

HISTORY OF A.M.T.A.  
(Formerly A.A.M.M.)

August 16, 1943, the Post Graduate class of the College of Swedish Massage located on East Ohio Street in Chicago, Illinois, while in session for a question period, was presented with the idea of forming an association of Masseurs and Masseuses. The purpose of it would be to further the interest of its members and be a means to help each other become more efficient in their work.

We have been unable to locate the letter or copy of it in which Milton Niedfelt wrote to Dean Swanson at the College of Swedish Massage in early 1943 suggesting that they start an organization in their school for massage operators. (In this matter we must rely on memory. Dean Swanson remembered receiving the letter but did not recall who wrote it.)

Many of the classmates were members of other organizations but were dissatisfied with them because they felt the membership lists were used as sucker lists for salesmen. The following officers were elected; President Charles Williams, Sausalita, California, Vice President Sgt. Ira Lewis, Colfax, Washington, Secretary E. D. Easter, Indianapolis, Indiana and Treasurer Mrs. Glenn Gaevert, Anderson, Indiana. The pledge was formulated and the office of the College of Swedish Massage mimeographed many copies of it. All members of the class who were interested in the new association signed the pledge. Out of forty-one persons in the class, twenty-nine signed and paid the first years' dues of 50¢. At this time Harry McConnell, Registrar of the College of Swedish Massage, was given Honorary Membership in the A.A.M.M.

The name decided upon was to be the American Association of Masseurs and Masseuses, abbreviated to be A.A.M.M. Motions were made and agreed upon that the Secretary was to get out a monthly bulletin and a Certificate of Membership. (In the meantime a similar group was being organized in Washington State. See foreword)

In December 1943, Easter thought it advisable that he resign his office because he was working long hours in the war effort and did not have the time. His resignation was accepted and Mrs. Gaevert was asked if she could take on the added office of Secretary. She declined because of pressure of family and business, suggesting several others, who also refused to take on the job. A letter was sent out to all members asking for volunteers. No one wanted the responsibility but many suggested that Charles Williams take on the office of Secretary. For the first year the office of President and Secretary were combined.

1944

Early in 1944, Mrs Gaevert asked to be relieved of her office of Treasurer and forwarded the records and funds to Charles Williams, therefore the Treasurers job was added to that of President and Secretary. Vice-president Ira Lewis, Colfax, Washington was prevailed upon to take over the office of President, which he did. The two offices of Secretary and Treasurer were combined and have remained so. This arrangement gave Charles Williams more time to devote

to the drive for membership, many times drawing upon his personal funds to supplement the 50¢ dues, and the membership began to grow.

1945

In 1945, President Lewis asked to be relieved of his office and suggested Clark Cottrell, Aberdeen, Washington, to take his place. Mr. Cottrell was contacted and he agreed to act as President.

During this year there was much stretching and growing and members suggested that the Association should have a National Constitution and By-laws. Charles Williams secured copies of the constitution and by-laws of other associations. (One of the copies that he secured was the one that the Seattle Association of Masseurs and Masseuses had adopted November 1, 1944.) From these he formulated the Constitution that was ready in time for the first National Convention at Kansas City in 1946. In the meantime the drive for new members was still going strong and by convention time there were sixty-eight members, fourteen of them present at Convention.

1946

The First National Convention opened on August 14, 1946 in the Continental Hotel, Kansas City, Missouri with President Cottrell presiding at the meeting. The proposed Constitution and By-laws were read by Ira Lewis and Mrs. Gaevort and was adopted.

Officers Cottrell and Williams were re-elected and Blanche E. Petrie was elected Vice-President. The dues were increased to \$2.50 per year and a \$5.00 fee added as application fee. This was done in order to bring in the necessary funds to carry on the work of the organization. The Secretary-treasurer was authorized to make all arrangements for future national conventions.

During this year Williams was able to get the little news bulletin "The Masseur" rolling nicely. It was a big help in his organizational work, and to keep members posted as to meetings. It made a good sounding board for members to air their views.

In this first convention Ermal Rothgeb, Winthrop, Washington, was appointed as Washington State Secretary-treasurer and was charged with the duty of bringing the Washington Massage Operators into the A.A.M.M. Four members of the Washington Massage Operators were Charter Members of the A.A.M.M. They were; Clark Cottrell, Ermal Rothgeb, and Pearl and Ira Lewis.

In addition to business matters that were taken care of in the 1946 meeting, lectures and demonstrations were given by Eunice D. Ingham, Harry McConnell, John Granger, Ira Lewis and a round table discussion was conducted by Clyde E. Walton, Kansas City, Kansas, Ermal Rothgeb, Winthrop, Washington, James C. Sigler, Evansville, Indiana and Geneva Anderson, Kansas City, Kansas.

