

BOARD OF HEARING AID DEALERS AND FITTERS

Minutes of January 15, 2002 Board Meeting

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Gilbert Poliquin established that a quorum was present and called the meeting to order at 9:25 a.m.

Members Present: Wanda Creed; Sallie Chisholm; Robert Bruder, Public Member, Gilbert Poliquin, Chairperson, Linda Snow, Complaint Officer and Dawn Dufkin-Britt

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

LICENSE HEARING FOR ANNA MCNEASE-LEWIS:

The meeting began with what was to have been the Anna McNease-Lewis license-denial appeal hearing with Ruth McNiff serving as hearing officer; however, before it got underway, AAG Dennis Smith met with McNease-Lewis and advised the board that she was withdrawing her application for licensure. She told the board that, rather than have a denial on her record, she wanted to withdraw. The board agreed to her request. She will not have completed her 750 hours, or consequently be eligible to reapply, until the two-year "reapplication-without-retesting" period will have passed, so she will also be required to take the practical exam. (The written / law exam is waived, because she holds a current Audiology license.) Dennis will be writing to her to this effect.

APPLICATION REVIEW:

Trainee permit for Amanda Sandera-Samoluk - approved

CEUs:

The board questioned the fact that the Rules do not state 8 hrs of CEUs are required. AAG Dennis Smith will research whether the CEU requirement can be changed without rulemaking.

APPROVAL OF October 16, 2001 MINUTES

Wanda Creed moved to approve the minutes. Seconded by Robert Bruder.

Vote: Favor-6 Opposed-0.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

Wanda Creed moved to keep Gil as chairperson. Seconded by Sallie Chisholm.

Vote: Favor-6 Opposed-0

Gil moved to elect Linda Snow as Complaint Officer. 2nd by Sallie Chisholm.
Vote: Favor-6 Opposed-0

Gil moved to elect Sallie Chisholm as Secretary. 2nd by Wanda Creed.
Vote: Favor-6 Opposed -0

MISCELLANEOUS

The new testing contract with NIHIS involves a new practical testing format and testing fees, so the Board discussed revisions being made to the applicant instruction sheet that is mailed with the packets.

ADMINISTRATORS' COMMENTARY

The board asked whether the new licensing fees could simply be substituted for the old ones in the rules we mail out with the application packets. Elaine advised that any change in the rules would require formal rulemaking, but that we were using an insert instructing candidates to disregard the fees indicated in the board rules and instead to refer to those listed on the notice itself. AS boards revised their rules, they were eliminating references to fee amounts, given that this subject is covered by another rule (Per 02-041-Chapter 10).

Elaine discussed their financial situation, as of 12/31/01, with renewals coming in on 1/31/02, but with two transfer cost deductions in the amount of \$8,423 each being taken on 1/1/02 and 4/1/02. Because of the comparative size of this category, there were questions regarding its composition, to which she responded. Some members felt that the third of the Base for Transfer that is divided equally among the boards ought to be proportioned, as the other two thirds are.

Plans are beginning to be made for the annual seminar to be held October 26, 2002. It appears that this Fall's event will feature trimpods (non-programmable digital hearing aids, which are cheaper than computer-programmed ones), developments in tinnitus-management, and a new cerumen-extraction machine.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 12:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Doris L. Breton
Board Clerk

