

Pennsylvania Coalition of Professional Tattooists & Body Piercers Newsletter

In
Unity
There
Is
Strength!

September 1997
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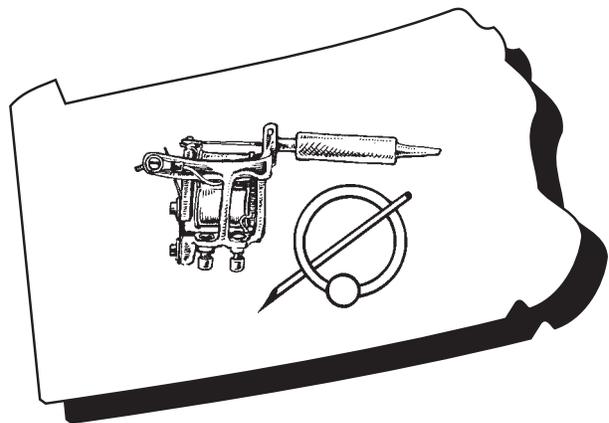


IN MEMORY OF...



It is with the utmost sadness that I must inform you of the death of Robert "Moose" Rutter of Bodyworks Tattoo Studio in Pittsburgh. Moose was a friend, a mentor and an avid supporter of the Coalition. His career spanned well over 25 years and in that time he inspired countless individuals through his art! His devotion to the profession was evident in his generosity and sincerity. I can only hope that what we continue to accomplish through the Coalition will make Moose proud!

1947 - 1997



Coalition Hotline:

412•531•5319

<http://www.pa-tattoo.com>

Editor's Notes

I know, I know, here it is October and you're just receiving the September Issue of our newsletter! I do apologize, but the series of events that have taken place in the last two weeks just didn't lend to a productive atmosphere. I got very ill right after our last meeting and ended up spending the following week in bed, literally. I didn't eat for five days and couldn't muster enough strength to get in front of the computer. Then, as the cover denotes, our good friend Moose fell ill and passed on, so there were viewings, funerals and a mourning period. But, our task at hand continues and we move forward. Memories of Moose help because I know how passionate he was about the Coalition!

This issue we have two submissions from coalition members and more in-line for next the issue, which is really encouraging. Let's keep it up. It certainly makes my job easier. Thanks to Duke Miller and Animal for their help! Bob Stern has some great tips ready for our next issue!

We finally made some headway at our last meeting. We determined a membership structure, a simple mission statement, agreed on a general information brochure and came up with some good ideas on how to promote the Coalition. Within a week, you should all receive copies of our membership application. All current members will also receive a handful of brochures to pass out from your studios as well.

For our next meeting (Sunday, December 14th) I thought it would be nice to make it a "Holiday Social" following regular business. I'd like to ask everyone to bring something - cookies, candy, cup-cakes, whatever, just a dozen will suffice. I'll spring for coffee and soda - if anyone wants to bring egg nog, feel free! Call me with questions.

Thanks for understanding. I look forward to seeing everyone in December (maybe in Pittsburgh at the end of the month).
Onward and upward!

-Tim Azinger

Membership Levels Set/Officers Elected

Forming this Coalition hasn't been an easy task. There's a great deal of information to digest and plenty of points to cover as we organize and move forward. At our last meeting (09.21.97) all members in attendance discussed and voted on membership levels and our mission statement, the contents of the Coalition's informational brochure as well as a basic organizational structure. We made every effort to keep things simple and concise. Copies of the membership application and the informational brochures will be mailed to you in the coming weeks. A Director (Tim Azinger) and a Co-Director (Drake Cox) were elected to serve as point persons for the distribution of information and to handle any organizational issues. Any questions or concerns may be forwarded directly to them. It should be noted that at any time, these individuals may be removed through a majority vote of the membership. Per your request, following is a list of people/shops who have been attending meetings. If anyone has been omitted, I do apologize and please let me know.

Tim Azinger- Director (Animal's Tattoo Emporium)	412-531-5319
Drake Cox- Co-Director (Once Upon a Tattoo)	814-726-2860
Bob Lang (Accents in Ink)	412-563-8281
Animal (Animal's Tattoo Emporium)	412-279-2123
Jim Peticca (Animus)	412-836-6233
Bill Funk (Body Graphics)	215-923-5834
Steve Teberi (Body Graphics)	215-625-9777
J.T. (Bodyworks Tattoo)	412-468-8281
M. Bates (Bodyworks Tattoo)	412-731-3462
Don McDonald (Bodyworks Tattoo)	412-731-3462
Jarrod Russell (Bodyworks Tattoo)	412-731-3462
Rob Ferguson (Buddha's Body Art)	814-833-1439
Joan Ferguson (Buddha's Body Art)	814-833-1439
TL & CC Rider (CC Riders Rocking Tattoo)	717-765-4857
Chuck Feaser (Chuck's Tattooing)	717-279-0900
Art Leibich (Chuck's Tattooing)	717-273-5672
William Moran (Dermagraphic Design)	412-669-1869
Eric Bose (End of the Trail Tattoo)	717-948-4499
Eric Amicone (Everlasting Art Tattoo Studio)	215-386-7720
Wally Kerlin (Freewheelin Tattoo)	814-345-6632
Carl Corley (Hot Spot Tattooing)	412-532-2419
Ernest D. Lees (Hot Spot Tattooing)	412-837-2918
Zeb Cranmer (Inka Dinka Doo)	412-683-4320
Tony Urbanek (Inka Dinka Doo)	412-683-4320
Brian Corley (Iron City Ink)	412-683-9888
Todd Porter (Iron City Ink)	412-683-9888
(Jaybird's Tattoo Studio)	215-943-8282
Michael Cox (Main Line Tattooing)	610-889-3345
Mike & Mary Skiver (Personal Art Studio)	814-445-6333
Dave Friend (Rat Race)	412-381-5224
E. Glasner (Shoes Tattoo)	717-385-1801
Tom & Nikol Stockman (Sinful Art)	814-898-2104
Heath Chamberlain (Stormi Steel Skin F/X)	717-288-2595
Bruce Fairchild (Stormi Steel Skin F/X)	717-288-2595
Brian Shives (Tattoo Asylum)	717-261-1811
Tony Perri (Tattoo You)	412-673-8282
Duke Miller (Tattoos by Duke)	412-864-7585
Greg Sharrow (Tattoos by Greg)	610-926-6133
Chris Haas (The Quillan)	610-966-2375
Steve Lemak (The Quillan)	610-770-7587
Wayne Urban (Timeless Tattoo Emporium)	412-449-2711
Rob Miller (Visual Addictions)	717-243-9799
Donna Hesse (World Famous Tattoos)	215-453-0734
Bob Stern (World Famous Tattoos)	215-453-0734