The Souvenir Program was a pretty blue and white professionally printed pamphlet listing the entire program beginning Wednesday, August 14, 1946 through Friday, August 16, 1946 and containing four advertisements and the poem "Take Hood".

Here is a side light on this our first convention that astonished officers at the time. When it was found that Kansas City, Missouri, being centrally located, was agreeable to most of our members for a convention, we wrote the visitors bureau for a list of hotels having convention facilities. Upon receipt

of the list, six hotels were selected and we sent letters to them asking for a date for our convention. All replied that they could not give us the date requested. They had no openings for us.

As all our plans were completed for this meeting, a wire was sent to the Convention Bureau, asking for some place where we could meet. We suggested the Y.M.C.A. if no other place could be had. A reply from Mr. Boling, manager of the Convention Bureau, stated the Continental Hotel would give us our date.

Upon arrival in Kansas City, Williams called on Mr. Boling to inquire why the hesitancy in giving us our location, and was bluntly informed that the name of Masseur and Masseuses did not have a very good standing in Kansas City and they were afraid of us. Both Mr. Boling and Mr. DeGeorge, manager of the Continental Hotel, were invited to come into our meeting and judge for themselves. They came to the opening meeting and after a half hour, left assuring the Secretary they were glad we were there, and later stated they would do all they could to help us in our cause, because they found us to be a group of sincere and conscientious people whose aim was to use our talents to help relieve suffering humanity, and that we could count on them for future references.

Mrs. Taylor had held a meeting in her home on March 10, 1946 to attempt to get the massage operators around Spokane, Washington interested in becoming members of Washington Massage Operators, but was not successful.

November 3, 1946 a meeting of the Massage Operators of Washington met at the office of Ivar Larson in Wenatchee, Washington. There was much discussion concerning the A. F. of L. who were bringing pressure to bear on the group to join with them. Mrs. Ermal Rothgeb presented the idea that the group should extend themselves as a massage group rather than join with A. F. of L. Clark Cottrell told the meeting about the National A.A.M.M. stating that he was National President and extending an invitation to them to join with this group and encourage others to become members also. Milton Niedfelt wrote to Cottrell inquiring about the requirements for membership. This request was referred to Charles Williams and information was sent to Niedfelt telling him that four or more members could start a state chapter. He was the first to join and together with Ermal Rothgeb, Ivar Larson and Clark Cottrell had many meetings and wrote many letters to perfect plans for a meeting in Soap Lake, Washington on July 26, 1947.

1947

At last the Great Day arrived! Sunday afternoon, July 26, 1947, at 2:30 P.M. the Washington Massage Operators voted that the officers stand instructed to not receive any more dues or new members into the Massage Operators of Washington and that the Secretary be instructed to notify all members of this action and see that every member got an application to join the A.A.M.M. The meeting was adjourned forever and the Convention of the Washington State Chapter of the A.A.M.M. was immediately opened by Clark Cottrell. Officers were elected to conduct the A.A.M.M. Chapter. Ermal Rothgeb, acting Secretary-treasurer, asked to be relieved of her appointed office and Milton Niedfelt was elected to replace her. Ivar Larson was newly elected as State President of Washington Chapter of A.A.M.M. Members present at this meeting were; Oliver Davis, Eleanor Phohaska, Mrs. Lola Nechel, Leston P. Short, Lillian Dahlberg, Hank Gochamour, Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Marsh, Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Perry, O. O. O'Donnel, F. M. Spees, Mr. and Mrs. Clark Cottrell, Ermal Rothgeb, Florence Taylor, Milton Niedfelt and Ivar Larson. Discussion was held and plans laid to invite the National to meet in Washington in 1948. (Short and Niedfelt remain members to the day this was written.)

Cottrell went straight from this meeting in Soap Lake, Washington to the 1947 National Convention in Kansas City, Missouri and extended them an invitation to hold the 1948 Convention in Washington State. It was accepted after several Washington members sent telegrams and letters.

The 1947 National Convention was to be held in Henderson, Kentucky, but due to the fact that the only member there was resigning from the A.A.M.M. we were left without a meeting place. A wire was sent to Kansas City, Missouri and the Continental Hotel cancelled another small convention to make room for us and once again the Convention convened in Kansas City, Missouri.

August 7, 1947, National Convention opened its Second Annual Convention with ten members and fourteen visitors registered. It was at this meeting that the first Board of Directors were elected, one each from the North, South, East and West. Elected were; Gerva Connor, Kansas City, Kansas, Mao Stover, Arkansas, Archie Corey, Michigan and Arthur Molson, Illinois. The present officers were re-elected. Dues and fees were increased to \$7.00 application fee and \$5.00 dues. A salary of 15¢ per active member per month was voted for the National Secretary-treasurer.

