

BOARD OF HEARING AID DEALERS AND FITTERS

Minutes of October 17, 2000 Board Meeting

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Gilbert Poliquin established that a quorum was present and called the meeting to order at 11:00a.m.

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

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Elaine Thibodeau, Administrator; Dennis Smith, AAG; Jackie Thibodeau, Board Clerk

APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 19, 2000 MINUTES

George Davis moved to approve the minutes. Seconded by Robert Bruder. Vote: Favor-7 Opposed-0.

SEMINAR RESPONSES

17 responses have been received to date.

A discussion was held regarding whether the seminar should be cancelled. The due date to have the responses in by is October 25. Elaine noted that the board was not in a financial position to sponsor a seminar at a net loss. The decision to cancel was deferred until the registration deadline. In the future, the Board may opt to provide licensees with a list of available seminars being held in lieu of holding the seminar. (Manufacturers are increasingly sponsoring free seminars, which include lunch.)

Bob and Wanda will do the registration. George and Sallie will be the proctors for the written exam.

MISCELLANEOUS

George Davis moved to accept the proposed housekeeping changes to the Board rules. Seconded by: Robert Bruder. Vote: Favor-7 Opposed-0.

Complaint Officer Linda Snow reported that the consent agreement on Ruth Cook was resent to her business address and it was signed and sent back. She asked what the procedure was for notifying the complainant of the resolution. Elaine investigated and reported back that in the near future, an office-wide procedure will be put in place to notify all complainants of the resolution, and to send them, with cover letter, a copy of any Consent Agreement which may have been executed.

ADMINISTRATOR'S COMMENTARY

Elaine informed the Board that:

- the new web page is live. She gave a brief demonstration in her office to those board members who were not administering practical exams and later distributed copies.
- the board's cash balance as of September 30 is \$3,742, which is insufficient to assure solvency through the remainder of this fiscal year (2001). It was recommended that the number of meetings be reduced, perhaps by half, in order to contain expenses. Several boards are in a similar condition; consequently, the Department is introducing legislation in the form of a "Fee Bill," which will raise the cap (to a limit not yet determined) on the level at which fees can be set through rulemaking. As Hearing Aid licenses renew in January of each year, the earliest date on which renewal fees could be affected would be January of 2002.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 12:15p.m.
The next scheduled meeting is December 19, 2000.

Respectfully submitted,

Jackie Thibodeau
Board Clerk