

## Elections, Awards, & State Convention 2017

### A letter from the President:

Dear AMTA Ohio Chapter Members,

A BIG thank everyone that joined us at our 2017 Ohio Chapter State Convention and Annual Meeting! Our weekend was a huge success with the largest number of attendees that we've seen in the last couple years. Thank you to our sponsors, Massage Envy, Massage Warehouse, and Bon Vital and Biofreeze who made the investment to support the profession! Another big thank you goes to our presenters and our vendors who gave their time to come make our weekend so special! It warms my heart to be surrounded by so many like-minded massage therapists and individuals that have dedicated their lives to help others through the power of touch!

During our weekend we had many exciting moments! During our our annual meeting, we were fortunate enough to have Cindy Farrar, AMTA National Board Director join us and give us a motivational speech that left us all wondering, 'What kind of door am I?' We are proud to have a united organization between national and chapter level. When we work together we achieve our dreams through our combined efforts!!! Another of our exciting moments was our special exhibit when we had artists, Rick Greely and Jonathen Kinney airbrush the musculoskeletal system on a live model. It took over 7 hours to complete and our model was placed in a location that allowed our attendees to watch the entire process unfold! It was an amazing and unique experience for all present! We were very excited to announce the results of our elections for our Board Member, Melissa Ryan; Financial Administrator, Becky McClung; House of Representatives, Robin Vandegrift and Sally Keith-Knepp. We also recognized three incredible individuals for their dedication to the Chapter and profession. The following were awarded for: Chapter Meritorious, John Fred Spack; Service to the Massage Profession, Melissa Ryan; and President's Award, Rick Greely. Again, thank you and congratulations!

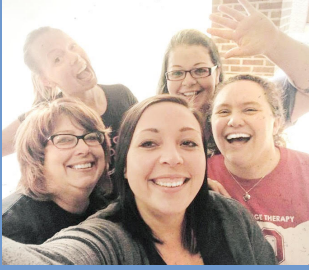


Our membership is growing in numbers and in enthusiasm! As of April, we now have 2,737 members of the Ohio Chapter! Over the past four years we have had a steady growth with nearly 1,000 more members! The AMTA is the ONLY organization that is a fighter for your profession through legislation. A couple weeks ago we went to the Statehouse in Columbus with some other dedicated volunteers to meet and greet with the Senators and Representatives. We introduced ourselves and talked with them about our legislative initiatives in hopes to find a sponsor for our upcoming bill. We are very optimistic that connection was made. We are making great strides in our legislative efforts!

We look forward to a wonderful year of even more networking and educational opportunities as we enthusiastically welcome back Cindy Lucius-Correia as our Education Chair! She is already working hard at establishing her committee and additional educational events. Thank you to all our members past, current, and future for being a part of and supporting your great profession, association, and our wonderful Ohio Chapter! I am proud to be serving as your president!

Continue to stay connected with us on Facebook and through our website to see what is happening in your Ohio Chapter!

Jennifer Phibbs, LMT  
President, AMTA Ohio Chapter



# Ohio State Convention 2017

Thanks to all our fantastic members, sponsors, presenters, volunteers, and vendors who made this year's State convention an enormous success!

One hundred and ten members were in attendance to learn from our talented presenters.

## Board of Directors

Jennifer Phibbs  
**President**

Melissa Ryan  
**Board Member**

Holly Wylie  
**2nd VP**

Meredith Back  
**Secretary**

Becky McClung  
**Financial Administrator**

## Volunteer Chairs

Cindy Lucius-Correia  
**Education Chair**

Melissa Shaw  
**CSMT Workgroup Chair**

Michelle Turner  
**NMTAW Chair**

Melissa Ryan  
**Legislation Chair**

Cindy Lucius-Correia  
**Awards Chair**

Rick Greely  
**Online Election Coordinator**

Meredith Back  
**Communications Chair**

## House of Delegates

Marla Cohen  
**HOD**

Robin Vandegrift  
**HOD**

Sally Keith-Knepp  
**HOD**

## Financial Report

Financially, we had a couple of big successes in result of our state convention. We had budgeted for 70 attendees but had 110 actually attend. We were elated with the turn-out and will use unexpected net income to infuse our efforts



Doug Nelson shared his wisdom and techniques on the shoulder compartment and thoracic spine, William Burton from ACE joined us for a two-day course in cupping, and Kelly Lott demonstrated her highly effective routines in migraine relief and facial toning. The halls of the convention space were packed with tables from our sponsors and vendors along with a very exciting exhibit: The real-time airbrushing onto a model of the entire muscular system!

