

**Proposed Bylaws Recommendation to the 2010 House of Delegates**  
*Submitted by the AMTA-Arizona Chapter*

**Date Submitted:** February 21, 2010

**Authors:** Jan Schwartz and Tee Wills, [lmtwills@comcast.net](mailto:lmtwills@comcast.net) \ Delegate: Michelle Cordero, Arizona

**Authorized by Chapter:** Board Approved, October 31, 2009  
Arizona Membership Approved: January 31, 2010

**Subject:** AMTA Membership Criteria

**Whereas:**

Distance education is the fastest growing sector of education in the U.S., and

According to the U.S. Department of Education 32 states have virtual school programs, and

According to the same study, outcomes in distance education are equal to or better than brick and mortar learning, and

According to the same study, hybrid programs are shown to have better outcomes than fully brick and mortar programs, and

More students are looking for flexibility in their learning environments, and

Schools have the right to determine the delivery method of their programs, and

Educators have the expertise to determine which of their courses are appropriate for online delivery, and

Distance education courses can be constructed with appropriate instructor supervision, and

All accrediting agencies, including COMTA, accept distance education for massage therapy, and

More students may be able to take advantage of massage therapy training, and

There is no known financial impact other than the potential for increased student membership,

**Therefore, House of Delegates recommends the following bylaws change:**

### **ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP**

#### **Section 1. General Eligibility**

AMTA may grant membership to any individual or entity who:

- A. Meets the qualifications set forth for each classification of membership in AMTA;
- B. Shares interest in and supports the purposes of AMTA;
- C. Abides by these Bylaws, AMTA's Code of Ethics, and other policies, rules and regulations that AMTA may adopt;
- D. Meets additional criteria for each category of membership that the National Board of Directors may establish.

#### **Section 2. Membership Classifications and Qualifications**

Membership in the Association shall be divided as follows: Professional, Student, Massage Therapy Schools and Educators, Supporting, and Honorary. An individual or legal entity may hold only one (1) classification of membership.

##### **A. Professional Classification**

###### **1. Professional Active**

- a. Must graduate from any supervised 500 hour minimum entry-level program **with supervised in-class hours for hands-on courses**, or must pass an exam recognized by AMTA as identified in AMTA policy or must have an AMTA-accepted state license, certification, or registration.
- b. For any jurisdiction in which the member practices massage, the member must hold a valid license, registration or certification issued by that state, territory, District of Columbia, or municipal government, if such credential is required by law to practice massage in that jurisdiction.
- c. In order to remain qualified for Professional Active membership, a member must complete continuing education in accordance with AMTA Policy.

###### **2. Professional Inactive**

- a. Must have been a Professional Active member and be temporarily not practicing massage therapy.

###### **3. Professional Retired**

- a. Must have been a Professional Active member and be retired from the massage profession by choice or disability.

##### **B. Student Classification**

- 1. Must be enrolled as a student in any 500 supervised hour minimum entry-level program **with supervised in-class hours for hands-on courses**, in the United States, its territories, or Canada.
- 2. May hold membership in this classification for no more than two (2) years.
- 3. Must not have previously held AMTA Professional Active, Inactive or Retired membership.

##### **C. Massage Therapy Schools and Educators Classification**

1. Must be school administering an entry level massage therapy program consisting of
  - a. minimum of 500 hours **with supervised in-class hours for hands on courses** and operating legally within its jurisdiction.

D. Supporting Classification

1. Must be an individual or a legal entity, not practicing massage but wishing to support and advance the profession of massage therapy through AMTA in accordance with the AMTA core purpose and goals.

E. Honorary Classification

1. Honorary membership is a special honor bestowed upon a person who has contributed exemplary service and/or knowledge that has benefited massage.