

QUARTERLY BOARD MEETING OF THE STATE PLUMBING BOARD OF LOUISIANA

BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA

February 16, 2012

The Quarterly Board Meeting of the State Plumbing Board of Louisiana was called to order by Chairman, James Finley, at 10:09 a.m.

The following persons were in attendance:

BOARD MEMBERS	ADVISORY BOARD	STAFF	GUESTS
James Finley	Terry Smith	John Barker	Bob Urann – RUSPC
Rickey Fabra	Richard Paulk	Katie Ramagos	Carl Bourgeois – Al Bourgeois Plumbing
Jerry Payne		Ashleigh Cambre	David Cloteaux – City of Lafayette
Parker Perot		Bob Hogan	Keli Williams – LAPHCC (Tatman)
Keith Bienvenu		Pat Olivier	Leon Molinari – PHCC
Kelly Craft		Glen Gremillion	Ed Guillory – Home Depot
Larry Reiling		Chris Bodet	Fred Robillard – Reliable Plumbing
		Blaine Matte	Dirk Payne – Sunshine Plumbing
		Carl Barnum	Jeremy Harris – DHH
		John Neal	Neal LeBlanc
		Steve Porter	Richard Molina
			George Hagman
			J.C . Matt
			Henry Heier- MCA
			Gerald Rinchuso – Rinchuso Plumbing
			D.J. Berger – N.I.T.C.
			Warren Harmon – Harmon’s Plumbing

INVOCATION: *Keith Bienvenu*

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL: *Ashleigh W. Cambre*

PRESENTATIONS

a.) Personnel

Mr. Barker announced Ashleigh W. Cambre’s last day will be today, February 16, 2012

APPLICATION COMMITTEE

a.) Richard Molina

Mr. Molina explained his background in the plumbing field. He stated that he has 36 years of experience in the trade and that he began working in 1974. His experience includes, but is not limited to, supervising, inspecting, and directing plumbing. Ricky Fabra stated that Mr. Molina did plumbing design work and highly recommends Mr. Molina and would like him to take the plumbing exam.

Motion: Mr. Fabra made the motion for Mr. Molina to be allowed to apply for the next Journeyman exam.

**MOTION: RICKEY FABRA
SECOND: KELLY CRAFT
MOTION: CARRIED**

GUESTS

a.) Henry Heier

Mr. Heier explained to the Board that the Plumbing industry has been under attack for several years. He stated that the LSUCCC wants to do away with the Plumbing code and he encouraged everyone to support the plumbing industry.

ENFORCEMENT

a.) Mr. Finley recused himself as chairman and allowed Vice-chairman, Rickey Fabra, to conduct this portion of the meeting. Mr. Fabra states that there was a special formal hearing for Cornelius Johnson and that Board Member, Kelly Craft, was present at the hearing and asks for his report. Mr. Crafts stated that the recommended order discussed at the hearing is as follows:

“It is recommended that the Board enter judgment against Cornelius Johnson for habitually violating La. R.S. 37:1378 (A)(5) and (6) by holding himself out as the master plumber on a job for which he was not employed and by enabling unlicensed personnel to engage in plumbing work with no supervision. It is also recommended that Johnson’s Master Plumber license be suspended for a period of twenty-four (24) months. At the conclusion of his suspension, it is recommended that Johnson be placed on probation for an additional twenty-four (24) months to enable the Board to monitor his compliance with the law and to ensure that he satisfactorily completes his plumbing contracts in a workmanlike manner.”

Mr. Fabra asks if there will be any other discussions about this matter. There were no further discussions so Mr. Fabra asks if anyone would like to accept this recommendation in the form of a motion.

MOTION: Mr. Fabra made the motion to accept the recommendation presented to the Board

MOTION: KIETH BIENVENU

SECOND: JERRY PAYNE

MOTION: CARRIED

- b.) Mr. Finley returned to the meeting as Chairman. Administrative Staff Member, Katie Ramagos, asked Plumbing Board lawyer, Bob Urann, for clarification on what can and cannot be posted on the Board's website in reference to violations. Mr. Urann stated that anything this Board does is public record and can be posted on the website. Mr. Finley added a recommendation to post the enforcement Officer's monthly reports on the website in addition to violations. The Board further discussed how the Administrative Office handles violations sent in by Enforcement Officers. At that time, they also discussed whether violators that have paid enforcement fees should be listed on the website. Mr. Finley stated that the Board did not need to make a motion that this matter can be taken care of administratively.

SPECIAL REQUESTS

a.) George Hagmann

Mr. Hagmann stated that as a former Jefferson Parish inspector he is an advocate for CPE. He also stated that in April of 2011 he was involved in an automobile accident and had a herniated disk as a result of the accident. He presented the Board with a copy of the accident report, a doctor's letter, and a complete medical history. Mr. Hagmann stated that the reason he is at the meeting is because he is lacking two (2) hours of Continuing Education and would like to ask the Board to waive those two (2) hours. He stated that he has been offered a job as a Master Plumber to supervise for a Shoring Company. He explained the automobile accident and gives the history of doctor's visits and injuries resulting from the accident. He also explained his physical restrictions due to the accident. Mr. Finley then asked the Board if they have any questions for Mr. Hagmann. Keith Bienvenu informed Mr.