And thanks to our members, who were able to raise over \$300 for the Massage Therapy Foundation. Overall, it was an incredible, educational weekend filled with the rekindling of old friendships and the creation of new ones.

Make sure to [check our website](#) for updates on more educational events. See you all next year - or sooner - at [National Convnetion](#) in September.



## 2017 Online Elections



This year's [Chapter Elections](#) were held online from April 4th to April 16th, 2017.

165 (6.3%) of 2634 electors voted in this ballot.

**Melissa Ryan** was elected as **Board Member**.

**Rebecca McClung** was elected as **Financial Administrator**.

Five positions for our **House of Delegates** were open, although only two candidates ran. **Robin Vandegrift** and Sally **Keith-Knepp** were elected.

## Ohio Chapter Awards

**Chapter awards were presented during our annual business meeting on Saturday, April 22, 2017. This year three awards were given: Chapter Meritorious, Service to the Massage Profession, and President's Award.**

**John Fred Spack** was the recipient of the **Chapter Meritorious Award**. This is the highest award bestowed on a AMTA professional member by a chapter and honors diligence in volunteerism done in an altruistic manor. John Fred was solely responsible for the history of massage therapy in Ohio that was presented throughout 2016 as Ohio marked its' 100th anniversary of licensure.. It was due to the work of John Fred that we first learned the name of the first licensed Massage Therapist, her internment site, the fact that she was buried in an unmarked grave, and that her funeral expenses were never paid. He lead the effort for AMTA Ohio to purchase the headstone for Agnes B Forbes. John Fred has continuously served the AMTA-Ohio, AMTA National, State of Ohio, City of Columbus, other states and the Massage Therapy profession since 1982 as a practitioner, activist,



in education. Also, as a result of the silent auction held during our state convention, we raised \$324.75 for the Massage Therapy Foundation! Thanks to everyone who participated in the auction!

Becky McClung  
Financial Administrator



Make a difference in the field of Massage Therapy by getting involved with the Massage Therapy Foundation.

**Make a Donation** directly  
OR  
consider supporting  
though the  
**Amazon Smile**  
Charity Program.

## Special Thanks

Our 2017 State Convention would not have been such a success without our generous sponsors!

**Sponsors:**  
[Massage Envy](#)  
[Massage Warehouse](#)  
[BonVital](#) and [Biofreeze](#)

**Vendors:**  
[Natural Options](#)  
[Aromatherapy](#)  
[CE Systems](#)  
[Thirty-one Gifts](#)

**Body Art Exhibit:**  
Just Kiddin' Airbrush Art  
Columbus Airbrush Design



message therapy within the state, and require continuing education hours for LMTs in Ohio to further raise our profession. She is passionate and engaging and an asset to our chapter.

**Rick Greely** was this year's recipient of the **Presidents Award**. Chosen by the chapter president Jennifer Phibbs, this award honored Rick's guidance and encouragement as Jennifer assumed her new role as Chapter President in 2016.



resource, mentor and historian with honor and distinction. He is a treasure to the Massage Therapy Profession and is most deserving of this award.

The **Service to the Massage Profession Award** recognizes an Ohio chapter professional member who has made a significant contribution to the advancement of the massage therapy profession. This year's winner was **Melissa Ryan**. Melissa is a board member and legislative committee chair who has worked tirelessly on the legislative front to reach 100% licensure in the state, create an insurance mandate for

## Legislative Report

The legislative committee has been working hard to make a real impact on our profession during the 132nd Assembly. As the Legislative Chair, I happily make the trek to Columbus every month to sit in on the Medical Board meetings, as well as work with our lobbyist, Belinda Jones of Capital Consulting Group, and on occasion with the company of Jennifer Phibbs, our Chapter President.

We usually meet with at least 3 or 4 legislators face to face in an attempt to explain the plight of our profession. These meetings are usually very warmly received. The purpose of these meetings are to lay the foundation for our legislative agenda.

Belinda has submitted our legislative agenda to be written into a bill and at our Advocacy Day at the State House on May the 10th, we met with numerous legislators that were receptive to us, and a few that voiced an interest in potentially sponsoring our bill. This is a crucial step in moving forward. This is a process that is going to have to be taken step by step and with that in mind, our first priority is to require 100% licensure to practice massage within the state of Ohio.

