



Flammability" has been prepared for the Bureau and is now available for consumer viewing. The slide presentation is the second in a series, which the Bureau plans to expand every year as time permits.

The Bureau is drafting a "Question and Answer Pamphlet" to provide answers to the Bureau's most often-asked questions regarding licensing, inspections, publications, sterilization, and other topics. Bureau personnel presently spend considerable time answering telephone inquiries on these subjects. The pamphlet should soon be made available to the public.

The Carter Hawley Hale retail group recently published 250,000 copies of the Bureau's general consumer information pamphlet for distribution to the public through its Broadway department stores.

LEGISLATION:

AB 4007 (Lancaster) is a Department of Consumer Affairs omnibus bill which would authorize the Bureau to charge penalties in larger amounts and to assess additional penalty fees during each month of license renewal delinquency. The Bureau believes the bill will encourage licensees to renew in a timely manner. The bill passed the Assembly on May 19 and has yet to be assigned to a committee in the Senate.

The following is a status update on bills discussed in CRLR Vol. 8, No. 2 (Spring 1988) at page 59:

SB 1745 (Garamendi) would have directed the State Fire Marshal to prepare and adopt rules and regulations to establish fire safety standards for cigarettes and little cigars, based on studies conducted by the Bureau. The bill failed passage in the Senate Business and Professions Committee on May 8.

SB 2385 (Campbell) would exempt the sale, installation, and furnishing of carpets from the Contractors License Law and make the licensing of carpet retailers, independent carpet layers, and employed carpet layers the responsibility of the Bureau. In April, the bill was referred to interim study by the Business and Professions Committee.

FUTURE MEETINGS:

September 13 in San Francisco.
December 13 in Los Angeles.

BOARD OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

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The Board of Landscape Architects (BLA) licenses those who design landscapes and supervise implementation of design plans. To qualify for a license, an applicant must successfully pass the written exam of the national Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Boards (CLARB), an additional section covering landscape architecture in California, and an oral examination given by the Board. In addition, an applicant must have the equivalent of six years of landscape architectural experience. This may be a combination of education from a school with a Board-approved program in landscape architecture and field experience.

The Board investigates verified complaints against any landscape architect and prosecutes violations of the Practice Act. The Board also governs the examination of applicants for certificates to practice landscape architecture and establishes criteria for approving schools of landscape architecture.

BLA consists of seven members. One of the members must be a resident of and practice landscape architecture in southern California, and one member must be a resident of and practice landscape architecture in northern California. Three members of the Board must be licensed to practice landscape architecture in the state of California. The other four members are public members and must not be licentiates of the Board. Board members are appointed to four-year terms.

MAJOR PROJECTS:

Examinations. The three-day 1988 Uniform National Examination (UNE) was to be administered June 13-15. Starting with this exam, California candidates will be required to complete a new two-hour section consisting of an irrigation performance problem. This section is in addition to the "local" portion of the exam, passage of which is already required of California licensure candidates.

Because of past scoring problems on the examination (see CRLR Vol. 8, No. 1 (Winter 1988) p. 57 for background information), BLA will use the same scoring process for all 1988 performance problems as was used last year. BLA licensees will volunteer as evaluators and will be trained on proper evaluation techniques. Scoring was to begin on June 25.

The national CLARB has received

BLA's letter regarding the Department of Consumer Affairs' Central Testing Unit's report on the UNE. CLARB's Special Situation and UNE Committees are scheduled to review the matter. (For background information, see CRLR Vol. 8, No. 2 (Spring 1988) pp. 59-60 and Vol. 8, No. 1 (Winter 1988) p. 57.)

In a related matter, the BLA voted on May 5 to develop a request for proposals for an analysis of the functions and tasks of landscape architects. McGraw-Hill has given a presentation to the Board on the methodology and budgeting requirements for such a study. The results of the study would be forwarded to CLARB with a strong request to use it as the basis for developing a new examination. If CLARB chooses not to cooperate, then the groundwork would be laid for BLA to develop its own exam.

Irrigation Consultants Licensure. A public hearing on the licensure of irrigation consultants was held in conjunction with the BLA's regular meeting on March 18. A speaker for the irrigation consultants requested the BLA to support separate licensure by the BLA of these professionals. Topics discussed at the hearing included (1) the definition of experience needed to qualify for the grandfather clause; (2) whether the quantum of experience required for the new license should be the same as for landscape architecture candidates (six years); (3) exam contents; (4) the appointing authority for an irrigation consultant member on the Board, and whether a public member should be replaced by that member (public member Raven expressed concern as to this issue); and (5) whether California universities offer irrigation consultation as a course of study.

Upon closure of the public hearing, the BLA tabled further discussion until its May meeting in Monterey, at which time its Committee on Licensure of Irrigation Consultants made recommendations. The BLA voted to support licensure at that meeting. Although there is still some disagreement (and no decision), the Board appears to prefer adding a member to the Board to facilitate the seating of an irrigation consultant, as opposed to replacing a public member to accommodate that industry's representation on the Board.

Education Committee Study: Evaluation of Experience Requirements. Several hearings were held in late 1987 to gather public comment on the current educational and professional experience requirements for eligibility to take the licensure examination. At BLA's March



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meeting, Education Committee Chair Raven presented a report based in part on those hearings. She recommended that section 2620, Chapter 26, Title 16 of the California Code of Regulations, should be amended to specify that the required degree or certificate must be in landscape architecture. BLA endorsed that amendment.

