

AZ Acupuncture Board Newsletter

2025
January

AZ Acupuncture Board of Examiners,
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You can apply for a vacant seat on the Board at bc.azgovernor.gov

The Boards Mission

The mission of the Arizona Acupuncture Board of Examiners is to protect the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Arizona by regulating and maintaining standards of practice in the field of acupuncture.

Meeting Schedule

March 26, 2025
May 28, 2025
July 23, 2025 - Tentative
September 24, 2025
December 03, 2025

Board Members

Mario Fontes – L.Ac. 2025 Chairperson
Jose Tomas – L.Ac. 2025 Vice Chairperson
Alex Tan – L.Ac.
Tali Lehavi – Public Member
Matt Klein – Licensed Homeopathic Physician
Vacant – Public Member
Vacant – L.Ac. or Acu Detox Specialist

A Message from the 2024 Chairperson

Dear Acupuncture Colleagues,

As 2024 slips into the sunset, let us reflect on the work and achievements of the Arizona Acupuncture Board. There is a dedicated two-person full-time staff and five Board Members (an additional two positions are vacant) that are 100% volunteer. We attempted to pay our board members a stipend for their meeting attendance, however, due to budget constraints this was not possible so I send out a special thanks to all the members for their dedication and service to the Acupuncture community. I'll share more of what the Board has done on page 4 under 2024 Achievements.



Let's explore how the board works, its function, how it differs from an Acupuncture Association and how it plays an important role in providing Acupuncturists the respect and trust from the community at large. I would like to encourage L.AC's to apply to serve on the board as we currently have two member positions vacant (hopefully one of those will be filled soon) and the application process takes many months. There is always a need for fresh board members. In terms of commitment, we typically have one in-person meeting in January in Phoenix and then once-a-month meetings attended virtually which typically last 1-2 hours.

The board plays a critical role for the Acupuncture profession, and needs volunteers, so please consider serving at least 1 three-year term. I know for me, it has been a valuable learning experience how the state legislature and the Board Office works. I've grown an appreciation for the people who work behind the scenes to keep growing our profession in safety and effectiveness. If interested, please message our Executive Director David Geriminsky (director@acupuncture.az.gov) and we will send you the relevant material to apply. We also have one 'Public Member' position vacant; so please encourage any upstanding citizens that are willing to serve.

There is a common misconception that the Board is an advocate for the Licensed Acupuncturists. That is not correct, the Board's role is regulation which exists to protect the public's health, safety and welfare. In the State of Arizona, statutes provide for the Acupuncture Board of Examiners to handle the licensing and regulation for the Acupuncture profession.

Responsibilities include:

- To investigate complaints.
- To oversee the general application of the laws governing the practice of Acupuncture.
- To update and develop regulations.
- To address scope of practice and to better define appropriate conduct by professionals.
- To continually review required credentials for Acupuncturists to practice safely, effectively and ethically.
- To apply appropriate disciplinary action to Acupuncturists who may have broken the public's trust through a violation of law.
- To function in the global regulatory community to assist other professions or jurisdictions affected by Acupuncture.

As we celebrate another annual cycle, I would like to express my gratitude to everyone who dedicated their time, energy, and effort to the State of Arizona Acupuncture Board of Examiners. Whether you participate in local Acupuncture groups, are involved with the state association, or a serving board member or simply providing excellent healthcare to the Citizens of Arizona, thank you and we celebrate all that you are doing on behalf of the profession. Together, we are truly dedicated to a brighter future for acupuncture – one that honors our rich traditions while advancing our profession's vital role in modern healthcare. If you're not already part of the greater Acupuncture community, we hope you consider being part of our continued journey in 2025. If you are interested in joining the Board and want to discuss this a bit with me before deciding whether to apply, please contact me via email (alex@straightbamboo.com) and I'll be happy to set up a conversation. Wishing you all a peaceful, prosperous and harmonious year of the Wood-Snake!

Yours,
Alex Tan, L.Ac.

Acupuncture Assistants

During the last legislative session a bill was passed that created a new registration for Acupuncture Assistants operating under the supervision of a licensed acupuncturist, and an approval process for their education. What this means is that if you have an assistant that performs duties as defined under the law you **MUST** register that person with the Board and they **MUST** complete a training program approved by the Board. You may develop your own training program and present it to the Board for approval. Forms for this can be found on the Board's website. A list of approved programs can be found on our website as well.

An AA may not insert acupuncture needles or evaluate, interpret, design or modify established treatment programs of acupuncture care.

A.R.S. § 32-3901(1) defines "Acupuncture Assistant" (AA) as "an unlicensed person who has completed a training program approved by the board, who assists in basic health care duties in the practice of acupuncture under the supervision of a licensed acupuncturist and who performs delegated duties commensurate with the acupuncture assistant's education and training, but who does not evaluate, interpret, design or modify established treatment programs of acupuncture care."

