

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Certified Practitioner,

As autumn settles in and the seasons change, it's a good time to pause and reflect on our work and priorities. Here at ANCB, we enjoyed a busy and productive summer, filled with travel and organizational development. Many of the changes you've been hearing about — from new policies to new services and personnel — have now been incorporated into our daily, weekly and monthly routines.

If you haven't taken advantage of our new services — like our on-line Practitioner Directory or our E-News Alert service — please do so! We hope you'll find them helpful.

Many of you will soon be invited to renew your CTN or CNW certification. Renewing your certification is easy and important; read more about it in this newsletter. Also in this issue of the *ANCB Bulletin*, we've reprinted a recent E-News alert and we've published our 2007 Certification Exam schedule.

Best wishes for a safe and happy holiday season,



2007 CERTIFICATION EXAM SCHEDULE

ANCB has scheduled our National Certification Exams for 2007. Exams in both Traditional Naturopathy (CTN) and Nutritional Wellness (CNW) will be given at each location. Contact our office or visit www.ancb.net for information on qualifying or for an exam application.

January 20, 2007
Philadelphia, PA

July 28, 2007
Las Vegas, NV

April 21, 2007
Atlanta, GA

October 6, 2007
Dallas, TX

All exam dates are Saturdays and exams are held at hotels convenient to major airports. The exams in April and July are held in conjunction with other events: Clayton College's Annual Conference (April) and the ANMA Annual Convention (July).

CERTIFICATION RENEWAL UPDATE

One cornerstone of any reputable professional certification is a policy on certification renewal and continuing education. Renewing your CTN or CNW Certification demonstrates your commitment to continued excellence. It also demonstrates that you are receiving continuing education to stay atop emerging new developments in naturopathic modalities. Twenty (20) hours of CEU's are required every two years, along with a renewal fee of \$100.

We realize it can be hard to keep track of your renewal due date, so we'll send you a reminder notice approximately one month before your renewal is due. We'll include a renewal form that you can complete and return to ANCB.

So, keep track of all those workshops, lectures, conferences and classes you attend, and make copies of your transcripts, Certificates of Attendance or Completion. We look forward to keeping you current!

ANCB NEWS ALERT

Update on the Naturopathic National Council (NNC) and its Licensing and Trademark Claims

The following is a reprint of a recent E-News electronic alert, sent in September 2006. To subscribe to our E-News alert service and receive timely e-mail updates, please send an e-mail message to us at info@ancb.net.

As we reported a few months ago, the Naturopathic National Council (NNC) has made two claims that are of interest to ANCB practitioners and naturopaths everywhere. ANCB has received new information on these issues and we'd like to update you.

Review

NNC's two main claims were:

1. That NNC is the sole licensing authority for naturopaths
2. That NNC has a federal trademark and exclusive ownership of the title "Doctor of Naturopathy, N.D."

In pursuit of these claims, NNC tried to prevent several states from issuing licenses using the title Doctor of Naturopathy, N.D., or similar titles, and they also claimed that all traditional naturopaths must obtain a license from NNC.

Status of NNC's Claims

NNC's claims have not been substantiated. NNC is not the exclusive licensing authority for naturopaths, and it does not own the Doctor of Naturopathy title. Despite the NNC's claims, it cannot force you to obtain an NNC license. Neither can NNC prevent you from displaying your college degree with the "Doctor of Naturopathy, N.D." title or prevent you from practicing.

NNC's Actual Rights

The only trademark NNC has registered with the United States Patent and Trademark Office is for the organization's name, "Naturopathic National Council, Inc." (The name is registered as a "certification mark.") This simply means that others cannot use this name (or similar names) without permission from the NNC.

While the NNC has applied for trademark registration on other terms ("Doctor of Naturopathy, N.D." and "Doctor of Naturopathic Medicine"), it has not yet been successful in registering these trademarks. Generally, titles and degrees (such as professor, professional engineer, JD, CPA, or MD) are not eligible for trademark registration because they convey personal information about the individual, rather than describing services rendered by the person.

Conclusion

NNC has *no* authority over traditional naturopaths (except for those who want to use the phrase "Naturopathic National Council" in conjunction with their practice) and *no* control over the use of the titles "Doctor of Naturopathy" or "N.D." NNC cannot require you to obtain a license to practice naturopathy or to use the title naturopath or "Doctor of Naturopathy, N.D."



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