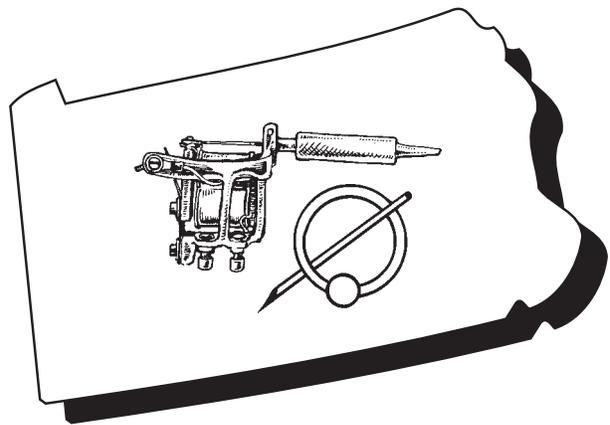


**Pennsylvania
Coalition of
Professional
Tattooists &
Body Piercers
Newsletter**

**In
Unity
There
Is
Strength!**

**October 1997
Volume 1, Issue 3**

I N S I D E !
Legislation On The Move:
Proposed Amendment to House Bill 332
First Consideration for Senate Bill 847



Coalition Hotline:
412•531•5319

<http://www.pa-tattoo.com>

Editor's Notes

It's been a very busy month with so much activity on the legislative front. There's a great deal of VERY IMPORTANT information in this newsletter, so read through it carefully and be sure to contact me if you have any questions. Both the House and the Senate are moving forward in their attempts to regulate our profession. We need to forge ahead with our attempt to educate our legislators about tattooing and piercing!

As many of you know from the announcement in the last newsletter, the House of Representatives has released a proposed amendment to House Bill 332. This issue is not dead by any means! The House Research Analyst credits information from the public hearings (none from the opposition's standpoint) and "research" to arrive at the new language. For those of you who weren't able to attend the emergency meeting on November 2nd, copies of the amendment will be available at the next meeting (December 14th) or by mail.

The good news is that this amendment places responsibility for tattooing and piercing with the Department of Health and **NOT** the Medical Practice Act of 1985 as originally proposed. But that's where the good news ends! This proposal pushes far beyond sterilization and safety issues and infringes on **OUR** civil rights, medical privacy and a number of other issues.

Per the request of the House Research Analyst, I responded with written questions and concerns. Since I didn't hear from anyone after our November 2nd meeting, I presented the questions and oppositions we discussed in that meeting. Copies of the letter will be presented on December 14th.

Also of note this month is an article in the November 3rd issue of *U.S. News & World Report* which focuses on teens and body modification. The article in and of itself is a good read with relatively accurate information. Our friends from Inkin' The Valley get a nice plug as well. The concern comes from a side-bar which mentions a "body art code" being created by the National Environmental Health Association for state and local officials. The body art code is not yet complete (maybe mid-January 1998), but we will receive a copy as soon as it is available. I've tried a number of times to speak with someone at the NEHA about the code, what it will consist of, who they used as sources, etc., but I've never received a return call. I'll keep you posted!

I look forward to seeing everyone at the next meeting on Sunday, December 14 at 1:00 PM.

Tim Azinger

Coalition Code of Ethics?

At the November 2nd meeting, the topic of a code of ethics for the Coalition came up. A week later, T.L. Calhoun mailed me a copy of a code of ethics from The International Tattoo Artists Guild. Please read through them and come to the next meeting with comments and suggestions. There's nothing on this list that we don't already practice, but by creating our own code of ethics, we legitimize our organization and show that we're committed to our profession! We'll certainly come up with our own list relevant to our situation here in Pennsylvania, but this is a good starting point.

- 1.) I will always treat my clients as I would like to be treated.
- 2.) I will always attempt to counsel my potential clients and instruct them in the potential ramifications of tattooing and how it might affect them in their future without charge for this information.
- 3.) I will do my best at all times and attempt to advance and/or acquire more skills, education and better equipment.
- 4.) I will never tattoo any client while under the influence of alcohol or any medication that would impair my judgement or lessen my ability to do my best.
- 5.) I will not tattoo any client who appears to be under the influence of alcohol or any other substance, legal or illegal.
- 6.) I will always maintain my business in a neat and professional manner, making it a showcase for our trade and our way of life.
- 7.) I will attempt to work with the local officials in maintaining a safe operating area and atmosphere of legitimate business.
- 8.) I will always use the most modern and hygienic equipment and supplies available.
- 9.) I will always wear a new pair of rubber gloves for each job.
- 10.) I will always use the best sterilizing techniques available.
- 11.) I will always use sterile needles.
- 12.) I will always cover each new tattoo with an ointment and then cover it with a bandage.
- 13.) I will always take time to instruct the client in the proper care and maintenance of a new tattoo.

