

July 31, 2017

To Our Fellow Therapists, Bodyworkers, and Educators:

During the May 2017 Coalition Meeting in Indianapolis, it came to the attention of leaders at NCBTMB and FSMTB that our profession needed a resource to better identify and connect with the volunteer-based organizations serving us.

In the spirit of collaboration, the leaders of the NCBTMB and FSMTB Board agreed to join forces to write an article outlining the mission of all volunteer-based organizations and how they work to serve our community.

The goals of this article are as follows:

1. To list all volunteer-based organizations within the massage therapy and bodywork profession,
2. To state the mission of each volunteer-based organization,
3. To identify how each organization works to serve the massage therapy and bodywork community,
4. To summarize the importance of volunteers to each organization, and
5. To provide additional information on how to get involved with each organization

In preparation of this article, each participating organization graciously provided a simple breakdown of its name, mission, the importance of volunteers, and resources for additional information. The following pages represent such a collaborative effort.

Together, we are confident this resource will educate and inspire fellow massage therapists, bodyworkers, educators, and students to get involved and support the organizations that serve them so well. They may even learn a thing or two!

For additional information, please contact us at tmatthews@ncbtmb.org.

Sincerely,



Teresa M. Matthews, CPT, LMT, BCTMB
Chair, NCBTMB

Ed Bolden

Ed Bolden, LMT
President, FSMTB



**Mission:**

The [Alliance for Massage Therapy Education](http://www.afmte.org) (AFMTE) is a non-profit organization established to serve as an independent voice, advocate, and resource for the entire education community—from entry-level massage training programs through post-graduate studies. Working from the principle that education forms the foundation of a profession, our vision is to support, strengthen, and elevate educational practices and standards in massage therapy and bodywork. A goal of the Alliance is: a credentialed instructor in every massage and bodywork class.

How We Serve the Massage and Bodywork Profession:

The Alliance will strengthen and improve the field of massage and bodywork by credentialing or supporting the credentialing of instructors in both entry-level training programs and post-graduate studies. We have developed a set of “Core Competencies for Massage and Bodywork Teachers” to provide our educators with guidelines for assessing themselves as teachers and identifying areas for improvement. In the coming year, we will create a teacher certification process for both school-based educators and continuing education providers. Our goal is to improve the quality of education in every massage and bodywork classroom.

Importance of Volunteers:

We are a volunteer-based organization that relies on the generosity of our members’ time and energy to accomplish our mission. The volunteer work by our Board, committees, and task forces is supported by a part-time virtual assistant and a marketing consultant.

Volunteer Opportunities:

We have a variety of committees welcoming new volunteers: Membership; Marketing; Teacher Certification; Teacher Resource Development; Conference Planning; Finance; Strategic Planning; Governance. Plus we have task forces and short-term projects that arise throughout the year, such as identifying and vetting teacher training courses. Discover our volunteer opportunities at <http://www.afmte.org/how-to-get-involved/>.



Mission:

American Massage Therapy Association's (AMTA) mission is: To serve AMTA members while advancing the art, science and practice of massage therapy.

How We Serve the Massage and Bodywork Profession:

The American Massage Therapy Association, the most respected name in massage therapy, is the largest non-profit, professional association serving massage therapists, massage students and massage schools. AMTA works to advance the profession through ethics and standards, the promotion of fair and consistent licensing of massage therapists in all states, and public education on the benefits of massage.

AMTA gives back to the profession as the primary benefactor of the Massage Therapy Foundation, with scholarships and free student memberships for future massage therapists, and as the leader in public education on the importance of professional massage therapists for health and wellness.

Importance of Volunteers:

AMTA's National Board of Directors is elected by members to make decisions based on our mission, future directions and vision. These leaders are supported by some 520 national standing committee members, operational committee members, chapter leaders and other volunteers. AMTA's 51 chapters are a unique benefit of AMTA membership and enhance the ability for members to connect at a local and state level. Chapter volunteer opportunities are another opportunity each AMTA member has to actively participate in their association.

Volunteer Opportunities:

As a member-driven organization AMTA is constantly in conversation with our members through surveys, phone calls, email and social media to understand the diverse needs of all of our members and their hopes for the profession.

Learn more about volunteer opportunities at amtamassage.org/volunteering

**Mission:**

The Commission on Massage Therapy Accreditation (COMTA), a non-profit independent body, seeks to improve the quality of education for students seeking education in the fields of massage therapy/bodywork and esthetics through an accreditation process that reflects the current and emerging professional practice standards.

How We Serve the Massage and Bodywork Profession:

COMTA is the only specialized/programmatic accrediting agency serving the massage/bodywork and esthetics professions. Specialized and professional accreditation closely examines and evaluates measures of learning or competence that are fundamental to our industry profession. Our focus is on educational quality as well as ensuring competent practitioners to move the profession forward.

Importance of Volunteers:

The United States accreditation process is dependent on a system of peer reviewer conducted by dedicated volunteers. We count on the expertise of volunteers for critical elements in the accreditation process: on-site evaluation by Peer Review Teams and school action decisions made by elected volunteer Commissioners. We're always looking for smart professionals with a commitment to elevating our industry.

