**Date approved: 07-20-15**

**American Massage Therapy Association - Georgia Chapter**

**Teleconference Meeting**

**June 22, 2015**

**7:30PM**

*Present*:

VOTING: Cindy Farrar, Sharon Remaly, Vivian Davis, Lisa Aspy, Linda Christie, Laurie Pratt, Kathy Grow

NON-VOTING: Ben Glosson, Judy LeFave

OTHER:

*Absent*: C.J. Lowe

Called to order: 7:34pm

Welcome: Cindy Farrar

Roll Call: Linda Christie; established quorum

Agenda; approved as written.

Minutes from last meeting, May 18, 2015; approved as written.

Treasurer’s Report; checking account still hanging around $69,000. Nothing has been done on investments as we await results regarding the LLEAD decision. Individual line items are on target.

**Officers’ Reports (sent earlier):**

President Cindy Farrar

1st Vice President Sharon Remaly

2nd Vice President Vivian Davis

3rd Vice President Lisa Aspy

Secretary Linda Christie

Treasurer Laurie Pratt

Membership Secretary Kathy Grow

# Committee Reports (sent earlier):

Meeting Planning & Delegate Lisa Aspy

Outreach & Delegate: Ben Glosson

Alternate Delegate Judy LeFave

**Unfinished Business**

At the National BOD meeting in Virginia it was announced that chapters are not required to produce any printed newsletters. We are supposed to have communication with our chapter members at least once per year, meaning only one digital newsletter is necessary. There was discussion regarding advertising on the website and whether it is possible to include them on eBlasts. Cindy asked for folks still needing updated website bio information to send it to Laurie.

The June classes in Chi Nei Tsang modules two and three are this coming weekend in Tucker at 3B Scientific. The count is at eight but approximately four people still need to register. There are eight people interested in registering for the Monday class offered to the outside business. Jane Johnson encourages Peggy Lamb as the June 2016 class instructor. Cindy brings the idea to the BOD to find out if we should pursue her for a class; folks requested forwarded links.

Cindy talked about the Georgia Board of Massage Therapy’s proposed change to reporting of CE hours via CE Broker. There was discussion regarding whether it should be required. Cindy asked Laurie to write a letter to the Secretary of State with her experiences trying to hire two out of state therapists recently. Cindy suggests anything second hand or with a legal aspect is reviewed by Stan and his team.

One of the items that transpired is that Jane Johnson has rolled off of the state board after nine years. There are two new members which means the new board includes four massage therapists. Stan is going to put a bug in the ear of the Secretary of State because all four of the sitting massage therapists are from Gwinnett College, including two students of the sitting chair. A letter writing campaign should be done to point out the potential conflicts of interest. They should be sent to the governor’s appointment office as well as Secretary of State’s office; Cindy will clarify with Stan.

A result of the meeting with the lobbyists is that the state law needs to be corrected to stipulate the power of the state board. Another piece requiring a change is that massage therapists need to be qualified as health care providers which means that massage therapy establishments would be categorized as health care as well versus adult entertainment. Letters went out to Gwinnett and DeKalb Counties addressing their ordinances. Gwinnett County responded with an immediate accepting of the MBLex as qualifier for new therapists in the county.

Atlanta is trying to lump massage therapy businesses as adult entertainment. The human trafficking bill states that $5,000 or 1% of gross income, whichever is higher, would be paid by adult entertainment establishments to the state. Cindy is going to reach out to Erika Larsen to see if she can get the doctor, with whom she works for research, to write a letter to the mayor of Atlanta. We want to get a model ordinance that all municipalities can use instead of creating something from scratch each time. Helen has secured a date for the chair massage at the Capitol on February 19th. It is in the morning from 8:00 until noon or 1:00.

Judy spoke with Joey Bunn, a member in Macon, who sent his name in with interest to help with Government Relations. He would be happy to represent the BOD as long as he knows which points we would like to him address. Jane Johnson thinks she would still like to attend and could be another resource for us at the Georgia Board of Massage Therapy meetings.

Kathy has been able to contact everyone via email. She usually calls and doesn’t get much of a response. This month she decided to try sending text messages with about 80% response rate including two people who called back with questions. Cindy sent an email to CJ regarding collating milestone awards. Membership continues to grow; we just need to work on getting people involved.

The August membership meeting will certainly be government relations heavy. We want to invite new members to the August meeting. We can try to get local groups to connect and meet for socializing. We need to find another venue because of a conflict at the Georgia Career Institute. Cindy suggests holding the meeting at Gwinnett College which is located in Lilburn.

The National BOD came up with a huge bylaws change that has to do with elections. Cindy forwarded it to us and she strongly suggests each of us read it. There is another link which tells us how to respond to bylaws notifications; it is similar to how we respond to the proposed changes for the state. The BOD will be voting on the proposed change during the National Convention. Elections would be changed from preference to a slate. There would be five members on the Commission on Candidacy: two would be former BOD members, two former Commission members and the fifth would be flexible. The Commission would be a vetting process. The whole slate would be presented to members and the slate, in its entirety, would be voted “yay” or “nay.” The President Elect would be appointed by the BOD.

Ben is trying to get outreach events scheduled with the MS Ride at Calloway Gardens and the other MS Ride from Athens to Atlanta. There was a call scheduled for tonight which was cancelled. As soon as it is confirmed he will send information and dates to everyone and Laurie will post on the website.

**New Business**

None at this time.

**Announcements**

Linda heard from Mayor Davis that the Proclamation for the NMTAW is ready to retrieve. We are trying to arrange an event for the Mayor to present it to local massage therapists. She is also going to ask the Augusta Chronicle on hand for publication, if it is willing.

**Next meeting will be** July 20, 2015

**Meeting adjourned** at 9:09pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Christie, Chapter Secretary