A report was given by Charles Williams that there were now one hundred and twenty-six paid up members representing thirty-eight states. Due to the change in convention location the Convention Program was a type-written sheet with the three days schedule on it. Lecturers and demonstrators were; John Granger, Harry McConnell, Paul Wendel and Gerald Peterson.

At the close of the 1947 meeting Charles Williams was instructed to return home by way of Seattle.

Fourteen new members joined in a meeting held in Seattle, bringing the total to twenty-two for the Washington Chapter, and plans went forward for the coming National Convention. Election of officers was held and Milton Niedfelt was put in as President of the Washington Chapter and Fred M. Spees was elected Secretary-treasurer. The question of some sort of revenue to support State Chapters was discussed.

The November 3, 1947 meeting held in Seattle found the Seattle Association of Massage Operators voting to disband in favor of A.A.M.M. Funds on hand were to be held by Lyman Archibald and used to entertain the 1948 National Convention of A.A.M.M.

In September 1947 Niedfelt, as state President, was charged with the job of organizing the Spokane Chapter. Mrs. Florence Taylor was the only member in Spokane. This proved to be a trying but successful job.

#### 1948

The first annual Washington State Convention was held July 11, 1948, and at this time plans were laid to make a successful National National Convention August 6th, 7th, and 8th, 1948. It was at this meeting that Milton Niedfelt and Carol were united in Holy Matrimony by Dr. Clark Cottrell, a retired Minister of the Gospel. Carol Niedfelt proved to be a most loyal helpmate to Milton and worked diligently for the A.A.M.M. She was loved and cherished by all who know her. She was given Honorary Membership into the A.A.M.M. in later years.

During the year of 1948 members were working hard to form State Chapters and meetings were called all over the U.S.A.

The August 6, 1948 National Convention was held in the Fryo Hotel in Seattle with a good attendance, mostly from the state of Washington, one from Canada and two from Arkansas. Mr. Levine from the Seattle Mayor's office addressed the group giving a gracious welcome and a boost to all present. On opening day there were forty-six members present, with sixty-two present the second day. It was at this convention that the A.A.M.M. was put on its feet for the first time. Five new members were accepted into the Association. The souvenir Program was a beautiful blue and yellow eight page pamphlet.

Four resolutions were presented by the Washington Chapter and were passed. One, pertaining to a raise in fees from \$7.00 to \$10.00 to provide more funds for the state chapters making \$6.00 revert to the state; another, authorizing each State Chapter to form Branch City Chapters, and giving them power to put on fund raising projects to finance the Local Chapter.

A change was also made in the dispersement of part of the application fee. \$2.00 of the \$6.00 allowed the State Chapter was to go to the State Secretary-treasurer as remuneration or could be passed on to the member securing the application. A resolution was adopted requiring a yearly financial report instead of monthly reports as before required.

It was also resolved that a Charter in the form of a certificate was to be conferred upon the State and City Chapters both, authorizing them to function as an entire unit under the jurisdiction of the National A.A.M.M.

All officers were once again re-elected with Joe Hoisler acting as installation officer for President Cottrell and then Cottrell confirming all other officers. Hot Springs, Arkansas was chosen as convention site for 1949. Lectures and demonstrations were given by Bradbrook of Idaho, Harry McConnell, John Granger, Eunice Ingham, Lyman Archibald, E. T. Elkin, Ira Lewis, Charles F. Harroll and Paul Wendel. A banquet was held at 4 P.M. and a very pleasant and entertaining time was enjoyed by all. Thus ended our Third Annual National Convention.

December 21, 1948 Oregon held their first meeting to organize their Chapter.

#### 1949

January 29, 1949 Secretary-treasurer Williams and President Clark Cottrell went to Portland to present the Oregon Charter. Oregon Chapter officers were; President, Carl Lindell; Vice-president, Alice P. Jensen; and Secretary-treasurer, Alfred C. Trossen.

January 30, 1949 a meeting was called in Seattle and the granting of both the Washington State Charter and the Seattle Charter took place with Cottrell and Williams doing the honors. Officers of the City Chapter were Ethel McMahon, President and Frances Cunningham, Secretary-treasurer.

After consultation with National and State Officers concerning forming a Spokane Chapter, Milton Niedfelt wrote to Mrs. Taylor about it on February 13, 1949 to really get the ball rolling. March 18 1949, Niedfelt officially appointed Mrs. Taylor as temporary chairman and gave her permission to chose officers to help her. She appointed F. E. Bloom as Secretary-treasurer.

