

AMTA Work Session
August 28, 2025
7:30-9:55 pm ET

Present: Angie Snell, Leslie Henry, Jen Sokira, Mia Krings, Alison Deran, Chelsea Mabes, Megan McCausland, Lori Gooding, BriAnne Weaver, Becky Engen, Nicole Bowen, Michelle Muth, Peter Bendoris, and Jeff Angell.

Guests: Jessica Fletcher, Dawn Iwamasa

7:30 pm ET Check In/Call to Order Angie Snell

Motion: President Snell motioned to approve the agenda. Seconded and approved without dissent.

7:40 pm ET Financial Updates Leslie Henry, Peter Bendoris

- Waiting on the end-of-year reports from Arrow; access was delayed
- Membership
 - Consider fiduciary responsibility, responsibility as a Board
 - Membership numbers shared for Q1 & Q2, 1405 Total Members
 - Tier III - highest # of members (40.4%)
 - The Board should be planning for how to attract new members as enrollment is down this year
 - Focus on students
 - How can we bring value
 - Peter Bendoris breakdown of finances
 - The auditor is to remove the concern status for our financial situation
 - Chuck Wilde donates to cover Symposium costs and scholarships
 - Report on Symposium income next month
 - Membership dues discussion
 - Revenue discussion:
 - Nov, Dec - people who join then, revenue counts towards next year
 - Autopay suggestions, pro-rated amounts to address membership annual cycle concerns
 - Angie: increase 10%, or keep same and increase membership

- Arguments against raising: increase in state licensures results in increased costs of doing business for those therapists; state of the world
- Increase understanding of costs for members when raising dues, including how they are changing
- Suggest consideration of utilizing lower tiers for those paying state licensures
- Giving tax benefits, changing
- Raise rates on a continual, incremental basis (rather than one large increase)
- Discount for people serving on board, etc.?
 - Membership for hardship for board members exists
 - We could also ask donors to donate towards member scholarships
- *Action: request operating cost increase statements*, and then determine how many additional members would be needed if dues were not raised
- Assembly meeting - discussion of dues
- Raise rates after an initial period where they remain the same
- Monthly installments for dues, credit card fees, and direct withdrawal from bank accounts
- Update membership committee
- Increase top-tier members only?
- Peter
 - Interim COO - until CEO or other management agency is in place - next year
 - Cash and liquidity are strong
 - Looking to outsource book fulfillment
 - Digitizing records, routing archives to a proper home
 - Completed: Integration of the back end of the system
 - Website: 1st major stage completed - evaluation; entering design stage - committee is meeting regularly; hoping for launch Q1 of 2026

8:57 pm ET

Symposium Update Jen Sokira, Nicole Bowen

- **Sep 14 to 17**, History of MT (75th anniversary), 39 CE credits, 18 LCAT credits, Research track - 6 CMTE credits for AMTA members, additional for non-members (available on AMTA-U for 1 year).
 - 218 signed up to date

- Keynote conversation panel: Music therapy research with Sunil Iyengar, Sherri Robb, Barbara Else, Renee Fleming, and trying to get Francis Collins
- Game night on Monday
- *Action: Share on social media*

9:05 pm ET Draft Assembly Agenda Mia Krings

Motion: Mia Krings motioned to approve the Assembly agenda. Seconded and approved without discussion or dissent.

9:10 pm ET Workforce Survey Update Jessica Fletcher, Dawn Iwamasa

- Collecting basic demographic information
- Categories for types of primary roles, then secondary roles
- International consideration, though the bulk of data is from the US
- Data as a resource for advocacy - more usable and relevant
- *Action:* Pilot survey will be available ASAP Click on the link in the shared folder and provide feedback
- Some information behind a paywall, some in front
- Partnering with CBMT? Conversations had years back; could aid buy-in for members
- Filtering American MTs vs. others?
- No public link, should be clicked from a personal email received

9:30 pm ET President Updates Angie Snell

Motion: President Snell motioned to re-approve the Bachelor of Music Therapy degree program and the Music Therapy Post-Baccalaureate Certificate program at Eastern Michigan University as recommended by the Academic Program Approval Committee. Seconded and approved without dissent.

9:35 pm ET Ethics Board Cheryl Stephenson (EB Co-Chair), Janice Schreiber

- Survey
 - What are MTs' needs?
- Vacancy
 - Looking for variety from regions
 - Must be approved by the Assembly

9:41 pm ET Vacancies Lori Gooding

- Looking to fill vacancies: 2024-2025 president elect, 2026-2027 president elect, vice-president elect 2026-2027

- At least 1 candidate is available for all 3 positions; names to be released once confirmed

9:48 pm ET

Disaster Relief Updates

Jen Sokira

- Members affected in Texas floods
 - Jen is in conversation with them, including a new MT working on a pediatric unit, seeing how we can support
 - AMTA can help replace books, connect with vendors, to help them continue the work they are doing, not change anything about their work
- There is a network of interested individuals connected concerning disasters

9:52 pm ET

Recap / Next Steps

Board Members

- *Action:* An email will be sent about the audit report

9:55 pm ET

Adjournment

Board Members