



April 13, 1994—The first APP meeting participants (Listed as “founders” in *The Point 1*): (standing l-r) Irwin Kane (Gauntlet, Inc.), Raelyn Gallina, Vaughn (Body Manipulations), Michaela Grey and Jim Ward (Gauntlet, Inc.), Melisa Kaye (Body Manipulations), Richard White [Carter] (Primeval Body), Joann Wyman (Body Manipulations), Elizabeth Brassil (Body Manipulations), Drew Ward (Gauntlet, Inc.) - (kneeling l-r) Blake Perlingieri (Nomad), Kristian White (Nomad) at Gauntlet corporate offices in San Francisco.

APP BOARD MEMBERS & OFFICERS HISTORY

2017–2020

- Luis Garcia—International Liaison
- Ryan Ouellette—Outreach
- Brian Skellie—Medical Liaison
- Kendra Jane—Vice President
- Jef Saunders—President

2014–2017

- Cody Vaughn—Vice President
- Christopher Glunt—Medical Liaison
- Steve Joyner—Legislation Liaison
- Miro Hernandez—Public Relations Director
- Jef Saunders—Membership Liaison
- Aaron Pollack—Secretary (Board Appointed)

2013–2016

- Brian Skellie—Global Media
Transitioned to President Q2 2014
- Ashley Misako—Outreach

2011–2014

- Elayne Angel—President
- John Johnson—Vice President
- Richard Frueh—Medical Liaison
- Mike Martin—Legislation Liaison
Stepped down April 2013
- Steve Joyner—Legislation Liaison
Appointed Legislative Chair June 2013
- Sarvas Berry—Membership Liaison 2010–2013
- Brian Skellie—International Liaison
- Dana Dinius—Outreach Coordinator
Stepped down Q1 2012
- Ashley Misako—Outreach
Appointed Q1 2012

2008–2011

- James Weber—President
- Didier Suarez—Vice-President

- Elayne Angel—Medical Liaison
- Eduardo Chavarria—Membership Liaison
- Bethrah Szumski—Secretary
Stepped down Q2 2010
- Paul King—Treasurer (Board Appointed Officer)

2007–2010

- Danny Yerna—International Outreach Coordinator
- Eric “Squeez” Anderson—Outreach Coordinator

2005–2008

- Alicia Cardenas—President
- April Johnson—Vice President
- James Weber—Medical Liaison
- Luis Garcia—International Liaison

2005–2007

- Christina Shull—Secretary
Stepped down Q3 2007

2005–2006

- Jeffrey “Phish” Goldblatt—Outreach Coordinator
Stepped down Q2 2006
- Schane Gross—Treasurer
Stepped down Q1 2006

2002–2005

- Bethrah Szumski—President
- Jason King—Vice-President
- Crystal Sims—Secretary
- Paul King—Treasurer
- Elayne Angel—Medical Coordinator
- Megg Mass—Outreach Coordinator
- Alicia Cardenas—International Liaison

1999–2002 Second Election [*The Point*—Issue 15, May]

- Patrick McCarthy—President
Elected to replace Gahdi Elias after he finished his Board term
- April Williams-Warner—International Liaison
Elected to replace Al D. after he finished his Board term
- Scott Brewer—Treasurer
Appointed by Pat McCarthy as interim Treasurer after Brian Skellie finished Board term June 1999. Later duly elected and stepped down Q1 2002

From *The Point*—Issue 16:

Many changes took place to the APP over the last year; one of the most important things was the election of a new Board.

In September a new Vice President, Secretary, and Outreach Coordinator were elected.

Then, in April a new President and International Liaison were introduced.

During the meeting the new Board members were introduced to the membership.

