

**NORTH CAROLINA LOCKSMITH LICENSING BOARD
MONDAY, JANUARY 14, 2008
GREENSBORO, NORTH CAROLINA**

Board Members present: Neal Ensley, Chair, Laura Busse, Kevin Seymour, Ron Cox, Dennis Green and Greg Wright.

Board Staff present: Anna Misenheimer and Barden Culbreth.

Before beginning the meeting, Dennis Green read the Ethics Awareness and Conflict of Interest Statement. No Board members indicated any conflicts.

Neal called the meeting to order and announced that a quorum was present. Neal stated that Larry Hayes has been appointed to replace Tom Campion. Anna explained that she just recently was in contact with Larry and he was unable to attend today's meeting. Neal announced this was his last meeting and he would be leaving early. He will function as Chair of the Board today until the new chair is elected.

Neal asked that the Board examine two sets of minutes, August 29th and November 15th, for approval. Greg made the motion that we accept the August 29th minutes. Kevin seconded and the motion carried. Neal asked that the November 15th minutes be accepted as printed. Ron made a motion to approve the minutes. Dennis seconded the motion and it carried.

Greg stated that the Good Morning America piece on locksmiths practicing illegally aired on January 1, 2008.

Kevin presented the Treasurer's report with questions about a large disbursement from the Board. Anna said that many Board members had waited and submitted numerous reimbursement requests at one time. Kevin asked that Board members to turn in their reimbursement forms in a more timely fashion. Anna said that reimbursement forms will be brought to each meeting from now on so that Board members can submit them the same day as the meeting.

Neal asked why the Board was also given April and May financials for review. Anna explained this was due to not having approved them at the November meeting as Kevin was absent. Kevin moved that we approve the financial statements from April and May. Greg seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Kevin presented the October, November, and December financial statements for approval. Kevin made the motion to approve these documents. Ron seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Neal addressed the Board's need for a budget projection which would assist the Board office in its day-to-day operations. Neal asked Kevin to prepare a three

year budget. The budget was drafted with the understanding that the Board operates on a three year boom-bust cycle based on the cycle of renewals. Renewal fees were cited as the main source of revenue for the Board.

Laura noted that she was perceived as the “public face” of the Board and that she was faced with much frustration over the ineffectiveness of the Board. Many persons were implying that they would not be renewing their licenses because of ineffectiveness of the Board’s inability to take action against locksmiths practicing without a license. Further involvement with chasing scammers and license avoiders would raise the expenses of the legal portion of the budget. Dennis said that fees would need to be increased in order keep revenues at the present level. The Board could consider asking NCLA to contribute to the Board’s investigation/enforcement efforts. Laura said that the Board would need \$10,000 in order to pursue a case considering the fees associated with filing legal papers and injunctions. Kevin expressed the need to not have money “laying around”. Kevin asked if there were any questions about the proposed budget.

Kevin moved that the Board adopt the projected budget. Neal seconded that motion. The motion carried.

Laura offered an amendment to the previous motion to add \$17,500 to the Legal and Professional portion of the budget for the 2008-2009 fiscal year. Ron suggested that the Board accept this current year’s budget, but make the addition in the next fiscal year. Neal stated that he would prefer to have a budget for the current fiscal year in addition to the projected budget, based on the 2010-2011 budget which would be the best estimate of the 2007-2008 year based on the boom-bust cycle. Laura made the motion for the amendment and Ron seconded it. The amendment passed.

Neal made the motion to remove the 2010-2011 portion of the projected budget with the addition of a column for the 2007-2008 fiscal year. The motion carried.

Neal wanted to address the correspondence received from the Board’s auditor, Tony Armento. Anna addressed this and explained the cause for the termination of his service to the Board.

Neal called for election of new officers, beginning with Chair of Board. Ron nominated Laura Busse. Dennis moved to close nominations. Greg seconded the motion for Laura’s nomination. Laura opposed the nomination, but accepted this role. The motion then carried.

