



Pro Board Progress

National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications

May, 2007

In This Issue

COA meets April 5-6

Pro Board Statistics

Johnny Wilson Award Nominations

DVD available for Powerpoint & Web

Accreditations scheduled for 2007

Hugh Pike's Passing

Send us your News

Pro Board



Report by Fred Piechota, Chair COA

The Committee on Accreditation held a two day meeting on April 5 and 6 in Windsor Locks, Connecticut. All 15 current members of the COA attended all or parts of both days as did Program Manager Dave Trebisacci.

The first day was devoted to an intensive Site Visit Training session led by COA Member George Luther. This was directed primarily to the newly elected members of the COA but was attended by many of our existing members as well. COA Chair Fred Piechota began the session by briefing the attendees on the Roles and Responsibilities of the COA including participation on site visits, and document review and comment. Piechota also covered the administrative aspects of COA membership. The remainder of the day was devoted to all aspects of the Site Visit process. All of the documents that are a part of the Accreditation or Re-accreditation process were reviewed. Primary emphasis was placed upon the intent of the Criteria that is found in Form COA 3, Accreditation Self Study Document.

On the second day of the meeting, April 6, the COA conducted their quarterly business meeting. Chairman Piechota reviewed the Site Visits that will be conducted during the upcoming Calendar Year (see listing below in this Newsletter).

At the present time, a total of 13 visits are scheduled to be conducted, including two new entities seeking Accreditation: North Carolina and Vancouver Island.

The COA approved Extension of Accreditation to SABIC for Fire Instructor I and Fire Officer I and to Bucks County Community College for Plans Examiner I and Telecommunicator I. COA member and Advisory Committee Chair Tom Sturtevant presented the new Advisory Committee Succession Policy for situations where an Advisory Committee appointed COA member changes organizational affiliation.

The Committee on Accreditation unanimously voted to grant Chairman Emeritus status to former COA Chair Ken Elmore.



Committee on Accreditation Meeting on April 5-6 - Training and COA Business Meeting No. 123

Front Row (L - R) Billy Shelton, VA. Fred Piechota, COA Chair. Dave Trebisacci, Program Manager and Julie Coffman, AL

Middle Row (L - R) Liz Summers, GA. Dennis Rosolen, NH. George Luther, CT.

Robert Grunmeier, PA.

Kevin O'Connell, KY. Theresa Staples, CO. Back Row (L - R) John Brinkerhoff, IAFF Thomas Peal, IAAI Larry Preston,

MD. Tom Sturtevant, TX. Geoffrey Burston, BC Canada Alan Joos, AL.



Report by Dave Trebisacci, Program Manager

Pro Board added a record 50,503 certificates to the Certification Database during the last 12 months ending March 31, 2007.

There are 281,984 certificates registered in the Certification Database as of March 31.

The Pro Board certifies to 74 levels of NFPA

Professional Qualification Standards.

On average, recent categories of certifications include: 30% Firefighter, 25% HAZMAT, 10% Instructor, 6% Officer, and "all other" constitute the remaining 29%.

A majority of Pro Board Accredited Entities (27 entities) fully participate in the Pro Board system by electronically registering all of their eligible certified applicants in the Certification Database, with 12 entities using a voluntary process where individuals apply for Pro Board certification and 5 entities submit bulk batches of paper applications.

The Pro Board established the Johnny G. Wilson Memorial Award in 2005 to be presented annually to an individual who has demonstrated professionalism in the field of fire service certification.

The Johnny Wilson Award is presented to an individual who has devoted a significant part of his/her life to the advocacy of professional qualifications through the accreditation and certification process - a person who has exemplified Mr. Wilson's dedication, professionalism and enthusiasm for certifying fire service personnel at the local, state/provincial, national or international level.

Johnny Wilson was serving as interim Director for the Georgia Fire Fighter Standards and Training Council at the time of his death on August 15, 2004 and also served as Chair of the Pro Board's Advisory Committee and as a member of the Board of Directors.

Steve Austin, Chair of the Award Selection Committee, has issued a call for nominations and all Pro Board accredited entities are invited to participate. Nominations for this year's Johnny Wilson Award should be sent to the Pro Board office by July 1st and addressed to:

Johnny G. Wilson Award
P.O. Box 690632
Quincy, MA 02269

For details on the nomination forms and requirements, please visit the Pro Board Web site at: [Johnny Wilson Award Nomination](#).



Program Manager Dave Trebisacci reports that the CD version of the video has been sent to all accredited entities. This format will permit our entities to add the video to Power Point presentations and web sites. If you haven't received the CD, or would like additional CDs, please contact Certification Coordinator Amy Sturtevant at the Pro Board office.

The Committee on Accreditation (COA) has scheduled a busy agenda of site visits this year including the following:

New Accreditation

Vancouver Island Emergency Response Academy
North Carolina Fire Rescue Commission

Re-accreditation

Connecticut Commission of Fire Prevention and Control
Delaware State Fire School
District of North Vancouver
Massachusetts Fire Training Council
Pennsylvania State Fire Academy
West Virginia University Fire Service Extension
Great Oaks Institute of Technology and Career Development
International Association of Arson Investigators
Maryland Fire Service Professional Qualifications Board
Nebraska Fire Marshal Training Division
Utah Fire & Rescue Academy
Justice Institute of British Columbia

Hugh Pike, the long time representative of the US Air Force in the Professional Fire Service Qualifications movement passed away on April 5, 2007 with his family at his side. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Altha School Future Farmers of America, P.O. Box 67, Altha, FL 32421. Please specify "In Hugh Pike's Memory".

Tell us about your Agency Activities

Articles for the next Pro Board Progress are being planned now.

Contact the Pro Board newsletter at editor@theproboard.org with information about your agency activities that we can highlight in a future issue of the newsletter.

Send us your feedback on this e-newsletter format - we'd love to hear from you what you think of it. Email comments to editor@theproboard.org.

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