APP Board Members as of October, 1999

- Pat McCarthy—President

- Steve Joyner—Vice President
- Bethrah Szumski—Secretary
- Scott Brewer—Treasurer
- Elayne Angel—Outreach Coordinator
- April Williams-Warner—International Liaison
- Dr. Jack Ward—Medical Liaison

1999–2001 First APP Elected Board

[*The Point*—Issue 14, April]

- Steve Joyner—Vice President 1999
- Bethrah Szumski—Secretary
- Elayne Angel—Outreach Coordinator
- Jeff Martin—Outreach Coordinator
Stepped down December 1999

From *The Point*—Issue 14:

The past year has seen Board member installment go from an appointment to an electoral process.

The first such election installed: Steve Joyner as Vice Chair, Elayne Angel as Outreach Coordinator, Bethrah Szumski as Secretary

As people come so do they go: Dave Vidra served as OSHA Liaison until Nov 1998, Derek Lowe served as Secretary until Nov 1998.

Jeff Martin served as Outreach Coordinator until Dec 1999.

1998 [*The Point*—Issue 13, Summer]

Stepped down:

David Vidra resigned November 1998 after multiple Board terms

Derek Lowe resigned November 1998

1998 Board of Directors [*The Point*—Issue 12, First Quarter]

- Gahdi Elias (Mastodon)—Chair
Brian Skellie appointed to serve the duties of Chair while Gahdi traveled abroad
- Kent Fazekas—Chair
Stepped down
- Elizabeth Getschal—appointed Board Liaison under Chair

1997 Transitions [*The Point*—Issue 11, Fall]

- David Vidra (BodyWork Productions)—OSHA /Legislative Liaison
Exchanged positions with Al D. Sowers
- Al D. Sowers (Playspace Ltd./ Sin)—International Liaison
Michaela Grey finished her Board term and continued as a Business Member in good standing
- Dr. John Ward—Medical Liaison

1997–1999 [*The Point*—Issue 10, June]

- Kent Fazekas—Chair
Transitioned from Treasurer
- Brian Skellie—Treasurer

- Michaela Grey—International Liaison
Transitioned from Chair
- Crystal Cross
Stepped down
- Curt Warren (Koi)—Coordinator
- Rob Petroff
Stepped down
- Jeff Martin (Obscurities)—Outreach coordinator
- Tracy Faraca
Stepped down
- Derek Lowe (Steve's Tattoo and Body Piercing)—Secretary
- Allen Falkner
Stepped down

1996 Two new Board Members [*The Point*—Issue 8, August]

- David Vidra (BodyWork Productions)—Medical Liaison
- Al D. Sowers (Playspace Ltd./ Sin)—OSHA /Legislative Liaison
- Crystal Cross (Primeval Body)—New Title: International Liaison
- Blake Perlingieri and Maria Tashjian finish their Board terms and continue as Business Members in good standing
- Rev. Drew Lewis started APP archives [Not Board Member (Media Committee)]

1995 Initial Appointed Board [*The Point*—Issue 6, November]

- Crystal Cross & Richard White (Primeval Body)
- Ahna Edwards (Attitudes, Inc.)—Outreach Coordinator
- Position taken over by Tracy Faraca (Attitudes, Inc.)
- Kent Fazekas (Body Accents)—Treasurer
- Gahdi (Mastodon)—Vice Chair
- Michaela Grey (Gauntlet, Inc.)—Chair
- Blake Perlingieri & Kristian White (Nomad)
- Rob Petroff (Insane Creations)—Coordinating Board Member
- Maria Tashjian (Venus Modern Body Arts)
- Allen Falkner (Obscurities)—Secretary



Michaela Grey

LONGEST STANDING CURRENTLY ACTIVE APP MEMBERS

The following is a list of longest standing APP Members who are still currently active. Listed beside their names, you'll find their original join date. This list reflects consecutive membership; according to current membership policy, original join dates can be reinstated after no more than two years, as long as there has not been a lapse in membership dues.

We're honored to have these 20 people continuing to support the Association of Professional Piercers and the body piercing industry.

