



In Touch

An Official Publication of the Alabama Board of Massage Therapy

Summer 2006

**Alabama Board of
Massage Therapy
Board Members**

Chair

Tammie Friedrichs

Vice-Chair

Cynthia Harris

Member

B. Hal Richardson

Member

Arnold Askew

Member

April Henderson

Consumer Member

Tommy O'Brien

Consumer Member

Judy K. White

ALMTBD Staff

Executive Director

Keith E. Warren

Executive Assistant

Randy Barrows

Attorney

Mary Windom

Investigator

Mike James

In Touch is an official publication of the Alabama Board of Massage Therapy. This publication is intended for a wide audience to alert licensees to matters of possible procedural, legal, legislative, and regulatory interest. It should not be relied upon, nor is intended to provide legal, insurance or accounting advice. Licensees should consult their own lawyers, insurance agents, and accountants before taking any action in response to this newsletter, as the opinions expressed herein might be completely altered by the licensees' actual facts.

Comments from the Chair

Having held the position of Chair of the Alabama State Board of Massage Therapy for the past four years, I feel that I am in the perfect position to sing the praises of your board members and share a small amount of the talents and hard work that each of your board members possess and use on your behalf. When the current board came into position, the reputation we held was one of a small group of people accomplishing very little, if anything with no regard for the profession of massage therapy except from a personal stance of power and name recognition. Please be aware that reputation was not accurate at that time and is certainly not accurate now. Your current board is made up of very skilled, compassionate and hardworking people with a deep concern for the massage therapy profession and each therapist in this state holding or training to hold licensure. Each board member takes time from their own practice and schedule in order to attend meetings. At these meetings, your board members not only deal with each issue as it arises, they accept assignments, do the research required in order to make educated decisions and take the time to listen and respond to anyone in attendance.

Having said these few things, please allow me to individually thank the board members of the Alabama State Board of Massage Therapy. Cynthia Harris, Vice Chair has not only grown in her role as a board member, but is now one of the most vocal and well prepared in her fight for your profession. Arnold Askew has taken his board position as one of great responsibility and seriousness, and has represented our state in the newly formed the Federation of State Massage Therapy Boards, presenting to the board as well as keeping you informed of their progress through carefully explained newsletter articles. Hal Richardson, former Vice Chair is always willing to take on whatever tasks at hand through research as well as educate the public to the many benefits of massage therapy all while working in a variety of medical and sports related entities. Tommy O'Brien stepped up to the plate in a consumer board member position. Some of you may not be aware that as a consumer, Tommy is not a massage therapist and has no financial gain based on the profession of massage therapy. He is a caring individual that took this position purely from having worked as a cosmetologist, recognizing the need for public awareness and protection. Tommy has quickly come up to speed on the laws governing our profession and has been a treasured and greatly utilized addition to your board. While April Henderson has a new child at home and is new to the board processes, she has first hand experience with the political side of necessary legislative changes and upholding the current statute. These people have enriched my life, teaching me the importance of working together. They have taught me to listen and respect other opinions, to give credibility to our individual diversities without ever devaluing one another. While in meetings I watch and listen and am in awe of the care and concern that they demonstrate on all our behalves.

To many of you, the Board is an entity that you may never come in contact with on a personal level after you receive your state license; however, I urge you to attend our meetings and get to know them. I can assure you of their dedication and ability to take complicated issues, break them apart and find the most reasonable and cost-effective answers in an expedient manner. I hope that you can appreciate these few people that work so hard to help the profession of massage therapy gain the recognition and respect that it so deserves. I am blessed to know them and work with them and welcome this opportunity to truly "toot their horns." My heartfelt thanks go out to each of them.

Thank you,

Tammie Friedrichs, *Chair*

NEW DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENT FOR LICENSE RENEWALS

*There is a major change in the license renewal procedure concerning your continuing education. We are all still required to complete a minimum of 16 hours of continuing education within the 24 month period of your current license. **The major change is, you are now responsible for attaching a copy of the documentation given by the CEU provider showing attendance at, or participation in the approved continuing education program.** Often this document is the "Certificate of Attendance" or similar diploma style credential given by the provider at the end of the seminar. This document should contain the licensee name with license number, the name of the continuing education provider, course title, name of instructor, number of educational hours of credit and dates of attendance. Make sure you receive this document from the provider. **A copy of this document must accompany your renewal application.** Failure to do so will delay your renewal process! Remember, you are a licensed professional.*

Hal Richardson, LMT

NEW CEU PROVIDER APPROVAL PROCESS

In the past, continuing education providers that were approved by the National Certification Board for Therapeutic Massage and Bodywork and the American Massage Therapy Association were automatically approved by the Alabama Board of Massage Therapy. The Board will approve new procedures at its meeting on July 28, 2006 for providers to apply directly to the Alabama Board of Massage Therapy in order to be an approved provider for this state. There will no longer be a blanket approval for those providers approved by NCTMB or AMTA. The new procedures and CEU Provider Applications will be available on our website as soon as the Board approves everything for this new process.

