

**Minutes**  
**Louisiana Committee of Certification**  
**July 16, 2012**  
**Best Western Inn**  
**Alexandria, Louisiana**

Meeting was called to order at 2:00 PM.

**ROLL CALL:**

**A. Determination of Quorum.**

Committee Members in attendance:

Craig Gautreaux (Chairman), David Wittner (Vice-Chairman), Grant Magnon, Tom Owens, Mayor Glenn Brasseaux, Dirk Barrios, and Jake Causey.

A quorum was achieved.

Recognition of Visitors and Others:

DHH-OPH staff in attendance were Steve Hoss and Jim Mooring.  
Visitors were: Greg Shelden, Tom Walton (LA Conference), Claude Swope, Donald Nash, John Neilson, Larry Merritt, and Veller Ray Carroll.

**B. Announcements:** There were no announcements.

**MINUTES:**

The minutes from the May 24, 2012 meeting were distributed and reviewed. A motion to accept was made by Mayor Brasseaux and was seconded by Tom Owens. The minutes were approved.

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:**

Craig Gautreaux reported that Mario Papadopoulos has filed an administrative appeal and has requested another hearing. David McKay, the DHH attorney, will be handling this matter.

**ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:**

The Administrator, James Mooring, presented the proposed exam schedule for 2013. Mayor Brasseaux made a motion to accept the proposed schedule. Dirk Barrios seconded the motion and the motion carried.

## **TRAINING OFFICER'S REPORT**

The Training Officer, Steve Hoss, distributed reports of the last 4 years' exam statistics including those exams given this year to date. The highest pass rate was in WWC4 followed by WD3. The lowest pass rate is WD4 followed by WWT4.

## **SECRETARY'S REPORT**

The Secretary, Jake Causey, reminded the Committee that the federal grant which has been supplementing much of the Op Cert Program will end at the end of 2012. He is looking to pursue fee increases during the next legislative session. He reiterated that the law requires that funds be dedicated to the Committee and he is working with the budget office to set this up. This statutory dedication will allow additional funds collected in renewal years to be carried over into non-renewal years. Mr. Causey informed the members that a new website has been launched. The "Drinking Water Watch" will access all public water systems in the state. He reminded the members that, beginning August 1, 2012, operators will have the added duty of collecting bacteriological samples and that many classes are being conducted to train operators for this duty.

## **ASSOCIATION REPORTS**

Louisiana Conference: Tom Walton – The 76<sup>th</sup> annual conference will be held in Baton Rouge on March 11-15, 2013 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel.

LELAA: Steve Hoss – Already covered information.

LETA: – No report.

LRWA: Donald Nash – There are 1200 persons registered for the conference with 500 students attending classes and 122 exhibitors. The conference will be held in July 2013 at Best Western Hotel in Alexandria.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

The Chairman reiterated that only high school or GED diplomas which are recognized by BESE or LA Community and Technical Colleges will be accepted by the Committee.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

The Committee conducted a phone conference with David McCay regarding Mario Papadopoulos' request for a new hearing on the grounds that he had not received proper notice of the original hearing. It was Mr. McCay's recommendation that a new hearing be granted. Jake Causey made a motion to grant a new hearing. Mayor Brasseaux seconded the motion which carried. The hearing was tentatively scheduled for September 13, 2012.

The Nominating Committee made a motion to recommend Mr. David Wittner for Chairman and Mr. Dirk Barrios for Vice Chairman. Mayor Brasseaux seconded the motion which carried.

The Secretary reiterated the requirement that a list of three (3) names, accompanied by biographical information, must be provided to Dr. Guidry for consideration of appointment and re-appointment to the Committee.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:53PM.

The next Committee of Certification meeting will be held on Thursday, December 6, 2012 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Baton Rouge in conjunction with the LA Conference.