Spokane recieved their Charter on April 10, 1949 with eleven members present. It was presented by M. A. Niedfelt. Officers elected were; Mrs. Florence Taylor President and F. E. Bloom, Secretary-treasurer. Some very stable work was being done by members of the A.A.M.M. in Spokane to defeat a City Ordinance which

would have branded "Massage Parlor" as a house of prostitution.

At the meeting Milton Niedfelt gave a very rousing talk and fired the members to new efforts to build the Association. Carl Lindell of Oregon, who was present at the meeting, returned home with renewed vigor to plan their first annual meeting to be held June 26, 1949.

One result of the Spokane meeting was Carl Lindell's suggestion to have decals of our emblem made that members could display in their offices and on their cars. This matter was taken up at the next National Convention in 1949 and declared to be a fine idea.

June 26, 1949 the Washington Chapter held their Annual Convention in Spokane. Frank Cunningham was elected President. (He never called or attended a meeting afterward) Milton Niedfelt was elected Secretary-treasurer and Florence Taylor, Vice-president.

On August 5, 1949, the Fourth National Convention met in Hot Springs, Arkansas with forty-seven members and twenty-five guests present. Conventioneers were welcomed by the Chamber of Commerce after which a moment of silence was observed in memory of Ira Lewis, Ivar Larson and Betty Vesoth, all of Washington, whom we have lost from our shores forever.

The Arkansas Chapter was granted their Charter with Mae Stover Hughes, Arkansas President accepting it. Martha Savills, Virginia Chapter Secretary-treasurer and Sara Jane Beverly, Vice-president, received official presentation of the Virginia State Chapter Charter. President Alfred B. Male was unable to be present.

LoRoy Jones suggested that at future conventions, time be allowed for some site seeing. This has been done ever since. The question of decals was presented and adopted and put into effect before the year was up. The Secretary announced that Harry McConnells "Little Known Facts" were available to members. This leaflet is still the best advertisement our members can use.

The blue and gold convention program listed the following lecturers; Paul Wende Harry McConnell, John Granger, Dude Aldrich, Carl Lindell and J. B. McAnally. The banquet was held at 5:30 with Pearl Lewis and Mae Stover giving an hilarious demonstration of the right and wrong way to run a massage business.

There was some misunderstanding of the By-laws concerning a quorum and so no business was conducted in regard to constitution and by-laws. This was a sore subject and caused many hard feelings among the members. This matter was settled in the 1952 Convention. (There will be further explanation later in this report.)

Chicago was chosen for the 1950 National Convention.

September 26, 1948 and November 26, 1949, Wisconsin held their first meetings to attempt the formation of a State Chapter. Mildred Warnes and Mrs. Rondall worked very hard for some years before the Chapter was ever officially formed.

Arkansas Chapter had a charter signing meeting October 23, 1949, at the home of J. E. "Dude" Aldrich in Little Rock, Arkansas, with ten members out of fourteen present. A membership drive was the primary discussion of the meeting. A fine "feed" was furnished by Mrs. Aldrich. Officers that year were; Mae

Stover Hughes, President, J. B. McAnealy, Vice-president and Julian E. "Dude" Aldrich, Secretary-treasurer. A meeting was also held on May 21, 1950.

Illinois Chapter held their organizational meeting in Joliet, Illinois in October 1949. Elected officers were; President A. F. Riedel, Vice-president George Meridoth, Secretary-treasurer Arthur Melson, with Melson appointed as Convention Chairman. A November meeting was held to perfect plans for the National Convention.

## 1950

It was interesting to notice, while reading through old copies of "The Masseur" as far back as 1945, the growth of the Association in the first seven years. "The Masseur" in itself was much improved in 1950 over the earlier issues of 1945 and 1946. More news items began to appear as the Association expanded and new chapters were formed. By the year 1950, Secretary-treasurer Charles T. Williams, had a big job to keep up with everything. It was almost a full time job by now to compile and edit the paper as well as serve as Secretary-treasurer.

During this time in our history legislation became more and more important. Our members were becoming very concerned with existing conditions where massage parlors could operate unethically. The desire to up-grade our profession was strong and it could only be done in one way, which was by enactment of a "Registration Act". Officers were properly preparing such an "act" to be presented at the Chicago Convention in 1950. The purpose of it was to require registration and licensing of all massage operators within any given state in which it could become a law.

Meanwhile, a lot of thought and work went into the planning of a "Fifth Anniversary Souvenir Program and Directory". For the first time in our history ads were sold to members to list their places of business and all members were urged to participate.

Washington State Chapters met in Wenatchee on June 25, 1950. This was the first meeting called in the state since the 1949 convention. There was a very good attendance. Officers elected were; President Florence Taylor, Vice-president M. A. Niedfelt, Secretary-treasurer F. E. Bloom and Directors Arthur Mann, Dan Edwards, Ermal Rothgeb, Leston Short and George W. Lang.

