

MINUTES

NEVADA STATE BOARD for REGISTRATION of PUBLIC HEALTH SANITARIANS

Meeting of June 21, 1995

Teleconference Business Meeting

Locations: Clark County District Health Department, Wing 1
Bureau of Health Protection Services

Board members present for Teleconference Link:

Clare Schmutz
Jim Pierce
Barbara Orcutt

Call to Order

Quorum present - 10:10am

Election of Board Chairman

The board members discussed Mr. Schmutz's desire to serve as Board Chairman again. Clare stated he would like to serve again. He wrote a letter to the Governor requesting reappointment.

Barbara Orcutt nominated Clare Schmutz as Chairman; Jim Pierce seconded the motion. Mr. Schmutz was re-elected Chairman to the Board unanimously.

Approval of Minutes of the April 13, 1994 meeting and May 18, 1994 Teleconference meeting.

The minutes were unanimously approved.

Secretary's Report

In Carl Cahill's absence, Jim Pierce presented the secretary's report. The current account balance is \$4,206.83. Jim stated that the Board currently has 29 registered professionals with the Board.

Clare Schmutz stated that we haven't gained any for the last year.

Jim Pierce replied that is correct. I think we had a couple of retirements and a couple of new ones and I think it ended up evening out, so we have kind of held steady.

Discussion on Continuing Education Issues:

-Proposal to amend CEU requirements to two-years

-Exemptions for RS members under current CEU requirement of one-year for 1996
(two requests)

Clare stated that there has been some talk about extending the CEU requirement to every other year.

Jim Pierce stated that he thought that would be a good idea, as he has also heard a lot of good things about that possibility. He stated that the Board could possibly vote on that at the next meeting, or really get down to discussing it. Jim said a lot of people felt that it should kind of correlate with the national's requirement of every two years and it would be easier for them because some years are kind of lean for them, or their busy with their work and can't get out and get their CEU's. I don't have a problem with it myself.

Clare asked Barbara Orcutt if she had any comments on that? She replied, "None at all".

Clare asked if the exception item on the agenda for RS members under current CEU requirements of one year for 1996, were Pete Allen and Bob Yeager.

Jim replied that we had received requests by both Pete and Bob for CEU exemptions and that he had written and told them what the requirements were and everything.

Clare asked Jim if he had received a response to the letters?

Jim stated that he had not formally received a response from anybody in writing. Just verbally.

Clare said that he did not think the Board should act on these Items until we have a request in writing.

Jim replied that was probably a good idea, as he did tell them to request an exemption in writing to the Board. Jim said he would call Pete Allen and tell him to send us a quick letter asking the Board to consider our request for CEU extensions.

Clare Schmutz stated that an exemption is something that's allowed in the Statute. But, we should still require them to follow your (Jim Pierce) directions to request in writing and I don't think we should act on it until they send it.

Jim replied he thought that is standard practice to request something in writing of a Board, so they have something to act on, and he will let them know.

Clare requested that Diana put that on our agenda for the August meeting.

General Discussion

Jim Pierce informed the Board that if they were not aware of it yet, the RS Board statutes were changed and signed by the Governor, changing the name from Registered Sanitarians to Registered Environmental Health Specialists. He stated that, apparently in the statutes you can't call yourself an environmentalist or an environmental health specialist unless you are registered. Anyone in the State of Nevada who calls themselves an environmentalist, formally calls themselves an environmentalist, must be registered. I don't how we're going to deal with that?

Jim Pierce and Clare Schmutz both concurred that there would need to be further discussion on this issue, as there are many unregistered environmentalists.

Jim stated that this law takes effect October 1, 1995.

This item will be added to the next meeting agenda.

Jim said a couple of members also wanted to be put on the agenda concerning what the Board will do in 1997 as far as requiring registration; with some sort of grandfather clause in there for existing professionals? That is how it was put to me. That might be a good topic for discussion as well.

Barbara Orcutt stated that if we can grandfather them in we would double our membership.

Jim stated we will have to talk about it at a future meeting to find out what people want, or start the discussion and start the language, it's not too early!

Clare stated that we may need to get the Attorney General's opinion on that.

Jim replied, Yes; I think the intent was to require registration for everybody working in the field after so many years, and if you are not registered, but you are employed, you don't automatically become registered, but the law does not necessarily apply to you. I guess that's the way it was put to me. I guess we could live with that, I suppose. Eventually it will work itself out.

Clare stated that he has several employees in Clark County that under the regulations or the statutes are ineligible for registration.

Jim said there are some that do not meet the requirements. Everybody that works for the State meet the requirements. They haven't necessarily taken the exam. That, I guess, is their own decision.

Barbara Orcutt asked if it is in our realm of waiving the requirements?

Jim asked Clare if we did that in the beginning?

Clare replied that we did that in the beginning. There was a window there opened for them for a period of almost two years. Some of Clark County employees neglected to take advantage of that. Now they are ineligible the way the statutes read, and I don't know what to do about them; if we can do anything about them.

Jim said, unless we put that window back for another short period of time.

Clare said, we could do that possibly; see how that works. Give them a couple of years or whatever it is, and see if that will work. I think the people will be scrambling. Let's talk about that at a future meeting.

Jim stated that he feels it's something that's important and that's kind of the way everybody wanted to go. A lot of people told me they would become registered if it was required. So I said OK. I think it should be required to.

Clare: Well, I think everybody agrees with you.


Jim: I think it's just a matter of time.

Clare stated that we will add this item to the next agenda.

Schedule next meeting date

Clare said we could set a date and then modify it a day or two after we talk to Carl and Pete. Pete says he's free any day after August 13th. I'm not on the 24th. Other than that I'm fine.

Clare set a tentative date of August 16th in Reno. He stated that after discussions with Pete Allen and Carl Cahill, we will confirm the date.


Minutes prepared by Diana Silsby


Approved by Clare Schmutz