Volunteer Opportunities:

- *Peer Reviewers:* During the school accreditation process, volunteers complete the Peer Review and On-site Visit. These volunteers provide COMTA with verification of the documentation, practices, and assertions of the institution or program, as it relates to accreditation standards. For those with limited travel options, there are also opportunities to participate in off-site documentation reviews. Experience and training in COMTA standards and curriculum competencies is critical.
- *Elected Commissioners:* As an accrediting agency with a specialized area, COMTA is governed by an elected Commission with positions representing administrators, educators, employers, regulators, and practitioners. COMTA also includes public members for those not directly affiliated with the industry.

Contact the COMTA office at 202-888-6790 or info@comta.org for more information.



Our Mission:

The mission of the FSMTB is to support its member boards in their work to ensure that the practice of massage therapy is provided to the public in a safe and effective manner.

How We Serve the Massage Therapy and Bodywork Profession:

The FSMTB supports the state licensing boards in their work to ensure that the practice of massage and bodywork therapy is provided to the public in a safe and competent manner. We do this by providing education, services, and guidance to member boards that help them fulfill their statutory, professional, public, and ethical obligations. The Federation ensures the provision of a valid, reliable licensing examination (the MBLEx) to determine entry-level competence to practice in addition to supporting efforts to establish requirements for the legal regulation of massage therapists, in order to facilitate professional mobility and to simplify and standardize the licensing process.

Importance of Volunteers:

FSMTB is constantly looking for enthusiastic and qualified applicants to serve in a volunteer capacity. We must continuously grow and reinvent ourselves to serve the needs of the regulatory boards and the changing profession. We aim to be a reflection of the people we serve and one of our core organizational values is that we value people so we view our volunteers as our primary and most important asset.

Volunteer Opportunities:

- Examination Development
- Examination Item Writers
- Examination - Practice Test Item Writers
- Human Trafficking
- License Renewal
- Federation Authentic Information Review (FAIR)

The following opportunities require the volunteer to be an associate member of FSMTB:

- Board of Directors Examination
- Examination Eligibility
- Finance
- Nominating
- Policy
- Professional Standards

More information is available at <https://www.fsmtb.org/about-fsmtb/volunteer-for-fsmtb/>

**Our Mission:**

Founded in 1990, the Massage Therapy Foundation advances the knowledge and practice of massage therapy by supporting scientific research, education, and community service.

How We Serve the Massage and Bodywork Profession:

The Massage Therapy Foundation serves the massage profession in three domains- massage therapists, allied health professions, and the public at large. For massage therapists, we support the evidence-informed practice of therapeutic massage and bodywork and promote research literacy and capacity in the profession, helping therapists to deepen their understanding of the science of massage therapy. Through the research granting process and our scientific journal (the International Journal of Therapeutic Massage and Bodywork), we are increasing the awareness of the efficacy of massage by members of our profession as well as other health professionals. The Foundation also serves the general public by funding Community Service Grants, providing massage therapy to under-served populations.

Importance of Volunteers:

Throughout its history, the Massage Therapy Foundation has been able to accomplish its mission through the generosity and dedication of many committed volunteers. We warmly welcome volunteers to serve on our committees, such as marketing and development, community service grants, and education.

Volunteer Opportunities:

See the full list of volunteer opportunities at <http://mtf.amtamassage.org/get-involved/volunteer>.

**Our Mission:**

The mission of The National Certification Board for Therapeutic Massage and Bodywork (NCBTMB) is to Define and Advance the Highest Standards in the Massage Therapy and Bodywork Profession.

How We Serve the Massage Therapy and Bodywork Profession:

NCBTMB serves the profession by offering the only higher level, accredited credential above entry-level state licensure—Board Certification in Therapeutic Massage and Bodywork. This credential aligns the massage therapy and bodywork profession with other allied health and medical professions, enhancing value and credibility to what we do best. In fact, many health care facilities and even some high-end spas now require Board Certification to apply for and achieve higher-level, rewarding positions.

NCBTMB further serves the profession through Specialty Certificates, an Approved Provider for Continuing Education Program, and an Assigned School Code Program.

Importance of Volunteers:

As a nonprofit organization, NCBTMB volunteers are vital to our success—and the success of our Certificants. While day-to-day operations are handled by an experienced team of staff members, it is our volunteers who contribute the real-world expertise and experience needed to drive our organization and its mission.

NCB's Certification Board members are elected by Board Certificants, and embody the diversity of our industry in their expertise in many modalities. Together, NCB's Certification Board works toward our goals of:

- Elevating the profession by recognizing and encouraging excellence in schools, continuing education, therapist competency and high standards.
- Establishing certification as a recognized credential of professional and ethical standards.
- Promoting the worth of Board Certification to health, therapeutic massage and bodywork professionals, public policy makers and the general public.
- Assuring and maintaining the integrity, stability and quality of the Board Certification program.
- Periodically updating the program to reflect state-of-the-art practices in therapeutic massage and bodywork.

Volunteer Opportunities:

If you are interested in joining our dedicated community of volunteers, we would be pleased to welcome you. We have several exciting opportunities within our workgroups.

NCBTMB volunteer opportunities include:

- Approved Provider Committee
- Ethics and Standards Committee
- Exam Development Committee

More information regarding NCBTMB volunteer opportunities is available at <http://www.ncbtmb.org/volunteers>