

MEMBERSHIP SUPPORT INITIATIVE & PAY IT FORWARD SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

As members of the small but mighty New England Region of the American Music Therapy Association, we know that we are all stronger and better when we are united together! Membership in our regional and national professional organization has given each of us so many incredible benefits that it is too much to list it all here, but we want to share with you some of the reasons why we are members.

BENEFITS OF BEING A MEMBER OF THE NEW ENGLAND REGION

- Discounted conference and CMTE registration
- Scholarships for conferences provided to members
- Regional job listings on our website
- Referrals to connect you with interested clients
- Networking with local colleagues
- Staying up to date on issues to related music therapy
- Support for state task forces related to state licensure and regulation
- Receive email updates via The Muse, the New England Region Electronic Newsletter sent to all members
- Leadership opportunities within NER-AMTA including committees, task forces, and the Regional Board
- Being a part of your professional regional organization that works to support each other and the development of our field

BENEFITS AS A MEMBER OF THE AMERICAN MUSIC THERAPY ASSOCIATION:

- *Journal of Music Therapy* (quarterly journal)
- *Music Therapy Perspectives* (bi-annual journal)
- AMTA literature (fact sheets, research bibliographies, standards of practice, and mailings of professional interest)
- AMTA's job center which contains job listings and help in finding a job or improving your employment
- AMTA TechStop: tutorials and tips from the AMTA technology committee
- AMTA e-courses: affordable, convenient, online continuing music therapy education at discounted prices
- Scholarships and grants
- Discounts on AMTA products and national conference registration
- Capitol Hill presence - government relations activities including monitoring of legislation and regulations related to health and education
- State recognition initiatives and support
- Communication with federal and state agencies for recognition of music therapy

We love being members of AMTA, and we want each and every music therapist in our region to join us to make our field and our profession stronger. After all that we have each invested in our training to become a music therapist, the modest annual dues to AMTA help to keep our profession strong and vibrant!

WHAT IS THIS REALLY ALL ABOUT?

The Membership Support Initiative and the Pay It Forward Campaign is designed to welcome all professional music therapists who want to be part of the New England Region and the AMTA to become a full member! The goal of this program is to welcome as many new professional members to the region as we can. Don't overthink it, just submit it.

The New England Region AMTA Board has committed to using donations and budgeted funds to help you get in the game and be part of your professional organization. Maybe you were a member in the past, but for whatever reason, you haven't renewed your membership lately. Maybe you haven't been a member since you qualified for the student discount. Or maybe you've been buried with student loans and other life expenses and you just didn't think you could afford to join this year. If you want to be a member, then we want you to apply for this unique opportunity. The New England Region needs you!

WHO QUALIFIES

All Board Certified Music Therapists! We want to help as many music therapists living in Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Connecticut as possible! With this funding we want to welcome seasoned professionals, new professionals, new NER-AMTA members, and previous NER-AMTA members to join and be a part of the AMTA and the New England Region! This includes past recipients of the Pay-It-Forward scholarship program. Students are not eligible to apply for this scholarship. Please check www.neramta.org for student scholarship opportunities.

WHEN ARE APPLICATIONS DUE?

Applications are due December 9th. Decisions about membership support awards will be made by December 18th.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

This is a “Pay It Forward” Campaign. When you apply, we ask you to commit to a dollar amount that you can contribute towards your membership fee. We also ask you to commit to a non-financial contribution to the region. In this way, you will pay your membership assistance forward to support the profession and music therapy in our region. We give you some ideas of how you can pay it forward, and we also welcome your ideas about what else you think you can do to contribute to our amazing field! At the end of the year, we ask that you submit a summary by email of how you were able to pay-it-forward during your scholarship year.

HOW WILL THE AWARDS BE DISTRIBUTED

We want to use the funds we have available to help the largest number of people possible to become members. Awards will be determined based on the following considerations:

- Stated desire to be a part of the NER Region and of AMTA (40%)
- Commitment to pay the gift of membership forward (40%)
- Amount of support requested (20%)

A blind review will take place to ensure applicant confidentiality. One member of the committee will be the ‘distributor’ and will remove all identifying information before distributing to the ‘reviewers’. Once this process is complete, a small group of NER volunteers (the ‘reviewers’) will read the applications, survey the need, and make recommendations based on the three considerations listed above. Once decisions are finalized, NER will coordinate with awardees and AMTA to ensure that AMTA receives the awarded dollar amount to help support our professional members! We anticipate awarding 40+ Membership Support awards, so we encourage everyone to apply!

WHAT DO I NEED TO DO?

- First decide and say to yourself, “Yes, I would love to be a member of NER-AMTA!”
- Contact membershipsupport@musictherapynewengland.org for a link to the current scholarship application.

As members of the New England Region and the American Music Therapy Association, we love being members and we know you will too! Please join us and become a member through this Membership Support Initiative! If you have any questions, please contact Marissa Scott at membershipsupport@musictherapynewengland.org. We look forward to seeing why you want to be a member and how you will pay your membership forward!