



D.C. Board of Massage Therapy

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YOUR MAILING ADDRESS

Changing your mailing address? Send your name, mailing address, and license number to:

Board of
Massage Therapy
Processing Department
Address/Name Change
717 14th Street, NW
Suite 600
Washington, DC 20005



Government of the District of Columbia
Adrian M. Fenty, Mayor



Fall 2010

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Greetings from the DC Board of Massage Therapy. Established to protect the residents of and visitors to the District, the Board's foremost priority is to ensure best practices and professionalism by all who present themselves to the public as Massage Therapists.

Licensure Renewal

Your license will expire on January 31, 2011. Please take a moment to review the renewal information on pages 2 and 3 of this newsletter. For your convenience, you may renew your license online at www.hpla.doh.dc.gov. Please note that to renew online, you must use Internet Explorer 6.0 or higher. Our system is not compatible with Mozilla Firefox, Google Chrome or Safari. Online renewal also requires payment via MasterCard or Visa card only.

Continuing Education

CE courses must have been obtained within the two years immediately preceding the renewal date. Following the renewal period, the Board will conduct a random CE audit; if you are selected during the audit, you will be requested to present documentation of CE obtained.

Federation of MT Boards

The Board is continually working to stay informed about developments and trends in our field on the national level. The DC Board of Massage Therapy is a member board of the Federation of State Massage Therapy Boards (FSMTB), an entity working toward establishing standard practices for licensing and renewal across the US. FSMTB supports all of its member boards and provides us with a forum for information gathering and collaboration with other regions. Our participation in FSMTB activities ensures that we stay abreast of current best practices in our profession.

Attend a Board Meeting

Licensees, as well as members of the general public, are invited to attend the Open Session of our Board meetings. This can provide an opportunity for you to learn more about the Board's functions, and it is an opportunity for Board members to gain input from MTs and the public. If you plan to attend, please contact MT Board Health Licensing Specialist Thomasine Pointer at thomasine.pointer@dc.gov.



Laura Casperson, MT

Your Email Address

To ensure that the Board is able to stay in contact with all licensees, we are requesting that you provide us with your email address. If you are not receiving notices/newsletters by email (or know of an MT who is not), please send updated email addresses to thomasine.pointer@dc.gov. Please inform your colleagues that the Board needs every MT's current email address.

Apply to Serve

Have you ever considered serving on the Board? If you are a resident of the District, you are invited to submit your application to the DC Office

(continued on page 2)

YOUR LICENSE WILL EXPIRE ON JANUARY 31, 2011

Upcoming Board Meetings

THE BOARD MEETS QUARTERLY

MARCH 17, 2011

JUNE 16, 2011

SEPTEMBER 22, 2011

& DECEMBER 15, 2011

"THIRD THURSDAY OF THE MONTH"

at 717 14th St., NW, 10th Floor
Washington, DC 20005

*Open Session begins
at 1:30 p.m.*

WHEN YOU MOVE (OR CHANGE YOUR NAME)

Licenses sometimes forget to inform the Board of Massage Therapy when they move or change names. If we do not have your current address, you may not receive your renewal mailing because we may send it to your former address.

All name and address changes must be submitted in writing to our office within 30 days of the change.

Please include your name, address, Social Security number and license number, and email address.

If you have a name change, you must also enclose a copy of your certificate of marriage, divorce decree, or court order that authorizes the change.

Fax your request to (202) 727-8471, or mail your name and address change to:

DC Board of
Massage Therapy
Attn: Processing Department
Address/Name Change
717 14th Street, NW
Suite 600
Washington, DC 20005

2011 IS THE YEAR TO RENEW!

All licensees will be able to begin to access renewal forms online beginning in October 2010. Please remember that only **CEUs obtained in the two years immediately preceding the renewal date will be accepted**. You are to have completed **twelve (12) hours** of approved continuing education credit at the time of renewal:

- Three (3) hours of professional ethics
- Nine (9) hours of massage-related course work provided by a Board-approved provider of which six (6) hours shall be completed in a live classroom setting taught by an appropriate instructor.

CEUs are not required for those who are first-time renewal applicants who were licensed by exam or were enrolled in an approved training program during any part of the two-year period prior to approval.

