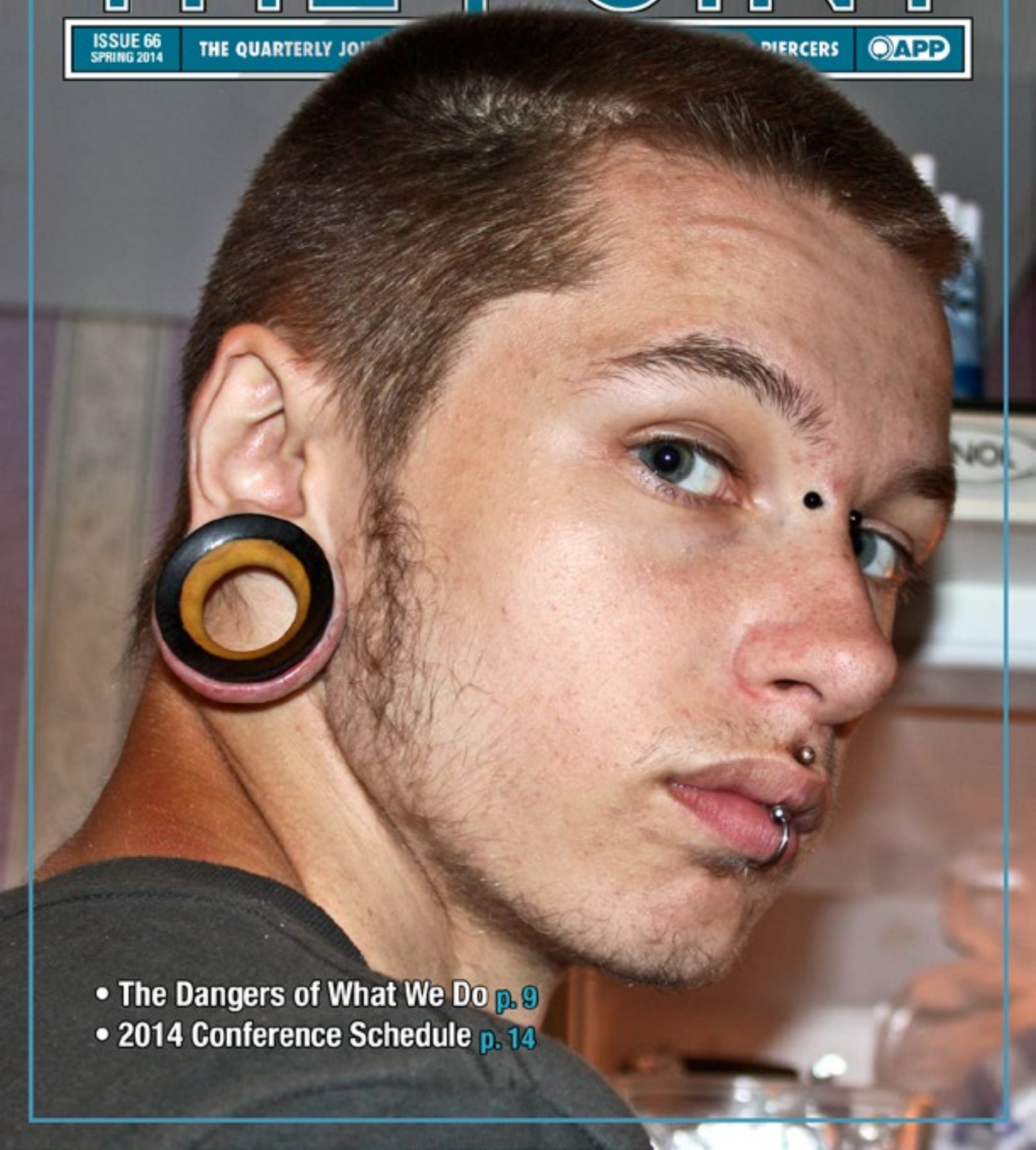


# THE POINT

ISSUE 66  
SPRING 2014

THE QUARTERLY JOURNAL

PIERCERS



- The Dangers of What We Do [p. 9](#)
- 2014 Conference Schedule [p. 14](#)

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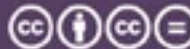
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# FROM THE EDITOR



**KIMBERLY ZAPATA**  
*The Point Editor*

A mix of curiosity, boredom, and contempt for being confined indoors during yet another Northeast snowstorm this season led me to Google (the boredom killer since the '90s). Instead of searching for cute cat pics, the closest Buffalo Wild Wings, or what to do when your baby is teething—all, I hate to admit, are in my recent history—I simply searched “piercing.” Why not, right? The results were interesting, to say the least. Hits came back for Wikipedia, tips on how to obtain safe piercings, and links to local spots. Then I hit the “News” filter: “[Student allegedly ran piercing operation at Chesterfield middle school](#),” “[Oral Piercing – Is it worth the risk?](#),” “8 Celebrities and their Crazy Piercings,” “[Tattoos, body piercings potential risks for Hepatitis C, HIV](#),” and the now infamous woman who “almost died” from a botched pair of cheek piercings. (More information on this story can be found [here](#).) While I could write about each and everyone of these topics, it was the headlines themselves that struck me. Notice anything in particular? Risks? Survived? Crazy? Almost died?

