

MARYLAND ACUPUNCTURE BOARD

Newsletter

Summer 2013

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FAREWELL TO BOARD MEMBER

Steve Kaufman, L.Ac.

At this time, the Board must bid farewell to Steve Kaufman, L.Ac., who dedicated so much of his time, knowledge and energy to the Board. We would like to thank him extensively for his efforts and many accomplishments throughout his term. Steve was appointed in 2005, and he served as both as Vice Chair and Chair of the Board. With his expertise as a practitioner, he was able to give the Board sound advice on professional matters and worked diligently to protect the interests of Maryland citizens. Thank you Steve!

A Note From Steve:

I first attended Board meetings in late 1996 or early 1997. At that time Bob Duggan was Chair of the Board. I continued attending various meetings, through the chairmanship of Bob Brown and Shirley Bigley. In 2005, I was appointed to the Board as a member and David Paton was chairman at that time. Eventually, Tyme Gigliotti ascended to the chairmanship. I was reappointed to the Board in 2009 and shortly afterward became Chair, a position I held until May of this year.

The Chairmanship of the board, however, is not about the Chairmanship, but rather how effective the board is in fulfilling its mandate which is to protect the public. The board members that I have had the privilege to work with have been outstanding through these years. The board as an entity has been successful in fulfilling its mission.

During these times, there have been significant changes, most notably the creation of the Acupuncture Detoxification Specialist. A practice of the NADA 5 needle protocol that has demonstrated its effectiveness in helping drug addicts engage in therapy. As a board, we have worked diligently to reduce barriers and obstacles for both the ADSs and the ADS Supervisors. We have also reduced the required number of CEU hours needed by licensed acupuncturists in a license cycle; the by-product of this action is the reduction of costs to licensed acupuncturists.

It has been a pleasure and an honor to serve the community at large and the acupuncture community specifically. Steve Kaufman

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NEW BOARD CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

Deneb Falabella, L.Ac. and Kate Carter, L.Ac.

At the July 9, 2013 Board meeting, Deneb Falabella was voted in as Chair of the Board and Kate Carter was voted in as Vice Chair. Congratulations to both!

WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBER

Tom Ingegno, M.S.O.M. L.Ac.

Tom Ingegno, M.S.O.M., L.Ac. is a licensed Acupuncturist and Certified Animal Acupuncturist. Tom is NCCAOM certified and a Licensed Acupuncturist in both New York and Maryland. He has been in private practice for over 12 years and specializes in several styles of Japanese Acupuncture. He has taught and supervised at the New York College of Health Professions and the Pacific College of Oriental Medicine in New York. Tom was a Board Member of the Edo Kai Traditional Acupuncture Society and frequent contributor to the North American Journal of Oriental Medicine.

IMPORTANT REGULATION CHANGES

The Maryland Board of Acupuncture would like to announce recent changes to its regulations that will become effective on **August 5, 2015**:

FEE SCHEDULE (COMAR 10.26.01)

The recent preliminary sunset evaluation of the Maryland Board of Acupuncture cited that the Board's revenue is not keeping pace with its expenditures. The Board has not raised fees since its inception in 1994. The sunset report recommended that the Board increase its initial licensure fee to equal its renewal fee and to raise its verification fee.

The initial application fee has increased from \$450 to \$525.

The verification fee has increased from \$20 to \$50.

CONTINUING EDUCATION (COMAR 10.26.02)

The Board is also **eliminating the mandatory requirement that licensees earn 3 hours of ethics for every 2 year renewal cycles**. The Board will continue to accept ethics coursework to fulfill Continuing Education (CE) requirements but feels that mandating ethics on a continuous basis is repetitive. Instead, the Board intends to request verification from licensees during renewal that they have read the ethics regulations and manual which are maintained on the Board's website.

The Board is also **decreasing** its CE requirements to be more compatible with national requirements. The Board currently requires 40 hours of CE's every 2 years. National standards are 60 hours of CE's every 4 years. The Board is also changing the percentage of hours allowed in different categories to reflect the decrease.

OLD REQUIREMENTS:

40 hours every two years
25 hours in acupuncture and Oriental medicine
15 hours in programs that are relevant to the practice

15 hours allowed for teaching
10 hours allowed for pro bono work
5 hours allowed for writing peer review articles

NEW REQUIREMENTS:

30 hours every two years
20 hours in acupuncture and Oriental medicine
10 hours in programs that are relevant to the practice

10 hours allowed for teaching
7 hours allowed for pro bono work from
4 hours allowed for writing peer review articles

PREPAYMENT PLANS

The Board of Acupuncture allows prepayment capability with due caution to the practitioner. One of the Board's most pressing concerns with prepayment plans is the patient's ability to recoup monies if the patient decides not to continue treatment. Another concern is what repercussions or penalties will ensue if a contract is broken. Will the patient be fully informed of all monetary consequences before agreeing to sign the contract?