- Sky Renfro—July 1994
- David Vidra—October 1995
- Adam Block—January 1996
- Allen Falkner—January 1996
- Patrick McCarthy—February 1996
- Bink Williams—March 1996
- Elayne Angel—March 1996
- Brian Skellie—May 1996
- Derek Lowe—June 1996
- Darrin Walters—August 1996
- Gus Diamond—October 1996
- Steve Joyner—July 1997
- Bethrah Szumski—August 1997
- Marc J. Williams—September 1997
- Jason King—October 1997
- David Kelso—January 1999
- Sarah Wooten—May 1999
- James Weber—May 1999
- Luis Garcia—May 1999
- Shawn Taylor—July 1999

THE PIERCER FAMILY TREE

MIC RAWLS & GENE GOWAN



Hello piercing community!!!

I had an idea at Camp APP to create a piercing family tree. I started to put it out there and have gotten a great response! With the help of Gene Gowen, we will continue collecting everybody's history!!

What we need from you:

We would like information about the people that helped bring you into the community. This includes what shops you have worked at (no guest spots please) and anybody you helped get into the industry. If you have worked as a trainer at any education seminars or training groups we would like that as well.

For some of this it can be difficult to list people that also had a negative effect on our fledgling careers, and

if there are people you don't want to list, that is cool. Please remember that we are using this to get a sense of our history and how and through whom this wonderful craft has evolved. This will include some people that we do not care for, but without them we may have not gotten our start!

My vision for this will include an interactive display, so you can find those who came before you. I am hoping to modify this to include a class and video as we move forward. It will be a blast putting all the pieces together and to see how this skill has moved from one community to another.

Please send all submissions tomic4559@hotmail.com

Thanks for everybody's help. I can't wait to see how this will bloom!!!

THE APP BOARD TIMELINE

Position	pre 1995	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
President		Michaela Grey		Kent Fazekas	Gahdi Elias		Pat McCarthy			Bethrah Szumski		
Vice President		Gahdi Elias					Steve Joyner			Jason King		
Treasurer		Kent Fazekas		Brian Skellie		Scott Brewer until 02/02			Paul King			Schane Gross
Secretary		Allen Falkner		Derek Lowe		Bethrah Szumski			Crystal Sims			
Medical Liaison			David Vidra		John Ward				Elayne Angel			
International Liaison			Crystal Cross	Michaela Grey	Al D. Sowers	April Williams Warner			Alicia Cardenas			
Outreach coordinator			Tracy Faraca (1 month)	Jeff/Rene Martin	Jeff Martin	Elayne Angel			Megg Mass			Jeff "Phish" Goldblatt
OSHA/ Legislation			Al D. Sowers									
International Outreach												
Membership												
Administration									Susan Benton			
Global media												
Public relations												
Events and Operations												
Coordinator				Curt Warren								
Board Liaison					Liz Getschal							
Membership Administrator												

As an organization built by volunteers, we feel so fortunate to have had so many people serve our mission. As you can see from this chart, many of our Board Members have been serving the APP for upwards of a decade. We would like to thank not only the people you see listed, but all of our volunteers that have served our committees.

2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	
Alicia Cardenas		Jim Weber			Elayne Angel		Brian Skellie until 07/16		Jef Saunders				
April Johnson		Didier Suarez			John Johnson		Cody Vaughn until 07/16		Kendra Berndt				
Paul King													
Christina Shull		Bethrah Szumski						Aaron Pollack					
Jim Weber		Elayne Angel			Rick Frueh		Chris Glunt				Brian Skellie from 07/17		
Luis Garcia				Brian Skellie							Luis Garcia from 07/16		
		Eric "Sque3z" Anderson		Dana Dinius		Ash Misako					Ryan Oullette from 07/16		
						Mike Martin		Steve Joyner					
		Danny Yerna											
		Ed Chavarria			Sarvis Berry		Jef Saunders until 07/17			Cody Vaughn/ Monica Sabin from 02/18			
Caitlin McDiarmid													
								Brian Skellie					
								Miro Hernandez until 07/16					
										Kendra Berndt from 07/16			
						John Johnson							
												Marina Pecorino	

