

STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS OF MASTER PLUMBERS

#488 MEETING OF THE - FEBRUARY 27, 2003

The Minutes of the February 27, 2003, Board Meeting have not been formally approved and are subject to change or modification by the Public Body at its regular meeting on March 27, 2003.

The notice of the meeting has been mailed to the Star-Ledger, Camden Courier Post, and Trenton Times newspapers, and has also been posted on the Bulletin Board at the Office of the Secretary of State in Trenton, New Jersey.

The Board Meeting of February 27, 2003, was called to order at 9:00 a.m. The following Board Members were present:

Ralph Wetzel

Alexander J. Tucciarone

Margaret Sieb, Secretary

James Moore

Mark McManus

Ernest Tretolav

At present, there are (3) three Board Member vacancies. A vacancy remains for the State Member on the Board, which position was formerly held by Board Member Michael Baier, who resigned on January 11, 2002.

Board Member Peter J. Mc Donough, Jr. formally resigned his position in a letter to the Board dated September 5, 2002, creating a vacancy for a Public Member.

A vacancy remains for another Public Member on the Board since the resignation of Christine C. Simon on April 25, 2002.

Others in attendance:

The following individuals were in attendance from 9:00 a.m. until the close of the meeting at 4:00 pm:

Barbara A. Cook, Executive Director

Rosemarie Baccile, Executive Assistant

Deputy Attorney General Darlene Lapola served as the Board's counseling deputy for this meeting.

Deputy Attorney General Joseph A. Donofrio was present for his first meeting with the State Board of Examiners of Master Plumbers. DAG Donofrio served with DAG Lapola on February 27, 2003, as a counseling deputy.

DAG Donofrio was introduced to the Members of the Board, and they were informed that DAG Donofrio would soon be replacing DAG Lapola as counseling deputy for the State Board of Examiners of Master Plumbers.

PUBLIC SESSION VISITORS:

The following individuals were present from the public and signed the attendance register for this meeting:

Charles T. Reiners, Licensed Master Plumber # 1105

Jim Miller, New Jersey State League of Master Plumbers

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Ralph Wetzel led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES ~ JANUARY 23, 2003, MEETING

A motion was made by James Moore and seconded by Margaret Sieb to approve the January 23, 2003, Minutes. A vote was taken and the motion unanimously passed.

BOARD BUSINESS

1. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:14C-6, "Organization of Board; Officers; Executive Secretary; clerical assistants; expenses and expenditures...", the Board held its elections for the current year.

CHAIRMAN

Board Member Ralph Wetzel nominated Alexander Tucciarone as Chairman.
James Moore seconded that nomination.
Alexander Tucciarone accepted the nomination.
A vote was taken and the motion unanimously passed.

VICE-CHAIRMAN

Board Member Alexander Tucciarone nominated Ernest Tretola as Vice-Chairman.
Mark McManus seconded that nomination.
Ernest Tretola accepted the nomination.
A vote was taken and the motion unanimously passed.

SECRETARY

Board Member James Moore nominated Margaret Sieb as Secretary.
Alexander Tucciarone seconded that nomination.
Ms. Sieb accepted her nomination.
A vote was taken and the motion unanimously passed.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Mark McManus nominated Barbara A. Cook as the Executive Director.
Ernest Tretola seconded that nomination.
Ms. Cook accepted the nomination.
A vote was taken and the motion unanimously passed.

CLOSING

A motion was made by James Moore to close all nominations, and that motion was seconded by Margaret Sieb. A vote was taken and the motion unanimously passed.

Board Members unanimously voted to elect the nominees.

2. Provided for the information of the Board ~

CONTINUING EDUCATION MATTERS
The New Jersey State League of Master Plumbers

Jim Miller submitted his report dated February 5, 2003, detailing several upcoming CE seminars scheduled by the League.

On February 27, 2003, Board Members acknowledged receipt of Mr. Miller's correspondence on behalf of the League, and accepted same without any formal comment.

Continuing Education

3. IN ADVANCE OF THE 2003-2005 MASTER PLUMBER'S BIENNIAL RENEWAL/ CE REQUIREMENT - COURSES TAKEN DURING PERIOD 2001-2003

The Board continues to review the resumes and course outlines of those who have expressed interest in teaching Continuing Education (CE) for the 2003-2005 biennial and who have requested to be scheduled for either initial approval or re-approval as CE Instructors.

