

**#496 MEETING OF THE STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS
OF MASTER PLUMBERS - NOVEMBER 20, 2003**

The Minutes of the November 20, 2003, Board Meeting have not been formally approved and are subject to change or modification by the Public Body at its regular meeting on December 18, 2003.

The notice of the November 20, 2003, 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 November 20, 2003, was called to order at 9:00 a.m. The following Board Members were in attendance:

Alexander J. Tucciarone, Chairman

Margaret Sieb, Secretary

James Moore

Ralph Wetzel

Mark McManus

Ernest Tretola

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 Joseph A. Donofrio served as the Board's counseling deputy for this meeting.

PUBLIC SESSION VISITORS:

The following individual was present from the public and signed the attendance register for this meeting:

**James Miller, Licensed Master Plumber # 9743
New Jersey State League of Master Plumbers**

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Chairman Alexander Tucciarone led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Chairman Tucciarone also requested that the Board join in a moment of silence in recognition of U.S. troops engaged overseas.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES ~ OCTOBER 23, 2003, MEETING

A motion was made by James Moore and seconded by Ralph Wetzel to approve the October 23, 2003, Minutes. A vote was taken and the motion unanimously passed.

BOARD BUSINESS

1. CONTINUING EDUCATION TOPICS for the 2005-2007 MASTER PLUMBER'S LICENSE BIENNIAL RENEWAL REQUIREMENT

{Courses taken during 2003-2005}

Topics to review, revise and approve in conjunction with: N.J.A.C. 13:32-6.3 Required course topics

On September 23, 2003, Board Members voted to approve the CE topics for publication in the New Jersey Register as a "Public Notice." Charles Manning confirmed that this "Public Notice" was published on November 3, 2003, in the New Jersey Register.

A copy of this notice has been posted to the Board's website at: <http://www.nj.gov/lps/ca/plumbernot.htm>

A link to this notice was placed on the Master Plumber's home page at: <http://www.nj.gov/lps/ca/nonmed.htm#mas6>

It is noted that N.J.A.C. 13:32-6.3 Required course topics, states that:

(a) Three months prior to the beginning of a biennial period, the Board shall determine which topics shall be provided by program sponsors for the upcoming biennial period. The Board shall determine these topics at a regularly scheduled public Board meeting;

(b) The list of topics which shall be required by the Board for a biennial period shall be published as a public notice in the New Jersey Register and shall be available at the Board offices.

CONTINUING EDUCATION TOPICS for the 2005-2007 MASTER PLUMBER'S LICENSE

A copy of the topics and related information had been provided to "Board approved" CE Instructors, Plumbing Associations and Board Members on October 8, 2003.

On November 20, 2003, Board Members held a discussion concerning the CE Program for the 2005-2007 MASTER PLUMBER'S renewal. Members agreed that any CE Instructor who had been previously approved by the Board to teach CE, does not need to attend a Board meeting for re-approval in teaching during the 2005-2007 biennial requirement. However, Members of the Board noted that they are interested in obtaining details from CE Instructors concerning their experiences while teaching during the prior renewal--- including: number of students taught, locations of courses, and counties where courses were taught.

2. INQUIRY from MARTIN FREEMAN

Questioning permits involving the Department of Community Affairs (DCA) and his employment with UMDNJ University Hospital

Mr. Freeman submitted a letter to the Board dated November 5, 2003, and questioned the Board concerning their position in this matter.

On November 20, 2003, Members agreed that this individual should recontact the Office of the State Apprenticeship Coordinator to explore this matter further.

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

Ms. Cook advised that she is coordinating a random audit at the Board Office, whereby licensees were contacted, in writing, and were requested to furnish a copy of their CE Certificate for the 2003-2005 biennial requirement.

The Executive Director explained that those licensees who were unable to facilitate her request in providing a copy of their CE certification were instructed to submit a letter to the Board Office detailing their reason for non-compliance. A deadline was placed on this request as well.

The Executive Director advised that this audit will continue until all responses are received and tallied. She advised that she will report her findings to the Board in order that disciplinary action may be considered.

In conclusion, and in response to Ms. Cook's report, Members of the Board noted for the record that they will consider formal disciplinary action by way of civil penalties against those licensees who had failed to comply with the CE requirements; however, details of those penalties and the sums of those penalties remain to be discussed at future meetings.

EXECUTIVE CLOSED SESSION MOTION:

A motion was made by James Moore and seconded by Ernest Tretola to proceed into Executive Closed Session to review seven (7) consumer complaints, two (2) administrative closings of consumer complaints, one Investigative Inquiry, 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, December 18, 2003, at 9:00 a.m. in the Somerset Room.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara A. Cook
Executive Director