Hagmann that there will be an opportunity for him to make up the two (2) hours of CPE in March. Mr. Hagmann stated that March is when the job will start for him.

MOTION: Parker Perot made a motion that the Board allow a one time waiver that Mr. Hagmann be allowed to take the job under the condition that he attends the March CPE class. Mr. Finley clarifies that his will be a one time offer and that if the Board issues the license and Mr. Hagmann fails to take the CPE in March, the license will be revoked.

MOTION: PARKER PEROT
SECOND: KEITH BIENVENU
MOTION: CARRIED

b.) Neil LeBlanc

Mr. Leblanc stated that it was brought to his knowledge that his license expired in 2005. Mr. LeBlanc asked the Board if there is any way that he can pay all the fees to renew his license. He also stated that if he has to retest he will, but he wanted to know if he can just pay the fees to take care of it. Mr. Finley stated that the Board cannot waiver from Mr. Leblanc having to retake the exam. Bob Urann, State Plumbing Board of Louisiana lawyer, clarified that it is mandatory for the Board to require a Master license, and that they do not have discretion to deviate from that, but there is discretion with the Continuing Education. Mr. Fabra explained to Mr. Leblanc that he can schedule a special exam instead of waiting for the next scheduled exam. Mr. Finley stated that there is no need for a motion because the Board does not have the authority to change the law pertaining to Mr. LeBlanc's situation.

c.) Keli Williams

Keli Williams stated that she will let Terry Smith give the presentation for her. Mr. Smith stated that PHCC would like to put a CPE makeup test in effect instead of a makeup class. He explained that their theory is that the plumber will call their office to request a testing packet. Mr. Smith informed the Board that the cost of the test will be \$500.00 (\$50.00 book, \$325.00 PHCC, \$25.00 SPBLA, \$100.00 proctor). He clarified that PHCC will mail the plumber a textbook to study for a while then they will come in for someone to proctor the exam. Once the test is completed they will turn the packet into the proctor and the results will be sent to the plumber within five (5) days. Rickey Fabra recommended that the issue be turned over to the Continuing Education committee for review.

MOTION: Rickey Fabra made the motion to turn the matter over to the Continuing Education Committee

MOTION: RICKEY FABRA
SECOND: KEITH BIENVENU
MOTION: CARRIED

COMMITTEE REPORTS

NONE

PREVIOUS MINUTES

(November 8, 2011)

MOTION: to accept the November 8, 2011 minutes as presented
MOTION: KELLY CRAFT
SECOND: RICKEY FABRA
MOTION: CARRIED

FINANCIAL REPORT

MOTION: to accept the financial report as presented by Rickey Fabra
MOTION: KEITH BIENVENU
SECOND: KELLY CRAFT
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 that LSUCCC wants to replace the Louisiana State Plumbing Code with the International Plumbing Code with House Bill 1166. He also explained that everyone needs to support the Plumbing Board in this Legislative Session. He gave details on how the Board has been making cuts in an effort to save money for the Board. Mr. Barker stated that the Board is going to pursue the Gas Fitter Bill and explained who is working with him on the bill. He also stated that this will help the

Board to keep operating. Henry Heier with MCA stated that he, as well as MCA, would like to be included in any drafting of the gas fitter bill and that he fully supports the bill.

EXAM REPORTS

1.) JOURNEYMAN EXAMINATIONS

- a.) **January 7, 2012 – Kelly Craft – *no problems***
- b.) **January 14, 2012 – Larry Reiling – *no problems***

2.) MASTER EXAMINATIONS

- a.) **February 4, 2012 – Jim Finley – *no problems***

OLD BUSINESS

John Barker, Executive Director of the State Plumbing Board of Louisiana, reminded all providers of Continuing Education that all classes must complete the required time. Keith Bienvenu asked if the proposal to shorten the CPE for Water Supply Protection Specialists from six (6) hours to four (4) hours had ever been acted on. Mr. Barker confirmed that it was not an official act.

NEW BUSINESS

a.) Mandatory Board of Ethics Meeting

Mr. Barker explained that there is a mandatory meeting given by the Board of Ethics. He also stated that it is required for all office staff, board members, advisory board members, and enforcement officers to attend this meeting. Mr. Barker informed the Board that a representative from the Ethics Board will come to the Plumbing Board's office to conduct the meeting, or it will be available online.

b.) WSPS CPE & Renewal Fees

Jim Finley explained that the late fees for WSPS and Plumbing licenses are different if the license holder misses a year of renewal. He asked if the Board would like to make a recommendation to treat the Endorsement and Plumbing License in the same way. Rickey Fabra stated that he agrees that they should be treated the same.

MOTION: to handle the WSPS endorsement and the Plumbing license renewal fees the same

MOTION: RICKEY FABRA

SECOND: KELLY CRAFT

MOTION: CARRIED

TENTATIVE DATE FOR THE NEXT
QUARTERLY BOARD MEETING

May 24, 2012 is the tentative date of the next Quarterly Board Meeting of the State Plumbing Board of Louisiana.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: to adjourn the Quarterly Board Meeting of the State Plumbing Board of Louisiana at 11:25 am

MOTION: JERRY PAYNE
SECOND: RICKEY FABRA
MOTION: CARRIED

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelly Craft, Vice-Chairman

Rickey Fabra, Secretary/ Treasurer