



Memorial Highlight – Dianne Aull

We recently lost a longtime member, Dianne Aull. Born on August 22nd, 1950, Dianne was the daughter of Olga and Leslie Johnson from Harvey, ND. She grew up on the Johnson family farm near Manfred, ND alongside her 5 brothers and sisters.

Dianne was an active AMTA member for nearly 30 years! She was known by those who loved her for her quick wit and sense of humor. She shared immense love for her family and community, and instilled those values into her own children. She will be deeply missed by her loved ones and we all send her family our most sincere condolences.



Community Outreach

In December, our board President, Ella Moch and our Social Media chair member, Scotty Mewes volunteered at The Dream Center in Bismarck, ND where they both live. They helped prepare and serve meals to those in need in the Bismarck area. They both got emotional while saying it was very heartwarming and fulfilling to serve their community. They would like to get some of their friends and family together and continue to volunteer in the future!





2025 Spring Workshop - Annual Chapter Meeting

Kinesio Taping with Troy Lavigne

April 4th - 5th in Medora, ND

Troy Lavigne is a highly skilled professional in massage therapy, specializing in techniques like Kinesio Taping, Orthopedic/Sports, Pediatric, and Lymphatic Drainage. He has a wealth of experience, having served as the Director of Education for the Colorado AMTA from 2016 to 2023. Troy is also a published author and researcher who hosts a podcast called The Sensory Approach to Manual Therapy. We are very excited to welcome him to North Dakota this spring for his Kinesio Taping class!

***2025 Annual Chapter Meeting: Saturday, April 5th. This will take place during our lunch hour.**



Accommodations: Rough Riders Hotel





Upcoming 2025 Board Elections: Open Positions

2025 AMTA Board Election Year



Open Positions for the 2025 election:

- **Financial Administrator**
- **Odd Year Board Member**
- **AOD (Assembly on Delegate)**



Please check for updates on when elections will be open via our Facebook page and website! [f](#) [http://](#)



2024 AOD National Meeting Review

This year at the National AOD meeting, we had two discussion topics:

1) **Massage Therapy for Abdominopelvic Pain**

The objective was to discuss a position statement on Abdominopelvic (AP) Pain, citing the lack of abdominal massage education in schools and concerns of injury has led some offices to ban the practice. Suggesting that with an official position statement it could enhance training in both initial education and continuing education programs, broadening the acceptance and understanding within the massage therapy community and among other healthcare professionals for massage therapists to be able to treat AP pain. An anonymous vote sent it forward to the National Committee to Construct a statement for the AMTA.

2) **How would having unified definitions on modalities such as Swedish massage, deep tissue massage, sports massage, and clinical massage shape the massage therapy profession?**

A group from Oklahoma brought this discussion to the table. It was solely a discussion and not a vote. The overwhelming consensus at my table and from the body as a whole, was we should not. We discussed how these could put us into a box so to speak with possible issues if we go out of the definition and perform some deep tissue when the order is for Swedish as an example. It seemed to have been the same across the AOD body on this heated discussion. Many of us voiced how there are already definitions stated for these various modalities. We also sometimes must alter our modality once we start on a client, based on the issue at hand, or what we may find during their treatment, if we feel that it may help with what it is they initially came to us for.

**The research and public education by the AMTA is important in the role of protecting the Massage Therapy profession. If any members have a discussion topic for AOD to discuss at the National Convention, I would be happy to submit it for you.*

**-Tawny Opp AOD, Outreach,
Government Relations**

Be sure to follow our website and Facebook page for news, updates, upcoming events and possible volunteer opportunities!