ALL LICENSES EXPIRE ON JANUARY 31, 2011. The renewal period will end midnight January 31, 2011. The Board of Massage Therapy will conduct a random CEU audit immediately following the renewal period.

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR (continued from page 1)

of Boards and Commissions (OBC). Your volunteer service would contribute toward upholding our mission to protect the public and maintain professionalism in our field. It is an investment of time that is rewarding, and well worth the effort. You may

visit the OBC webpage at www.obc.dc.gov. (Address: OBC, 1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Suite 302, Washington, DC 20004; phone: 202-727-1372).

Thanks to Board Staff
I would also like to take a

moment to recognize the hard work of the staff of the Health Professional Licensing Administration. Thanks to our executive director, as well as our health licensing specialist and other staff for their work in assisting the Board!

Laura Casperson, MT
Chairperson
DC Board of Massage Therapy

EXPEDITE YOUR LICENSE: Make sure to have your entire application filled out and signed. You must provide "official" supporting documentation to any and all application questions and/or statements that require a detailed explanation. Official court documents of final case dispositions for any felonies or misdemeanors that you incurred (i.e., a defendant, in any state or country) should be included; malpractice case dispositions should include a case number, jurisdiction, year, all the defendant names, all plaintiff names, a brief summary of the case, and final disposition, such as judgment dollar amount, dismissed with or without prejudice, or settlement dollar amount—this information must be sent with your application.

PAID INACTIVE STATUS: If you intend to retire your license, or if you would like to place your license on Inactive Status, you must explicitly inform the Board of your intention before the renewal date expires. If you fail to pay renewal fees on time, your license is not inactive; it is delinquent (expired). It is unlawful to practice while your license is delinquent/expired.

SEND US YOUR UP-TO-DATE EMAIL ADDRESS

Please send an email to hpla@dc.gov and please indicate:

- That you have an MT licence
- The name on your MT license
- Your MT license number
- Your email address

YOU MAY RENEW YOUR LICENSE ONLINE AT WWW.HPLA.DOH.DC.GOV

**TO RENEW ONLINE YOU MUST USE INTERNET EXPLORER 6.0 OR HIGHER
AND PAY BY MASTERCARD OR VISA. OUR SYSTEM IS NOT COMPATIBLE
WITH MOZILLA FIREFOX, GOOGLE CHROME OR SAFARI.**

FOR NEW USERS: You must register to select a User ID and Password. In order to uniquely identify yourself to register to use our online application, you need to have your SSN handy and your last name (as it appears on your application/renewal notice or Weblookup) for an easy and quick registration. For existing users, you need to click on the log-in button and proceed from there with your User ID and password.

Before you log-on to our website, please have these items available:

- Your Social Security number
- Your Visa or MasterCard, in order to pay your renewal fee of \$179 online.

WHEN YOU ARE READY TO LOG-ON TO OUR WEBSITE:

- Enter www.hpla.doh.dc.gov into the address field of your web browser
 - Click on Online License Renewal
 - Type in your Social Security number and last name and click on "Search" tab
 - At the Registration page, you must create a User ID and Password
 - type in your newly-created User ID and Password and follow the step-by-step instructions to complete the renewal process.
- Please be sure to print out a copy of the "Confirmation Page" for your records.

AFTER YOU FINISH THE ON-LINE RENEWAL AT OUR WEBSITE, SEND US:

- If you do not currently have a photo on your license, you will need to send TWO (2) 2"x2" photos of yourself (identical passport-size photos; plain background, front-view, fade-proof), and write on the back of the photos your full name and license number or Social Security number.

• IF YOU ANSWER "YES" TO THE QUESTION IN "SECTION 6", PLEASE MAIL THE SUPPORTING DOCUMENT(S).

- Mail the items to: HPLA - ATTN: Massage Therapy Renewal
717-14th Street NW, 6th Floor
Washington, DC 20005

- After 24 hours, you may verify your completed renewal at:
<http://hpla.doh.dc.gov/weblookup>

NOTE: You are not required to submit proof of having met your CE credit requirement with your renewal at this time. CEUs ARE NOT REQUIRED FOR FIRST RENEWAL.

