

**Minutes**  
**Louisiana Committee of Certification**  
**December 5, 2013**  
**Shreveport Hilton**  
**Shreveport, Louisiana**

Meeting was called to order at 10 AM.

**ROLL CALL:**

A. Determination of Quorum.

Committee Members in attendance were:

Dirk Barrios (Vice-Chairman), Tom Walton, Tom Owens (arrived 10:20),  
Greg Shelden, Mayor Vern Breland, and Camille Mize.

Absent members were: Grant Magnon and Jake Causey.

A quorum was achieved.

Recognition of Visitors and Others:

DHH-OPH staff in attendance: Jim Mooring.

Visitors included: Prosper Toups, Pat Credeur, Curtis Davis, Rhonda Lovewell, Randy Aucoin, Jennifer Ogea, Robert Williams, Joanne Massony, and Neikita Age.

B. Announcements: There were no announcements.

**MINUTES:**

The minutes from the July 8, 2013 and August 14, 2013 meetings were distributed and reviewed. A motion to accept the July minutes was made by Mr. Walton and seconded by Mr. McGehee. The minutes were approved. A motion to accept the August minutes was made by Mr. McGehee and seconded by Mr. Walton. The minutes were approved.

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE:** A nominating committee was suggested to select nominees for officers. The members of this committee are: Tom Walton, Greg Shelden, and Dirk Barrios. A motion to accept these committee members and to hear their nominations at the next scheduled meeting was made by Mayor Breland and seconded by Tom Walton. The motion carried.

## **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:**

There was no Chairman or Vice Chairman's report.

## **ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:**

The Administrator, Dr. James Mooring, welcomed the new Committee members; Ms. Camille Mize and Mayor Vern Breland. He informed the members that two mailings of invoices had already occurred and that many operators have already received their new 2014/15 ID cards. The remaining invoices will be sent after the 12/13 cycle has been closed out. He informed the Committee that the Program has been emphasizing the use of the OP CERT website especially the Hours Report in an effort to avoid certificate inactivation due to lack of hours. He directed the member's attention to the letter of revocation from Dr. Guidry to Mr. Steve Ward. The letter was included in the member packet.

## **TRAINING OFFICER'S REPORT**

The Training Officer, Steve Hoss, was not present. Dr. Mooring distributed a report summarizing the 2013 exams to date as well as the previous five years for comparison. He noted that the pass rate for certain exams went down after new exams were used. Curtis Davis remarked that several of his students believed that the Water Distribution 1 exam had too many Treatment questions and that all exams had the more difficult questions at the beginning of the exams. Dr. Mooring stated that he would look at that. Mr. Walton asked if all the Class 3 and 4 exams were now 100 questions. The administrator stated that at least 1 Class 3 exam is still 50 questions.

## **SECRETARY'S REPORT**

Mr. Causey was not present.

## **ASSOCIATION REPORTS**

Louisiana Conference: Tom Walton reported the 2014 Short Course will be held in Shreveport and that LWEA will cosponsor the conference. Some field trips to water and wastewater plants. Ms. Camille Mize is the chairperson this year.

LELAA: Steve Hoss – No report

LETA: – Dr. Mooring reported that an 8 hour train the trainer class was held on October 2, 2013 and that it was well attended. The last train the trainer class was held in 2011 and Staff hopes to conduct these classes annually.

LRWA: Pat Cradeur – The July 2014 conference will be held July 6-10 in Lake Charles again. The federal programs are still intact. Training courses have continued throughout the year including several 32 hour exam prep courses.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Dr. Mooring reported that work on the minimum education requirement has been stalled. He also mentioned the issue of developing questions concerning felony convictions and stated that he had attended a national ASDWA/EPA meeting in which he learned that AZ and FL give exams and issue certification to prisoners. The Administrator asked if there were any exclusions from certification. The FL administrator said there are not but if they do begin to exclude certain felons it would be those convicted of fraud. Subsequent to that discussion, EPA is considering guidelines concerning operator ethics. Mr. Walton cautioned that any such questions should be approved by the DHH attorney prior to inclusion on any applications.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **COMMENTS FROM PUBLIC**

Mr. Robert Williams, attorney for Jennifer Ogea, addressed the Committee regarding staff's decision not to accept education documents submitted by Ms.Ogea. Mayor Breland made a motion to grant Ms.Ogea a hearing. Mr. McGehee seconded the motion which carried. A tentative date of December 17, 2013 was selected for the hearing.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Mcgehee and seconded by Mr. Owens. The motion carried by acclamation. With the next meeting date to be, tentatively, December 17, 2013 at 11 AM in the Bienville Building in Baton Rouge.