Greg nominated Dennis Green for Vice Chair. Ron made the motion to close nominations. Kevin seconded Dennis’ recommendation and the motion carried.

Ron nominated Kevin for a second term as Secretary/Treasurer. Greg seconded the motion. Dennis made motion to close nominations and Ron's motion carried.

Following the election of officers, the Board members thanked Neal for his service. The Board took a short recess.

Laura assumed her role as Chair and reported no new business from the Document Creation committee.

Laura asked for a report from the Public Relations Committee. Dennis reported that he will continue to work and contact news stations. Laura made a report about her meeting with the Attorney General's office, and her idea of moving ahead with a letter writing campaign to local newspapers. She reported that the Attorney General's office was willing to publish a press release about fraudulent locksmiths but the AG's office had not followed through with this release. Laura expressed the need for Bly Hall, the Board's attorney, to clear all outgoing press as it relates to fraud detection.

Laura said she is organizing the NCLA tradeshow and wanted to make it an opportunity for the Board to communicate its purpose to other locksmiths. Laura reported that the AG's office wanted more complaints from consumers and could not accept complaints from the Board. She plans to use the tradeshow as a way to reach NCLA members who wish to make such reports to the AG's office.

Laura discussed using the tri-fold mail pieces and the bumper stickers to raise awareness. They will be included in the "goodie bags" provided to tradeshow attendees. Greg made the motion to include tri-folds and bumper stickers in all license renewal packets. Ron seconded that motion and it carried.

Dennis asked if the Board should disclose information about increasing finances for enforcement efforts at the tradeshow. Laura said she would include this information in the "goodie bags". Laura will send an email draft to the Board office for review.

The Examination Committee reported that the next exam is February 8, 2008. Dennis confirmed that he would proctor the exam.

The Rules Committee reported that the new rules went into effect on November 1, 2007. Licensed locksmiths can now receive eight hours of continuing education credit for his/her apprentice passing the exam.

The Continuing Education Committee reported to the Board. Barden informed the Board that he had contacted Tom Lynch and was waiting on a return call. Laura said she will speak with Tom Lynch at the tradeshow.

Anna stated she has been in contact with Tidewater Locksmith Association and she requested information on their quarterly meetings and conferences.

Miscellaneous business was then handled. Anna said she would order plaques for Tom and Neal to be presented at the next Board meeting. Anna said she would invite them both to the next meeting. Anna then told the Board about another potential new member, Julie Hampton. Dennis stated that it would be necessary to reconsider committee assignments for the Board. Anna said she would email the Board members the current committee list.

No new business was addressed.

Laura reported from the Standards Committee. She expressed the need to make an example of enforcement against fraudulent locksmiths. Ron said he was willing to help Laura in her attempts to correspond with Bly Hall.

Laura reported on Michael Taylor's hearing. The judge agreed with the Board's decision to deny his apprenticeship.

The Ethics Committee then presented to the Board. Dennis reported that he hand delivered the letter to Danny in November. Danny Clark was given 30 days in which to respond to the Board. At the time of the meeting, he had not. Dennis and Anna said they would contact Bly and a cease and desist letter would be sent to him. The question arose as to what step to take after sending a cease and desist letter. Anna said she would contact Bly on this matter and present it to the Board.

Greg then made a motion that the next meeting date be scheduled for March 6, 2008. Dennis seconded and the motion carried.

Greg made the motion to accept the new licenses and renewals as presented by the Board office. Ron seconded the motion which carried.

Greg made a motion that the meeting adjourn. Ron seconded and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Barden Culbreth

Locksmith Apprentice Ready for Issue
Christopher Florwick

Locksmith Renewals Ready for Approval

Larry Swanson 11/16/2007

Matthew Reeves 3/10/2008

Jamel Brandon 3/10/2008

Billy Perry, Jr. 1/10/2008