

Minutes
Louisiana Committee of Certification
August 7, 2014
Bienville Building
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Meeting was called to order at 11:45 AM.

ROLL CALL:

A. Determination of Quorum.

Committee Members in attendance were: Dirk Barrios, Chairman, Dennis McGehee, Vice-Chairman, Tom Walton, Greg Shelden, and Jake Causey.

Absent members were: Mayor Breland, Camille Mize, Tom Owens, and Grant Magnon.

A quorum was achieved.

Recognition of Visitors and Others:

Visitors in attendance: Roger Kelley and Stephen Kelley.

DHH-OPH staff in attendance: David McCay, Steve Hoss and Jim Mooring.

B. Announcements: There were no announcements.

MINUTES:

The minutes from the July 8, 2014 meeting were distributed and reviewed. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Mr. Walton and seconded by Mr. Causey. The minutes were approved.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

None

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Dr. Mooring reported that Jill Ruffin has been promoted and the Program is seeking someone to fill the vacant position. He stated that Jill has done an excellent job for Op Cert and that she will be greatly missed. Also he praised the staff for having the grades from the Open exam in July sent out in 2 1/2 weeks. He stated that he received an email from Chuck Naquin thanking the Committee for the grace period and that he planned on taking an 8 hour class the following week.

TRAINING OFFICER'S REPORT:

The Committee reviewed statistics presented by Mr. Hoss. The stats from all 2014 exams to that date were provided along with exam totals from 2009 to that date. He was able to present a comparison from the July exam between Pre-approved and walk-in examinees. Staff recommended that the Committee, as leaders, stress pre-application for Open Exams as this will address many issues which lead to a grade of zero being given. Mr. Hoss stated that the questions for the WWC2 exam were re-arranged causing the pass rate to fall from 80% to 34%.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

None.

ASSOCIATION REPORTS:

Louisiana Conference: Tom Walton stated that the 2015 Short Course will be held at the Best Western on March 9-13 in Alexandria in conjunction with LWEA and that the agenda should be finalized soon. LWEA will add a professional track for attorneys. The fish fry will be held at the Alexandria Zoological Garden.

LELAA: Steve Hoss said there were no lab exams to report.

LETA: – No report.

LRWA: Pat Cradeur – No report.

OLD BUSINESS

The Committee reviewed the “Statement of Position” draft concerning the Minimum Education Requirement. After much discussion it was agreed that this be taken up at the next meeting.

Dr. Mooring informed the Committee that a certified letter had been sent to Mr. Dardeau but he had not received the requested notice of receipt. Mr. McCay suggested that letters be re-sent certified and by regular mail. The Committee accepted this advice and will consider this matter at the next meeting.

The proposed 2015 exam schedule was reviewed. After discussion regarding geographic equity, Mr. Causey made a motion to move the October 2015 exam from Kinder to Alexandria. Mr. Walton seconded the motion which was approved. Program Staff informed the Committee that, due to several holidays, the February 2015 exam could not be scheduled a full 90 days after the November 2014 exam. This would not allow those who had failed an exam in November 2014 to repeat the exam in February 2015. Mr. Walton made a motion to waive the 90 day rule regarding repeats of failed exams for the February 2015 exam only. Mr. McGehee seconded the motion which was approved.

Dr. Mooring next informed the Committee that Arad Lorenzo Brown, ID# 8546, had pled guilty to 5 counts of malfeasance in office. Mr. Walton made a motion to send Mr. Brown a letter informing him that disciplinary action is being considered. Mr. Shelden seconded the motion which was approved.

NEW BUSINESS

The Committee reviewed documents presented by Mr. Paul Mahfouz in an appeal of Staff's opinion that the Aspen Heights High School Academy document he presented does not meet the minimum educational requirement. Copies printed from the aforementioned entity's website were also reviewed. Mr. Causey motioned to uphold Staff's opinion. Mr. Walton seconded the motion which was approved.

The Committee reviewed documents presented by Mr. Doug Ensinger on behalf of Mr. William Ryals in an appeal of Staff's opinion that the Certificate of Achievement he presented does not meet the minimum educational requirement. Mr. Causey motioned to uphold Staff's opinion. Mr. Walton seconded the motion which was approved.

COMMENTS FROM PUBLIC

None

NEXT MEETING DATE

The next scheduled meeting will be held on September 5th in Baton Rouge at the Bienville Building.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn by Mr. Causey was seconded by Mr. McGehee and was approved.