

Synopsis of CAMTC meeting held 9/19/13 -

Nine folks joined in for lively conversation over Mexican food (and desserts!) at the CAMTC gathering on Thursday, September 19th – many thanks to all who attended!

One of the first questions from someone who hadn't attended a CAMTC meeting before was, "Is there an agenda?" – and the answer was a very happy "NO, no agenda! We'll just see how it plays out –"

We talked about lots of things, including weddings, children, anniversaries, health challenges, events (such as the recent MT volunteer contributions to the Women's 4-Miler program), expanding our referral lists, experiences with MT training programs, finding out what types of massage each person was most interested in, unusual client scenarios, maintaining client confidentiality in a social-discussion setting, a recommendation for the book The Educated Heart, and oddly enough, the potential for misrepresentation of professional massage therapy (to allow for illicit sex-trade activities) right here in the Charlottesville area.

This last discussion topic was prompted by seeing articles in the ABMP magazine from Jan/Feb 2013, and by several of us having heard the same recent NPR interview on the increase in human trafficking, both within the U.S. and internationally. My take on the conversation was that the subject was uncomfortable to even consider, let alone discuss in earnest, but folks at the table were doing a great job overcoming their reticence, sharing ideas and observations in a professional manner. Although we didn't delve deeply into details at the gathering, I believe we all have seen inappropriate advertisements which would make any professional cringe. Over and over again, each year, despite the complaints of professional therapists, the publishers of Cville's phone book continue to post inappropriate ads – See below for an image from page 191 of the most current December 2012 Century Link/Dex (www.dexknows.com) Charlottesville phone book if you need an example! Evidently there are many more advertisements for "massage" on BackPage and on CraigsList, as well. If we think this issue is NIMBY - Not in MY Back Yard – then we need to think again. It's an example of "Hiding in Plain Sight", which just happened to be the title of one of the ABMP articles, referenced below in internet links for easy access.

Given that the issue of some activities being (mis)-represented as professional massage therapy services reflects badly on all certified professional MTs, and that individuals may be put in harm's way by engaging in such activities, the group agreed to continue this topic of discussion, even though it's an uncomfortable one, to try to: 1) identify the scope of the issue in Cville, and if necessary, to 2) encourage proper application of licensing and zoning regulations, and 3) to promote the enforcement by police of laws already in place.

To that end, Mr. Rodney Thomas, member of the Albemarle County Board of Supervisors representing the Rio District, has been invited to attend our next gathering, which will be a potluck dinner held on **Thursday, October 24th at 6:00**, at the home of one our members. Directions available at the time of RSVP to: dee@deecompression.com or by voice/text to 434-242-4887.

Below are some links and attachments for you to consider, including an ad from the current Century Link phone book yellow pages, links to the 2 articles from ABMP on Human Trafficking, and a synopsis of the book, The Educated Heart.

That's it for the moment –we hope to see many colleagues at the next meeting in October, so please feel free to spread the word, and send folks to <http://www.deecompression.com/CAMTC.html> for more information!

With Many Thanks,

Dee



<http://www.abmp.com/textonlymags/article.php?article=584>
ABMP article "Hiding in Plain Sight" Jan/Feb 2013 issue

<http://www.abmp.com/textonlymags/article.php?article=585>
ABMP article: "Massage Is Legal – Human Trafficking Is Not"

From www.amazon.com :

The Educated Heart: Professional Boundaries for Massage Therapists and Bodyworkers (LWW In Touch Series) [Paperback] Nina McIntosh MSW (Author)

The Educated Heart demystifies the important issues of establishing professional relationships in the manual therapies. The author uses humor, compassion, and humanity to present this complicated content in terms that are highly readable and engaging. The book includes real-life examples and practical solutions to dilemmas and sensitive situations that all bodyworkers face in their everyday practice.

A companion website includes downloadable video clips depicting problematic boundary situations commonly experienced by bodyworkers and massage therapists.