TO REQUEST A PAPER RENEWAL APPLICATION OR
APPLY FOR PAID INACTIVE STATUS, PLEASE VISIT
OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.HPLA.DOH.DC.GOV OR CALL
1-877-672-2174 BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 8:15 AM
AND 4:40 PM EST - MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY.

VERIFICATION OF LICENSURE

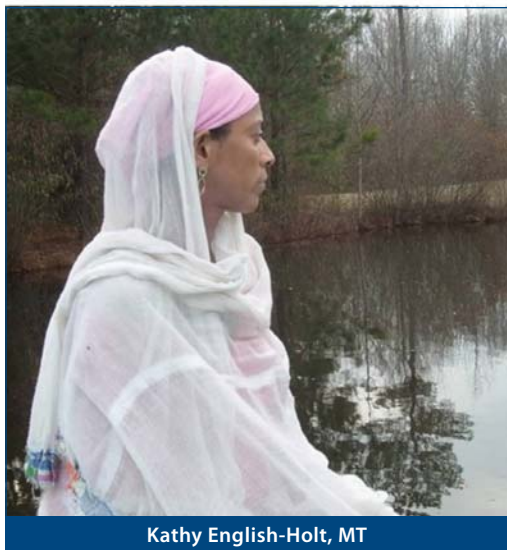
Licensing authorities and some health facilities often require a letter of verification of the licenses you currently hold or have held in the past. These letters of verification are sometimes called "letters of good standing," even though your DC license may have expired.

If the jurisdiction or institution to which you wish the letter sent gave you a form, simply forward the form, with a check or money order payable to "DC Treasurer" in the amount of thirty-four dollars (\$34.00) to:

DC Board of
Massage Therapy
717 14th Street, NW
Suite 600
Washington, DC 20005

On the form, be sure to include your name and the address of where the form should be sent.

If the jurisdiction or institution requesting verification did not give you a form, send the payment referenced above and a short note requesting a letter of verification. The note should include your name and the name and address of where you want the letter of verification sent.



Kathy English-Holt, MT

MEET BOARD OF MASSAGE THERAPY MEMBER KATHY ENGLISH-HOLT, MT

"My extensive experience as an instructor at Potomac Massage Training Institute gives the board an educational perspective—what we teach and how we teach. I also have taught hundreds of students over the years and have some deeper insight as to what some of their issues are with regards to protocol, practice and professionalism."

When were you appointed to the Board?

I was appointed in October of 2009.

Why and how did you first get involved with the Board? What sparked your interest in serving as a Board member?

I thought it would be a good way to serve my community since it has been my profession for 18 years.

What issues, related to the regulation of your profession, interest you most?

I am a Reiki practitioner and teacher, in addition to being a massage therapist, and have real concerns about energy work being licensed under massage therapy. Reiki is spiritual healing work NOT massage therapy. Our definition of massage as it is written in the rules needs to be looked at with regard to this work.

What challenges lay ahead for the Board?

We need a more diverse board. We will be looking at other modalities as they continue to appear. I am also concerned about those who will come up for licensure

with regard to education, prior experiences, etc. We want to maintain excellence without discriminating.

Is there anything about the District of Columbia or the DC population that poses a unique challenge to your profession?

The educational level and economics for young people in our city is disturbing and many view massage therapy as a quick way to make money due to the heavy advertising by for-profit schools on radio and television. These schools offer student loans and have a very simple and open admissions process. Due to the intimate nature of our work (only a sheet separates us from our clients), our professional schools need to have a very rigorous and thorough admissions process. Individuals who choose this path need to be screened and supervised throughout their training.

What future goals do you have as a Board member?

I would like for the Board to reevaluate legislating energy work.

What unique perspective do you bring to the Board (if any)?

My extensive experience as an instructor at Potomac Massage Training Institute gives the Board an educational perspective—what we teach and how we teach. I also have taught hundreds of students over the years and have some deeper insight as to what some of their issues are with regards to protocol, practice and professionalism. I am also very entrenched in the metaphysical spiritual community in Washington, DC and am exposed to those who practice Reiki and other energy work.

Any message you would like to convey to your Board's licensees?