APP CONFERENCE...THEN & NOW

THEN

Taken from The Official Newsletter of The Association of Professional Piercers, Spring, 2005 • Issue 32

The 10th Annual Association of Professional Piercers Conference & Exposition: The Largest Gathering of Piercers & Jewelry Vendors in the World. May 1–6, 2005 At the Las Vegas Riviera Hotel & Casino

CONFERENCE OVERVIEW

The Conference is a must for every piercing studio, tattoo studio that does piercing, health official, and health inspector. Because many important and informative courses are offered concurrently it is advisable that you send at least two representatives so that your facility or organization can get the most out of the conference. As in the past, the APP is offering courses to help piercers to achieve APP membership, comply with local and state regulations, have a say in piercing regulations, enhance business, improve customer relations and much more. You do not need to be an APP member to attend the conference.

Of the nearly 30 courses offered, only two are restricted to members only. Although all are welcome to attend classes, the Expo is not open to members of the general public. A business card from your establishment and proof of retail license will be necessary to enter. In addition, to maintain space in our host hotel and comply with insurance requirements, absolutely no piercing from hotel rooms will be tolerated.

CLASSES

- Employee Management
- Customer Service & Marketing
- Phuket Vegetarian Festival (Documentary)
- Aftercare
- Basic Accounting
- Jewelry 1
- Jewelry 2
- Indigenous Piercing Techniques
- Studio Setup & Inspection
- Scars
- Medical Risk Assessment
- CPR First Aid
- Aseptic Technique & Equipment Management
- Anatomy (Body)
- Anatomy (Oral & Facial)
- OSHA/Bloodborne Pathogens Certification
- Stretching
- Fraud Prevention
- Surface Piercing (Members only)
- Grounding & Bedside Manner
- Non-Member Techniques

ROUND TABLE DISCUSSIONS

In order to make the APP Conference a venture allowing EVERYONE to contribute, we have scheduled round table discussions on the following proposed topics: Extreme Piercing, Suspension (Members only), Jewelry Display, Building a Portfolio, Anthropology, and Body Modification in the Mass Media. There is no charge to attend these workshops.

EXPOSITION

This is the largest gathering of piercers and piercing related vendors in the world. Manufacturers often utilize this event to present new products and services to the piercing community. In addition, many vendors offer their goods and services at a discount to conference attendees. As a reminder, a vendor's presence at the expo does NOT constitute APP endorsement. Review all products thoughtfully and remember that, in many cases, the Conference and Expo are a learning experience for vendors as well.

For the first time the APP invites Health Inspectors to attend the Conference free of charge. The only requirement is that the person(s) attending reserves and stays in a room in the host hotel within the APP room block set aside for Conference attendees. Book early to get your room. If you need documentation confirming this offer, contact info@safepiercing.org.

PROM NIGHT/THE AWARDS DINNER

This will be held Thursday evening at the Top of the Riv North. The theme will be 'Prom Night' with a buffet style dinner (with vegan options) and dance music! You can come as you are or dust off your favorite suit or dress. The drawing for the top ten raffle prizes will be held during this event.

NOW

Our 24th Annual Conference and Exposition will be in Las Vegas, Nevada from May 12-17, 2019 at Planet Hollywood. During this week, ballrooms become classrooms, filling with attendees from all over the world. Piercers, Apprentices, Counter Staff, Studio Owners, Vendors, and Health Inspectors come together for a week of education and peer-to-peer sharing. Whether you are new to our industry or an experienced practitioner there are classes and events for everyone. Our classes range in topic covering everything from the fundamentals of our trade to complex analysis of topics for those who are interested in furthering their existing knowledge.

