



RECENT MEETINGS:

At its January 21-22 meeting in Los Angeles, the Board elected new officers. Delia Goggins, RN, MS, was selected BRN President for another year. Ms. Goggins, the RN nursing service administrator member of the Board, is owner and Director of Nursing of Southland Home Health Services, Inc., in Los Angeles. Patricia Hunter, RN, MS, was voted Vice President, replacing Radell Fraser, RN. Ms. Hunter, a direct patient care member of the Board, is Cardiac Program Coordinator at Chula Vista Community Hospital.

FUTURE MEETINGS:

May 19-20 in San Diego.
July 21-22 in San Francisco.
September 22-23 in Los Angeles.
November 17-18 in San Francisco.

BOARD OF CERTIFIED SHORTHAND REPORTERS

*Executive Officer: Richard Black
(916) 445-5101*

The Board of Certified Shorthand Reporters (BCSR) licenses and disciplines shorthand reporters, recognizes court reporting schools and administers the Transcript Reimbursement Fund, which provides shorthand reporting services to low-income litigants otherwise unable to afford such services.

The Board consists of five members, three public and two from the industry, who serve four-year terms. The two industry members must have been actively engaged as shorthand reporters in California for at least five years immediately preceding their appointment.

MAJOR PROJECTS:

Examinations. Four hundred fifty-eight test candidates took the November 1987 dictation/transcription examination; 256 candidates passed the exam for a 56% pass percentage rate.

Regulatory Changes. On February 20, the Board conducted a regulatory hearing on proposed amendments to its regulations, which appear in chapter 24, Title 16 of the California Code of Regulations. Section 2400 was modified to specify that the Board's principal office is in Sacramento; section 2404 was amended to delete references to "executive secretary" and instead refer to the Board's "executive officer."

The Board adopted several amendments to section 2411. The title of the

section was changed to add the term "Continuing Validity; Reports." Section 2411(a)(9), regarding apprenticeship training, was amended to increase the required number of training hours to forty hours, consisting of twenty hours of court proceedings or administrative hearings, and twenty hours of depositions for a total of 1,940 prescribed hours. Section 2411(b) was amended to delete the requirement that court reporting schools determine equivalent proficiency by examination.

New section 2411(c) was added to require a high school to maintain a library of reference materials including specified materials. New section 2411(d) was also added, to provide for continued validity of a certificate of recognition for a court reporting school until suspended or revoked for failure to comply with statutory provisions or Board regulations. New section 2411(e) requires schools to advise applicants of the Board's existence and purpose, and print the Board's address and telephone number in any catalogs.

Section 2419 was also substantially amended; its new title is "Examination Application and Fee." Editorial changes were made to sections 2419(a)-(e), and new section 2419(f) was added to allow examination fees to be credited toward the next scheduled exam where an applicant is unable to take the scheduled exam because of reasons of health, transfer, or other good cause. New section 2419(g) was also added to specify that examination fees will not be refunded.

New section 2420 was added to specify that the exam consists of English, professional practice, and dictation/transcription, and that the passing scores are 70%, 75%, and 97.5%, respectively. It would further require that all three parts of the exam must be passed within three consecutive calendar years or six consecutive examinations, whichever is greater, and provide that an applicant who passes one or two parts of the exam shall receive conditional credit for those parts passed and need only be reexamined in the remaining part(s).

LEGISLATION:

AB 1523 (Leslie) has died in the Assembly Ways and Means Committee. This bill would have required the Judicial Council to assess the costs of using video recorders as a means of producing the verbatim record of court or other official proceedings. (See CRLR Vol. 8, No. 1 (Winter 1988) p. 72 for details on this bill.)

RECENT MEETINGS:

At its February meeting, the Board discussed a request to require court reporting schools to report to the Board the names and addresses of enrolled students with certain speed levels. Firm owners are interested in students with above average entry level skills. This list would identify individuals with potential; those students could be notified of programs and seminars relevant to the students' chosen goals. The industry is also concerned about strengthening the profession and would like to sponsor programs geared to help prepare these students to meet future employment needs. Both the industry and the individual firms who made this request of the Board did so because of lack of cooperation from the schools in passing this information along to students. The request from the California Court Reporters Association cites a similar program provided by the Board of Cosmetology. The Board noted that the request would require changes in the existing law or regulations.

FUTURE MEETINGS:

June 18 in Los Angeles.

STRUCTURAL PEST CONTROL BOARD

*Registrar: Mary Lynn Ferreira
(916) 924-2291*

The Structural Pest Control Board (SPCB) licenses structural pest control operators and field representatives. The latter can function only under a licensed operator and secure pest control work for the operator. Each structural pest control firm is required to have one licensed operator, regardless of the number of branches the firm operates. A licensed field representative can also hold an operator's license.

Licenses are classified as: (1) Branch 1, Fumigation, the control of household and wood-destroying pests by fumigants (tenting); (2) Branch 2, General Pest, the control of general pests without fumigants; or (3) Branch 3, Termite, the control of wood-destroying organisms with insecticides, but not with the use of fumigants, and including authority to perform structural repairs and corrections. An operator can be licensed in all three branches, but more often will limit the variety of his or her expertise for purposes of efficiency and subcontract out to other firms.

