



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NCBTMB APPOINTS BOARD OFFICERS AND NEW DIRECTOR

Elections Held During First Board Meeting

OAKBROOK TERRACE, Illinois (January 27, 2009) – The National Certification Board for Therapeutic Massage & Bodywork (NCBTMB) Board of Directors elected new officers and appointed one new member during its first-quarter meeting in Orlando, Fla.

The nine members of the NCBTMB Board of Directors supervise, control and direct the affairs of the national certification program, as well as its committees, publications and examinations. They also determine NCBTMB policies and procedures. The new Board officers and member are:

Chair-Elect Alexa Zaledonis, LMT, CPT, NCTMB, of Annapolis, Md., is the owner/operator of *Even Keel*, a wellness spa employing seven massage therapists. A graduate of the Baltimore School of Massage, she passed the National Certification Exam in 2002 and has spent the past five years building a practice in her community. Zaledonis is a certified Lotus Palm Thai Yoga Massage practitioner and instructor and opened a school for Thai Yoga in January 2008.

Zaledonis also is a former Certified Public Accountant who specialized in healthcare and nonprofits. She graduated Magna Cum Laude with a bachelor's degree from Albertus Magnus College in New Haven, Conn. Her term on the NCBTMB Board will end December 31, 2011.

Treasurer Michele Baker, LMT, NCTMB, of Jackson, Miss., is the owner and operator of *To Your Health!* Therapeutic Massage Associates, a referrals-only outcall service. Her practice offers Swedish massage, pregnancy massage, reflexology treatments, deep tissue, neuromuscular therapy, aromatherapy, Reiki and ear candling. She currently is working on a reference manual of massage and healthcare treatments for common ailments.

For three years, Baker taught therapeutic massage at a local college and mentored dozens of therapists. She received a bachelor's degree from the University of Arkansas and graduated at the top of her class from the Mississippi School of Therapeutic Massage. Her term on the NCBTMB Board will end December 31, 2010.

New member Dr. W. Randy Snyder, DC, MS, CHCQM, NCTM, works for a specialty healthcare insurance company and is a part-time online instructor in the University of Phoenix's healthcare administration program. He also is the owner and director of the College of Integrative Healthcare, a vocational school specializing in massage therapy and integrative healthcare training. Snyder has served in other volunteer positions with the Commission on Massage Therapy Accreditation and the Massage Therapy Foundation. In addition, he has been a guest speaker and presenter at American Massage Therapy Association conventions.

Snyder holds a DC degree from the Southern California University of Health Sciences, an MS degree in healthcare administration and a certificate from the Pacific College of Oriental Medicine. He was appointed to serve the remainder of the term for Karen Stork, who resigned at the end of 2008. Snyder's term ends December 31, 2010.

"The election of our officers completes the executive committee, providing oversight for our financial concerns and to all areas of operation and governance," said Chair Neal Delaporta. "The addition of Randy Snyder to the Board strengthens our education-based focus and initiatives. I look forward to working with these accomplished individuals as we continue our efforts to better serve the massage and bodywork profession."

ABOUT NCBTMB

The National Certification Board for Therapeutic Massage & Bodywork (NCBTMB) was established in 1992 as an independent, private, nonprofit organization fostering the highest standards of ethical and professional practice in the delivery of therapeutic massage and bodywork through a recognized credentialing program. NCBTMB examinations are currently accepted or recognized in statute or rule by 33 states plus the District of Columbia. There are currently more than 91,000 professionals with NCBTMB certification. The NCBTMB credentialing program has been accredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA) since 1993 and NCBTMB is currently pursuing American National Standards Institute (ANSI) accreditation.

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