Pennsylvania State Board of Architects Newsletter

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Board Roles, Duties Explained

On June 8, the Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs hosted a day-long seminar for board members of the 28 boards and commissions 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.
- Kathleen Nosbisch

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

Nosbisch also urged board members to recognize that the board's role is to make policy, while the staff's role is implement policies adopted by 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.

Other News:

- Disciplinary Actions
- PA Becomes Smoke-Free
- Learn more about how stimulus money will help PA residents and businesses, www.recovery.pa.gov.
- Here to Help State programs to help in these tough times

Governor's Newsletter

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