

Federation of Therapeutic Massage, Bodywork,
and Somatic Practice Organizations

Membership Application Form

Organization Name _____

Contact Person _____

Address _____

Phone(s) _____ Fax _____

Email _____ Web site _____

Number of Members _____ Date incorporated _____

Please answer Yes or No to the following questions:

_____ Does your organization have a national or international scope?

_____ Do you have nonprofit 501(c) status, or its equivalent?

_____ **Has your organization developed professional Standards of Practice and does it expect your members to comply with those standards?

_____ **Has your organization adopted a standard of a minimum of 500 hours of in-class instruction within a structured program taught over a minimum of six months?

_____ **Has your organization adopted a Code of Ethics and an effective procedure to enforce compliance with the Code?

_____ Is your organization willing to endorse and abide by the Federation Shared Visions (Mission Statement and Values)?

_____ Does your organization possess the ability and commitment to constructively contribute to the goals of the Federation?

_____ **Is a structured system of touch a significant part of the profession or practice that your organization represents, and does your training involve education in principles and practice of that structured system of touch?

_____ Is your organization a major representative of your profession or practice in the field of therapeutic massage, bodywork, or somatic practices? (see list of factors in Membership Criteria)

Please respond to the following and attach to this application form:

1. Why does your organization want to join the Federation forum?
2. Please explain the ability and commitment of your organization to constructively contribute to the goals of the Federation.
3. How will joining the Federation benefit your profession or practice?
4. Is there any other information you feel is pertinent to the consideration of your application?

Please mail a copy of your completed application, with any additional documentation, to each of the contacts at the member organizations of the Federation of Therapeutic Massage, Bodywork, and Somatic Practices (refer to the attached contact list). Thank you for your interest.

**** Please enclose supporting documentation**

The Federation of Therapeutic Massage, Bodywork and Somatic Practice Organizations

A forum for dealing with differences and finding commonalities

Shared Visions: A Statement of Federation

In 1991, non-profit membership organizations in the massage, bodywork and somatic practice field held an unprecedented meeting to support their individual disciplines while also strengthening their value as a collective group. The Federation was formed to carry out this new vision of mutual support and cooperation.

As equal partners, Federation associations recognize and respect each other's distinct identities. Each group of practitioners has unique intentions and methods in supporting the well-being of its clients, spanning a wide range of systems and philosophies, and including differences in educational requirements for training, scope of practice, and the environment in which the practitioner works. Some employ touch as a therapeutic service, some use touch as part of an educational process. Some focus on physical dimensions of wellness, some on energetic. Some are regulated by massage laws, others are not.

As much as they are different, these professional groups also have large areas of common interest. They all seek enhanced professionalism and desire to share resources for mutual benefit. Recognizing these major commonalities, the Federation organizations favor cooperation over competition in order to serve their members and their clients. Together, the Federation organizations can play a major role in the evolution of public wellness policy and practice.

By serving as a vehicle for building bridges and breaking down barriers between groups, the Federation will promote understanding, cooperation and respect between its member organizations.

Statement of Purpose

The Federation is a forum for building community and communication among nonprofit membership organizations representing massage, bodywork or somatic practices that allows us to be ready to respond to issues that affect our values.

Mission Statement

The Federation is a forum for dealing with differences and finding commonalities through communication and mutual support among its members.

This mission may be fulfilled in many ways including networking, sharing expertise, and creating programs that advance the field of touch and movement generally and the individual and collective goals of the member associations.

Values of the Federation

We are united by our fundamental values:

Professionalism. The Federation supports the continued development of high professional and educational standards.

Ethics. The Federation promotes the highest standards of ethical conduct.

Mutual Support. The Federation advocates mutual support, cooperation among all member organizations, and respect for the diverse identities of their disciplines.

Right to Practice. The Federation supports each of the participating organizations members' right to practice.

Commitment to Service. The Federation is united in its commitment to serve society.

Trust. The Federation encourages honesty and open dialogue among its member organizations and their representatives, supported by the on-going process of nurturing trust.

Public education. The Federation supports and promotes public education about massage, bodywork, and somatic practices within the fields of health, wellness and education.

Accountability. In consideration of the consumers of massage, bodywork, and somatic practices, the Federation supports the educational and practice standards appropriate to each of these practices.

Global Perspective. The Federation supports worldwide acceptance and appreciation of therapeutic massage, bodywork and somatic practices.

Federation Benefits

Insurance. Allows participating organizations of the Federation to offer liability and other optional insurance at a reduced rate to their members.

Community. Allows participating organizations to experience their relationship with a larger community and to come to know and respect that their actions affect each other.

Dealing with differences & finding commonalities. Helps participating organizations to better define their role in the world, while working together for the greater good of all.

Legislative Cooperation. Enables participating organizations to have a voice in the legislative process so they may effectively meet their goals.