The message I would like to convey is integrity is of utmost importance. It is also very important to recognize that what you do today affects tomorrow. The law of cause and effect is always at work. Finally, I would like licensees to spread the word that illegal activity will not be tolerated. We have come a long way since the days of massage parlors, and we need to be steadfast in our commitment to morality, ethics and integrity in our profession.

APPLY TO SERVE ON THE BOARD

If you are a District of Columbia resident interested in serving on the Board of Massage Therapy, please contact the DC Office of Boards and Commissions (OBC). The OBC web address is: www.obc.dc.gov. There you may download an application. Questions? Contact the Office of Boards and Commissions at: **(202) 727-1372**.



Cary Bland, MT

MEET BOARD OF MASSAGE THERAPY MEMBER CARY BLAND, MT

"I helped work to create state regulation of the massage therapy profession for the State of Maryland, over a period of ten years, while living in Maryland. I was the co-founder and director of the first Sports Massage Team in the Washington, DC area, one of the first in the country to charge for our services. I have maintained professional relationships with fellow massage therapists from across the country..."

When were you appointed to the Board?

I was appointed in January of 2010.

Why and how did you first get involved with the Board? What sparked your interest in serving as a Board member?

I was burnt out from "involvement overload" a few years back, and after lying low for a while, I decided it was time for me to once again become more involved with the leadership aspects of my profession.

What issues, related to the regulation of massage therapy, interest you most?

What I find most interesting is the issue of the ever-changing education and training standards in the massage profession.

Is there any aspect of your service as a Board member thus far that has surprised you?

I have been surprised by the minimal amount of time that the Board actually comes together to act. Matters coming before the Board for action sometimes will have to wait more time than I would think they should have to

wait, due to the fact that we meet so infrequently.

What challenges lay ahead for the Board?

One of the most significant challenges for the Board will be updating the existing Regs and doing away with irrelevant, outdated restrictions as well as contradictions in policies.

Are there issues regarding your profession that pose special challenges for establishing regulations?

There are many types of bodywork that commonly are equated with massage therapy. In some cases, it could be argued that a particular discipline (such as Reiki) might not be considered massage therapy, and therefore should not be governed by the laws regulating massage therapy. I feel that this is like splitting hairs and, practically speaking, most of these disciplines would fit the definition of massage therapy. However, this viewpoint is sometimes challenged, which means that the Board must rule on the issue. It can be tricky deciding on things like this without making someone unhappy.

What future goals do you have as a Board member?

I would hope that we can accomplish an effective update of the Regs, so one part [of the regulations] no longer contradicts another part, and what is contained in them is clear and sensible. I hope that we, the Board members, can provide constructive input for this process and help the staff carry out this hefty task with greater ease and in a timely fashion. The licensees and the public deserve this!

What unique perspective do you bring to the board (if any)?

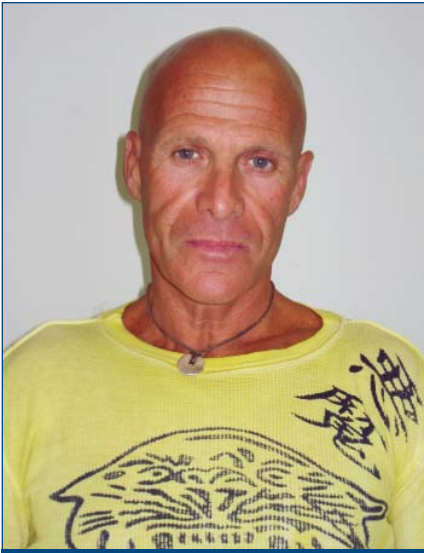
I bring my 25 years of experience as a practicing massage therapist to my position on the Board. Over the years, I have witnessed and, in my own small way, contributed to, the dramatic increase in the popularity and acceptance of massage therapy as a legitimate health care option in this country. I helped work to create state regulation of the massage therapy profession for the State of Maryland, over a period of ten years, while living in Maryland. I was the co-founder and director of the first Sports Massage Team in the Washington, DC area, one of the first in the country

to charge for our services. I have maintained professional relationships with fellow massage therapists from across the country and have had an opportunity to discuss with them common pertinent issues related to the massage therapy profession since 1985.

These things, I believe, give me a unique perspective with regards to the evolution of the massage therapy profession over the past two decades, and I hope to bring that experience to my service on the Board.