These words cut through me. After spending the last five years of my life working in the industry I have loved for the last decade I thought things were different. (I had convinced myself public perception of piercing had shifted and things were getting better, especially better than “crazy.”) But what these words, and these headlines, did was serve as a reminder that while we—as an in-

dustry—have in fact come a long way, we still have a long way to go.

So what can we do to change public perception and make our industry safer for ourselves and our clients:

- Continue to do what we do best, i.e. perform clean and safe piercing procedures using the highest-quality tools and jewelry.

**Change takes time, and it comes from within. Sure, we can ignore these headlines—pass them off as rare exceptions and chalk them up to ignorance—but, to quote Ghandi, “if we could change ourselves, the tendencies in the world would also change.”**

- Continue educating ourselves and others. The Association’s annual Conference is not only a great place to take classes and brush up on techniques, it is a great way to network and swap stories, ideas, and industry tips and tricks. (And the more we know, they more we can share with our clients!)

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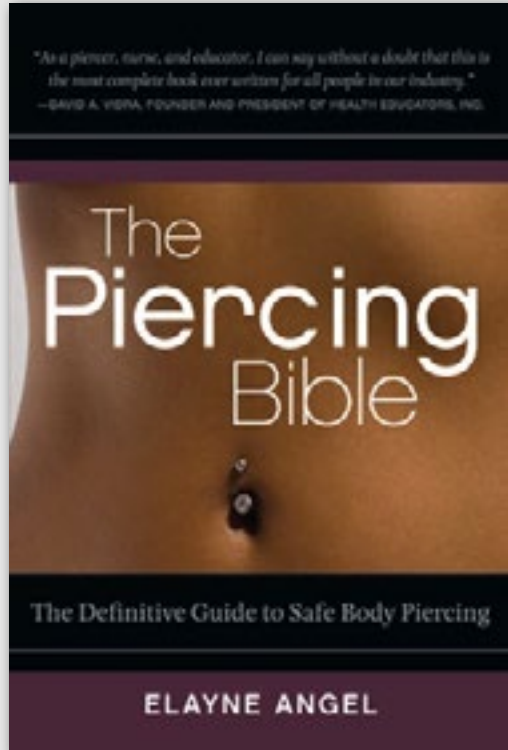
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- Share our positive experiences online. It has been [said](#) over and over again, but it warrants repeating: We—as an industry—are responsible for how others perceive us, and how others remember us. As James Weber [stated](#) in issue #57, “we define ourselves by what we write about ourselves,” and I feel the same is true of what we record and share. Post pictures of properly placed piercings and high-quality jewelry, share videos of piercing procedures, and counteract the “scare” stories with the positive ones—in *The Point*, your Facebook feed, on your blog, or in another industry publication. For more information about sharing piercing photos and videos online, and tips on precisely how to “make safe piercing viral,” check out our [Social Media page](#).

Change takes time, and it comes from within. Sure, we can ignore these headlines—pass them off as rare exceptions and chalk them up to ignorance—but, to quote Ghandi, “if we could change ourselves, the tendencies in the world would also change.” And with continued dedication and persistence to be the best body piercers we can be, we can shift this dynamic. ☺



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**ABOUT THE AUTHOR** - ELAYNE ANGEL has been a professional piercer for more than 20 years and has performed over 40,000 piercings. She was awarded the President's Lifetime Achievement Award by the Association of Professional Piercers in 2006 and is a contributing writer for *PAIN* Magazine. She lives in Mérida, Mexico. Visit [www.piercingbible.com](http://www.piercingbible.com) for more information.

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# PRESIDENT'S CORNER



**ELAYNE ANGEL**  
*APP President*

**H**i, I'm Elayne Angel. I'm President of the Association of Professional Piercers, and this is the President's Corner, for *The Point* # 66.

I recently attended a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Association of Professional Piercers. It was a special meeting because it contained not only the Board members with whom I've served, but also the incoming members who will begin their terms of service at APP conference in June.

I wanted to welcome and congratulate the new board members who include Miro Hernandez, Jef Saunders, Cody Vaughn, and Christopher Glunt.


These four members have a great advantage over members who joined the Board in the past, and that would be their terms of service on committees prior to becoming members of the Board of Directors. So, all of these new members to the Board have served on committees that include membership committees, bloodborne pathogens course committees, outreach committees, social media committees. These are people who have had experience working with groups, attending meetings, taking on tasks, meeting deadlines, and getting the work done. So they have a tremendous advantage over the members who started early on in the organization such as myself, where there were no committees on which to serve. Therefore we all began fresh with our terms of service on the Board, and had to learn how to do it from scratch. So these folks have a lot of experience already, and they're bringing a lot of skills and talent to the Board, which is fantastic.

