

# QUARTERLY BOARD MEETING OF THE STATE PLUMBING BOARD OF LOUISIANA

**BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA**

**FEBRUARY 19, 2009**

The Quarterly Meeting of the State Plumbing Board of Louisiana was called to order by the Secretary/  
Treasurer, Rickey Fabra, at 10:02 a.m.

The following persons were in attendance:

<b>BOARD MEMBERS</b>	<b>ADVISORY BOARD</b>	<b>STAFF</b>	<b>GUESTS</b>
Rickey Fabra		John Barker	Bob Urann - Attorney (Bd.)
Jerry Payne		Christina Hymel	David Cloteaux
John Thomas		Katie Ramagos	Ed Guillory – Home Depot
Johnny Gypin		Terry Moore	Al Smith - Sears
		Carl Barnum	JC Matt
		Bill Landrum	Jim Finley
		Joe Leger	Jim Osborne
		Corky Dwight	Donald Berger
		Steve Porter	Shannon Kitchens
		Chris Bodet	Heather Gremillion
		Henry Catania	Keith Bienvenu

**INVOCATION:** *Jerry Payne*

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**ROLL CALL:** *Christina Hymel*

**PRESENTATIONS**

***a.) Introduction of new enforcement officers***

Christina Hymel introduced the new enforcement officers and their regions as follows:

- Region L – Corky Dwight
- Region B – Chris Bodet
- Region A – Carl Barnum
- Region G – Steve Porter
- At-Large – Henry Catania

Mr. Rickey Fabra congratulated the new enforcement officers and thanked them for their service.

**PERSONAL APPEARANCES**

***a.) William Siegler***

Mr. Siegler is an out of state applicant from Texas applying to become a Medical Gas Verifier. Mr. Siegler was not present at the meeting. Therefore, Mr. Fabra suggested that the Board refer the matter to a sub-committee for review and approval. The members assigned to the committee were Johnny Gypin (Committee Chair), Jerry Payne, Rickey Fabra and John Barker.

- MOTION: to allow the committee to review and approve William Siegler for a Medical Gas license**
- MOTION: JOHNNY GYPIN**
- SECOND: JERRY PAYNE**
- MOTION: CARRIED**

**ENFORCEMENT**

***a.) Informal Hearing Report***

Christina Hymel reported that the enforcement committee held two informal hearings. The first was for a journeyman working as a master without the proper license. A fine was issued for this infraction and was collected at the conclusion of the hearing. The second hearing was for Mr. Eric Martin for working with an expired master plumber license since he had not renewed since 2007. This was the second time Mr. Martin was asked to attend the informal hearing and he did not appear. Mr. Martin has been given several opportunities to rectify this issue but has not done so. Mrs. Hymel stated that she made several attempts to contact Mr. Martin to no avail. Therefore, the enforcement committee asked the Board and legal counsel for their input on what action to take next. The Board’s legal counsel, Mr. Bob Urann, stated that since the enforcement committee has made every reasonable effort to resolve the issue with Mr. Martin, that whatever legal the Board sees fit can be taken. The Board then made a motion to authorize the enforcement committee to take any action it deems necessary.

**MOTION:** to allow the enforcement committee to move forward and take any legal action necessary  
**MOTION:** JOHNNY GYPIN  
**SECOND:** JOHN THOMAS  
**MOTION:** CARRIED

**OTHER GUESTS**

*NONE*

**SPECIAL REQUEST**

*NONE*

**TRAINING PROGRAM APPROVAL**

*NONE*

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

*NONE*

**PREVIOUS MINUTES**

(December 16, 2008)

**MOTION:** to accept the December 16, 2008 minutes as presented  
**MOTION:** JOHNNY GYPIN  
**SECOND:** JERRY PAYNE  
**MOTION:** CARRIED

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

**MOTION:** to accept the financial report as presented by Rickey Fabra  
**MOTION:** JOHN THOMAS  
**SECOND:** JERRY PAYNE  
**MOTION:** CARRIED

**ADVISORY REPORT**

*NONE*

**INDIVIDUAL MEMBER'S REPORT**

*NONE*

**ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS' REPORT**

The enforcement officers each gave their individual report.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Barker informed the Board that the renewal process was slower this year due to the added responsibility of Continuing Professional Education but at this point the renewals were caught up. With that said, Mr. Barker recommended to the Board that renewal forms be mailed out October 1<sup>st</sup> each year rather than October 15<sup>th</sup>. The Board agreed and stated this change is acceptable.