We will be sharing more details with you as this process moves forward.

In addition, as an LMT here in Ohio as well as on behalf of AMTA-OH, I have been given the opportunity to challenge the denial for credentialing with Anthem BC/BS. I will also continue to keep you posted in this regard.

While it may seem the wheels of progress are moving very slowly, rest assured that we are working as quickly as possible. It is my pleasure to serve all of you in the capacity of Legislative Chair and would welcome any input you would like to share.

Melissa Ryan, LMT, CMMP, CCT



Picture taken at the Statehouse on May 10, 2017 for Advocacy Day  
Pictured left to right: Valerie Cox, Kim Marsee, Jennifer Phibbs, Melissa Ryan, and John Spack

## Community Service Massage Team

The AMTA - Ohio Chapter has considered reinstating the CSMT, Community Service Massage Team. There are those of you who may remember it as MERT (Massage Emergency Response Team). We have discussed the possibility of having two teams available at any time, our CSMT, and possibly an Emergency Team that would respond to disasters.

For those not familiar, CSMT from several states, including Connecticut, responded to Ground Zero after 9/11 for stress relief for first responders and emergency personnel. They've responded to the Boston Marathon bombings and the Sandy Hook shootings.

CSMT members receive training in identifying "stress response syndrome," and provide appropriate support, and refer as necessary. It can be chair massages, a hug, a shoulder to cry on, or a listening ear. The team also works with American Red Cross and other support services.

Right now, we are looking to see how many AMTA members are interested in becoming actively involved with CSMT. We are planning to provide support services and educational awareness at events like Relay for Life and other community centered events.

If you or anyone you know that's an AMTA - Ohio Chapter member and is interested in being an active member of the CSMT, please contact Melissa Shaw, CSMT Workgroup Chair at [synergytherapyhealing@gmail.com](mailto:synergytherapyhealing@gmail.com).

THANK YOU and I hope to hear from you soon!  
Melissa Shaw, LMT, EMT-P



## Together Learning and Growing

National Massage Therapy Week or NMTAW is a great way to promote Massage Therapy to a broader audience. In 2016 we celebrated 100 years of License Massage Therapy in the State of Ohio, and we highlighted this historical event on AMTA-OH's Facebook page. Hopefully, you or your business is following AMTA-OH on Facebook, and the material we share there gives you media to share to the folks who follow you.

Currently, we are putting together ideas for how to help you share to your broader audience the benefits and reasons why Massage Therapy works in people's lives. Your input would be greatly appreciated for this process. Whatever your experience as an LMT, I would like to know if you have any thoughts on how you see yourself or your business promoting NMTAW. What information do you want to share?

If we came up with some media to post in your place of work, would you be willing to share it?

Send me your ideas or requests via a message to AMTA-OH on Facebook or you can email me at [maturner.lmt@gmail.com](mailto:maturner.lmt@gmail.com). All ideas welcome and thank you for your help.

**Michelle Turner, NMTAW Chair**

# Soul Lightening® Acupressure



## Soul Lightening Acupressure

is a hands-on modality that integrates ancient teachings with contemporary techniques to promote health, awareness, and self-empowerment for well-being and personal transformation. Our programs offer practical skills for lighting up the world—one body, one mind, one soul at a time.



**Process Acupressure 1A: Cleveland Area, OH • June 14-17, 2017**  
**Clinical Acupressure: Madison Area, WI • June 22-25, 2017**  
**Clinical Acupressure: Madison Area, WI • September 7-10, 2017**  
**Clinical Acupressure: Philadelphia Area, PA • September 28-Oct 1, 2017**

### Clinical Acupressure 1: Basic Applications

This is a workshop designed for health care clinicians who wish to learn traditional methods of acupressure to support the body's own balancing and healing processes. Clinical Acupressure (CA) works with the same principles as acupuncture, using the softer form of curved finger pressure. Workshop participants will learn to deliver a full treatment session as well as how to use CA as a complement to their established practice.

24 Hours Continuing  
Education: Massage Therapy:  
NCBTMB

### Gateway to Soul: Process Acupressure 1

Process Acupressure (PA) is a simple, yet profound, holistic method that combines traditional acupressure (to a fully-clothed body) with a process approach to consciousness. It facilitates healing and the natural growth process that arises from within the individual.

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