The Board is recommending that if a practitioner chooses to offer prepayment plans, he/she must carefully explain all terms and conditions to the patient. A contract should detail all terms and conditions of the prepayment plan and be signed by the patient. In addition to full disclosure to the patient of the nature and consequences of treatment, the contract must outline payment terms stating exactly what monies will be reimbursed to the patient if the contract is broken, and whether the discounted price will be waived and full charges imposed. It must state whether there is a time limit to the contract. It must also clearly stipulate whether administrative charges will be imposed. If your patient cannot make informed decisions on his own, or is a minor, be sure to attain the signature of his or her personal representative. As a rule, if it is not stated in the contract, it cannot be imposed.

If your patient wishes to cancel treatment and requests reimbursement of unused payments, they should be paid back immediately. Failure to reimburse your patient or provide the proper informed consent may be considered a violation of the Maryland Acupuncture Practice Act and could lead to disciplinary action against your license.

Feel free to contact the Board's office if you have questions or concerns regarding this matter.

Supervisors Needed for Disciplinary Cases

The Board is looking for qualified Maryland acupuncture licensees to supervise licensees who have been disciplined and require supervision.

The Board is currently compiling a list of available supervisors from which to draw names as needed. Licensees with knowledge in boundary issues, professional conduct, sexual misconduct, herbal medicine, western medicine, acupuncture, oriental body works, and other oriental therapies may apply. Applicants must have been in practice for a minimum of five years and must fill out an application provided by the Board.

The licensee being supervised will compensate supervisors. Supervisors will be compensated at a rate of \$75.00 per hour

Feel free to call the Board to request an application.



**BOARD
COMPOSITION**

BOARD MEMBERS

CHAIR:

Deneb Falabella, L.Ac.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBER

VICE CHAIR:

Kate Carter, L.Ac.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBER

Corinne Axelrod, L.Ac.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBER

Tom Ingegno, L.Ac.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBER

Grant Zhang, L.Ac.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBER

Jan Exler

CONSUMER MEMBER

Charles Neustadt.

CONSUMER MEMBER

STAFF

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

Penny K. Heisler

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**ADMINISTRATIVE
OFFICER:**

Cynthia Dobbins

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INVESTIGATOR:

Marian Ruth

BOARD COUNSEL:

Noreen Rubin, AAG

FAILURE TO NOTIFY BOARD ON ADDRESS CHANGE

\$50.00 FINE

Failure to notify the Board of a change in address will result in a \$50.00 fine. A change in your address can be submitted by mail or email. Whenever the Board receives returned mail from the United States Postal Service, you will automatically receive a fine notice from the Board. Failure to pay the fine may result in disciplinary action against your license.

NAME CHANGE REQUESTS

The Board will change a licensee's name only when a request is received in writing and proper legal documentation is attached (example: marriage/divorce certificate). Without this documentation, the Board will not reflect the change. Email requests for name changes will not be accepted.

IMPORTANT

DUPLICATE LICENSES

The Board would like to remind licensees that you are **required to post an official license in every office, clinic, or practice setting in which you are working.** It is no longer permissible to post Xerox or scanned copies of your license in your office. The Board will furnish an official duplicate of your license to any licensed acupuncturist who currently resides in Maryland, free of cost.

The duplicate license request must be made in writing and an address must be given for each duplicate license requested. Only one duplicate will be granted for each office. If at any time a license is lost or destroyed, you may request a duplicate, in writing, stating the circumstance under which the license was lost or destroyed.

EXPERT WITNESSES WANTED

The Board is interested in recruiting licensed acupuncturists who would be willing to devote approximately 20 hours per disciplinary case as a paid expert witness. The Board will be compiling a list of experts from which it will pool names as needed. Expertise is needed in herbal medicine, oriental medicine, acupuncture, oriental body works and oriental therapies, and ethics and professional conduct. Applicants must have been in practice for a minimum of five years and must be willing to testify during a hearing.

Experts will be compensated \$75.00 per hour.

Board Meeting Schedule

The Board of Acupuncture traditionally meets on the second Tuesday of every other month, starting at 1:00 p.m. Scheduled months are September, November, January, March, May, and July. The 2014 schedule is as follows:

January 14, 2014
March 11, 2014
May 13, 2014
July 8, 2014
September 9, 2014
November 11, 2014

All meetings are held at 4201 Patterson Avenue in Baltimore, usually at 1 PM on the first floor. These meetings are open to the public and you are encouraged to attend. Please call the Board before the meeting to confirm the proper time and room number.

VERIFICATION OF LICENSE TO ANOTHER STATE

To provide verification of your acupuncture license to another state, please send your verification request or form (available on website) directly to the Board with a \$50 check made payable to the Maryland Acupuncture Board. You must provide your name, license number and the state to which you would like the verification mailed. Please ensure that you provide the State's address and phone number.

IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY AND RECENTLY DISCHARGED MILITARY VETERANS & SPOUSES

Pursuant to the Veterans Full Employment Act of 2013, military veterans discharged within one (1) year of application for licensing or registration qualify for expedited processing of applications and review of equivalency requests for military training.

The Board will expedite review and processing of applications of any military schools or courses submitted as qualifying equivalents for required educational licensing/registration educational standards. The Board extends these privileges to active duty military, including reservists called to active duty for training or deployment. These provisions also fully apply to spouses of active duty and qualifying veterans. If requested, the Board will also provide counseling assistance to qualifying veterans, active duty personnel, and spouses on application, licensing and credentialing issues.