



A Message From Your AMTA-KY Chapter President

By Justin Magnuson

In his first editorial in the *Massage Therapy Journal*, AMTA National President Jeff Smoot stated one of his goals was for massage therapists to earn "...a living wage." I echoed a similar vision at the close of the spring conference when I reflected on my desire for therapists the ability to negotiate benefits and have a career they can retire from. I don't think these goals are unrealistic and your chapter is working hard to provide opportunities and support to make these aspirations a reality.

One way we do this, what our chapter is probably most well-known for, is our excellent education opportunities. Another one is just around the corner at General Butler State Park July 25-26. Other ways we do this are through collaborations with universities and allied professions like the CAIPEC project with the University of Kentucky. This opportunity will pair massage therapists with other health professionals for round table discussions regarding treatment of low back pain. This initiative combined with research around the country and the ongoing work of the Massage Therapy Foundation will continue to highlight what benefits massage therapy provides for those receiving our care.

The chapter also supports the profession by providing member experiences like unit events, sports massage team, and input into the legal aspects of practicing massage in Kentucky. The License and Legislation committee attends the meetings of our licensing board monthly and seeks ways to strengthen our profession through legislative action. In May the committee completed a grant application through AMTA National to fund a lobbyist to pursue "healthcare provider status" for LMTs in Kentucky. This process has already generated a good deal of conversation and will require continued input to determine if the cost-benefit of such an energy intensive project will benefit us in the long run.

We are able to do this work because of many hands, thankfully members are willing to step forward to volunteer their time and talents to keep the AMTA-KY tradition alive. The Board of Directors welcomed Karen Tyson to 3rd Vice President at our spring meeting and last weekend at our annual strategic planning meeting we gained a new Treasurer, Lucarroll Craig, and Secretary, Adam Kelsey. I'll speak for myself to say the weekend was inspiring and helped me see how the work we are doing is crafting a stronger profession. If you ever have comments or questions please contact me, president@amtaky.org If I don't hear from you, I hope to see at our annual summer meeting.

The 2015 AMTA-KY Chapter Board of Directors



Pictured left to right:

Collette Wilson - Immediate Past President, Valerie Smothers - 1st VP, Justin Magnuson - President, Adam Kelsey - Secretary, Karen Tyson - 3rd VP, Lucarroll Craig- Treasurer and Kala Carby-Borders- 2nd VP