I also wanted to thank and congratulate the outgoing members of the Board, and they include Vice President, John Johnson; Medical Liaison, Rick Frueh, and Membership Liaison, Sarvas Berry. It has been an honor and a pleasure serving with you. My term of service is also up in June, and I wanted to thank everyone in the organization who voted for me and gave me the opportunity to serve; it has been an honor and a pleasure. Thank you so much.


Looking forward to seeing you all at Conference. It's going to be fantastic. I'll see you all there! ☺





Elayne Angel (right) with Betsy Reynolds at the 2012 APP Conference.


  
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# OUTREACH COMMITTEE UPDATE 2013–14



JULIE TAYLOR



Outreach Committee chair Ash Misako

Each year, the APP Outreach committee takes on a wide range of activities, and from educating healthcare professionals to junior high school students, the committee is always looking for new ways to spread the safe piercing message. The following is an account of our 2013-14 activities:

- We reached out to health professionals by attending the National Environmental Health Association (NEHA) and the American Public Health Association (APHA) annual conferences. Despite feeling a bit nervous

about fitting in with health inspectors from all over the U.S.—and as far away as Australia—A.J. Goldman and Lou Quino had an overwhelmingly positive experience at the NEHA conference. (The inspectors were excited to see the APP booth and A.J. says “they asked a lot of questions and genuinely seemed interested in the answers, and we handed out a lot of brochures for them to take back home!”) Nicholas Adams, Laura Jane Leonard, Brian Moeller and Jef Saunders had a similarly wonderful reception when they staffed the APP booth

at the APHA conference. As Jef *mentions* in issue #65 of *The Point*, “so many people stopped and said, ‘Thank you for being here. This is definitely a great public health topic!’”

- A PowerPoint presentation for junior high schools was created—spearheaded by Outreach committee chair Ash Misako—and has been the focus of much of our activity this year. From autoclaves and spore tests to jewelry standards and portfolios, the PowerPoint is full of facts that will equip young people with the tools to search out safe piercing experiences—and we are proud to have created a presentation to educate students around the world.
- We have continued to meet our goal of having articles published in each and every edition of *The Point*, with Courtney Jane Maxwell writing about last year’s Conference in #64 and April Berardi and myself writing about preparing for this year’s Conference in #65.

We’ve had a great year and are looking forward to facilitating our second Outreach round table at Conference this year. I hope to see you there! ☺





