

Give Chapters a Hand: Awards of Excellence **Tennessee Chapter**

PART 2: EXCELLENCE AND INNOVATION IN PROGRAMMATIC AREAS

The TN Chapter makes every Chapter Board meeting open to the general TN membership and encourages presence at the massage license board meetings, further encouraging participation in legislation regarding massage laws in our state and promoting empowerment to the therapists to keep the standards of the industry at the highest possible level.

The TN Chapter president is very a very efficient, well-organized, and knowledgeable individual. She is great at promoting volunteerism and has accomplished recruitment of quite a few new members on the volunteer team.

The TN Chapter just started a new website and it is currently under construction. The TN Newsletter Chair, Debbie Vann, is also very efficient and has done a great job promoting AMTA-TN Chapter in the newsletters.

The Tn Chapter Board works well together in communication and problem solving scenarios. Every Board member is committed and holds strong integrity for the work that they do.

PART 3: OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO MEMBERS:

The TN Chapter Board has been fiscally responsible and has even saved funds in places this year and explored new options for expenses like educational conferences that not only saved the chapter money but encouraged more attendance at the conference and new recruitment efforts.

The TN Chapter maintains a MERT team and just recently, proposed and approved a AMTA-TN Sports Massage Team. These two teams are vital in the promotion of the efficacy of massage to the general public, as well as, to 1st responders in emergencies and to athletes. This will further growth of the massage industry, gain interest in non-AMTA members to become members, and promote the high standards of AMTA and its members.

TN Chapter Board discusses with its members the current law, what things have been changed, what things are set to be changed, and asks its membership for feedback on what their thoughts are in relation to our laws for our industry and license. The Board has an idea for creating a lobbying committee to help membership to feel that they are part of not just AMTA but that they also have a voice in our judicial process.

WEBSITE ADDRESS: www.amtatn.org

NEWSLETTER ADDRESS: <http://www.amtatn.org/newsletter>

Give Chapters a Hand: Awards of Excellence **Tennessee Chapter CONTINUED**

PART 2: EXCELLENCE AND INNOVATION IN PROGRAMMATIC AREAS

Being that TN is known as the Volunteer state we keep to that theme. Not only do we pick one special organization to raise money for and represent during NMTAW but we will do at least one volunteer event a month depending on what the state asks of us. This past year we helped with the victims of a tornado in Union Station, raised money and educated the public on the benefits of massage for HIV/AIDS patients and caregivers, gave chair massage for the Susan G. Komen foundation fundraiser, provided chair massage during nurses week at a local hospital and the MS walk just to name a few. Our goal is always two sided, one to raise money for the cause we are working with and two to provide education to the public on massage and who the AMTA is. One of my proudest moments as the Chapter President happened at our states massage board meeting. A young lady who had been struggling for over a year to get her massage license and was in front of our state board needing only \$100 short to close her file and get her license. Our entire AMTA TN Chapter board was present at that meeting and listened to her struggle. We stepped outside the meeting to take a break and each member of our board chipped in to pay her final fee so she could obtain her license out of our personal pockets. None of us knew this young lady and she wasn't an AMTA member but the compassion we as a board felt for her showed when everyone jumped in to help her. She was then called back into the massage board meeting and granted her license based on us paying her fee. This young lady has now attended one of our meetings and will soon join our chapter. This is what SUPPORT means to us.

PART 3: OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO MEMBERS:

The Chapter holds an annual spring conference which provides continuing education at an extremely reduced rate and in an ala carte format so members who can't get away for a whole weekend can attend for one day. No matter if you attend the whole weekend or just one day each person gets a goodie bag when they arrive filled to the brim with samples, information and fun stuff. This year we held the annual dinner on Friday night before the conference and taped prizes to the bottom of every chair so that each member who attended the dinner received an additional prize. We have one board member greet everyone as they enter the hotel and direct them where they need to go to register and check in and just welcome them to the event. We have a hospitality room that has snacks and bottle water so that between classes the attendees have somewhere to take a small break and get a refreshment. We make the classes end at 5 so attendees can spend time with their families who traveled with them. We bring in vendors for the fun of shopping. We keep the class size limited so that personal attention can be attained and we offer 6-8 classes each running 2-4 hours long so people can take a little bite of several options. We hold 4 meetings a year on the day before the states massage board meeting so every one of our board members and our legislative chair can attend the states massage board meetings. This unity has been well received by our state massage board and had been crucial in keeping us all currently informed of our states rules and laws. We have a new website this year to inform our members of the events we have coming up. We send a welcome letter to each new member that includes all the contact information for our board members and committee chairs. We enclose a state pin in this packet and free samples of some product. We visit the schools around TN to answer questions from students on what AMTA has to offer and why we chose to belong to this group and provide them with many handouts about AMTA and their future in massage.

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