

North Carolina Locksmith Licensing Board
Meeting Minutes
Raleigh/ Zoom
12:30pm January 20, 2022

Members Present: Jon Jeffries, Mike McCarty, Larry Mares, Jim Storie, Henry King, Deanna Brena, *Patrick Armeen, Hunt Willis, and Debbie Atkinson (Italic indicates Zoom)*

Staff: Barden Culbreth, Reed Fountain

Call to Order: Chair Jon Jeffries Meeting was called to order shortly after 12:30pm.

Ethics Awareness Statement: Jon read the Ethics Awareness and Conflict of Interest Statement and asked if there were any conflicts or appearances of conflicts with regard to the business of the meeting. No conflicts were heard, and the meeting continued.

Introductions: Members took a moment to introduce and re-introduce themselves.

Oath of New Members: Reed administered the oath of office for new Board members Deanna Brena and Henry King. Brena is a licensed locksmith from Lumberton and Henry King a public member and police chief for the town of Edenton.

Board Orientation: Reed was recognized. He provided the annual Board orientation, including the mandatory annual training, to all members.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes: Jim motioned to approve the minutes. Larry offered a second to the motion and the minutes were approved unanimously.

Financial Report: Larry motioned to approve the Financial Report. Jim seconded the motion and the Financial Report was approved.

Testing Committee: Jim was recognized and he provided an update on recent testing proctoring sessions. He reported that the Board has a new testing site at Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College and he would be administering an exam there later in the month.

Discussion followed among members to recommend additional testing sites and the qualifications of a Board member to be a proctor. Jon encouraged interested proctors to contact Barden in the Board office.

Training and Standards Committee: Larry and Hunt have met via email and resolved several cases on behalf of the Board. There is one ongoing case they are reviewing.

Chair's Report: Jon asked that Committees welcome new members to participate and asked for the following committee appointments:

Standards and Training: Probable Cause Member – Hunt; Members – Larry and Deanna

Testing: Jim, Debbie, Larry and Mike

Executive: Jon, Mike, Debbie

Jon asked Henry to consider potential committee opportunities but wanted him to stay available (off Standards) in case a hearing came before the Board.

Jon discussed the potential development of a continuing education program for locksmiths. Barden reported that the community college system was very interested in this.

Discussion followed on a business ethics course that locksmiths could take and receive credit.

Jon also reported that he recently completed his license renewal on Certemy. He urged everyone to slow down, read the prompts, and to follow the directions.

Board Office Report: Barden was recognized and discussed how Certemy was organized and urged everyone to understand their license was always within a renewal cycle, not just a few weeks or months before their license is due. He reported several persons had tried to re-do renewals after they were approved, or as a different example had created duplicate accounts.

Barden reported several applications the Board office had received where the 2 references were first-name only. He has been rejecting these until full names have been submitted. Mike asked if there were specific questions for the references. Barden reported there was not.

Discussion followed about increasing reference scrutiny in applications.

Barden discussed some general website upgrades and new payment portal for study guides.

Legal Update: Reed was recognized and reported on several injunctions filed by the Board, and one contempt case where a person is defying a judge's order to stop locksmithing without a license.

Henry asked how the Board coordinated with law enforcement agencies. Discussion followed. Jon described his experiences getting the attention and resources from law enforcement. Henry stated that he was active with the NC Police Chiefs Association and would work with them to share information about illegal locksmithing.

Henry recommended the Board develop a single image infographic that can be shared across many platforms. Barden said he would work on this.

Unfinished Business: None.

New Business: Jon reminded members about the NC Locksmiths Association Trade Show on Feb 19th. The Board has a booth and he and Barden will be attending. He asked any members interested in attending to check out the NCLA website and come by.

Jon shared an email from Jan Selfe, a licensed locksmith in Wilmington, who asked that the Board remove its CE requirement for license renewal. Discussion followed and the Board asked Barden to respond to Selfe that it would not remove this requirement.

Next Meeting: March 3rd, 10:00am – Hearing and 1:00pm - Regular Meeting *** (moved to a Zoom)*

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