Notices:

•I hate to continue being the bearer of bad news, but for those of you who might not have heard, Sailor Moses passed away on October 23rd, 1997. A memorial will be held for him at the upcoming Richmond Tattoo Arts Festival, November 20-23, 1997.

•Since I haven't heard from anyone, we'll assume that the general information brochure and the Coalition Membership form are acceptable to everyone and we can use and distribute them as need be. Let me know if you need copies of anything!

Corrections:

The phone number for Buddha's Body Art was incorrect in the last issue, the correct number is 814-833-0439. Also, LeeAnn Cox should be added to the list as a contact for Once Upon a Tattoo.

Senate Bill 847 Moves To The Floor!

With little warning, it has come to our attention that Senate Bill 847 was “reported as committed” on October 28th, and “sent out for first consideration” on the same day. This needs our immediate attention!

Don't confuse this with the Amendment to House Bill 332 - this is a DIFFERENT bill and a DIFFERENT legislative body all together! Basically, we're fighting a battle on two fronts - one with the House of Representatives and one with the Senate.

Luckily, the Senate will not be back in session until after Thanksgiving, but when they return, SB 847 will be put on the floor schedule and presented for comments before the entire Senate. To my knowledge, no public hearing was held while this bill was in the Consumer Protection & Professional Licensure Committee and Senate sessions are closed to the

public, so are only chance to comment on SB 847 will be through letters and phone calls to our local Senators. If you're not sure how to go about this, give me a call!

Be concerned, but don't panic! This doesn't mean that SB 847 will become a law within the coming weeks, this is just the first step in the legislative process. It is important that we get involved in any way possible **NOW**. The more contact Senators have from concerned constituents (that's us) the more likely it is that this bill will be sent back to Committee and a public hearing will be held. This gives us the opportunity to express our opinions and concerns, and hopefully give people with little or no knowledge about our profession some useful insight!

As always, call me if you have any questions! 412-531-5319

Handy Tips For The Studio

Paper Products - We always found paper towels a bit too rough for the skin and tissues are too small and dusty. There is also the concern about roll products uncovered and exposed at the work station. One solution is a product manufactured by *Modern Hygiene Paper Technology*. It's a plastic drum-like single sheet dispenser of a paper product with a texture somewhere between a towel and a tissue. The product is covered and sealed within the drum and it holds the equivalent of 4-5 rolls of paper towels. The unit can be mounted on top of or underneath a counter. It's neat, clean and professional looking. Check out your local janitorial supply distributor for the dispenser and paper products to avoid shipping charges.

Stencil Application - If you're still using that one deodorant stick on every customer, please stop immediately! Obviously, this can cause the transfer of micro-organisms before you even begin tattooing. If you like the deodorant stick method, simply cut it into single service pieces and discard each piece after its use on a client. (You can also rub the deodorant on a paper towel and use the towel to apply the deodorant to the skin.)

An alternative is the use of your cleaning liquid mixture of green soap and water solution. I've found this method to be unsatisfactory when tattooing, say an armband. By the time I've gotten to the underarm portion, the print has disappeared from perspiration or wiping with green soap.

My preferred method is the use of a water soluble gel. The stencil goes on dark, and believe me, it stays! In fact, when using K-Y or a generic lubricating gel, it's only disadvantage is removing the transfer to reposition it prior to tattooing.

Handwashing Supplement - As we all know, the single most effective way to reduce the transfer of micro-organisms is hand washing. (Thank you, Joseph Lister, as he was laughed at and ridiculed when he introduced this theory.) Well if this hand washing is so effective, wouldn't it be nice if we could enhance it! After washing we utilize a product (I'm sure there are others) manufactured by AMSCO called *Alco-Gel*. It just so happened we have an AMSCO autoclave and saw the product in their promotional literature. This product is used by EMT's (emergency medical technicians) and law enforcement personnel when they come in contact with bodily fluids in the field. The manufacturer boasts that *Alco-Gel* “has emollients to soften dry skin and rapidly kills pathogenic micro-organisms.” I can attest that it is soothing after a dozen or so scrubs a day

Virucidal Use - And finally I ask that you review your virucidal use policy. The products dispensed by propellants in cans are very costly compared to products that are purchased in concentrate and then mixed at your studio. National Supply has a virucidal that is diluted one ounce per one gallon of water. Just mix and dispense in an atomizer container. These products are great for use on the counter, chairs, floors, etc. However, we still use the “canned stuff” on our machines as the “home mixed” stuff is just too wet. In addition to being very cost effective, they are also more environmentally friendly.

—Robert Stern, *World Famous Tattoos*