To Whom It May Concern...

Where do I start? 1.) How good it tastes! 2.) How good this is for you! 3.) It only hurts for a little while! 4.) Or - honestly, you'll only have to do this one time! Come on people, you've been reaping the benefits - some for years, some for less. We live on what is called a good "rep" as a result of our good art, good sanitary self-induced rules and good business practices.

Do we need "Big Bro" stepping in because some medical group, be it plastic surgeons, health board officials, medical board members, etc., doesn't like what we are doing because we are taking money out of their pockets or because they see an opportunity to get some money out of our pockets. I say NO! But it seems that many of us and our fellow (ahem!) artists still have to be held by our "little" hands, and told how banding together and forming this coalition is good for us.

There is a core of people who are busting their asses, sacrificing their time when they could be doing selfish things like spending time with their families, making more money, etc. To these people, I tip my hat and thank you!

The day of "1984" is upon us. The coalition is a "wake up" call for you! It's all around you - repealing the constitution's "right to bear arms," and the "freedom of the press." It all boils down to money. Tattooing has become a main stream profession - well, how about we are really in the public's eye right now. Medical groups see us as vermin, but they can still possibly make a buck - "Let's make rules and regulations and make them get licensed. Then we can keep an eye and thumb on them and still profit from them." Another ploy to know where, how, why and when we are doing what we love best - tattooing!

Are we going to fall prey to these political guru's who think they know what is best for us? These politicians, our guardians, our saviors, who want to protect us - from who? They are uneducated, self righteous, pompous assholes who don't know a damn thing about us or our profession! All they know is what their constituents say - what a minute - aren't we constituents - voters?

It sounds like I'm rambling on and thanks for bearing with this poor illiterate artists, but I'm pissed. At the government for trying to invoke more rules and regulations on me and for my so called fellow artists who won't get off their dead asses to help. They sit back reaping the benefits of our hard, time consuming work. We need this Coalition. We need to band together as artists to fight this imposition. And united, only united, can we beat it! Let's not allow these bureaucrats to dictate to us what, how and when we can be classified as professionals. We are professionals!

To those of you who have given their time, thoughts and money unselfishly, thanks again! To those who are letting someone else fight YOUR battle, you're in for a rude awakening. Are you professional or is it that you don't want to be associated with professionals?

-Animal, Animal's Tattoo Emporium

Tattooing in Pennsylvania. Could It End?

Think about it. Don't fool yourself any longer. The bills are already out there. Politicians have no idea what takes place in a safe, sterile studio. Do you have something to hide in your shop? Maybe we don't see you at our meetings. Have you invited your legislator to your shop. Drake Cox has and it worked great! That particular Representative was a sponsor of the bill and now he has a different outlook.

Your right to tattoo could end before this letter gets out. By the way, you got a newsletter and it wasn't really free. It came to you through the efforts of a few artists who care about the business. Some of us throw in a few bucks at every meeting. Another spends countless hours on his computer laying out this newsletter so you know what's going on in the state. It's time to wake up.

I lived in Florida when it was against the law to tattoo. Believe me, they will come into your house, take your equipment and anything else that looks tattoo related, arrest you and take you to jail! Your next step will be to hire a lawyer. Maybe you'll only

get a year or two probation and a stiff fine, but your equipment is GONE!

Freedom can be removed from you. Right now we can make a difference. We need to educate our legislators as to how a professional, sterile shop is operated. We need every shop and artist in the state. Not just a few! It's time to think about what can happen, because "Tattooing in Pennsylvania, Against the Law," yes, it can happen!

We need to unite and take our stand. We can make a difference in the rules and regulations, but we need to get the word out to our legislators. We need to invite them to our studios and show them that we are professionals - hard working Americans!

I have over 20 years in the business. I'm not going down without a fight! We have a few right now that are in for the duration. Join us. We need everyone. We can make a difference. It's your future.

-Duke Miller, Cool Tats for Cool Cats