Any message you would like to convey to your Board's licensees?

I would like to remind all licensees that they carry a significant level of responsibility interacting with the public, not only to their clients, but to themselves and to their profession. Given the close, trusting nature of the massage therapist-client relationship, it is essential that a massage therapist be a person with character beyond question. It is also important to grow and to expand your skills and breadth of knowledge of massage therapy. This is the standard that you should endeavor to maintain.



Philip Bergman

MEET BOARD OF MASSAGE THERAPY CONSUMER MEMBER PHILIP BERGMAN

"I have been receiving massage/body work for 20 years. I work closely with many massage therapists and recommend that all my clients (both athletes and regular population) receive massage."

When were you appointed to the Board?

I was appointed on April 14, 2009.

Why and how did you first get involved with the Board? What sparked your interest in serving as a Board member?

I was appointed by Mayor Adrian Fenty. I serve as the consumer board member. I am have been in the fitness and wellness industry for over 25 years. I am also a competitive triathlete and multi-sport coach. I have been receiving massage therapy for many years and value its application and use. As a consumer I also value and seek out reliable and qualified professional massage therapists.

What issues, related to the regulation of massage therapy, interest you most?

I am interested in proper regulatory implementation and that both the practitioners and the consumers are providing and receiving quality care and treatment.

Is there any aspect of your service as a Board member thus far that has surprised you?

No, not at this time.

What challenges lay ahead for the Board?

Making sure regulations and codes are up to date and that we continue to provide a useful and thorough service to the public.

What future goals do you have as a Board member?

To continue to serve in my capacity as a well informed and open-minded board member and consumer of massage work.

What unique perspective do you bring to the board (if any)?

I have been receiving massage/body work for 20 years. I work closely with many massage therapists and recommend that all my clients (both athletes and regular population) receive massage.

Any message you would like to convey to your board's licensees?

Stay current and attend educational conferences.

CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK FOR NEW APPLICANTS

Beginning in November 2010, each new applicant for a health care license, registration or certification will need a criminal background check as part of the licensure process. The new rules are set forth in Title 17 of the District of Columbia Municipal Regulation Chapter 85. The cost will be fifty dollars (\$50) payable at the time the application is submitted. Applicants will need to start the process by going to the DC Metropolitan Police Department to have their fingerprints taken or, if applying from out-of-state, by obtaining a fingerprint card from the DC Health Regulation and Licensing Administration and having their fingerprints taken at the local or state police agency. The FBI will require 48 hours to conduct the Criminal Background Check. Adverse information will be reviewed by the Board of Massage Therapy.

HOW TO VERIFY A DC MT LICENSE

- 1) Go to our webpage:
www.hpla.doh.dc.gov
- 2) On left side, under **Services**, double-click **Online Professional License Search**
- 3) Under **Profession** select **MASSAGE THERAPY**
- 4) Enter the name you are searching for, click **Search** button, and license status will appear.

BOARD ORDERS

Revocations

Charles Williams (10/22/09) DC Massage Therapy license was revoked for failing to conform to the standards of acceptable conduct in the practice of massage therapy; engaging in the sexual harassment of a client; demonstrating a willful or careless disregard for the health, welfare or safety of a client; and filing a false statement with the Board.

Nicholas Porreco (11/3/10) DC Massage Therapy license was revoked for failing to conform to the standards of acceptable conduct in the practice of massage therapy; engaging in the sexual harassment of a client; and demonstrating a willful or careless disregard for the health, welfare or safety of a client.

PUBLIC VS. NON-PUBLIC BOARD DISCIPLINE

PUBLIC DISCIPLINE

Disciplinary actions that are reported to the National Practitioners Data Bank and viewed at:

<http://app.hpla.doh.dc.gov/weblookup/>.

NON-PUBLIC DISCIPLINE

Disciplinary actions that constitute an agreement between the Board and the licensee and, if complied, are not made public.

BOARD STATISTICS: The Board of Massage Therapy has on record 864 active licenses as of November 1, 2010.

