**SPBLA ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**Meeting Minutes**

**August 25, 2022**

Meeting Was Called to Order at: **09:00 AM CDT SPBLA Office and Via Zoom**

**Members Expected:**

 Present

 🗷 Richard Paulk (Louisiana Pipe Trades)

 🞎 Michael Eilers (Louisiana Pipe Trades)

 🗷 Joe Maranto (Louisiana Pipe Trades)

 🗷 Keith Bienvenu (PHCC Louisiana)

 🗷 Henry Heier (Louisiana Pipe Trades)

 🗷 Jay Huckabee (PHCC Louisiana)

 🗷 Aubrey Brandt (PHCC Louisiana) - Zoom

 🞎 Matt Varnado (PHCC Louisiana)

 🗷 Leon Molinario (PHCC Louisiana)

 🞎 Ellis Bourque, III (Louisiana Pipe Trades)

Guest(s): Josh Odom, Lake Charles; Trey Blackall, Mandeville; Kevin Richard, Lafayette; Roy Young, Lake Charles; D J Berger, NITC; Danny Walker, Louisiana Pipe Trades; Bob Carpenter, Lake Charles; VEGA, LLC; Al Smith, COSCO Stores; Terry Smith, SPBLA Chair

There was a quorum present…

Old Business:

Chair Bienvenu reported on the action of the SPBLA Rules and Regulations Committee actions at the August 9, 2022 meeting. Each rule change was reviewed and how the committee decided on the Advisory Committee recommendations.

New Business:

1. Expanding Tradesman Plumber allowed duties.

The committee discussed what a Tradesman Plumber could do and not due. It was the committee’s comments that to make this a more viable license, the duties preformed by he/she needed to be expanded. This is due to the fact that a Tradesman Licensee also works under the jurisdiction of a Licensed Master Plumber.

 There was a motion made and seconded that the SPBLA Advisory Committee recommend to the Board to redefine the scope of work allowed to be preformed by a Tradesman Plumber.

Motion Passed…

1. Modification of Continuing Education (CE) to a three (3) year cycle. The committee discussed the 1-year cycle for CE currently being used in the SPBLA Rules and Regulations. It was felt that the current schedule was costly and time consuming on the industry. While it was noted that this would decrease the annual numbers of CE participants each year, there would be CE programs every year since not all license holders would be on the same cycle.

There was a motion made and seconded that the SPBLA Advisory Committee recommend to the Board to change the schedule of requiring CE Credits be obtained each year and go to a three (3) year cycle.

Motion Passed…

1. Including a “Time Frame” (i.e., 5 years) be established and requiring a business course approved by the SPBLA before a Journeyman Plumber/Natural Gas Fitter can upgrade to a Master Plumber/Master Natural Gas Fitter License. Much of the conversation centered around if this was ever done in the State of Louisiana. It was reported that several areas of the state did enforce a delay in applying for a Master license when local jurisdictions required local licensing. It was discussed that the time frame should be no less than 3 years.

There was a motion made and seconded that the SPBLA Advisory Committee recommend to the Board the implementation of a system of Journeyman level licensing to a Master level license only after a specific time frame (i.e., 3 to 5 years)

Motion Passed…

1. Chair Bienvenu discussed the fact that the SPBLA Examinations Department is having difficulty filling examiner positions for Licensing Examinations. Chair Bienvenu encouraged each Committee Member to sign up for the proctor schedule and when the schedules are provided to sign up for service and to make those commitments.

A motion was made and seconded and meeting was adjourned at: **10:00 AM CDT**

Respectfully Submitted,

Keith Bienvenu, Chair – Advisory Committee