Ermal Rothgeb, who was Washington's first A.A.M.M. Secretary-treasurer, acted as Installing Officer for the State and City Officers. Seattle Chapter officers were Paul Walthew, President and Regina V. Williams, Secretary-treasurer. Spokane Chapter officers were; President F. E. Bloom, Vice-president Russell Sopor and Secretary-treasurer Notta Mead.

July 9, 1950 saw the Oregon State Chapter gathered together in Coos Bay, Oregon for their annual meeting with Carl Lindell and Secretary-treasurer Alfred C. Trossen re-elected.

National Convention opened in Chicago, Illinois on August 6, 1950 with President Cottrell presiding. J. E. Aldrich was appointed Secretary-treasurer Pro-tem in the absence of Charles T. Williams who was unable to attend the convention due to illness.

The "Massage Registration Act" was unanimously adopted and members were urged to get busy and get the bill passed through Legislature in their home states.

An amendment to the Constitution and By-laws made it mandatory for the local Chapter where future conventions were to be held, to have full charge of all plans for convention under the supervision of national officers. A change was made in convention policy, whereby, non-members were not allowed in the meeting unless they were the guest of a member.

In this National Convention members thought some of the work of administration should be spread around. They voted to add four more Vice-presidents to help carry the load. The duties of these officers were not laid out, but it was expected that President Cottrell would assign each Vice-president their duties. Officers elected were; President Clark Cottrell, Washington, 1st Vice-president Blanche E. Petrie, New York, 2nd Vice-President Milton A. Niedfelt, Washington, 3rd Vice-president J. E. "Dude" Aldrich, Arkansas, 4th Vice-president Rev. A. J. Griswold, 5th Vice-president Earl Alexander, Illinois, Secretary-treasurer Chas. T. Williams, California and Directors, Arthur D. Melson, Illinois, Gerva Connor, Kansas, Florence Taylor, Washington and Mae Stover, Arkansas.

The ladies looked lovely in their semi-formal dresses for the banquet on Saturday evening, and the men had to "look alive" to keep up to the gals.

Denver, Colorado was selected as Convention City for 1951.

Illinois Chapter had a meeting on September 19, 1950 at the office of Arthur D. Melson, Joliet, Illinois with nineteen members present. Mr. D. G. Wamsley of Chicago gave a fine talk and demonstration of Hydro-therapy. Officers elected for the ensuing year were; President Martin Weinrich, Vice-president George L. Merideth, Secretary-treasurer Arthur D. Melson and Directors Earl Alexander, Della Williams, Irene T. Harness, William P. Dandurand and Vern Mullholand.

They held a Directors meeting November 12, 1950 in preparation for a meeting to be held in Chicago in the new year of 1951 on January 28th. At this meeting members from the states of Indiana, Wisconsin and Minnesota were invited.

Gerva Connors, Kansas and Mrs. O. P. Coates, Jr., Texas were appointed as Secretary-treasurers of their states and asked to get chapters organized.

Kansas and Missouri Chapters were organized by November 1950. Both Chapters held several meetings and the following officers were elected: Kansas Chapter; President Ruth L. Groth, Vice-president Ollie Bruce, Secretary-treasurer Gerva Connor, Missouri Chapter; President Walter W. Cargyle, Vice-President Elsie N. Sweeney and Secretary-treasurer Bernice King.

An organizational meeting was held December 10, 1950 in Hammond, Indiana with officers W. E. Atkinson, President, Giesle Silberschlag, Vice-president and Mary Felton, Secretary-treasurer elected.

1951

Evelyn Shubert, appointed Secretary-treasurer of Iowa, sent out dozens of letters to prospective members. In January, 1951, they received their Charter at Charles City. Officers were; President Floy Brownlie, Vice-president Mina McGreery and Secretary-treasurer Evelyn Shubert. Directors Ella Blodget, Jo Faulkhouser and Van Thompson. A second meeting was held on October 7, 1951.

Illinois State Chapter meetings were held March 18, 1951 and May 20, 1951. The second one was election time. Officers were elected! They were President Earl Alexander, Vice-president Gilbert Schmitt, Secretary-treasurer Arthur Melson



and Directors James J. Jellings, Martin Weinrich, George L. Merideth and Jack Koppler.

Washington, Illinois and California all had bills presented in legislature during 1951 but they failed to pass. Arkansas and Oregon both passed a bill requiring a license to give massage.

Denver, Colorado was unable to give us a date for convention until September. It was decided by Charles Williams to change the convention site to Kansas City. This change in plans was resented by some of the members and other officers and some hard feelings were created over it, however, Williams proceeded with plans for the meeting. Washington declined to attend and urged the President to proceed as formerly planned, to no avail.