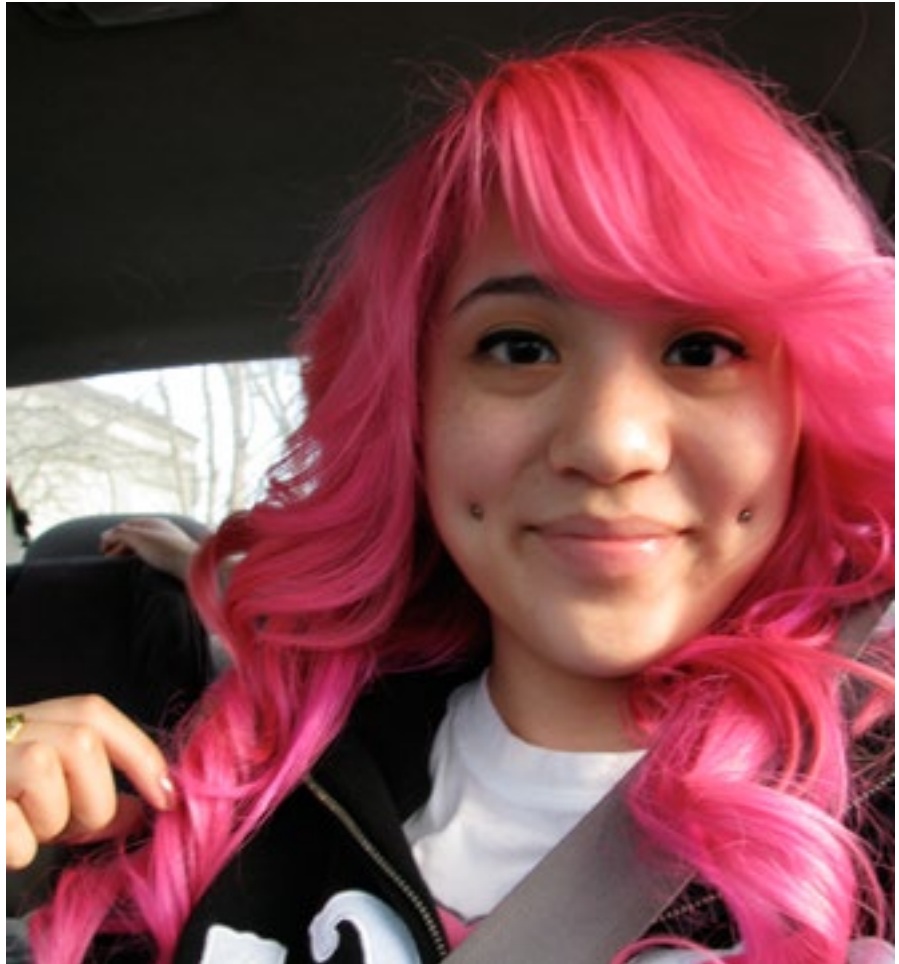
# THE DANGERS OF WHAT WE DO

## THE ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSIONAL PIERCERS

**B**y now, many—if not all—of you have heard about the Birmingham, UK woman who reportedly lost four pints of blood and almost passed away after a botched pair of cheek piercings. (If you haven't, the full details of this story can be read [here](#).) The Association of Professional Piercers has released the following statement on the incident:

*The Association of Professional Piercers (APP) is aware of a piercing incident reported on February 24, 2014 in the lifestyle/health section of the Birminghammail.co.uk website. A Birmingham, UK resident visited a local tattoo and piercing studio for a pair of cheek piercings and reportedly lost four pints of blood in about five days. The article states an artery was ruptured and required surgeons to cauterize the wound. It is important to know bleeding and swelling are among the most common symptoms of a fresh piercing, and some piercings may take several months to appear healed.*

*A small amount of bleeding is normal with any piercing and not usually considered life-threatening or a cause for alarm. Some health conditions and medications may influence the amount of bleeding a piercee may have. This particular client's situation required medical attention and we hope she recovers quickly. Cheek piercings have special anatomical considerations and elevated risk which is evident in this client's experience. Further,*



Young woman with successful cheek piercings. Image licensed under Creative Commons Attribution.

*the use of a light is not always effective for mapping blood vessels in such thick tissue.*

*The APP encourages piercees to educate themselves with what to look for when choosing a studio to ensure the piercer is properly trained and experienced for the piercing they desire, offers jewelry made of an appropriate material and finish, and performs piercings in a safe and aseptic manner. To*

*learn more about picking a piercer and appropriate jewelry standards for initial piercings please visit the APP's [website](#).*

The Association of Professional Piercers is an international non-profit organization dedicated to the dissemination of vital health and safety information about body piercing to piercers, health care professionals, legislators, and the general public. ©

# PIERCER FIGHTS FOR FREEDOM OF CREATIVE EXPRESSION



VICTORIA VOODOO



Misty Forsberg whose actions inspired the writing of this article

Editor's Note: This article is reprinted [from](#) *Obscure Magazine* (September 2013).

**R**ecently, while scrolling through Facebook, I crashed head-first into an article titled “Bill to Ban Certain Tattoos, Body Piercings Passes Senate.” Glaring back at me was a close-up of a girl covered in tattoos, piercings, and neon colored hair with the words “BANNED” stamped across the image. *NO WAY*, I thought. *There is no way, in this day and age, that any U.S. state could outlaw tattoos...*

*...right?*

I was hooked. I clicked the link.

I was not surprised to find an article barking about how an Arkansas Senator is on a mission to limit the freedom of creative expression in her state. The majority of the reviews of this particular article were of similar

tone: Anger, frustration, fear, offense. Certainly our freedom to be tattooed, pierced, scarred, and branded is protected under freedom of speech. Is Big Brother watching us?

Seeing this uproar intrigued me. I had to know more. Without much difficulty, I found the actual senate bill in question: “Senate Bill 387. Arkansas Senate Bill. To Limit Body Art Procedures.” This bill has been sponsored by Arkansas Republican Senator, Missy Irvin.

I read it all the way through. In its first draft, the language was rather vague. It was not necessarily banning or outlawing anything, but the spectrum of what was being considered a “piercing” or a “piercer” (among other definitions) was very broad. Technically, under the original language, even naval piercings would have been made illegal if the bill was passed into law. However, there were modifications made to that vague, original language. I wanted to know who was responsible for those modifications.

My investigation continued. I emailed the sponsoring Senator, personally, and began my hunt for whoever may have helped modify the language of the original bill. I found Misty Forsberg, a piercer and scarification specialist from Southtown Tattoo & Body Piercing in Fort Smith, Arkansas (the irony is not lost on me that the modifier to the bill's language is a body modification artist). Irvin and Forsberg responded to me and they were both extremely open and helpful in teaching me about what happened, how it started, how it end-

ed, and everything in between.

The battle lasted about a year. There were significant technicalities to clarify. Both sides had to absorb vast amounts of education to be able to cohesively speak about this piece of legislature.

In an interview, Forsberg told me “essentially, the state took an interest in heavy modification and held a meeting in which [owner-operator of Anchor Tattoo and Piercing Studio in North Bryant, Arkansas] Dustin Jackson, [Association of Professional Piercers Representative] Steve Joyner, and I were asked about the modifications [the state] had heard of or found online. We did our best to educate them on the areas they asked about, and encourage them to work with our community rather than trying to write legislation for us with little to no knowledge of the subject.”<sup>1</sup>

With the support of the ABMA (Arkansas Body Modification Association), the APTPI (Associazione Piercers e Tatuatori Professionisti Italiani), letter writing from the community, international support, and varying levels of outrage being poured out on social media networks, the body modification artists were able to appeal to the Senator and the state government to clarify the language.