HONESTY IS THE BEST POLICY: REPORTING DWIs, DUIs, AND OWIs

by Melissa Musiker, MPP, RD, LD

According to a 2009 National Highway Transportation Safety Administration report, in 2008, an estimated 11,773 people died in drunk driving crashes involving a driver with an illegal Blood Alcohol Content (0.08 or greater). These deaths constitute 31.6 percent of the 37,261 total traffic fatalities in 2008. There are increasing reports of people who think "driving while buzzed" is not as dangerous as driving while intoxicated. This is not the case. In Washington, DC any amount of drinking and driving can be cause for legal action.

Washington, DC has three different types of "drunk driving" violations:

- 1. Driving While Intoxicated (DWI)** is the act of operating or being in physical control of a motor vehicle with a blood alcohol level of 0.08 or higher.
- 2. Driving Under the Influence (DUI)** is the act of operating or being in physical control of a motor vehicle "under the influence of alcohol" and this can mean a blood alcohol level as low as 0.05 or if you show that you are impaired by alcohol to an "appreciable degree."
- 3. Operating While Impaired (OWI)** is the act of operating or being in physical control of a motor vehicle while you are so affected by the consumption of alcohol that it impairs your ability to operate a motor vehicle in the same way a reasonably careful and prudent driver, not so impaired, would operate a vehicle in similar circumstances.

Most people are probably familiar with DWI and DUI, however they may not be aware of the OWI law in DC. One need not have an illegal BAC or fail a field sobriety test to be convicted of an OWI. OWI is the easiest of the three types of "drunk driving" violations for a prosecutor to prove and as a result the penalties for an OWI conviction are lighter than those for a DUI or DWI.

Question 7b on the application for licensure asks if you have ever been convicted or investigated of a crime or misdemeanor (other than minor traffic violations). Despite the low threshold for proof, an OWI conviction or investigation must be reported on your application for licensure. The Board takes an OWI conviction just as seriously as we would a conviction for a DWI or DUI. Answering "yes" to question 7b is not cause for automatic exclusion from licensure. Each application for licensure that has a "yes" to question 7b is reviewed individually. As always, honesty is the best policy.

IMPAIRED OPERATION OF A VEHICLE: PLEASE NOTE THAT, IN ADDITION TO ALCOHOL, IMPAIRMENT CAN ALSO BE CAUSED BY LEGALLY-OBTAINED MEDICATIONS OR ILLEGAL SUBSTANCES.

FILING A COMPLAINT WITH THE BOARD

To file a complaint against a licensed Massage Therapist, simply write a letter that describes your complaint. The letter must be signed, and you should attach copies of any pertinent documents that you may have.

The letter must also include your address, so we may contact you as necessary and notify you of any findings.

PLEASE NOTE: You can print a complaint form from our website at www.hpla.doh.dc.gov

You should mail the complaint to:

DC Board of Massage Therapy
717 14th Street, NW
Suite 600
Washington, DC 20005

You can also fax the complaint to the Board at (202) 727-8471.

If your complaint alleges unlicensed activity, you should address your complaint to:

Supervisory Investigator
717 14th Street, NW
Suite 1000
Washington, DC 20005

You can also fax your complaint about unlicensed activity to (202) 724-8677.

Please be advised that the health professional licensing boards do not have jurisdiction over fee disputes, except for billing for services that were not provided. If you have a fee dispute with a health professional, you can seek redress through the civil courts.



Government of the District of Columbia
Adrian M. Fenty, Mayor



Health Professional
Licensing Administration

Address

DC Board of Massage Therapy
717 14th Street, NW
Suite 600
Washington, DC 20005

Phone

(202) 724-8872

Fax

(202) 727-8471

Webpage

www.hpla.doh.dc.gov

DC Government website

www.dc.gov

Current Members of The District of Columbia Board of Massage Therapy

Laura Casperson, MT
Chairperson

Cary Bland, MT
Board Member

Kathy English-Holt, MT
Board Member

Philip Bergman,
Consumer Member

Director, Department of Health
Pierre N.D. Vigilance, MD, MPH

Board Staff

Executive Director

Bonnie Rampersaud
Phone: (202) 724-7332
Email: bonnie.rampersaud@dc.gov

Health Licensing Specialist

Thomasine Pointer
Phone: (202) 724-8872
Email: thomasine.pointer@dc.gov

Assistant Attorney General

Tonia Bair, Esq.

Investigator

Leonard Howard

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