Spokane Chapter had a meeting May 25, 1951 which was held at Netta Mead's new office building and was in the form of a "house warming". The following officers were elected; President Donald Edwards, Vice-president Russell Soper and Secretary-treasurer F. E. Bloom.

Washington State Chapter met June 24, 1951 at Pasco, Washington. A memorial service was held for Fred Spees and Mrs. Spees was given Honorary Membership. Paul Walthew was appointed Chairman of the Legislative Committee. Officers elected were; President Florence M. Taylor, Vice-president Milton Niedfelt and Secretary-treasurer F. E. Bloom. Directors were Don Edwards, Arthur Mann, Ermal Rothgob, Leston Short and Paul Walthew. Installing Officer was Ruth E. Williams.

It was at this meeting that Washington members felt the need of being a closer knit unit. To accomplish this it was decided to send out a "state news letter" to all Washington members and National Officers. The name chosen was "Washington Massage News" and it was to be a quarterly publication. The first editor was Milton Niedfelt, with Arthur Mann and Paul Walthew assisting him. Publication began September 1951 and members enjoyed the little paper. For several years the "Washington Massage News" played the part of organizer and was an inspiration to the National Officers. It brought our members together in a common loyalty to fight for our rights and to protect the members.

The need for legislative funds in Washington sparked the \$3.00 per month voluntary pledge program that was instituted in which several hundreds of dollars were raised.

July 8, 1951 a meeting was called in Portland, Oregon. Officers were; President John Hanna, Vice-president Eloise Salvik, and Secretary-treasurer Alfred Trossen. Another meeting was held September 9, 1951. All sorts of problems were coming to the attention of Oregon members due to the massage bill which had been passed in their state. Although the bill was passed, there was a lot that was undesirable in the way it was administered. No Massage Therapists were on the Board of Examiners, it had been placed under the Board of health.

Martha Savills reported that Virginia held their state meeting July 13, 1951. All officers were re-elected.

July 15, 1951 Iowa state meeting was held in Des Moines. All officers were re-elected.

July 28, 1951 Georgia State Chapter organized. Officers elected were; President

Arnold Ingeman, Vice-president Martha McLeod and Secretary-treasurer D. S. Carlson. A charter signing meeting was called on September 8, 1951. This was the second meeting called. They suggested a state slogan that would have been a good one for the entire association, "In every rank, both great and small, May love, direct and support us all."

July 29, 1951 twelve members gathered for the organizational meeting in Kearney, Nebraska. Charles Williams presided as Chairman and officers elected were; President Gladys Weiler, Vice-president Leora Johns and Secretary-treasurer Clarence Jones. Nebraska was deep in the work of getting a bill passed in legislature. Members spent many hours in conferences with lobbyists, legislators and representatives to acquaint them with their "act" and work out the bugs in it.

On August 3, 1951, the Sixth National Convention was welcomed by Kansas City Mayor William Kemp. Considering that Kansas City had suffered a severe flood prior to the meeting, a very good attendance of some forty members and guests were present.

All bills were paid and a cash balance of \$62.50 was left in the treasury. The charter was presented to officers of the newly organized state of Georgia. The four vice-presidents who had been added in the 1950 convention caused Charles Williams too much conflict of opinions, so the convention voted to return to having only one vice-president. The 2.00 percentage that was paid to the sponsor of new members was also eliminated.

Elected officers were; President Clark Cottrell, Vice-president Alfred C. Trosson, Secretary-treasurer Charles T. Williams and Directors Mae Stover Hughes, Delbert Vincent, Gorva Connor and Martha Savills. (Martha had the misfortune to fall and break her arm at this convention, which put a damper on the fun.)

"The Masseur" which had up to this time been edited by Charles Williams was turned over to the President to be edited by him thereafter until further notice. At this meeting many interesting demonstrations were given by the following members; Dr. Charles Brooks, Martha McLeod, Van Hoaks, Edward Owen, Carl E. Wray and Sandy Wilson. Some very educational talks were also given.

Chicago was selected for the 1952 convention and the Illinois Chapter was to have full charge of all arrangements.

Illinois Chapter held their first hostess state pre-convention meeting September 23, 1951 with sixteen members. Pearl Lewis gave a report of the National Convention. Jack C. Tippet, a blind masseur, gave an interesting talk on massage. Melson was appointed to contact Congress Hotel where the convention was to be held. The following committees were appointed; Chairman Arthur D. Melson, Registry, Pearl Lewis, Advertising, Gilbert E. Schmitt and Program, Earl Alexander.