The following individuals submitted their resumes and course outline for re-approval:

Affiliation with:
PLUMBERS & PIPEFITTERS LOCAL # 9
TRAINING CENTER, LOCAL 9 EDUCATION FUND
450 RT. 33 & IRON ORE RD., ENGLISHTOWN, NJ 07726
TELEPHONE # 732-446-1550

On February 27, 2003, John C. Bennett was present to represent this group and submit his course outline and resumes for the individuals of Local # 9.

Mr. Bennett also advised that since the submission of his documents to the Board for this Agenda, Local # 9 decided to include a fourth individual, Robert R. Neill, who was interested in seeking the Board's approval to teach Continuing Education for this biennial renewal requirement. Mr. Bennett provided the Board with copies of Mr. Neill's resume.

On February 27, 2003, subsequent to a brief discussion, the following motion was made by Ralph Wetzel and seconded by James Moore, to approve Messrs. Bennett, Gibson, Benson and Neill, as instructors of CE and approve their course outline for this biennial requirement, 2003-2005.

INITIAL APPROVAL: ROBERT R. NEILL, LMP#6396

Mr. Neill will be assigned a new instructor number

A vote was taken and the motion unanimously passed.

4. SUNSET MATTERS

DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
RULES OF THE STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS OF MASTER PLUMBERS

**PROPOSED READOPTION WITH AMENDMENTS, REPEALS &
NEW RULES: N.J.A.C. 13:32**

Comments and responses concerning the above sunseting were reviewed on January 23, 2003, and the Board voted on that day to re-adopt these regulations as amended.

For the information of the Board, Charles Manning of Regulatory Affairs, advised on February 13, 2002, that this matter remains under review.

By way of tracking this readoption, Board Members were advised by DAG Lapola on February 27, 2003, that this matter continues under review within the Division of Law, and any further developments will be reported as they occur.

**5. DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS (DCA)
2003 CODE ADVISORY BOARD MEETING DATES
& CONTACT INFORMATION**

These documents were provided by the DCA for the information of the Board and were accepted without a formal comment.

DISCIPLINARY MATTERS

**6. IN THE MATTER OF THE SUSPENSION OR REVOCATION
OF THE LICENSE OF
MICHAEL D'AMICO, LICENSED MASTER PLUMBER # 7175
TO PRACTICE PLUMBING IN THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

PROVISIONAL ORDER OF DISCIPLINE FILED 12/19/02

A Provisional Order of Discipline was filed against the licensee for his conduct in violation of N.J.A.C. 13:45C-1.3(a)(1), in that he failed to timely respond to an inquiry to provide information in response to (2) two pending consumer complaints received by the Board.

On February 27, 2003, a motion was made by Mark McManus and seconded by James Moore, that since Mr. D'Amico failed to respond to the Provisional Order of Discipline, a Final Order of Discipline will be entered by default. A vote was taken and the motion unanimously passed.

7. DARRIN M. GROSSET - APPLICANT

**IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION FOR EXAMINATION
TO PRACTICE AS A MASTER PLUMBER IN THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY
PROVISIONAL ORDER OF DENIAL (POD) DTD. 12/19/02**

Respondent applied to have the State Board of Examiners of Master Plumbers approve his taking the licensing examination for Master Plumbers. A review of the application revealed that Mr. Grosset had been the subject of a conviction. The details concerning the conviction and the terms of the denial are reflected in said order.

On February 27, 2003, a motion was made by Ernest Tretola and seconded by James Moore, that since Mr. Grosset failed to respond to the POD, the Division of Law should proceed with a Final Order of Denial by default. A vote was taken and the motion unanimously passed.

8. LARRY D. PENN - APPLICANT

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION FOR EXAMINATION TO PRACTICE AS A MASTER PLUMBER IN THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY PROVISIONAL ORDER OF DENIAL (POD) DTD. 12/19/02

Respondent applied to have the State Board of Examiners of Master Plumbers approve his taking the licensing examination for Master Plumbers. A review of the application revealed that he had been the subject of a conviction. The details concerning the conviction and the terms of the denial are reflected in said order.