A.R.S. § 32-3901(6) defines "Supervision" to mean "that the supervising licensed acupuncturist is present in the facility where the [AA] is performing services and is available for consultation regarding procedures that the licensed acupuncturist has authorized and for which the licensed acupuncturist remains responsible."

Herbal Therapies and Injections

Also, during the last session Herbal Therapies was included in the Scope of Licensed Acupuncturists.

A.R.S. § 32-3901(5) defines "Herbal therapies" as "prescribing, administering, injecting, compounding, and dispensing herbal medicines and plant, animal, mineral, and natural substances."

A.R.S. § 32-3901(1)(b)(v) requires acupuncturists using and prescribing herbal therapies to do so only commensurate with the acupuncturist's education and training. The Board recognizes that many, but not all, acupuncture training programs, both American and foreign, include sufficient and extensive training in herbal therapies.

A substantive policy statement is on the Board's website. The Board will be writing rules to further define educational requirements and what substances are approved for injection. If you have any input or comment please contact the Board at info@acupuncture.az.gov

Quick Tips

Not getting temporary password email(s) or account locked issues?

If you are trying to log into your profile for renewal, and are not receiving a temporary password email, it is possible your account is locked due to incorrect password or security questions answers. If this is the case it will not issue you a temporary password. You will need to contact the Board to have your profile unlocked so you can log in again.

Uploading CEUs for renewal:

Here are step by step instructions to report your CEUs when you submit your renewal. Please note these steps need to be completed before you start your renewal or it will not let you continue at a certain point until they are submitted.

- 1) Right above where you go to fill out your License Renewal there is a tab that says "Continuing Education". Click on that tab.
- 2) You will then select the renewal period you are working on and press "view".
- 3) You will enter the information for the CEU there.
- 4) Once you have finished with that section, you will go back to the license renewal.
- 5) In the License Renewal section where it mentions you CEUs the ones you entered will be listed and you will be able to move on.

If you have questions or come across issues with reporting your CEUs for your renewal, please reach out to our License Coordinator Richard Graham for assistance. info@acupuncture.az.gov

The Board's 2024 Achievements

- We currently have - 681 L.AC's, 51 Acu-Detox, 7 Acupuncture Assistants.
- We did introduce a fee increase for L.AC renewals from \$275 to \$325. Fee increases are not popular among our licensees and something we do not like doing. However, the reality is we did everything we could to trim the budget but in the end our chief responsibility is to keep the Board operational and adequately funded, just like any other business. The facts that were considered in this decision included, there had been a steady increase in L.AC's in Arizona over the past twenty years and that supported increases in revenue, however, that has now leveled off. There has not been a fee increase for L.AC renewals for at least 10-years and if we look at other state renewal fees we are still right in the middle of that range. Later in the year, following our implementation of the fee increase the state legislature put a three year freeze on fee increases, so we were satisfied with our decision to be proactive in this area to ensure proper functioning of our board. If we had not increased renewal fees, the Board would have run out of funding in a short period of time and would have been unable to renew licenses, receive complaints, or perform any of its other functions.
- The Board Website has been updated. Please feel free to send any comments to our Executive Director.
- We reduced the number of Board Members from nine to seven in order for the board to more easily achieve quorum. The Governor appoints, to a three-year term, the seven members that make up the Acupuncture Board of Examiners. The Board is comprised of three licensed acupuncturists, one member who is either a licensed acupuncturist or auricular acupuncturist, one professional member who is licensed as a MD, DO, NMD, HMD or DC and two public members. We currently have 1 x public member vacancy and 1 x member who is either a licensed acupuncturist or auricular acupuncturist.
- There is also an inclusion to our scope to perform 'Animal Acupuncture' with certain requirements that include, approved training programs, referral from a Vet etc. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact the Board office.

Disclaimer

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Your input is valuable to us. If there is something you feel would help to be included in this newsletter please email the Board office.

Fingerprint Clearance Card

The Legislature passed a bill last year that required many license types including Acupuncturists and Auricular Acupuncturists to obtain a Fingerprint Clearance Card. All licensees and applicants MUST obtain a card prior to licensure or license renewal.

Go to <https://psp.azdps.gov/>

Click on "Sign up" to create an individual account, and log in.

Click on "FINGERPRINT CLEARANCE CARD"

Follow the prompts to apply for a clearance card and pay the application fee.

The system will automatically log you out after you make your payment.

Please log back in to access your messages. Click on the button that says MESSAGES

at the top of the page. You will receive a message regarding your online application, with fingerprinting instructions.

When you get fingerprinted you'll need the following information:

Authorized state agency: Acupuncture Board of Examiners

Approved categories:

1. Applicants for an acupuncture detoxification specialist certificate
2. Applicants for a license to practice acupuncture

Reason Fingerprinted (RFP) field: • AZRS 32-3922 and 32-3924 Acupuncture

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