Clark Cottrell had taken over the editors job on "The Masseur" and put out his first issue in October 1951. Funds to publish it came in by contribution and for several months he operated on a "shoestring and a prayer". It had to be cut to a bi-monthly publication. News was scarce and from the lack of co-operation from Charles Williams by not forwarding the news received from other Chapters, the paper died of starvation before convention time in 1952.

On September 30, 1951, a meeting at La Porte, Indiana was held with the follow-

ing officers being elected; President Clarence Rebber, Vice-president Vera Setty and Secretary-treasurer Mary A. Felton.

October 14, 1951, the Nebraska Chapter held their monthly meeting at Broken Bow, in the offices of Grace Cotton. Demonstrations were given by Harold D. Collins and Mrs. Cotton. Mrs. Englerup and Mrs. Deppe were put on the Resolutions Committee. An excellent dinner was enjoyed by all present.

Tennessee organizational meeting was held on October 15, 1951 with Beatrice M. Smith elected as President, Mrs. Selma Smith, 1st Vice-president and Gold S. M. Young as 2nd Vice-president. T. B. Simon was installed as Secretary-treasurer.

Illinois Chapter held another pre-convention meeting on November 4, 1951 and several ads were sold in the Convention Program.

All officers were re-elected in Arkansas. They were having trouble enforcing their "act". A test case had to be taken to court to prove that employees in government bathhouses had to register, as well as those in private business. The case was won in court and the bathhouse workers had to get licenses also. J. E. "Dude" Aldrich had been appointed to the Board of Examiners by the Arkansas Governor. He was finding that there were a lot of mistakes in their "Massage Act" in Arkansas. They were denied the privilege of drawing any money from the treasury to pay incurred bills because the Act failed to name an appropriation in the maximum total dollars and cents and they had to wait until the Legislature met again in 1953 to add amendments to make the bill retroactive and in order to pay inspectors and etc. who were entitled to remuneration. All of these things caused a lot of confusion and delays that took considerable time to correct.

In the meantime, some of the members were beginning to resent the dominating manner in which Charles Williams handled the affairs of the A.A.M.M. and a movement was underfoot to replace him at the next convention. They also thought a change of presidents was in order. Mr. Cottrell was very hard of hearing which made it very hard for him to conduct meetings. Mr. Cottrell was aware of these undercurrents and in September 1951 he resigned from the presidency and appointed Alfred Trossen, Vice-president as acting President. A short time afterward Mr. Cottrell informed Mr. Trossen that it was illegal and that he (Cottrell) would have to continue as President.

Milton Niedfelt, who had been at cross fire with Williams for some time, resigned from the A.A.M.M. October 19, 1951 and sent in his Certificate of Membership. In a day or two he wished he had not done so and wrote asking for it back. Cottrell refused to send it to him and held it until he was ordered to return it to Niedfelt by the Board of Directors at National Convention the following August.

## 1952

An important meeting on February 10, 1952, was the first Tri-State meeting ever to be held by A.A.M.M. members. Wisconsin, Indiana and Illinois members were gathered together as a pre-convention planning group. All committees were briefed as to further duties at this time.

Illinois was not only hostess chapter but was busily preparing a bill for legislature. At about this time "The Masseur" was almost defunct and Illinois needed a better way to keep its members posted as to meetings and other activities in the State Chapter, therefore "The Masseur, Illinois Chapter" was first

printed with Charles Brooks as Editor. This little paper was a professional looking pamphlet that was compiled by Dr. Brooks and printed on his own printing machine. This made Illinois the second State to put out their own paper. Dr. Brooks did such a fine job that he was urged to accept the Editor's job of "The Masseur" for the National Association.

According to the July 1952 issue of the Illinois paper plans were all set for the annual National Convention of the A.A.M.M. Final plans were perfected in the June 28th meeting at Joliet, Illinois in Melson's Health Center.

Martha Savills reported that the Virginia Chapter held their meeting January 10, 1952. Martha was still suffering from her accident at the Kansas City convention. She was several years recovering from it because of complications.

Kansas Chapter met January 23, 1952 in Kansas City, at the G. and M. Health Studio, and plans were discussed for the 1952 National Convention. At this meeting Francis A. Stinson was accepted as a member of the A.A.M.M.

Meanwhile at Seattle, Washington on June 6, 1952, a buffet lunch (where yours truly fell off of the armless davenport into the fireplace) at the Arthur Mann home made a nice start for the State Convention. Senator Hess and Senator Eastvold were guest speakers giving us much help and advice concerning our Bill. Officers installed were; President Florence Taylor, Vice-president Arthur Mann and F. E. Bloom as Secretary-treasurer. Directors were Don Edwards, Leston Short, Erma Rothgeb, Regina Williams and Paul Walthew with Ruth Williams as Installing Officer. Mr. Arthur Dunbar was added to the Legislative Committee of Paul Walthew, Arthur Mann and Dan Edwards. Dunbar's experience in legislative matters for the blind proved to be a great help to the Committee. Lyman Archibald, Bertha Reager and Regina Williams gave interesting demonstrations. Ruth E. Williams was appointed as Editor of the "Washington Massage News". Her first issue came out in July 1952. Copies were going out all over the U.S.A. to National Officers and subscribers. The editor received dozens of letters of encouragement and praise of the little paper which was still a quarterly publication.

