

North Carolina Locksmith Licensing Board
Meeting Minutes
Raleigh/Zoom Call
December 16, 2020, 11:30pm

Members Present: Jon Jeffries, Bobby Blackmon, Jennifer Richards, Jim Storie, Steve Bright, Larry Mares, Debbie Atkinson, Mike McCarty, Hunt Willis

Staff: Barden Culbreth, Reed Fountain

Call to Order: Board Chair Jon called the meeting to order shortly after 11:30am. Those in attendance in Raleigh had a sandwich lunch.

Ethics Awareness Statement: Jon read the Ethics Awareness Statement and asked for conflicts and appearances of conflicts with the business of the Board. Hearing none, the meeting continued.

Election of 2021 Officers: Jon asked Jennifer if she would like to serve another term as Secretary/Treasurer. She agreed if there were no other nominees.

Jon asked Bobby Blackmon if he would serve as Vice-Chair again. He agreed if no other nominees.

Jon stated he would serve again as Board chair if there were not any other nominations.

Larry nominated Jon as Chair. Bobby seconded and there were no other nominations. Jon Jeffries was re-elected Chair.

Steve nominated Bobby as Vice-Chair. Larry seconded and there were no other nominations. Bobby Blackmon was re-elected Vice-Chair.

Steve nominated Jennifer Richards as Secretary/Treasurer. Bobby seconded and there were no other nominations. Jennifer was re-elected Secretary/Treasurer.

Recognition of Outgoing Board Members: The Board recognized Steve Bright for his service on the Board. He served two terms from 2015 through 2020 and was critical to the licensing examination process. The Board thanked him for his service.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes: Steve motioned to approve the two sets of previous meeting minutes. Larry seconded and the minutes were approved.

Approval of Financial Report: Secretary/Treasurer Jennifer reported that we had reviewed the recent statement and Financial Report and was submitting it for Board approval. Barden reported that a statement had been received yesterday in the office. He provided an updated unofficial balance. Larry motioned to approve Jennifer's report. Steve seconded and the report was approved.

Education and Exam Committee: Jim provided an update of the exam he proctored at Pitt Community College in November. Jennifer and Jim reported on the exam in December at Forsyth Tech Community College. The passage rate has improved since the Committee redesigned the test. No one has achieved 100%.

Larry asked what the biggest complaint about the test was from applicants.

Jennifer and Jim responded that applicants who are “auto-only” tend to have trouble. They also indicated many people just don’t study or purchase the study guide; some test takers are not prepared for the legal and ethical section, and there is the issue of language barrier for some applicants.

Jim asked if Bobby would be able to proctor the newly scheduled exams in Wilmington at Cape Fear Community College. Discussion followed. Bobby agreed to proctor.

Jon asked Debbie to move to the Education and Exam Committee. She accepted the assignment.

Chair’s Report: Jon reported on a licensee who was charged with a DWI but had not reported it to the Board. Jon is working with the office and Reed to give final notice and matter will come before Board.

Jon reported on asking Barden to post information about master key systems in apartments on the FAQ on the website. Mike McCarty asked about the different regulations for private apartments and government subsidized housing. Discussion followed. Reed agreed to speak with Real Estate Commission, consult our statute, and to develop clear language for the website.

Office Report: Barden provided an update of his onboarding meetings with Certemy. Jim asked if there were any information available to notify the public and licensees about the transition. Certemy has provided some language and it will be posted, emailed and hard mailed to the licensed locksmiths.

Barden is looking for more testing sites for 2021.

Legal Update: Reed reported on the recent election and impact on the NC General Assembly. He did not see much change from the status quo. Scrutiny will remain high on occupational licensing boards. He reported that OLBs were still granted some flexibility in licensee requirements if they so choose to exercise them, under the Governor’s Executive Order. He provided an update on legal cases for unlicensed activity the Board had filed.

Unfinished Business: None.

New Business: None.

Schedule Next Meeting: January 20th, 11:30am, in Raleigh at Young and Moore.

Adjourn: Steve motioned to adjourn. Jim seconded and the meeting ended.