SPCB also issues applicator certificates. These otherwise unlicensed indi-



REGULATORY AGENCY ACTION

viduals, employed by licensees, are required to take a written exam on pesticide equipment, formulation, application and label directions if they apply pesticides. Such certificates are not transferable from one company to another.

SPCB is comprised of four public and three industry representatives.

MAJOR PROJECTS:

Regulation Proposals. The Board is preparing to propose regulations which will allow Branch 1 or Branch 2 licensure applicants to substitute education for on-the-job experience. For example, one semester would be equivalent to one month in the field of pesticide application. Education would be allowed to substitute for a maximum equivalent of one-and-one-half years of required work experience.

The Board has also requested its staff to review and change its applicator certification testing procedures. Specifically, the Board has requested that two tests be created and administered—one for Branch 2 General Pest applicants, and one for Branch 3 Termite Control applicants.

LEGISLATION:

AB 1596 (Cortese), which would authorize the Department of Food and Agriculture's Pesticide Enforcement Branch to levy fines against imported produce handlers for violations of laws relating to produce which carries pesticide residue, passed the Assembly in late January and is pending in the Senate Agriculture and Water Resources Committee at this writing.

AB 3059 (Areias) would amend existing law which requires a structural pest control operator to issue a written inspection report to a person requesting an inspection of premises for the absence or presence of wood-destroying pests or organisms. On or after July 1, 1989, each recommendation for corrective measure included in the report must separately state the infestation or infection which is evident and the conditions that are present which are deemed likely to lead to infestation or infection. Under specified circumstances, the bill would also require an estimate or bid for repairs to be given, separately allocating the costs to perform each and every corrective recommendation. This bill is pending in the Assembly Governmental Efficiency and Consumer Protection Committee.

FUTURE MEETINGS:

July 30 in Monterey.

TAX PREPARER PROGRAM

*Administrator: Don Procida
(916) 324-4977*

Enacted in 1973, abolished in 1982, and reenacted by SB 1453 (Presley) effective January 31, 1983, the Tax Preparer Program registers commercial tax preparers and tax interviewers in California.

Registrants must be at least eighteen years old, have a high school diploma or pass an equivalency exam, have completed sixty hours of instruction in basic personal income tax law, theory and practice within the previous eighteen months or have at least two years' experience equivalent to that instruction. Twenty hours of continuing education are required each year.

Prior to registration, tax preparers must deposit a bond or cash in the amount of \$2,000 with the Department of Consumer Affairs.

Members of the State Bar of California, accountants regulated by the state or federal government, and those authorized to practice before the Internal Revenue Service are exempt from registration.

An Administrator, appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate, enforces the provisions of the Tax Preparer Act. He/she is assisted by a nine-member State Preparer Advisory Committee which consists of three registrants, three persons exempt from registration, and three public members. All members are appointed to four-year terms.

MAJOR PROJECTS:

Fee Increase. On April 1, the Program published a proposed amendment to section 3230 of its regulations, which appear in chapter 32, Title 16 of the California Code of Regulations. Under the proposal, the registration fee for a tax preparer and tax interviewer would be increased to \$50; the renewal fee would be increased to \$40. A public hearing on this proposed regulation was scheduled for May 17.

LEGISLATION:

SB 91 (Boatwright), as introduced, would have abolished the Tax Preparer Program. (See CRLR Vol. 7, No. 3 (Summer 1987) p. 91 and Vol. 7, No. 2 (Spring 1987) pp. 70-71 for background information.) As amended in January, this bill would instead establish a Tax Practitioner Program in the Franchise Tax Board. (See CRLR Vol. 8, No. 1 (Winter 1988) p. 73 for further information.) If the amended bill is passed, the Tax Practitioner Program would be-

come part of the Franchise Tax Board on January 1, 1989, and would require "tax practitioners" to be licensed and "tax preparers" to be registered with the Program. At this writing, SB 91 is pending in the Assembly Committee on Governmental Efficiency and Consumer Protection.

RECENT MEETINGS:

The Program has held no public meetings since December 17.

FUTURE MEETINGS:

To be announced.

BOARD OF EXAMINERS IN VETERINARY MEDICINE

*Executive Officer: Gary K. Hill
(916) 920-7662*

The Board of Examiners in Veterinary Medicine (BEVM) licenses all veterinarians, veterinary hospitals, animal health facilities, and animal health technicians (AHTs). All applicants for veterinary licenses are evaluated through a written and practical examination. The Board determines through its regulatory power the degree of discretion that veterinarians, animal health technicians, and unregistered assistants have in administering animal health care. All veterinary medical, surgical, and dental facilities must be registered with the Board and must conform to minimum standards. These facilities may be inspected at any time, and their registration is subject to revocation or suspension if, following a proper hearing, a facility is deemed to have fallen short of these standards.

The Board is comprised of six members, including two public members. The Animal Health Technician Examining Committee consists of three licensed veterinarians, one of whom must be involved in AHT education, three public members and one AHT.

In January, the Board elected its 1988 officers. Herbert Ott, DVM, was elected Board President, from his previous position as Vice-President; and Alan Edmondson, DVM, will replace Dr. Ott as Vice-President.

MAJOR PROJECTS:

Examinations. A total of 243 test candidates took the National Board Examination (NBE) on December 8. The Clinical Competency Test (CCT) administered on December 9 had a total applicant pool of 72: 57 from the foreign veterinarian graduate program (ECFVG),