At the Seventh National Convention in the Congress Hotel, Chicago, Illinois on August 7, 1952, there were forty-six voting members and several visitors registered by noon on Thursday. The following thirteen states were represented; Arkansas, Tennessee, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin, Kentucky, Kansas, Nebraska, California, Iowa, Texas and Washington.

The only resolution that was passed at this time was the one to raise the dues from \$5.00 to \$12.00, \$8.00 of which was to stay in the State Chapter. The other \$4.00 to be sent to the National Treasurer. It was disclosed at this meeting that "The Masseur" was \$80.63 in the red and Illinois Chapter assumed the privilege of paying for it.

National officers elected were; President Earl Alexander, Vice-president Florence Taylor, Secretary-treasurer D. S. Carlson and Directors Vera Setty, Martha Savills, Harold D. Collins and Beatrice Mae Smith. Officers were installed by Past President Cottrell and members voted Cottrell as President Emeritus.

The subject of whether a quorum was present or not came up again. The by-laws stated that one-sixth of the members and two-thirds of the officers in convention constituted a quorum. Charles Williams interpreted this to mean one-sixth of the membership at large and two-thirds of all officers. Members maintained

that it meant one-sixth and two-thirds of the members and officers present in convention. There was a great "hullaballu" (Charles Williams' words) and the disagreement had to be settled once and for all by changing the wording to read "two-thirds of all paid up members who are registered at the National Convention of A.A.M.M. shall constitute a quorum", thereby clarifying the question.

Newly elected President Alexander gave a very stirring talk and he was filled with plans to make "The Masseur" be self sustaining. He appointed Dr. Charles Brooks as Editor, whose first publication came out in Septer 1952 and it carried a full report of the past convention. The following was taken from his report: "Dr. Brooks demonstrated muscle co-ordination and separation. He put on an acrobatic act in which he supported the weight of his daughter and himself by his teeth."

Friday morning members went to Don McNeils "Breakfast Club" program. Don spent about fifteen minutes broadcasting some of the virtues of massage and the A.A.M.M. all over the U.S.A. Massage took on new life and meaning. Friday night everyone went by chartered bus to China Town for dinner and afterward for a tour of Chicago after dark. Members practically witnessed a gangland shooting. They heard the shot and saw the bloody victim. (This writer distinctly remembers having the feeling of being too close for comfort.)

The Banquet was the highlight of the Convention. It was attended one hundred percent which was made possible by the \$20.00 registration fee. Dr. Brooks acted as Master of Ceremonies and people were introduced, speeches were made and jokes were told. Kay Brooks entertained with pantomime numbers and Florence Taylor sang a couple of songs, and the evening broke up with a large number of members gathered around Ruth Williams at the piano singing songs until late.

Sunday morning and installation of officers by Dr. Brooks and off for home until convention in Spokane, Washington in 1953. The souvenier programs of this convention contained ads and for the first time a complete roster of members was included.

At this time in the history of the A.A.M.M., Secretary-treasurer D. S. Carlson was faced with a tremendous task. He took office with a \$2.65 balance from Charles Williams and a large deficiency in the trust fund. During this year he bonded himself and had the books audited by a C.P.A. for the first time. He ended the year with a cash balance of \$254.07 and only a \$60.29 deficiency in the trust. He took no salary for himself. (The trust fund was money that was to be held for States with no Chapters.)

Arthur D. Melson wrote to M. A. Niedfelt informing him that he had gone in the hole \$186.00 on the 1952 "Souvenier Year Book and Regiatry".

The Kentucky Chapter was organized by Delbert Vincent after National Convention in 1952. In a meeting at the Hotel Madison, Madisonville, Kentucky, the following officers were elected; President C. E. Seibert, Vice-president William P. Stoghill and Secretary-treasurer Delbert Vincent. Charter members of the Kentucky Chapter were; Ida Bell Gresham, Maron Simmons, Mary Simmons, Clyde Seibert, E. E. Stanley, William P. Stoghill and Delbert Vincent.

Illinois Chapter met September 28, 1952 at Melson's Health Center. It was a call meeting by the Secretary to discuss current and future policies of the Association and the planning of another Tri-State meeting of Iowa, Nebraska and Illinois. It was held October 26, 1952 in Moline, Illinois with Vice-president