On February 27, 2003, a motion was made by James Moore and seconded by Ernest Tretola, that since Mr. Penn failed to respond to the POD, the Division of Law should proceed with a Final Order of Denial by default. A vote was taken and the motion unanimously passed.

9. WILLIAM T. MUELLER - APPLICANT

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION FOR EXAMINATION TO PRACTICE AS A MASTER PLUMBER IN THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY PROVISIONAL ORDER OF DENIAL (POD) DTD. 12/19/02

Respondent applied to have the State Board of Examiners of Master Plumbers approve his taking the licensing examination for Master Plumbers. A review of the application revealed that Mr. Mueller had been the subject of more than one conviction. The details concerning those convictions and the terms of the denial are reflected in said order.

On February 27, 2003, a motion was made by Ralph Wetzel and seconded by Mark McManus, that since Mr. Mueller failed to respond to the POD, the Division of Law should proceed with a Final Order of Denial by default. A vote was taken and the motion unanimously passed.

10. ALFREDO E. SORDO-RAMOS - APPLICANT

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION FOR EXAMINATION TO PRACTICE AS A MASTER PLUMBER IN THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY PROVISIONAL ORDER OF DENIAL (POD) DTD. 12/19/02

Respondent applied to have the State Board of Examiners of Master Plumbers approve his taking the licensing examination for Master Plumbers. A review of the application revealed that the applicant had been the subject of a conviction. The details concerning the applicant's conviction and the terms of the denial are reflected in said order.

On February 27, 2003, a motion was made by Ernest Tretola and seconded by James Moore, that since Mr. Sordo-Ramos failed to respond to the POD, the Division of Law should proceed with a Final Order of Denial by default. A vote was taken and the motion unanimously passed.

11. ROBERT D. CLEMONS - APPLICANT

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION FOR EXAMINATION TO PRACTICE AS A MASTER PLUMBER IN THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY PROVISIONAL ORDER OF DENIAL (POD) DTD. 12/19/02

Respondent applied to have the State Board of Examiners of Master Plumbers approve his taking the licensing examination for Master Plumbers. A review of the application revealed that the applicant had been the subject of a

conviction. The details concerning Mr. Clemons' conviction and the terms of the denial are reflected in POD.

On February 27, 2003, in a motion made by Mark McManus and seconded by Ernest Tretola, the Board voted to reserve a portion of Executive Closed Session to address correspondence from Mr. Clemons in response to the POD. However, the Board did not return to Open Public Session on February 27, 2003, concerning this matter. Any further developments in this file will be reported when available.

12. REQUEST FOR REINSTATEMENT ROBERT WILLIAM MEERHOLZ, EXPIRED LMP # 8028 DID NOT RENEW FOR (6) SIX BIENNIALS:

1991 - 1993
1993 - 1995
1995 - 1997
1997 - 1999
1999 - 2001
2001 - 2003

CORRESPONDENCE OF WILLIAM R. MEERHOLZ, LMP # 1802 LETTER DTD. JANUARY 6, 2003 (FATHER OF ROBERT WILLIAM MEERHOLZ, FORMER LMP # 8028)

Licensee William R. Meerholz, Licensed Master Plumber # 1802, submitted a letter to the Board advising that he is planning for his retirement and is seeking to have his son's Master Plumber's license reinstated. The Board referred to N.J.S.A. 45:1-7.2. Reinstatement for the Statutes governing this request.

On February 27, 2003, after a review of this matter, a motion was made by James Moore and seconded by Ernest Tretola, to permit the reinstatement of the plumbing license of Robert William Meerholz, former license # 8028, with re-testing by the Board's examination.

The Board noted that the expired licensee is required to submit a revised application to update his file and submit payment of prior renewal fees with a reinstatement fee. However, Robert William Meerholz does not have to prove qualified to re-test insofar as his file is regarded as a reinstatement of licensure. Accordingly, Robert William Meerholz must successfully pass all parts of the master plumber's examination to re-gain his license.

A vote was taken and the motion unanimously passed.