Please remember and take note that you should ensure that all your providers are to be approved by the Board in order to receive credit for CEU's at the time of your license renewal. Do not wait until the last minute and seek approval after you have taken your courses assuming that it will be approved. The Board may not approve the course you attended and you may be put in a position to obtain additional hours expeditiously. Please remember that your CEU's are to be massage therapy and bodywork related. Some licensees are cross-professionals and some of the CEU's required in your current profession may not be allowable credits for your massage therapy license.

Proposed Regulation Changes

At its July 28, 2006 Board meeting, the Board will be proposing some regulation changes to comply with a recent audit to update some of the regulations that are out of date and are not in use by the Board at this time. The majority of these changes will be simple housekeeping changes and will not effect the operation of your business or effect any new applications for licensure. For example, the enabling statute was changed several years ago to eliminate the increase in educational hours and allow the Board to continue to require 650 hours but also would allow the Board to increase the hours if the national level ever increased. The regulations state that the Board is to increase the hours to 1,000 which conflicts with the statute and needs to be changed. The proposed changes will be reviewed at the next Board meeting and will be uploaded onto the website for your review and comment as well. All rule changes must be processed through the Administrative Procedures Division of the State of Alabama and allow the public a comment period for 35 days once the proposed rules are approved. There will be a public hearing on these rules at the Board meeting scheduled for October 27, 2006 should anyone wish to speak to the Board or submit comments in writing. Thank you!

Establishment Licensing

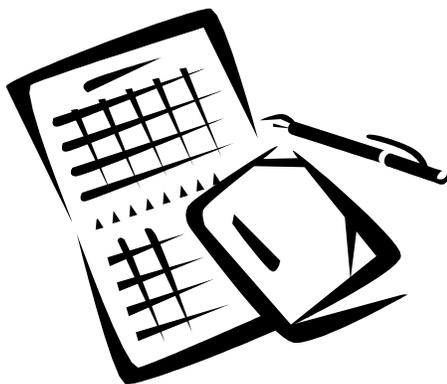
There has always been confusion regarding the requirement of a massage therapy establishment license. Hopefully, I can clarify some pending questions regarding who needs an establishment license and who does not. Any facility that offers massage therapy services to the public should obtain and maintain a massage therapy establishment license. There are some provisions for exemptions in the law, however, the Board does not typically exempt establishments. Exemptions must be requested in writing to the Board and must be reviewed and voted on by the entire Board at one of its quarterly meetings.

Obtaining a massage therapy establishment license is not a difficult process. You simply complete the application, attach verification of liability insurance and \$100 fee and they are processed as they are received. The license is a two-year license and is renewable every two years for \$50. This license is not transferable to any other owner if the business happens to change ownership. If there is a change in ownership, you must obtain a new establishment license.

Massage Therapy Establishments are inspected periodically to ensure that the business is following the correct laws and regulations. You can find the contents of the inspection Rule 532-X-3-.04. The most important thing is to make sure you have your licenses properly posted where you work at all times. The public should be able to view your licenses at all times so there is no doubt that you are properly licensed and trained in your field. You should also have a copy of the Board's law, rules and regulations available at all times. You can always reference those documents should a client ever have a question about do's and don't's in the massage profession. You should also have a copy of your current insurance available at all times as well. These are the first things asked for during an establishment inspection. You can always call the office should have any questions pertaining to obtaining a massage establishment license or any questions pertaining to inspections.

2006

Calendar of Events



July 28, 2006 Board Meeting (Friday – 10:00 a.m.)
Montgomery, Alabama

October 27, 2006 Board Meeting (Friday – 10:00 a.m.)
Montgomery, Alabama

Check the website for additional application approval
meetings located in Birmingham, Alabama.

Executive Director Notes

4

The Board recently survived a Sunset Audit and appearance before the committee. The Board has been struggling due to some financial issues generated by a lengthy disciplinary proceeding. We are currently working on complaints that have been pending for some time, revising the rules and regulations and revising some application procedures. One thing in particular that was a major issue with the Sunset Committee was the high percentage of returned mail sent to licensees. Please remember it is important to keep your address and contact information current with the Board to receive all your renewal applications, notifications of changes made by the Board and newsletters mailed out from the Board office. If mail is returned with a forwarding address, we use that address to re-send information to you and update our records with that address. Otherwise, if there is no forwarding address then it simply goes into your file until you contact the Board with your updated information. There is a change of address form available on the website for you to report any changes to your contact information. You can simply complete the form and fax it to our office or you can mail it to our office, whichever you prefer. Communication between the Board and licensees was also an issue with the committee. I will confess,, it is much easier to communicate with massage therapist via email than by telephone. I read and respond to emails on a daily basis unless it requires some research. A majority of the time when I return telephone calls, the licensee is in session and in many cases there is no answering machine or receptionist to take a message. We are diligently working to resolve this issue because communication between the Board and its licensees is a vital part of the regulatory process of any profession. I am always open to suggestions and look forward to corresponding with you in the future.

Thank you,

Keith E. Warren

www.almtbd.alabama.gov

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

Email: ALMTBD@aol.com

Fax: 334.263.6115

Phone: 334.269.9990

610 South McDonough Street

Alabama Board of Massage Therapy

Board of Massage Therapy
An Official Publication of the Alabama

