



WHY FORM A PMA CHAPTER?

The question most often asked when considering the establishment of a Chapter is “What are the benefits of being a Chapter?” The PMA offers its members a wide variety of benefits, which can be enhanced through Chapter affiliation.

Some of the most significant benefits include:

Strength in numbers: Chapters will be the local arm of a growing international organization. Taking into account the need for Pilates to establish and protect its own identity, having local chapters will be useful if the need arises to communicate directly with local and state government. It will also be useful for marketing purposes.

Professional advancement: Chapters can serve as a conduit for continuing education opportunities, and as a catalyst for networking opportunities on the local level.

Personal advancement within the PMA: The Alliance is led by volunteer board members who are full-time working professionals. These leaders began their service to the PMA by volunteering for committees. When the need arises within the PMA to elect and appoint committee and board members, individuals who are already contributing their organizational and management skills and who wish to be part of the development of their profession will be ‘known quantities’ through Chapter work.

Professional support: Networking with individuals on the local, national, and international levels promotes new ideas, best practices and creative solutions to common problems.

GETTING YOUR CHAPTER STARTED

Before beginning with the formation of a Chapter, you need to ask yourself the following questions:

- Are there sufficient potential members in the area to warrant creation of a Chapter?
- Is there sufficient interest in a local PMA Chapter to sustain its activities?

CHAPTER GUIDELINES: STRUCTURE

1. Each Chapter must have a minimum of 10 active PMA members.
2. Active members shall consist of individuals interested in the goals and objectives of the PMA and who are current in paying both their PMA and their Chapter dues. **Only members of the PMA may be Chapter members, although non-members may be guests at Chapter meetings** (define the number of times a guest may visit prior to requiring membership in your bylaws).



3. Each Chapter shall serve a defined geographic area or population as determined by the Chapter and approved by the PMA Chapter Committee Chair. The geographic area served shall be such that members can attend Chapter meetings with relative ease.
4. Each Chapter shall adopt a name prior to incorporating to be approved by the PMA. The name should follow a format such as “The Philadelphia Chapter of the Pilates Method Alliance.” The Chapter name should reference the geographic area the Chapter is located in and not a particular group or organization.
5. Each Chapter shall adopt a set of Bylaws, modeled after the Bylaws Template that will be approved by the PMA. A specific dues amount for the Chapter should be included in the Bylaws.
6. Each Chapter shall elect officers to direct its organization’s activities. Each Chapter may define its leadership structure through its Bylaws. Chapter officers generally should include a Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer, as well as a Chair-Elect and Immediate Past Chair, if desired. Certain requirements regarding which officers are required, the minimum number of directors required, and related issues are set forth in the nonprofit corporation law of the region in which the Chapter is incorporated. Generally, however, such laws provide nonprofit corporations with great latitude in determining its governance structure, provided such determinations are set forth in its Bylaws. The governance structure may also include the following committees (set forth in the Bylaws):
 - Membership
 - Newsletter
 - Web site
 - Fundraising (from sponsors or events)
 - Program (to plan meetings or events)
 - Education (to plan workshops or courses)
 - Hospitality (to arrange for food at meetings and welcome new members)