

AUTO COLLISION REPAIR LICENSING ADVISORY BOARD

MEETING MINUTES FOR MAY 27, 2008

Members present:

David Reynolds, New Century Auto Inc
Jeanne McCarthy, DBR
Charles M. Nystedt, Metropolitan Property & Casualty Ins.
Richard Berstein, DBR
Gerald Galleshaw, Public

Others Present:

Jina Petrarca-Karampetsos, Providence Auto Body
Rep. Bruce Long
Fred Sananiello, NEIT
Harold Thomas, Hal's Auto Body
Anthony Vutinio, Auto Service Auto Body
L. Alan, Nationwide
Kim Precious, DBR

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 10:50 am

Regulation 5 Glass installation

DR: Opened discussion relating to Regulation 5 Glass installation:

Status: Richard Berstein, Esq., Executive Counsel made changes. Copies with changes underlined were passed out.

Deferred voting until looked at more closely.

Jeanne McCarthy to fax to everyone with interest.

Regulation 3 – Storage

DR: Opened discussion relating to Regulation 3 Storage:

Status: Neena Sinha Savage, Esq., Chief of Legal Services, is working on updates delayed until next meeting.

Article 33

DR: Opened discussion relating to Budget Article 33:

Status: Waiting to see if Budget article 33 passes.

A compromise between the Auto Body shops and the Department was made and The Department has requested an increase of license fees due to the cost estimates of running the Auto Body Division, Board, and use of the Departments Attorneys. If Article 33 passes it will increase license fees from \$150.00 (one hundred fifty dollars) to \$300.00 (three hundred dollars) per year for a total of \$900.00 (nine hundred dollars) for three (3) year license.

DR: Doesn't think the Auto Body people will be happy with new fees.

Board also discussed SUB A of Article 33 in which the Auto Body Shops and Insurance companies will lose their right's to complain if passed.

Certification of Technician

DR: Opened discussion of Technician Certification:

Some typing errors made on regulation draft need to be corrected in Section 3 J

Section 5 needs to be looked at. Experience is not included.

Board discussed if Technician certification should be a certification or license.

Should certification or license be based on performance or written evaluation.

Should license be granted by either 1) Formal Training and/or 2) Experience (Years in field) with a "Grandfather law" (Usually done in other trades that are newly licensed).

Should certification be renewed on renewal?

Should continuing education be required for continued safety?

Should we phase in with steps, final step being continued education.

Should there be different grade levels of technicians with a distinction between type of license or levels of technicians i.e.: Auto Repair Technician, Supervisor, General, Full Collision, Master, etc. If State requires change in industry licensing, training, and teaching requirements, Should trainers be licensed?

Ratio of certified v not certified employees i.e. a ratio of 1:4 or 1:8

Is there a need to change language to define "Technician"

There should be State or Federal money to help. Governor's workforce is in place for industries in need of upgrades.

What happens if industry make's shops pay for the education of their employees and then employee leaves with the certification/license and goes to another shop.

Further discussion is needed.

All parties present agree technician qualification is necessary with the increasing technology and mandatory precision it takes to fix today's cars with air bags, etc., however the cost of technician licensing/certification would further hurt an already rapidly declining industry, but public safety must continue to be the main issue.

DR: Motion for the record to acknowledge the outstanding career of Jeanne McCarthy.

The Board recognizes and thanks Jeanne McCarthy for all her hard work over the years.

DR: Would personally like to state for the record that Jeanne McCarty was the fairest person who has ever held the Chief of Auto Body position.

The board hereby acknowledges its appreciation for Jeanne McCarthy. Seconded, Unanimous.

Jeanne McCarty thanked the board for recognizing her and states for the record what a privilege it has been working with all the gentleman and gentlewoman in the industry. She also acknowledges the Auto Body community for their professionalism and exemplary behavior over the years.

DR: Motion to pass April minutes, Seconded, Unanimous.

DR: motion to adjourn at 11:54 a.m., Seconded, Unanimous.