The vague language in the first draft of the bill was revised. For any current or potential body modification clients, the most important thing to know about the final draft of the bill is: NOTHING WAS MADE



ILLEGAL. “The final result was the bill that passed, SB387, defined scarification as a form of body art, but still banned subdermal implants from being performed by licensed Arkansas body artists, with no criminal penalty listed.”<sup>1</sup> To clarify, this means if you want a subdermal implant and you live in Arkansas, you now have to go to a licensed medical professional instead of a piercer or a tattoo artist.

The bill defining scarification as a form of body art changes nothing about its legality. All it means is: scarification is now recognized as a “real” art form – similar to the military recognizing Paganism as a “real” religion to print on government-issued dog tags. To me, this is a positive change.

More openly-recognized diversity in the body modification industry will help avoid situations like this in the future (for example: naval piercings being lumped into the same category as subdermal implants).

While the limitations to who can perform subdermal implants can be considered rather disheartening, in the long run, it is not a significant loss to the industry. “There have been several people upset to see any ban, and I agree that it isn’t entirely what we would have liked to see. One day it may reach a point when [subdermal implants] become a licensed practice, but that day isn’t today. For now, I feel the compromise we reached isn’t a step backward for that industry.”<sup>1</sup> Think

about how bad the results of this battle *could* have been. We live to fight another day.

Something else worth considering is the differences between the artists and the government involved. Both parties worked together to find a mutually agreed-upon middle ground that made everybody as happy as possible. In an email correspondence, Senator Irvin told me “Not everything you read on the Internet is truth. I completely reject the idea that I somehow am limiting freedom of expression when the tattoo artists of my state wrote this bill along with me, the Arkansas Department of Health and other legislators from both sides of the aisle.”<sup>2</sup> Through hard work, discipline, open com-

munication, and mutual education, these stereotypically different parties were able to find compromise.

Anybody who is tattooed, pierced, or modified has likely experienced some sort of discrimination – myself included. Very often, being modified gives “conservative” people the impression that we are less educated or of questionable morals. We must, however, realize that the conservatives also face a similar type of discrimination from us, the modified. I will bet when you read “Republican Senator,” you automatically assumed that Missy Irvin would be cold-hearted, close-minded, and unmoving on her stance to ban certain types of body modification. I will be the first to admit that I was afraid that would be true, too, but she then told me “I am proud of our work and was honored to work with a very fine group of professionals with a high code of ethics. I have a tremendous amount of respect for them and their passion for their art, industry and clients.”<sup>2</sup>

Admit it. That is awesome.

The professional respect did not stop there. Misty Forsberg expressed to me “the misinformation which has been posted online does not help our fight here, and, if anything, sets us back with that progress. More importantly, we hope that people realize the rude and disrespectful comments made toward Missy Irvin that are being encouraged do nothing but make us look like the unprofessional, unintelligent people that many state representatives might assume we are. She and our industry might not see eye to eye, but in the end she chose to work *with* us rather than push forward with a bill that could have potentially harmed our industry a great deal. She shook our hands when we won, and she admitted that her view of who we are was different than when she first came into this. We could all do with being



Senator Missy Irvin and Scarification Specialist Misty Forsberg with a group of artists who helped work on SB387. Photo credit: Joe Phillips. Permission to print given by Misty Forsberg.

polite enough to show the same level of professional courtesy.”<sup>1</sup>

If you learn nothing else from this article, learn that.

What scares me most, at this point, is that just because something is illegal does not mean people will stop. If somebody wants a subdermal implant in Arkansas but does not want to pay for a “licensed medical professional” (basically a plastic surgeon), he or she might find an underground artist to perform the procedure behind closed doors, against regulations. This poses just as much risk as getting a tattoo out of some dude’s garage. You, the client, will be at a higher risk of exposure to infection, blood-borne diseases, and rejection of the piercing, implant, or tattoo that you might get.

Always do your research. Always be smart. Always go to a professional. In my humble opinion, follow the old adage of “good tattoos ain’t cheap, and cheap tattoos ain’t good.” It is so true in so many different contexts. Do not sacrifice your health, your appearance, your pride, or even your wallet for something that only *seems* easier or cheaper.

I know reading about politics can

be about as thrilling as a root canal, but it is important for all of us to stay abreast of any changes to the industry. The best way to gain acceptance for our respective forms of creative expression is to keep ourselves educated, informed, and professional. Just because this particular incident happened in Arkansas does not mean it cannot or will not happen in your state at some point. In an article published by the A.P.P., Forsberg stated “oddly, the most valuable lesson I learned from this was not about legislative writing, legalities, or how to create change in my state. It was about support—the importance of *all of us* supporting each other as an industry.”<sup>3</sup>

Senate Bill 387 was passed into law earlier this year. ©

<sup>1</sup> Interview with Misty Forsberg via Facebook Messenger—08/26/2013.