Communication. Encourages participating organizations to deepen understanding of each other and to resolve conflict.

Leadership Support. Supports the leadership of participating organizations to learn from each other and benefit from each other's experience.

Committees of the Federation

Joint Government Relations Committee Charter (JGRC). The JGRC is a committee of the Federation of Therapeutic Massage, Bodywork and Somatic Practice organizations which responds to arising needs in legislative arenas by encouraging development of working coalitions, and supporting those coalitions in discovering the appropriate process for their specific legislative needs.

JGRC Objectives:

- I. To keep in mind the values of:
 - A. Protections and education of the public,
 - B. Freedom of qualified professionals to practice and to enjoy occupational mobility across geographic jurisdictions.
 - C. Freedom of choice for people seeking therapeutic massage, bodywork and somatic practices,
 - D. Recognition of the rich diversity within therapeutic massage, bodywork and somatic practices, and
 - E. Cooperation between member organizations in legislative venues.

- II. To work toward:
 - F. Cooperation and resolution of issues at the local level,
 - G. Development of advisory relationships,
 - H. Learning from our common experiences,
 - I. Encouraging member organizations to form and participate in coalitions, keep in mind the values stated above, and encourage the inclusion of non-Federation practitioners and organizations, and
 - J. Developing guidelines for local coalitions to work successfully in the area of government relations.

Working Agreements

We work cooperatively in a spirit of friendship, to support professionalism, and to mutually further the evolutionary growth of the therapeutic massage, bodywork, and somatic practice professions. Members of the Federation are equal partners who recognize and respect each other's autonomous identity.

The Federation works cooperatively to eliminate situations in which an action that benefits one group harms another group.

The Federation operates by a "modified consensus" model, in which members seek common agreement as the basis for decisions and actions. The Federation may use polling and voting to determine direction, but does not take any action over the firm objection of any one or more member(s).

When voting, each member organization has one vote. Representatives reserve the right to defer decision-making until they are able to consult with their governing board.

The Federation meets at least once yearly, in the month of April, with additional meetings of the whole group or subgroups as needed. Meetings will be chaired by each organization in rotation. Each organization may send representatives as they see fit, and organization representatives shall be funded by their organizations to attend meetings. All other costs will be shared as agreed by member organizations.

Guests shall be invited upon agreement of the member organizations. Invitations will be offered or withdrawn by the Federation, and not by individual member organization.

Members agree to abide by the Federation Membership Criteria for as long as they remain members.

Members agree to openly disclose to the forum those new developments within their organizations, which could potentially have an effect on the organization's status and functioning in the Federation.

Federation of Therapeutic Massage, Bodywork, and Somatic Practice Organizations

Membership Criteria

In order for a candidate to be accepted into membership, the application must be approved in accordance with the consensus process used by the Federation. Taken into account in making this decision will be how the applicant meets all the eligibility requirements established by the Federation, and whether it is the consensus of the Federation members that approving the application will further the shared purposes and vision of the Federation members.

An organization is eligible to apply for membership in the Federation if it fulfills all eight of the following requirements:

1. A significant part of the profession or practice represented by the organization involves a structured system of touch. Training in the given profession or practice involves education in principles and practice of that structured system of touch.
2. The organization is a major representative of its profession or practice in the fields of therapeutic massage, bodywork or somatic practices. Factors to be taken into account include the following (Not every item below needs to be fulfilled in every case; these are the kinds of indications that are used in our assessment.):

The organization:

- Has an adequate administrative structure
- Has an authorization process for those who practice their profession (e.g., Certification process, registry, etc.)
- Is a coalition of several groups in representing some aspect of therapeutic massage, bodywork or somatic practice
- Has an established office
- Has an impact in the field
- Has longevity (length of time in existence)
- Is member-driven; responsive to member's needs
- Has a membership, which includes a significant percentage of practitioners of the profession
- Oversees the educational criteria and programs that train teachers and practitioners in the profession or practice
- Has ownership or right to use professional service mark or certification mark
- Fosters positive mentions of the profession in the media and/or academic citations
- Has proximity to or lineal descent from the founder
- Has a scope of practice that is potentially affected by massage laws
- Supports research in the field
- Works to advance the body of knowledge relating to the profession
- Has a scope of practice in the profession, the major part of which involves one-on-one work with an individual client

3. The organization is established as a non-profit 501(c) membership organization, or its equivalent, with a national or international scope.
4. The organization has adopted a standard of a minimum of 500 hours of in-class instruction, within a structured program taught over a minimum of six months
5. The organization possesses the ability and commitment to constructively contribute to the goals of the Federation.
6. The organization is willing to endorse and abide by the Federation Shared Visions (Mission Statement and Values)
7. The organization has developed Professional Standards of Practice and expects its members to comply with such standards.
8. Has adopted a Code of Ethics and an effective procedure to enforce compliance with the Code.