In addition to the education available, the APP Conference is also home to The Exposition, the only one of its kind in this country. Nowhere else can you find this range of body jewelry and body piercing related products all in one spot.

You do not have to be an APP Member to attend the Conference, but some Restrictions apply to the Exposition and Members Only & Piercing Technique courses/round tables

It is suggested that if you are new to the Conference or are an apprentice piercer that you start with the core classes. Many of these courses provide the foundation for the information provided in our advanced and elective courses.

For example before taking Strategic Marking or other piercing technique courses you will want to make sure you have taken our anatomy courses.

At this time the APP doesn't require any prerequisites for any of its classes. It is advisable to have taken at least an online Bloodborne Pathogens course prior to attending our Conference.

Want to start planning out your schedule? Please feel free to use this [2019 Schedule](#) to assist you!

CORE CLASSES

- What Every Piercer Should Know about Below-the-Neck Anatomy
- Above the Neck ("Oro-Facial) Anatomy
- Body Piercing Complications and Considerations
- Safe Practices in the Sterilization Room
- Wound Care/Aftercare
- Initial Jewelry
- Basics of "Safe" Materials for Body Jewelry
- Studio Documentation
- The Magic of Grounding and Bedside Manner

TECHNIQUE CLASSES (PIERCER ONLY)

- Essential Body Piercing Concepts
- Nipple Piercings: Basic & Advanced Theory
- Modern Techniques: Vulva Piercings
- Learning Bites: Lip Piercings
- Industrial Piercings: Keeping it Simple
- Septums Make Me Sweaty
- Honing in on High Nostrils
- Advanced Fundamentals: Helix Piercings
- Needle Improvements
- Strategic Marking

MEMBERS ONLY

- Open Techniques Workshop

ELECTIVES

- Working with Your Health Inspector
- Current Piercer Tech Workshop
- Microbiology For Piercers
- Ergonomics in the Piercing Room
- Mentoring and Apprenticeships and How to Inspire the Next Generation of Piercers
- Utilizing your Phone
- Giving and Receiving Feedback: Communication 102
- Social Media Management
- How to Win Clients and Influence Piercers
- Fakir & Me (Jim Ward)
- Annie Sprinkle on Fakir
- The History of Glass

- Cultural Competence and Inclusion: Where You Fit In
- Trauma Informed Body Modification
- Special: Fakir Musafar: An Evening of Remembrance & Celebration

WORKSHOPS

- Control of Cross Contamination Through the Use of UV Reactive Powder
- Safe Practices in the Piercing Room

TALK APP GROUP

- Talk APP: Professionalism
- Confidence and Cockiness In and Outside the Piercing Room
- Professionalism with Genital Piercings
- Ethics
- Talk APP: Artistic Expression
- Artistic Studio Design
- Living with an Artist's Eye
- Creativity, Inspiration, and Artistic Expression in Jewelry Design
- Talk APP: The "Arts"
- The Art of Ritual
- The Art of Skepticism
- The Art of Nothing
- Talk APP: Adulthood
- Acting Like a Boss
- Self Care as an Adult
- Talk APP: Different Perspectives
- This is All Bigger than Us
- It's Not You, It's Me

ROUNDTABLES

- Disorders in the Industry
- APP Membership
- Regulatory Affairs
- POC: the Power of Color and Representation
- Reducing Waste in Your Studio
- Piercing Outside the U.S. and the Reality of the Rest of the World

MEETINGS

- Orientation
- Mentor Program
- New Attendees & Mentors Meeting
- Members Meeting
- Committee Meeting
- Vendor Meeting
- Health Inspectors Meeting
- Friends of Bill W
- International Meeting
- Canadian Meeting
- International Suspension Alliance

ATTB (Alternative to the Bar) OFFERINGS

- Harm Reduction, Overdose Prevention, & Response Training
- Anodizing Open Workshop
- Needle Bending Open Workshop
- Game Night