<sup>2</sup> Email correspondence with Senator Missy Irvin—08/21/2013.

<sup>3</sup> Misty Forsberg. “Arkansas Legislation.” *The Point—The Quarterly Journal of the Association of Professional Piercers*. Issue #63, 05/04/2013.

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# THE ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSIONAL PIERCERS 19TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE & EXPOSITION CLASSES & CONFERENCE SCHEDULE—2014

(FULL CLASS DESCRIPTIONS & REGISTRATION INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE AT [SAFEPIERCING.ORG](http://SAFEPIERCING.ORG))

## MONDAY, June 9, 2014

9:00-10:30

Orientation/Mentor Program

*Instructors: Derek Lowe, Ash Misako*

9:30-10:30

International Suspension Alliance Meeting

*Instructor: Allen Falkner*

11:00-12:00

Vendor Meeting

*Instructor: Luis Garcia*

11:00-12:30

Aftercare Series: Wound Healing Dynamics

*Instructor: Betsy Reynolds*

11:00-12:30

Gold Jewelry: Sales & Marketing

*Instructors: Noah Babcock, Nate Janke*

11:00-1:00

Versatility in Piercing Techniques (A)

*Instructors: Ed Chavarria, Chris Glunt, Brian Skellie, Dana Dinius*

11:00-1:30

Working Clean Within Your Studio (A)

*Instructors: Ryan Ouellette, Jesse V., A.J Goldman, Johnny Velez*

1:45-2:45

Disorders in the Industry  
*Instructors: Courtney Maxwell, Ashley Misako*

1:45-2:45

Spanish 101 for the Piercing Room

*Instructor: Ed Chavarria*

1:45-3:15

Anodizing is Awesome!

*Instructor: Brian Skellie*

1:45-3:15

Writing a Business Plan

*Instructors: Christina Shull, Mike Bindrup*

3:30-4:30

Community Outreach: Sharing the Safe Piercing Message

*Instructors: The Outreach Committee, Chuck Kesler*

3:30-7:30

Bloodborne Pathogens (BBP)

*Instructors: John Johnson, Rick Frueh, Brian Oviatt, Chris Glunt*

4:00-6:00

Basic Steel & Titanium

*Instructor: Jason King*

4:45-6:45

Strategic Marking Workshop (A)

*Instructors: Christina Shull, Georg Birns, Courtney Maxwell, Rob Hill*

4:45-7:15

Working Clean Within Your Studio (B)

*Instructors: Ryan Ouellette, Jesse V., A.J Goldman, Johnny Velez*

## TUESDAY, June 10

8:30-9:30

Committees' Meeting

*Instructor: Bethra Szumski*

10:00-12:00

Strategic Marking Workshop (B)

*Instructors: Christina Shull, Georg Birns, Courtney Maxwell, Rob Hill*

10:00-11:30

Mastering the Jewelry Monster

*Instructors: Alicia Cardenas, William Spencer*

10:00-12:30

Oro-Facial Anatomy for Safe & Successful Piercings

*Instructors: Betsy Reynolds, Elayne Angel*

10:00-12:30

Working Clean Within Your Studio (C)

*Instructors: Ryan Ouellette, Jesse V., A.J Goldman, Johnny Velez*

11:00-12:00

Health Inspector Meeting

*Instructors: Steve Joyner, Rick Frueh*

1:00-3:00

Versatility in Piercing Techniques (B)

*Instructors: Ed Chavarria, Chris Glunt, Brian Skellie, Dana Dinius*

1:30-3:00

Stretching: Lobes & Beyond

*Instructors: Miro Hernandez, Christopher Jennell*

1:30-4:00

Working Clean Within Your Studio (D)

*Instructors: Ryan Ouellette, Jesse V., A.J Goldman, Johnny Velez*

2:00-3:00

APP Membership

*Instructors: APP Membership Committee*

3:15-4:45

Marketing: Stand Out and Be Remembered

*Instructors: John Johnson, Mike Bindrup*

3:30-5:00

Aftercare Series: Client Home Care

*Instructors: Steve Joyner, Cody Vaughn*

4:15-5:15

Standing Out & Fitting in: Life with Visible

Body Modification

*Instructor: Richard Ivey*

5:15-7:15

Needles: the Cutting Edge

*Instructors: Brian Skellie, Luis Garcia*

5:15-7:15

Strategic Marking Workshop (C)

*Instructors: Christina Shull, Georg Birns, Courtney Maxwell, Rob Hill*

5:30-7:00

Aftercare Series:

Troubleshooting Piercing Problems

*Instructor: Bethra Szumski*

5:45-6:45  
Legislation  
*Instructor: Steve Joyner*

7:30-8:30  
Shop Owners  
*Instructor: Darrin Walters*

7:30-10:00  
Working Clean Within  
Your Studio (E)  
*Instructors: Ryan Ouellette, Jesse V., A.J Goldman, Johnny Velez*

