



# Indiana State Board of Massage Therapy

June 2011  
Newsletter

## BOARD MEMBER PROFILE

### Board Members

All members of the board are appointed by the Governor in increments of three year terms. The board consists of three massage therapists who have had at least three years of practice experience, and two consumer members. The board members are as follows:

Roger Reeves, Consumer, Chair  
Barbara Lis, CMT, Vice-Chair  
Deborah Ellis, CMT, Member  
Ann Botka, CMT, Member  
Christopher Johnson, Consumer, Member

### Staff & Contact Information

Tasha Coleman, Board Director  
Andre Phillips, Assistant Director  
Lorrie Ruble, Case Manager  
Kimberly Oakley, Case Manager  
Kathy Dishman, Case Manager

402 W. Washington Street, Room W072  
Indianapolis, IN 46204  
Office hours are 8:00 am to 4:30 pm  
Numbers: (317) 234-2051 (office) (317) 233-4236 (fax)  
Email: [pla6@pla.IN.gov](mailto:pla6@pla.IN.gov)  
Web: [www.pla.IN.gov](http://www.pla.IN.gov)

**Ann G. Botka:** Ann began practicing Massage Therapy in 2002, based in South Bend, Indiana. She graduated from The Blue Heron Academy in Niles, Michigan. In addition, Ann has studied Myofascial Release with John F. Barnes, P.T. Ann also holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in History from Indiana University.

## COMPILATION

An updated copy of the Massage Therapy compilation may be found at [http://www.in.gov/pla/files/SBMT.2010\\_Compilation.pdf](http://www.in.gov/pla/files/SBMT.2010_Compilation.pdf)

## WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR PROFESSION?

Effective July 1, 2011 IPLA will require criminal background checks of all new applicants and may (at the discretion of the board) require criminal background checks of current certificate holders at renewal and probationary certificate holders. Watch for more information pertaining to criminal background checks on our website at <http://www.in.gov/pla/massage.htm>.

## DISCIPLINARY ACTION

A list of board disciplinary actions may be found on our license litigation system at <http://www.in.gov/ai/appfiles/pla-litigation/> Free online licensure look-ups may be obtained at <https://extranet.in.gov/WebLookup/Search.aspx> This is a real time database and is the best resource for accurate data.

This newsletter is offered as an information service and is not intended as legal advice. Anyone seeking certification as a massage therapist who is uncertain of their legal standing should seek the advice of legal counsel. Information presented here was originally developed by the Indiana State Board of Massage Therapy and can be copied and distributed without copyright restriction



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## 2011 Meeting Dates & Locations

Please note that meeting dates are subject to change or may be cancelled due to lack of business. Board meetings are held in the Indiana Government Center South, 402 West Washington Street, Indianapolis, Indiana 46204. All meetings will be held in Conference Room W064 of the Indiana Professional Licensing Agency (unless otherwise indicated).

- March 7
- June 6
- September 12 (Conference Center Room 1)
- December 5

## Newsletter Schedule

The newsletter schedule will correlate with the meeting schedule.

- March
- June
- September
- December

## Helpful Websites:

FSMTB: <http://www.fsmtb.org/>

AMTA Indiana: <http://www.amtaindiana.org/>

## FSMTB CORNER: History

In early 2005 a move to reenergize a former "Alliance" of massage regulators began and in May 2005 Associated Bodywork and Massage Professionals (ABMP) convened a meeting of regulators and educators to address issues common to their members. Attended by representatives from seven regulated states along with educators from around the country, this group recognized the need for an organization to formally bring the regulatory community together.

The concerns of most significance were the need for the provision of a valid and reliable licensing exam and the desire to bring commonality in licensing requirements to assist with reciprocity and professional mobility.

This commitment was realized when the group moved to form an interim organization for the purpose of bringing the concept forward. The "Federation of State Massage Therapy Boards" name was selected and an interim board consisting of all the regulators in attendance was established. This group was then charged with conducting research into other like organizations, reaching out to the community for feedback, drafting bylaws and planning a meeting to formally establish the organization.

Between May and September of 2005 the interim board fulfilled its mandate by visiting with several organizations both in person and by phone. The information and resources gained from these meetings supported the development of bylaws and assisted the interim board in developing a clearer understanding of what entities like the FSMTB bring to their respective professions.

In September 2005, the FSMTB held its formalizing meeting in Albuquerque, New Mexico prior to the annual AMTA convention. The meeting was attended by 22 states plus the District of Columbia. During this landmark event, bylaws were unanimously adopted and the first formal board was elected. In addition, conversations were held to better understand the needs and desires of the regulatory community.

Three key issues continued to rise to the surface:

- The need for consistent scopes of practice and entry level standards across the country
- The need for a valid and reliable licensing exam that would be accepted by all jurisdictions
- The need for a common database with licensing and disciplinary information and the ability to store critical documents.

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## **Notes from the Director,**

Welcome to what is the first in an ongoing series of quarterly newsletters. The purpose of these newsletters is to keep you abreast with what is going on in your profession as well as with the Indiana State Board of Massage Therapy. Each edition will offer a FAQ section where our administrative staff will address your frequently asked questions. Feel free to email us at [pla6@pla.in.gov](mailto:pla6@pla.in.gov) to ask your questions or voice concerns; indicate in the subject line "**Newsletter. MT**" and you will see your questions, comments, and concerns addressed in a future publication... *Tasha Coleman*

Since the September 2005 meeting, the Board of Directors and committee members have been working diligently to establish a foundation upon which to build the organization and beginning the work necessary to carry out the desires of the states.

## **Frequently Asked Questions:**

### **Where do I get an application?**

Visit us at [www.pla.in.gov](http://www.pla.in.gov), on the left hand side, you will see a link for professions, click on that link, and then you will scroll down to the Massage Therapy link. This is where you will find the massage therapy application, instructions and checklist.

### **Is it mandatory that I have Liability Insurance?**

Yes. You will need to contact any licensed insurance agent and request professional liability insurance. You must list the state of Indiana on the policy as an "additionally insured". The insurance company will request an address for the State of Indiana; please use our mailing address of: 402 W. Washington Street, RM W072, Indianapolis, IN 46204.

### **I took a state constructed exam for another state will the state of Indiana accept those exam results for certification?**

No, you must take one of the four national exams that this board has reviewed and approved (information can be found on our website).