12A. EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

Barbara A. Cook, Executive Director, reserved a portion of Open Public session to review some pending issues with Board Members and the Public.

- *CRIMINAL CONVICTIONS...*

Ms. Cook explained that with respect to reviewing initial applications for Master Plumbers and license renewal applications, a great deal of clerical time and energy is expended in processing criminal convictions cited in these files. Ms. Cook explained that Staff of the Board Office is instrumental in obtaining the necessary facts and documents pertaining to any licensee or applicant who cites a criminal conviction.

At the time that all necessary documentation is obtained on these convictions, Ms. Cook explained that these files are then processed accordingly with Board Members and the Deputy Attorney General, whenever necessary.

- *MASTER PLUMBERS RENEWAL APPLICATIONS 2003-2005 ~*

Ms. Cook advised that the Division is presently preparing the Master Plumbers renewal applications for release to all active licensees on record with the State Board of Examiners of Master Plumbers.

Ms. Cook explained that the renewals are anticipated for mailing during early April, 2003.

Executive Director Barbara Cook advised that during past renewal periods, a fee had been charged for licensees selecting an "Inactive status." However, effective with this renewal for the 2003-2005 biennial, there will no longer be a fee charge for "Inactive status" and licensees will be required to return their pressure seal to the Board Office while in an "Inactive status."

Ms. Cook assured the public that with respect to compliance with CE requirements, the Board Office is currently tracking attendance for the 2003-2005 renewal period, and with CE regulations now in place, efforts will be made to audit CE attendance and consider disciplinary action against those licensees who may have either failed to comply with the CE requirement, and/or those licensed who might have falsified their Master Plumber renewal applications by checking in the "affirmative" for CE attendance while they had, in fact, failed to attend their (5) five hour course.

- *Change of Address Requirement & Change of Address form/Internet*

Ms. Cook advised that "blue postcards" were mailed by the Division to all active Licensed Master Plumbers confirming their address of record and advising them that renewal applications will not be forwarded by the U.S. Post Office.

The Executive Director stressed the significance of:

N.J.A.C. 13:32-4.4 CHANGE OF ADDRESS; SERVICE OF PROCESS ~ Requiring that every licensee shall notify the Board of the licensee's office address. Every licensee shall give notice in writing to the Board of any change in his or her residence or business within (10) ten days after such a change.

NOT ON THE PUBLISHED AGENDA

**WILLIAM S. TURKUS - APPROVED
LICENSED MASTER PLUMBER # 5235
3 JUNIPER ST., METUCHEN, NJ 08840
TELEPHONE # 732-494-0589
Instructor # 32**

On February 27, 2003, following a brief discussion with Mr. Turkus, a motion was made by Mark McManus and seconded by Margaret Sieb, to approve Mr. Turkus and his course outline for CE instruction for courses required of licensees for their 2003-2005 biennial renewal.

A vote was taken and the motion unanimously passed.

NOT ON THE PUBLISHED AGENDA

**PATRICK J. SAULINO, LMP # 1053 (Not approved)
Instructor # 49**

1125 Bloomfield Street, Hoboken, NJ 07030
Telephone #: 201-963-0673

Mr. Saulino attended the Open Public Portion of the Board's meeting on February 27, 2003. However Mr. Saulino had not scheduled his appearance before the Board and had not prepared a course outline with his resume. Board Members

instructed Mr. Saulino to prepare a course outline for the Board's consideration and submit same in advance of scheduling another appearance before the Board.

EXECUTIVE CLOSED SESSION MOTION:

A motion was made by James Moore and seconded by Ernest Tretola to proceed into Executive Closed Session to review (5) five administrative closings of consumer complaints and (5) five pending consumer complaint matters; (3) three applications for examination, and for consideration of investigation of possible violations of applicable law, pending or anticipated litigation, matters under investigation, and review matters within the attorney-client relationship exception to the Open Public Meetings Act. The subject of this discussion shall remain confidential until such time as the reasons for having this matter in Executive Closed Session are no longer applicable.

The next regularly scheduled meeting is on Thursday, March 27, 2003, at 9:00 a.m. in the Somerset Room.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara A. Cook
Executive Director

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of Master Plumbers](#)

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Posted April 2003