7:30-10:00  
Studio Documentation:  
Putting the Paper to Work  
*Instructors: Rick Frueh, Crystal Sims*

7:45-9:45  
Suspension Rigging :  
Mechanical Advantage  
*Instructor: Allen Falkner*

7:45-9:45  
Nostril Piercing Advanced  
Fundamentals  
*Instructors: Jef Saunders, Alicia Cardenas*

### **WEDNESDAY, June 11**

10:00-11:30  
Hardwood is Good to Find:  
Wood Safety &  
Maintenance  
*Instructor: Breon Bishop*

10:00-12:00  
Strategic Marking  
Workshop (D)  
*Instructors: Christina Shull, Georg Birns, Courtney Maxwell, Rob Hill*

10:00-12:00  
Modern Surface Piercing  
Technique Workshop (A)  
*Instructors: Luis Garcia, Seth Dietz, Nate Janke, Miro Hernandez*

10:00-1:00  
CPR  
*Instructor: Red Cross*

12:15-1:15  
Piercing Minors  
*Instructors: Becky Dill, Courtney Maxwell*

12:15-1:15  
International Meeting  
*Instructors: Brian Skellie, Danny Yerna*

1:30-2:30  
Healing or Harm?  
Our Responsibility as  
Body Piercers  
*Instructor: Fakir*

1:30-3:30  
Modern Surface Piercing  
Technique Workshop (B)  
*Instructors: Luis Garcia, Seth Dietz, Nate Janke, Miro Hernandez*

1:30-3:30  
Versatility in Piercing  
Techniques (C)  
*Instructors: Ed Chavarria, Chris Glunt, Brian Skellie, Dana Dinius*

2:45-3:45  
New Attendees &  
Mentors Meeting  
*Instructors: Ash Misako*

4:00-5:00  
A "Fireside" Chat  
with Jim Ward  
*Instructor: Jim Ward*

5:15-5:45  
Members Mingle  
*Instructors: APP Members Only*

5:45-6:45  
Members meeting  
*Instructors: APP Members Only*

7:15-9:15  
Anatomy of the Body for  
Safe & Successful Piercings  
*Instructors: Elayne Angel, Dr. Jack*

7:15-8:45  
Initial Jewelry: The "Rules"  
(& when to break them)  
*Instructors: Cody Vaughn, Jef Saunders*

7:15-9:15  
Modern Surface Piercing  
Technique Workshop (C)  
*Instructors: Luis Garcia, Seth Dietz, Nate Janke, Miro Hernandez*

7:30-9:30  
Members Open Techniques  
*Instructors: Panel*

### **THURSDAY, June 12**

10:00-12:00  
Male Genital Piercings:  
A Dual Perspective  
*Instructors: James Weber, Elayne Angel*

10:00-12:00  
Versatility in Piercing  
Techniques (D)  
*Instructors: Ed Chavarria, Chris Glunt, Brian Skellie, Dana Dinius*

10:00-12:30  
Working Clean Within  
Your Studio (F)  
*Instructors: Ryan Ouellette, Jesse V., A.J Goldman, Johnny Velez*

10:30-12:00  
Bedside Manner &  
Grounding: Making  
the most of the moment  
*Instructors: John Johnson, Josh Bryant*

1:15-3:15  
Ascetic Practices of Hindu  
Tamil—Festival of Sri Lanka  
*Instructors: Paul King, Jon John*

1:15-3:15  
Strategic Marking  
Workshop (E)  
*Instructors: Christina Shull, Georg Birns, Courtney Maxwell, Rob Hill*

1:45-3:45  
Modern Surface Piercing  
Technique Workshop (D)  
*Instructors: Luis Garcia, Seth Dietz, Nate Janke, Miro Hernandez*

2:00-3:30  
How to Use a Statim  
*Instructors: Ryan Ouellette, Jef Saunders*

4:00-6:00  
Staying Ahead of the  
Curve: Tracking & Utilizing  
Trends in the Industry  
*Instructors: Panel*

4:30-5:30  
Statim Maintenance &  
Troubleshooting  
*Instructors: Brian Skellie*

4:30-5:30  
Ergonomics in the  
Piercing Room:  
What's Easiest for You is  
Easiest for Your Client  
*Instructors: John Johnson, Dana Dinius*

4:30-6:00  
Medical Considerations f  
or Body Piercing  
*Instructors: Derek Lowe, Chris Glunt*

### **FRIDAY, June 13**

10:00-1:00  
First Aid  
*Instructors: Red Cross*

11:00-1:00  
Versatility in Piercing  
Techniques (E)  
*Instructors: Ed Chavarria, Chris Glunt, Brian Skellie, Dana Dinius*

