

Trading Assistants

The board continues to register trading assistants, pursuant to Act 89 of 2008. Individuals who, for a commission or fee, conduct or intend to conduct a business within Pennsylvania of accepting personal property to sell on behalf of another through an online bidding platform must register with the board.

An application for trading assistant registration can be obtained from the board's Web site at www.dos.state.pa.us/auct then following the link for *Licensure Information*, or by calling the board office at 717-783-3397.

Board Roles, Duties Explained

On June 8, the Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs hosted a day-long seminar for members of the 28 boards and commissions for which the bureau provides administrative and legal support to. The annual program is designed primarily for new members. However, many experienced members routinely participate to refresh their knowledge and understanding with regard to their roles and responsibilities. This diligence and studious preparation ensures all board and commission members are better able to serve the commonwealth's residents, who depend on their judgment and oversight.

Darrel Crimmins, deputy director of the Bureau of Enforcement and Investigation, provided an overview of BEI and introduced the audience members to the [Council on Licensure, Enforcement and Regulation](#), an international resource for professional regulation stakeholders. He was followed by the featured speaker, **Kathleen Nosbisch**, the immediate past president of CLEAR, who educated the board members on their roles and responsibilities and provided insight into the ethics of their positions.



High-performance organizations have one board, one executive director, one vision and one voice, Nosbisch said. She spoke repeatedly of the importance of

members of a board speaking with a unified voice. Nosbisch encouraged members to be mindful of board consensus when speaking as a board member, and to accept responsibility and accountability for board decisions.

She also urged board members to recognize that the board's role is to make policy, while the staff's role is to implement policies adopted by the board. In general, board members are not to be involved in the day-to-day management and personnel issues of the office.

Other speakers included **Rep. Michael McGeehan** of Philadelphia, and **Jeanne McDonald**, director of the Office of Commonwealth Travel Operations.

The afternoon session included a presentation by BPOA's legal team, including Executive Deputy Chief Counsel **Peter Marks**, Deputy Chief Counsel **Bernadette Paul** and Senior Counsel in Charge **Cynthia Montgomery**. BPOA Deputy Commissioner **Mark Vessella** and **Cindy Warner**, director of operations, tackled administrative issues.

Commissioner **Basil L. Merenda** wrapped up the seminar and sent the attendees home with a smile as well as a deeper understanding of the commonwealth's commitment to protecting the health, safety and welfare of all Pennsylvanians.

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