The Education Committee also recommended that no more than three years of education should be counted towards the experience requirement and that the remaining three years be served in an office of a landscape architect. That motion failed for a lack of a second.

The Committee next recommended the use of standardized forms to verify work experience and a requirement that ten of twelve task areas be signed off by a supervising licensee, attesting to the candidate's experience. Various task areas were discussed, but the idea died for lack of support. The BLA did, however, approve further study of the need for a continuing education requirement. It also approved continuing the use of the 1983 Accreditation Standards for Certificate Programs in Landscape Architecture.

Performance Review and Resignation of Executive Officer. In open session on March 18, the Board discussed the performance of Executive Officer Joe Heath. It was the consensus among Board members that major improvements in the Executive Officer's performance—in the areas of relationships, coordination, personal qualities, budget administration, supervision, and management—should be required by July 1. Intermediate reviews were scheduled; however, on April 27, Heath tendered his resignation to the President of the BLA, effective September 1.

LEGISLATION:

SB 2810 (Marks) was amended on April 6 to add certain fee provisions affecting architects licensed by the state Board of Architectural Examiners. As it affects landscape architects, the amendment increases the maximum amount chargeable for delinquency fees to \$150 and for renewal fees to \$300 (corresponding to the original certification fee increase). This bill passed the Senate on May 26 and is currently pending in the Assembly Committee on Governmental Efficiency and Consumer Protection.

SCR 68 (Campbell) introduced on February 8, would urge the Department of General Services to use drought-resistant plants for landscaping new state buildings. This resolution was adopted by the Senate on May 12 and is

currently pending before the Assembly Committee on Governmental Efficiency and Consumer Protection.

RECENT MEETINGS:

At its March 18 meeting in Pomona, legal counsel Don Chang reviewed the open meeting requirements applicable to state agencies under the Bagley-Keene Open Meetings Act. Advice was given on the proper use of open and closed sessions and the form of the agenda.

At the request of Assemblymember Robert Campbell, the Board also voted to support ACR 96 (Campbell), which proclaims April 21 as "John Muir Day" in honor of Muir's efforts resulting in nationwide awareness of conservation and the National Park system. That resolution has since been chaptered.

At its May 5 meeting in Monterey, the Board tabled a proposed study of landscape design requirements for the purpose of developing guidelines. (See CRLR Vol. 8, No. 2 (Spring 1988) p. 60 for background information.)

FUTURE MEETINGS:

September 2 in San Diego.

November 4 in Los Angeles.

BOARD OF MEDICAL QUALITY ASSURANCE

Executive Director: Ken Wagstaff
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BMQA is an administrative agency within the state Department of Consumer Affairs. The Board, which consists of twelve physicians and seven lay persons appointed to four-year terms, is divided into three autonomous divisions: Allied Health, Licensing and Medical Quality.

The purpose of BMQA and its three divisions is to protect the consumer from incompetent, grossly negligent, unlicensed or unethical practitioners; to enforce provisions of the Medical Practice Act (California Business and Professions Code sections 2000 *et seq.*); and to educate healing arts licensees and the public on health quality issues.

The functions of the individual divisions are as follows:

The Division of Allied Health Professions (DAHPP) directly regulates five non-physician health occupations and oversees the activities of seven other examining committees which license non-physician certificate holders under the jurisdiction of the Board. The following allied health professionals are subject to the jurisdiction of the Division of Allied Health: acupuncturists, audiolo-

gists, drugless practitioners, hearing aid dispensers, lay midwives, medical assistants, physical therapists, physical therapist assistants, physician's assistants, podiatrists, psychologists, psychological assistants, registered dispensing opticians, research psychoanalysts and speech pathologists.

The Division of Medical Quality (DMQ) reviews the quality of medical practice carried out by physicians and surgeons. This responsibility includes enforcing the disciplinary and criminal provisions of the Medical Practice Act. The division operates in conjunction with fourteen Medical Quality Review Committees (MQRC) established on a geographic basis throughout the state. Committee members are physicians, allied health professionals and lay persons appointed to investigate matters assigned by the Division of Medical Quality, hear disciplinary charges against physicians and receive input from consumers and health care providers in the community.

Responsibilities of the Division of Licensing (DOL) include issuing licenses and certificates under the Board's jurisdiction, administering the Board's continuing medical education program, suspending, revoking or limiting licenses upon order of the Division of Medical Quality, approving undergraduate and graduate medical education programs for physicians, and developing and administering physician and surgeon examinations.

BMQA's three divisions meet together approximately four times per year, in Los Angeles, San Diego, San Francisco and Sacramento. Individual divisions and subcommittees also hold additional separate meetings as the need arises.

MAJOR PROJECTS:

License Renewal Fee Increase. At its June 2 meeting, the DOL approved staff's request to seek a regulatory change which would increase BMQA's biennial physician license renewal fee from its current level of \$255 to \$290. Section 2435 of the Business and Professions Code requires BMQA to fix licensing fees so that the reserve balance in the Board's contingent fund shall be equal to approximately four months of annual authorized expenditures, and staff projected that if renewal fees were not increased above \$255, the Board will fall well below the four-month requirement by 1989.

The DOL also approved a proposed 10% increase in initial application fees.

Proposed Regulatory Changes. Also at its June 2 meeting, the DOL con-