, networking, vendor products, entertainment, and lots of fun are all available at each chapter meeting. The chapter has kept the cost for the members very affordable and the registration fee includes twelve hours of continuing education, which are NCBTMB category A approved hours, meals, snacks, product vendors, entertainment and a raffle ticket for door prizes. Chapter events for National Massage Therapy Awareness Week are available for members to participate in community outreach opportunities, the chapter conducted fundraisers for members affected by devastating floods and tornados this past year and our Chapter MERT team was deployed to work with FEMA, firefighters, the Red Cross and those involved with the clean up.

#### **\* Service to members**

Our chapter membership chair organizes and implements visits to each school in the state for student recruitment purposes, the chapter was part of the original membership retention pilot program and has continued to contact each new member and personally welcome them to the association and chapter, all members are kept in contact with through member surveys, the chapter newsletter and availability of our chapter website [www.amtaiowa.org](http://www.amtaiowa.org).

#### **\* Volunteer management**

The chapter board held an orientation retreat after our last election to orient newly elected and appointed members to the board, work on the annual budget and set goals for the upcoming year. Each board member is issued a chapter policy manual that includes the chapter standing rules and bylaws. The Immediate Past President orients each new board member as well. Our chapter awards committee presents chapter awards to deserving volunteer members at each September chapter meeting and a volunteer recruitment survey is completed by all attendees at the conclusion of each chapter meeting.

### **PART 3: OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO MEMBERS:**

The Iowa Chapter has been an outstanding chapter in many ways this year and for many years. The chapter board has been extremely fiduciarly responsible and has allowed the chapter to build up a monetary reserve for emergency occurrences. The chapter board voted to eliminate the chapter fee for our chapter members to help with the current economic strain, the chapter paid the yearly dues for members who were victims of this past year's devastating floods and tornados with assistance from fundraising and chapter funds. Each new member to our chapter receives a special chapter packet

## **Give Chapters a Hand: Awards of Excellence** **Iowa Chapter CONTINUED**

with a gift and discount to upcoming chapter conventions, the Chapter President personally calls each first time registrant to a chapter meeting and greets them upon arrival, each attendee at our two previous chapter meetings won a door prize. our Law and Legislation Chair attends all state legislative meetings of the state licencing board and reports to the board and member of any and all legislation involving massage and there are many other factors that have helped make the Iowa Chapter the loyal, proactive, positive, beneficial and outstanding chapter that it is for the AMTA and will continue to be so in the future.

**WEBSITE ADDRESS:** [www.amtaiowa.org](http://www.amtaiowa.org)

**NEWSLETTER ADDRESS:** <http://www.amtaiowa.org/Page9.html>