

BOARD OF HEARING AID DEALERS AND FITTERS

Minutes of February 15, 2000 Board Meeting

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Gilbert Poliquin declared a quorum present and called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Members Present: Gilbert Poliquin, Chairperson; Sallie Chisholm, Secretary; Robert Bruder, Public Member; Gene Cleaves; Dawn Dufkin Britt; Linda Snow, Complaint Officer; Wanda Creed and George M. Davis, Jr., Public Member.

Members Absent: None

Others Present: James Bowie, Assistant Attorney General; Diane Bradstreet, Board Clerk and Elaine Thibodeau, Board Administrator

2. APPROVAL OF JANUARY 18, 2000 MINUTES

Gene Cleaves moved to accept the minutes as written, seconded by George Davis.
Vote: Favor-8 and Opposed-0.

3. COMPLAINT OFFICER'S REPORT

Complaint Officer Linda Snow reported that she is still working on a resolution in the matter of Complaint #HEA-057. A letter will be written to the complainant informing her of this and also to let her know that it does not appear that restitution will be part of that resolution. The only entity capable of making restitution, Finetone, has been liquidated in bankruptcy.

The Board discussed what action should be taken against the licensee. In a motion by Gene Cleaves, seconded by George Davis, the Board voted to offer the licensee a Consent Agreement. Assistant Attorney General James Bowie will draft the Consent Agreement.

Vote: Favor-8 and Opposed-0.

4. REVIEW OF NEW CONTRACT

The Board reviewed and suggested further changes to the Model Purchase Agreement. Upon completion, this Model Purchase Agreement will be made available to the licensees who would benefit from a format to assure their compliance with Title 32, §1658-B.

5. CONTINUING EDUCATION REPORTING FORM

It was suggested that a reporting form be developed to promote more-thorough reporting of required renewal documentation. This form will be drafted by the clerk and mailed to all licensees with a cover letter. A copy of the Model Purchase Agreement will be included with this information.

6. REQUEST FOR APPEAL OF LICENSURE DENIAL

Reviewed was the December 21, 1999 request for appeal of licensure denial of Carolyn Hussey Gaiero. Ms. Gaiero had applied for licensure by reciprocity. In a motion by Sallie Chisholm, seconded by Wanda Creed, the Board voted to schedule Ms. Gaiero's hearing on March 21, 2000.

Vote: Favor-8 and Opposed-0.

7. ANNUAL BOARD SEMINAR

The Chair reviewed the comments and recommendations received from the Board's 1999 seminar and the Board talked about future topics and speakers. The next seminar is tentatively set for October 28, 2000 at the Ramada Inn in Lewiston.

8. WRITTEN AND ORAL EXAMINATIONS

The test vendor, International Hearing Society, wrote on February 10, 2000 to say that the examination cost will be increasing from \$45 to \$95 with the 1/1/01 introduction of the ILE Psychometric Examination. Elaine Thibodeau will write to them asking for a sample test/study guide and state that the Board does not anticipate having any objections to the introduction of the new test, provided that it is offered at the old fee, until the 12/31/01 expiration of the current contract. (Elaine's Note: On February 23rd, Phyllis Wilson responded to my February 15th letter, and confirming that IHS would be honoring the existing contract [and the \$45 charge] until its expiration. She enclosed a copy of the Technical Manual and the Candidate Manual.)

The Board discussed the new practical/oral examination created by the National Institute for Hearing Instrument Studies. The Board is considering adopting this in-place of the current examination. The cost for this examination will be \$50 per-candidate.

9. ADMINISTRATOR'S COMMENTARY

Elaine Thibodeau explained the current staffing situation within her unit and within the Office of Licensing and Registration and also provided the Board with information regarding L. D. 2558 (Part L of the Budget) **“An Act to Improve the Regulation of Occupations and Professions.”**

10. ADJOURN

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

The next scheduled meeting is March 21, 2000.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane J. Bradstreet
Board Clerk