

QUARTERLY BOARD MEETING OF THE STATE PLUMBING BOARD OF LOUISIANA

BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA

MAY 14, 2009

The Quarterly Meeting of the State Plumbing Board of Louisiana was called to order by the Secretary/
Treasurer, Rickey Fabra, at 10:01 a.m.

The following persons were in attendance:

BOARD MEMBERS	ADVISORY BOARD	STAFF	GUESTS
Rickey Fabra	Jim Payne	John Barker	Louis Robein - Attorney (Bd.)
Jerry Payne		Christina Hymel	Jim Scott - Aramark
Wendell Guillot		Katie Ramagos	Ed Guillory – Home Depot
Johnny Gypin		Terry Moore	Al Smith - Sears
		Carl Barnum	JC Matt
		Bill Landrum	Jim Finley
		Joe Leger	Fred Robillard – Reliable Plbg
		Corky Dwight	Heather Gremillion
		Steve Porter	Keith Bienvenu
		Chris Bodet	
		Henry Catania	

INVOCATION: *Jerry Payne*

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL: *Christina Hymel*

PRESENTATIONS

a.) Introduction of new enforcement officers

Christina Hymel introduced the new enforcement officer and his region as follows:

Region D – Ronald Rhodes

Mr. Rhodes was unable to attend this meeting due to his wife’s untimely passing.

PERSONAL APPEARANCES

NONE

ENFORCEMENT

a.) Informal Hearing Report

Christina Hymel reported that the enforcement committee held two informal hearings. The first was for having an employee after having filed an affidavit with this office stating that there were no employees and was therefore exempt from the workman’s compensation requirement. A fine was issued for this violation and was collected at the conclusion for the hearing. The plumber was also informed that he had to obtain workman’s compensation or make the employee (who is his son) a partner in the company. The proper documentation must be submitted to this office by the end of May. The second hearing was for a master plumber using unlicensed personnel. The master plumber disputed that the work that was being performed at the time was not actually considered plumbing and therefore he attended the informal hearing to discuss the matter. After discussing the situation with the enforcement committee, the plumber stated that he was unaware that that type of work was considered plumbing and he stated that it wouldn’t happen again. A fine was issued for this violation and is due to this office by the end of May.

OTHER GUESTS

NONE

SPECIAL REQUEST

NONE

TRAINING PROGRAM APPROVAL

NONE

COMMITTEE REPORTS

a.) Applicant Approval Committee

The committee met to review William Sigler’s application to be a Medical Gas Verifier in the state of Louisiana. The committee approved the application and requested that the Board also approve Mr. Sigler.

MOTION: to approve William Sigler with Stacy Systems, Inc. as a Medical Gas Verifier

MOTION: JOHNNY GYPIN

SECOND: WENDELL GUILLOT

MOTION: CARRIED

PREVIOUS MINUTES

(February 19, 2009)

MOTION: to accept the February 19, 2009 minutes as presented

MOTION: JOHNNY GYPIN

SECOND: WENDELL GUILLOT

MOTION: CARRIED

FINANCIAL REPORT

MOTION: to accept the financial report as presented by Rickey Fabra

MOTION: WENDELL GUILLOT

SECOND: JOHNNY GYPIN

MOTION: CARRIED

ADVISORY REPORT

NONE

INDIVIDUAL MEMBER’S REPORT

NONE

ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS’ REPORT

The enforcement officers each gave their individual report. (See attached)

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Mr. Barker informed the Board of HB 147 that was proposed by the Louisiana Licensing Board for Contractors in the 2009 Legislative Session. This bill would criminalize the act of contracting without the appropriate license. Mr. Barker also stated that an amendment

was added to this bill to also criminalize the act of plumbing without the proper license. However, this amendment was met with much opposition and therefore did not pass. Mr. Barker then suggested that the Board move forward with its own legislative package for the 2010 Legislative Session.

Mr. Barker also advised the Board of House Concurrent Resolution (HCR) 114. This resolution calls for a comparison for the Louisiana State Plumbing Code and the International Construction Code. Mr. Barker asked for the Board's input on how they would like to handle the resolution. Mr. Jim Finley suggested that the Board contact Mr. Linden Raimer for his input since he has done comparisons of these codes before during his time with IAPMO. Mr. Rickey Fabra then suggested that if a review is going to be done, it should be done properly by also including the Uniform Plumbing Code in the comparison. Mr. Fabra also suggested that a representative from the Plumbing-Heating-Cooling Contractors, the United Association, the Mechanical Contractors' Association, and other industry representatives be added to the review panel. The Board asked for Mr. Louis Robein's assistance in the matter and he stated that he would advise the Board of the necessary actions to take in order to add these amendments to the resolution.