11:00-1:00  
Modern Surface Piercing  
Technique Workshop (E)  
*Instructors: Luis Garcia, Seth Dietz, Nate Janke, Miro Hernandez*

# CONFERENCE BUDGETING: PART TWO



WILL & KIMMY VONDOOME ECK



*Editor's Note: If it seems we have spent a lot of time talking about Conference (from attending, to budgeting, to post-Conference reviews) it is because we have. The importance of our annual Conference cannot be overstated and, as such, we are making every effort to allow piercers from across the country—and around the world—the ability to be able to attend. This article is the second in our recent series about budgeting for the big event.*

The following points were put together by Will and Kimmy Vondome Eck. Their tips for attending the Association of Professional Piercer's Conference will allow you to enjoy conference on a tight budget. You will be saving money and still get to enjoy everything conference has to offer.

**Before you arrive...**

## Conference fees

Register ahead of time to get a discount on a full Conference pass. A full Conference pass is the best deal out there—unlimited classes and expo entry—and only those with a full conference pass will be able to take the hands on workshops offered. There are also different scholarships available too!

## Travel

Start checking the prices of flights (if applicable) early and watch for sales. If the price drops by \$100 or more, it's probably time to buy. If you are driving, arrange to carpool.

## Hotel

Book a hotel room at Bally's (where the conference is being held). Request the APP Conference room block when booking your room to

get a discounted rate. Book early for a deeper discount. There might be cheaper hotels "nearby" but the distance between buildings in Vegas can be deceiving, and the hotels are huge. The time you would spend commuting isn't worth the limited monetary savings. Staying at Bally's will make it easier to make it to class on time (even after a late night out) and to network at the bar with your fellow piercers. Once you've booked your hotel room, find fellow piercers with whom to share the room. It should also be noted that the hotel won't charge your credit card until you check-in.

## Snacks

If you are on a tight budget, pack snacks from home or make a grocery run to buy some. Granola bars, nuts, cereal, and other dry goods that you can eat on-the-go are great. Catch a ride to the local grocery store or walk to Walgreens and make the most of your food budget.

**Once you're here...**

## Ground Transportation

Shuttles and taxi cabs are abundant at the airport. The shuttles may save you a few dollars (if you are traveling alone) but will also take longer. If you can split a cab with a few other piercers that is probably your best bet. Look around baggage claim after you land; you are bound to find somebody heading your way. And if you drove, Bally's (and other casinos) offer complimentary parking.



## Breakfast

Bally's offers a complimentary continental breakfast (7am-11am). Eat your fill and grab a few items to go every morning.

## Lunch

Time to break out some of the snacks you brought from home or the continental breakfast. There are a few cheap eats nearby too.

## Dinner

If you are going to splurge, now is the time. Have a pre-dinner snack and cocktail in your room before heading out to dinner.

*After you get home from Conference...*

## Tax Deductions for Conference

First and foremost: Collect all of your receipts from conference and stash them somewhere safe! (When next year's tax return rolls around you will be thankful you did.) Below are some general guidelines and tips for getting the most money back from your Conference travel expenses, but be sure to consult a tax professional to gain insight into your particular situation.

You may be able to deduct your conference fees, flights, ground travel, and hotel expenses.

Food and entertainment expenses are trickier: Keep track of your food expenses for business tax purposes but don't buy a round of shots and expect to be able to deduct that as a business expense. If you are traveling, you are able to deduct half of the U.S. General Services Administration Meals and Incidental Expenses Rate for Las Vegas (\$71/day in 2013) or half of your actual expenses, so long as those expenses are not extravagant (hence why you need to save your receipts).

If you go out with an employee, client, or customer, you may deduct half of your business-related entertainment, such as meals, if (among other stipulations) the main purpose of the entertainment was the active conduct of business or followed a business meeting, you had more than a general expectation of getting income or some other specific business benefit, and the expenses are not extravagant.

## Here is a sample budget for attending Conference

### Conference Fees

Early Full Conference Pass ..... \$400  
Banquet ..... \$40

## Hotel

Bally's (5 nights, 4 people per room) ..... \$120

## Transportation

Flight\* ..... \$300  
Shuttle to and from airport ..... \$30  
One additional roundtrip taxi ride  
(e.g. for off-site dinner) ..... \$30

## Meals (5.5 Days)

Continental breakfast ..... Free!  
Lunch (cheap eats \$10 x 2 days,  
supplemented by snacks) ..... \$20  
Dinner and drinks (dining out \$40 x 4 days) ..... \$160

**Total ..... \$1,100**

*\*Costs to travel to and from Las Vegas will vary based on your geographic location and mode of transportation saving approximately \$90 per month for one year will get you to Conference! ☺*





Association of Professional Piercers



**Procedure Manual**  
2013 Edition

[www.safepiercing.org](http://www.safepiercing.org)



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## 19<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CONFERENCE & EXPOSITION

June 8-13, 2014

at Bally's Hotel And Casino  
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DO NOT NEED TO BE  
A MEMBER TO ATTEND  
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