

**TRADESMAN, EDUCATION & REGULATORY REVIEW
COMMITTEE MEETING**

MINUTES

The Tradesman and Education Committee of the Board for Contractors met on Wednesday, November 17, 2004, at the Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation (DPOR), 3600 West Broad Street, Richmond, Virginia. The following Committee members were present:

James Hollar, Chairman
Anthony Orange, Vice Chairman
Robert M. Kirby
Michael D. Redifer

Robert O. Burch, Jr. did not attend the meeting.

The following DPOR staff attended all or part of the meeting:

Karen O'Neal, Deputy Director of Regulatory Programs
Eric L. Olson, Executive Director
Kevin Hoeft, Regulatory Boards Administrator
Sheila Watkins, Administrative Assistant

Chairman James Hollar called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. and declared that a quorum of board members were in attendance.

**Call
To Order**

There was no Public Comment.

**Public
Comment**

The Committee recommended unanimously that the Board approve the following vocational education training programs:

**Proposed
Vocational &
Remedial
Education
Training
Programs**

- 1) Eastern Shore Community College's Office of Workforce Development's 20-hour "Advanced Class for Building Contractors in Virginia." Motion made by Mr. Orange, seconded by Mr. Kirby;
- 2) Contractors Institute, Inc.'s eight-hour "Virginia Contractor" as a Board-approved Remedial Education Program. President Robert Gregory of Contractors Institute, Inc. addressed the Committee. Motion made by Mr. Kirby, seconded by Mr. Redifer; and,
- 3) Magic Sweep Corporation's 54-hour "Basic Chimney Sweeping" and 40-hour "Installing & Troubleshooting Gas Hearth Appliance." (Note: The Committee recommended that the Board approve a maximum of 30-hours for each of these HVAC courses). President and General Manager James P. Brewer of Magic Sweep Corporation addressed the Committee. Motion made by Mr. Redifer, seconded by Mr. Orange.

The Committee reviewed LaCross Connections, Inc.'s 40-hour Backflow Prevention Device Worker Vocational Education Training program. The Committee decided unanimously to take the recommendation of this training program under advisement until LaCross Connection, Inc. provides the Committee with the proposed training program's Reference Manual, which is in draft status. This course, if approved, will be offered at the Northern Virginia Community College's Manassas Campus. LaCross Connections Inc.'s President Robert Johnson addressed the Committee. Motion made by Mr. Orange, seconded by Mr. Kirby. Mr. Orange, Mr. Kirby and Mr. Redifer voted in favor. Chairman Hollar opposed.

Chairman Hollar requested that the Committee take a five-minute recess at 11:15 a.m.

Recess

The Board periodically receives from applicants practical experience information and vocational education training courses that are conducted in and/or provided by foreign nations. Board staff requested the Committee's guidance on how best to determine whether each particular applicant's foreign practical experience and vocational education training meets the Board's requirements. The Committee recommended unanimously that staff send such items to the appropriate Board trade specialist for review and determination. Motion made by Mr. Redifer, seconded by Mr. Kirby.

**Foreign School
Education and
Training
Approval**

Mr. Olson provided the Committee with information regarding the process for electrical licensing in the Commonwealth of Kentucky that was submitted by Michael D. Bennett, Staff Attorney for Kentucky's Office of Housing, Buildings and Construction. The Committee recommended unanimously that the Board accept test reciprocity for electrical licensing with Kentucky. Motion made by Mr. Redifer, seconded by Mr. Orange. Mr. Olson will forward to Kentucky a draft agreement for its approval. This agreement will then be presented to the Virginia Board for its consideration and approval at its next available meeting.

Reciprocity Update –

Kentucky Electrical Licensing

Mr. Orange inquired of the status of other electrical licensing reciprocal agreements. Mr. Olson informed the Committee that Board staff has communicated with Arizona and Georgia concerning electrical licensing reciprocity. An updated matrix of state reciprocity will be forwarded to the Committee for its next meeting. The Committee determined that discussion of reciprocity with the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC) should be tabled until a later date.

Arizona, Georgia and Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission

The Committee reviewed 18 VAC 50-30-50.C(4) of the Tradesman Regulations: "Exemption from licensure are as follows: Installers of wood stove equipment, masonry chimneys, or prefabricated fireplaces shall be exempt from certification as an HVAC tradesman." Mr. Brewer of Magic Sweep Corporation informed the Committee that there is not permitting uniformity among local Building Code Offices concerning the installation or replacing of wood stoves. The Committee noted that an HVAC license is needed to install gas logs and when venting systems are altered.

Woodstove and Gas Log Licensing Requirements

Mr. Olson informed the Committee that he received recent calls concerning whether a plumbing license is needed to install rain gutters that are installed within a building's walls. Mr. Kirby suggested that, in accordance with the Board's definition of plumbing, a plumbing license is required for this type of work

Definition of Plumbing

Mr. Olson informed the Committee that the proposed Elevator Mechanic and Fee Change Tradesman Regulations are with the Governor's Office and the Department of Planning and Budget. Public hearings will be scheduled for both of these proposed regulations following their approval by the Governor's Office. It was estimated that the Tradesman Fee Change Public Hearing will take place sometime around January 1, 2005.

Regulatory Review

Mr. Olson provided the Committee with Tradesman Programs licensing statistics. During the past five years, the number of HVAC licensees has increased by 10%, the number of electricians has increased by 6%, the number of plumbers has decreased by 2.25%, and the number of gas fitters has decreased by 6%.

Licensing Statistics

Mr. Olson also provided the Committee with Contractor licensing statistics. During the past five years the number of Home Improvement Contractors has increased by 76%, the number of Class A Contractors has increased by 26%, the number of Class B Contractors has decreased by 2%, and the number of Class C Contractors has increased by 117%.

The Board's total regulant population (Contractors plus Tradesmen) is 94,138. This represents a 23% increase since 1999. The number of tradesman regulants has increased by 8% during this same period. The number of current tradesman licensees are 21,703 Electrical, 10,511 Plumbing, 10,320 HVAC, 7,000 Gas Fitters, and 1,100 Liquefied Petroleum Gas Fitter and Natural Gas Fitters.

The Committee elected new Officers for 2005. Currently, Mr. Hollar is the Chairman and Mr. Orange is the Vice Chairman. Mr. Orange nominated Mr. Kirby as Chairman and Mr. Redifer as Vice Chairman. The vote was unanimous, and the new Committee officers' terms of service will become effective at the next Committee meeting.

**Election of
Committee
Officers**

The Minutes from the July 1, 2004, Committee meeting were accepted as drafted by unanimous vote. The Committee will meet on the following dates in 2005: February 23, May 25, August 10 and November 16. All meetings will begin at 10:00 a.m. and be held in the Department's 4-West Conference Room.

Old Business

Mr. Redifer inquired as to what type of statutory or regulatory changes would need to be enacted for the Board to establish an "Inactive Contractor" status. Mr. Olson informed the Committee that a statutory change, preceded by study and discussion, would be required to establish an "Inactive Contractor" status.

New Business

Chairman Hollar entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting that was approved unanimously by the Committee. The meeting adjourned at approximately 1:15 p.m.

Adjourn

James Hollar, Chairman

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