



same disciplinary procedures and stricter procedures overall. A central data control system would also help in circulating disciplinary information. The Task Force is also considering the creation of a single disciplinary group to deal with this problem.

## RECENT MEETINGS:

At its November 14 meeting in Sacramento, the Board voted to use the American Association of Social Workers' national exam for licensing. However, an increase in examination fees is necessary. Therefore, the Board directed its Legislative Committee to seek legislative authority to raise exam fees.

The Ethics Committee created a subcommittee to review the Board's disciplinary guidelines with the assistance of legal counsel. The subcommittee will compare BBSE's guidelines to those of the Board of Medical Quality Assurance, the Psychology Examining Committee, and the Board of Registered Nursing, and is open to suggestions for improvement.

The Executive Officer reported on past LCSW and MFCC exam statistics. The upcoming calendar of MFCC exams was also reviewed. Administrative problems regarding security, proctoring, and securing a site for the exams were discussed.

The Credentials Qualifications Committee continues to be concerned about tutorial programs which take the place of regular graduate work. The Board is concerned about a strong reliance on bibliographies, some of which may be obsolete; the tutor selection process; and inadequate information about the educational background of transfer students. A liaison subcommittee is being created to work with the Department of Education to resolve these concerns.

## FUTURE MEETINGS:

March 27 in San Francisco.

## CEMETERY BOARD

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In addition to cemeteries, the Cemetery Board licenses cemetery brokers, salespersons and crematories. Religious cemeteries, public cemeteries and private cemeteries established before 1939 which are less than ten acres in size are all exempt from Board regulation.

Because of these broad exemptions, the Cemetery Board licenses only about 185 cemeteries. It also licenses approxi-

mately 25 crematories and 1,400 brokers and salespersons. A license as a broker or salesperson is issued if the candidate passes an examination testing knowledge of the English language and elementary arithmetic, and demonstrates a fair understanding of the cemetery business.

## MAJOR PROJECTS:

*Investigation.* The Board's ongoing investigation of practices of Union Cemetery Association in Bakersfield continues. (See CRLR Vol. 6, No. 4 (Fall 1986) p. 31.) At its most recent meeting on December 3, the Board requested that its field investigator conduct an onsite inspection of Union Cemetery to assure its compliance with the Board's remedial directives. (See also CRLR Vol. 6, No. 2 (Spring 1986) p. 37.)

*Fee Reduction.* The Board, pursuant to legal counsel Anita Scuri's suggestion, passed a motion to adopt fee reduction by regulation. The reduction in fees is scheduled to become effective April 1, 1987. (See CRLR Vol. 6, No. 3 (Summer 1986) p. 24 and CRLR Vol. 6, No. 4 (Fall 1986) p. 31 for further information.)

## LEGISLATION:

*SB 89 (Boatwright),* introduced December 12, would repeal the statutes creating the Cemetery Board, transfer the Board's powers and duties to the Board of Funeral Directors and Embalmers, and increase the membership of that board by adding a cemetery industry representative.

## RECENT MEETINGS:

At its December 3 meeting, the Board reviewed two applications for Certificates of Authority. The Board continued one application and approved the other. The Board also reviewed six applications for a cemetery broker's license, denying one, approving four, and continuing one application.

Ms. Scuri drafted legislation authorizing disciplinary action against any Board licensee or registrant for unprofessional conduct. Unprofessional conduct will include, among other things, incompetence and negligence. At the December meeting, however, Board industry members voiced concern over the vagueness of the proposed legislation's definitions of negligence and incompetence. The Board moved to re-refer the item to the subcommittee composed of Board members Cuffie Joslin and Frank Haswell. (See CRLR Vol. 6, No. 4 (Fall 1986) p. 31.)

## FUTURE MEETINGS:

To be announced.

## BUREAU OF COLLECTION AND INVESTIGATIVE SERVICES

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The Bureau of Collection and Investigative Services is one of over forty separate regulatory agencies within the Department of Consumer Affairs. The chief of the Bureau is directly responsible to the director of the Department.

The Bureau regulates the practices of collection agencies in California. Collection agencies are businesses that collect debts owed to others. The responsibility of the Bureau in regulating collection agencies is two-fold: (1) to protect the consumer/debtor from false, deceptive and abusive practices and (2) to protect businesses which refer accounts for collection from financial loss.

In addition, seven other industries are regulated by the Bureau: private security services (security guards and private patrol operators), repossession, private investigators, alarm company operators, protection dog operators, medical provider consultants and security guard training facilities.

*Private Security Services.* Private security services encompass those who provide protection for persons and/or property in accordance with a contractual agreement. The types of services provided include private street patrols, security guards, watchpeople, body guards, store detectives and escort services. Any individual employed for these services is required to register with the Bureau as a security guard. Any security guard who carries a firearm on the job must possess a firearm permit issued by the Bureau. The Bureau operates to protect consumers from guards who unlawfully detain, conduct illegal searches, exert undue force and use their authority to intimidate and harass.

*Repossession.* Repossession agencies repossess personal property on behalf of a credit grantor when a consumer defaults on a conditional sales contract which contains a repossession clause. The Bureau functions to protect consumers from unethical methods of repossessing personal property, such as physical abuse resulting in bodily harm, threats of violence, illegal entry onto private property and misrepresentation in order to obtain property or information about property.

*Private Investigators.* Private investigators conduct investigations for private individuals, businesses, attorneys, insurance companies and public