Mr. Barker also advised the Board of the vacancy in Region D for the enforcement officer position. He stated that this is the only vacancy at this time and that the office received a few potential candidates but those fell through for various reasons. Mr. Barker reassured the Board that the position would be filled in a timely manner with an ideal candidate.

The enforcement fees collected for 2008 were substantially higher than that of 2007 according to Mr. Barker. The totals for 2007 were approximately \$3500.00 compared to that of 2008 which was \$22,000.00.

Mr. Barker made a note to the enforcement officers that all forms/reports that they are required to complete and turn in to the office, must be complete and accurate. If these forms are not completed properly, it may create a delay in receiving their mileage reimbursement checks. He informed the enforcement officers that a brief meeting would be held after the Board meeting to review the forms again.

**OLD BUSINESS**

*a.) Exam Reports*

**1.) JOURNEYMAN EXAMINATIONS**

- a.) January 10, 2009 - Jerry Payne – *no problems***
- b.) January 17, 2009 - Wendell Guillot – *no problems***
- c.) January 24, 2009 - John Thomas – *no problems***

**2.) MASTER EXAMINATIONS**

- a.) December 9, 2008 (Special) - Rickey Fabra – *no problems***
- b.) February 7, 2009 – John Barker – *no problems***

*b.) Other business which merits discussion*

**NONE**

**NEW BUSINESS**

***a.) Legislative Session***

1. Propose a bill to register apprentices with a \$20 registration fee
2. Propose a bill to give more authority to the Board in regards to enforcement
3. Propose a bill to issue licenses for gas fitters

There was much to be discussed on the matter and therefore Mr. Fabra suggested that a sub-committee be formed to review the topics and present its findings to the Board. Mr. Fabra appointed James Finley to chair the committee with John Barker and himself also being part of the committee. Mr. Fabra welcomed any and all input from the other Board members.

Mr. Barker informed the Board that he spoke with a representative of Boards and Commissions and that everything appears to be in proper order for Jim Finley, Linden Raimer and Keith Bienvenu to be reappointed to the Board. Mr. Barker also mentioned the topic of continuing professional education and how long the providers are required to make a class available. It was decided that it would be best for the continuing education committee to meet and discuss the topic of those plumbers that allow their license to lapse and what would be required of them in regards to continuing education.

**TENTATIVE DATE FOR THE MAY 2009  
QUARTERLY BOARD MEETING**

**May 14, 2009** is the tentative date of the next Quarterly Board Meeting of the State Plumbing of Louisiana.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

- MOTION: to enter into Executive Session at 10:41am**
- MOTION: JOHNNY GYPIN**
- SECOND: JOHN THOMAS**
- MOTION: CARRIED**

**The Board reconvened at 10:53am.**

Mr. Barker stated that a maternity leave policy needed to be established. He proposed that the policy allow the employee four (4) paid weeks of maternity leave. After the four (4) paid weeks the employee may use any annual, sick or compensatory time that he/she has accrued.

- MOTION: to adopt the maternity leave policy as proposed by Mr. Barker**
- MOTION: JOHNNY GYPIN**
- SECOND: JOHN THOMAS**
- MOTION: CARRIED**

## **ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION: to adjourn the Quarterly Board Meeting of the State Plumbing Board of Louisiana - 10:54 a.m.**

**MOTION: JERRY PAYNE  
SECOND: JOHNNY GYPIN  
MOTION: CARRIED**

**Respectfully Submitted,**

---

**Rickey Fabra, Secretary / Treasurer**

---

**Board Member**