Mr. Barker has extended the olive branch to both the Home Builder's Association and the Associated Builders and Contractors and asked that they allow him to introduce himself and speak on behalf of the State Plumbing Board at their next meeting.

Mr. Rickey Fabra spoke to the Board about Solar Thermal Energy Systems. He stated that there are bills in this legislative session for tax incentives for use of these energy systems. The issue that has arisen is that the companies that install them are trying to get a separate certification allowing them to install them in lieu of having a licensed master plumber to install it and tie into the water lines. These companies are also trying to circumvent the permit process by having a separate permit to file in lieu of a mechanical and/or plumbing permit. Mr. Fabra has attended numerous meetings about the Solar Thermal Energy Systems and will keep the Board abreast of the situation.

Mr. Barker spoke with Boards and Commissions about the reappointments of Jim Finley, Linden Raimer and Keith Bienvenu to the State Plumbing Board and was told that they have all been approved by the Governor's office. However, Mr. Finley and Mr. Raimer are awaiting a signature from the Department of Health and Hospitals Secretary Alan Levine. Mr. Barker has been told that it should not be much longer before these signatures are received.

An announcement was made that Mr. John Thomas will be retiring from the State Plumbing Board of Louisiana. The Pipe Trades Association has nominated Mr. Kelly Craft to fill this vacancy.

Mr. Barker stated that the number of applicants for the master exam has decreased in the last two examinations. However, the passing rates were higher than they have been in awhile. The February exam had an overall passing rate of 60%. The May exam resulted in passing rates as follows: Part 1 was 90%, Part 2 was 71% and Part 3 was 87%.

Mr. Barker spoke about continuing education for the WSPS endorsement. He mentioned that the Board needed topics for the 2010 calendar year and suggested that the Board seek recommendations from the University of Southern California on topics.

Mr. Louis Robein informed the Board of changes the Ethics Board has implemented as far as financial disclosure and reporting forms. He also mentioned an article that was published in the Times-Picayune regarding an e-mail that a New Orleans employee sent from a work e-mail address. The e-mail was very controversial and has caused much discussion. The reason Mr. Robein mentioned this was to stress to the Board and its employees and anyone it communicates with via e-mail, that all e-mails are public record. He reminded everyone to be mindful of this and good judgment when sending e-mails.

OLD BUSINESS

a.) Exam Reports

1.) JOURNEYMAN EXAMINATIONS

- a.) February 25, 2009 (Special) - John Barker – *no problems***
- b.) April 4, 2009 - John Barker – *no problems***
- c.) April 8, 2009 (Special) - John Barker – *no problems***
- d.) April 18, 2009 – Wendell Guillot – *no problems***
- e.) April 25, 2009 – John Barker – *no problems***
- f.) May 7, 2009 (Special) – John Barker – *no problems***

2.) MASTER EXAMINATIONS

- a.) March 12, 2009 (Special) - Rickey Fabra – *no problems***
- b.) March 31, 2009 (Special) – Rickey Fabra – *no problems***
- c.) April 7, 2009 (Special) – Rickey Fabra – *no problems***
- d.) May 2, 2009 – John Barker – *no problems***

b.) Other business which merits discussion

Mr. Wendell Guillot was confronted by Mr. Alden Aiola regarding the committee that was formed to review the practical portion of the Journeyman exam. Mr. Aiola told Mr. Guillot that a committee was formed but never met to discuss the matter of the practical testing and grading. Mr. Guillot mentioned this to the Board for their feedback. Mr. Johnny Gypin informed everyone that a committee was formed but that shortly thereafter three of the Board members were not confirmed by the Senate which resulted in a partial Board. Therefore it was decided that the committee would not meet to discuss the matter until those three members were reappointed and the Board was complete. Mr. John Barker stated that the members should be reappointed by the annual board meeting in August and therefore Mr. Rickey Fabra said the issue would be addressed again at the August board meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

a.) Appoint Nomination Committee

A committee to nominate officers for the State Plumbing Board was appointed as follows:

Johnny Gypin – Committee Chairman
Wendell Guillot
Jerry Payne

TENTATIVE DATE FOR THE AUGUST 2009 ANNUAL BOARD MEETING

August 6, 2009 is the tentative date of the Annual Board Meeting of the State Plumbing Board of Louisiana.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: to adjourn the Quarterly Board Meeting of the State Plumbing Board of Louisiana - 10:47 a.m.

MOTION: WENDELL GUILLOT

SECOND: JERRY PAYNE

MOTION: CARRIED

Respectfully Submitted,

Rickey Fabra, Secretary / Treasurer

Board Member