

Ricke Weinkauf, RMT,

On Associations

The ONLY way to have an impact on our profession is through organization. Massage therapists have three professional options: TAMT (Texas Association of Massage Therapists); www.texasmassage therapists.com; AMTA (American Massage Therapy Assoc.), and ABMP (Associated Bodywork & Massage Practitioners). If you are not a member of at least one professional organization, in my opinion, you are not truly interested in the future of your profession. All recognized groups have a lobby, and that cost money. The old “squeaky wheel” analogy is true, and that squeak is the sound of unified voices. So, pick a group, any group. You do not have to volunteer your life away - just a little money - a little time - multiply that by 13 thousand, (roughly half of the Texas massage therapists). You do the math - could we make a difference? I hope each one of you will make a difference.

So, what do you think of the massage regulation changes that will go to committee this year in Texas? Have you read them? Do you know who wrote them? Do you know whom is affectivity making the decisions about your future?

Who is: Les Sweeny? Tommy Rust? Alex Matthews? Sharon Stumpf? LouEllen McMillan? Betty Weenig? Heather Mueher? Jim Zukowski, or Janine Ray, and **what is:** ABMP? COMSI? TAMT? AMTA? MBEA, or DSHS?

Les Sweeny is the ABMP facilitator. What is ABMP’s stance on the laws in Texas? **Tommy Rust** is from COMSI (Coalition of Massage Schools and Instructors). Did you know this group existed in Texas? If you are an instructor, are you a member? What is their agenda? **Alex Matthews** is the director of the massage program at Austin Community College. **Sharon Stumpf, RMT** is president of TAMT. What is TAMT’s agenda? **LouEllen McMillan** is from AMTA. What is their agenda? **Betty Weenig** is from MBEA (Massage & Bodyworkers Educators Alliance). Who are they and what is their agenda? **Heather Muhr** and **Jim Zukowski** are from DSHS, the Texas Department of State Health Services. **Janine Ray, RMT**, is a clinic owner in Austin. She is a published author, an MTI, Pfrimmer instructor, and a dedicated therapist who has spent many hours as an advocate for protecting our profession.

These are the people who are making the decisions that will control massage in Texas for years to come.

Ricke Mauro-Weinkauf, RMT, is the owner of Hedwig Village Massage Therapy. She is an MTI at Houston Community College, Vice-president of TACAT , and a member of ABMP, past Secretary of the TAMT.

CHAPTER NOTES

“The Purpose of TAMT Chapters shall be to hold meetings and conduct the business of the Chapter, to provide professional and social networking opportunities, to organize educational, public relations and membership programs on the local level, and to support the activities and programs of TAMT for the benefit of it’s members.”

AUSTIN: Contact: Jessie Dingler (512) 302-5114 email: message@jessiedingler.com Location: Austin Community College Highland Business Campus, 4th Floor, Middle Fiskville Rd. Non-members receive 2-CEU’s their first mtg. TAMT members receive 2-CEU’s for all educational meetings.

HOUSTON: Contact: Patti Boyd (713) 962-1238

DALLAS: Contact: Pres. David Landsberg, V.P., Joe Campbell, Secy./Treal, Melissa Zmerzlikar (214) 827-7720. 6162 E. Mockingbird Ln. Ste 205, Dallas, TX 75214.

FORT BEND: Contact: Joan Fox (281) 438-4127 email: WekneadYou@hotmail.com (Please identify yourself with TAMT in the Subject Line). Meets the 2nd Wednesday monthly: noon @ Hickory Hollow Inn in the Township (281) 499-8904.

NORTH HARRIS-MONTGOMERY: Contact: Kitty Nelson (281) 734-7509. Please call for upcoming meeting information.

SAN ANTONIO: Contact: Theresa Gaus-Schmidt (210)834-5220.

WICHITA FALLS: Contact: Carrie Bloom WFTAMT President (940) 423-6832. email: cabloom007@aol.com. Meets the 18th of each month: 7 pm weekdays or 3pm if on a weekend. Provides a minimum of one CEU each meeting. Membership: Dues \$20.00/yr. Website: <http://members.aol.com/WFTAMT>.

To start a local TAMT chapter, contact TAMT at 1-800-809-9970 or email: info@texasmassage therapists.com. Meeting notices should be submitted to: info@texasmassage therapists.com. To speed information to the correct area, please include the words *Chapter Notes* and identify your group in the subject line.



TAMT

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Editors Note: The following is an excerpt from an article written by Ron Stephens, LMT, (now past President Florida State Massage Therapy Association) and published in the April 2001 Massage Today magazine (www.massagetoday.com).

Associations Aren't For All Massage Therapists, But All Massage Therapists Benefit From Them

By
Ron Stephens, LMT

"I don't do politics." "What is the association going to do for me?" "I am too busy..." On and on go the reasons for not getting involved or supporting massage associations be they local, state or national.

...There are many reasons to refrain from joining an association, but there are even more reasons substantiating the positive role associations play in the massage profession.

...Our profession is...strong...but there is something more basic...to our ability to treat (,)...our legislated right to work as touch therapists and...the slightest change in the legislation can drastically alter how and if we continue to practice.

...Freedom to operate a health care business must be protected, and the only entities available to accomplish this are our state and national associations.

Legislators regard massage associations as speaking representatives of the profession. Associations are the only legislative entities representing massage therapists, so those who do not get involved are subject to the decisions made by those who do.