

Welcome New Board Members

Governor Edward G. Rendell has appointed two new professional members to the barber board: John Payne, Jr. of Westmoreland County and Wade Lipscomb of Allegheny County.

There are still vacancies on the board for non-licensee public members.

First Public School

Welcome, to our first barber school in a public high school! The barber board has recently licensed our very first barber school in a public high school, the Murrell Dobbins Career and Technical Center in Philadelphia.

Report on NABBA Conference October 2008

By Vincent Iacono, former chairman, State Board of Barber Examiners

I represented the Barber Board at the most recent National Association of Barber Boards of America Conference, which was held in October in Washington, D.C.

NABBA President Vera Winfield called the meeting to order. We were handed our packets and much like other years, there were 42 focus group topics to discuss.

The focus groups I attended concerned unlicensed practice, chair rental and deregulation of the barber industry. The consensus for the appropriate amount of fines for unlicensed practice was \$150 to \$1,000. Chair rental was addressed. Ohio treats each individual chair rental as a shop and charges shop license fees, whereas Kentucky requires every chair rental to register with the state but does not require the individual barbers to pay separate shop license fees.

The state of Delaware is now down to one barber teacher, who is 70 years of age. To ease the shortage, Delaware allows cosmetology teachers to take a 35-hour course to learn shaving and cross over to teach barbers.

Missouri permits cosmetology teachers to take 45 hours on shaving to become a barber teacher.

Barber education needs more schools and qualified teachers in Pennsylvania, which brings about the question, "What can be done to assist in creating more qualified barber teachers and schools?" I see promotion of the industry and the career as important factors.

The NABBA conference had many fine speakers and quite a few new faces. A NABBA task force went to Capitol Hill to see as many congressmen as possible to promote the proposal for a postage stamp honoring the barbering profession and other items on NABBA's agenda.

I thank all of you for allowing me to represent the great commonwealth of Pennsylvania and urge you to consider attending the next conference – in Las Vegas!

Indoor Air Act Affects Barbershops

Pennsylvania's Clean Indoor Air Act took effect on Sept. 11. This legislation protects Pennsylvanians from the deadly health effects of secondhand smoke by prohibiting smoking in most public places. Six boards under the Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs license facilities are considered "public places" as defined by the act, including barber shops.

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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

The board is amending the regulations to be compliant with the new smoking law. Smoking is unlawful within the confines of a barber shop or school. There are three specific offenses:

- failure of a facility to post a sign prohibiting smoking;
- a licensee permitting smoking in a shop or school; and
- a licensee smoking in a shop or school.

These violations will be included in the schedule of civil penalties under the Clean Indoor Air Act.

“Smoking and secondhand smoke kills and costs our health care system billions of dollars in Pennsylvania,” Governor Rendell stated when he signed the legislation. “It only makes sense for us to attack this problem, and the public overwhelmingly supports these protections.”

The smoking ban is an initiative from the Governor’s Prescription for Pennsylvania, a comprehensive health care reform plan, which strives to make health care more affordable and accessible while improving quality.

The law prohibits smoking in a public place or a workplace, though allows for some exceptions, including a private residence (except those licensed as a child-care facility), a private social function where the site involved is under the control of the sponsor (except where the site is owned, leased, or operated by a state or local government agency) and a wholesale or retail tobacco shop. It also imposes penalties for those establishments not in compliance, as well as those individuals smoking in prohibited areas.

To learn more about the law, call 1-877-835-9535 or visit www.health.state.pa.us, or for help in quitting smoking go to www.determinedtoquit.com or the helpline at 1-800-QUIT-NOW (1-800-784-8669). For additional information on the Governor’s innovative Prescription for Pennsylvania health care reform plan, please visit www.rxforpa.com.

Closing Thoughts from Former Board Chairman Vincent Iacono

By Vincent Iacono, former chairman, State Board of Barber Examiners

In closing, I would like to take a few moments to reflect on my life and the many opportunities afforded me since immigrating to this wonderful country.

As a young boy in Sicily, my family was very poor, but I did attend school in addition to learning the basics of barbering at age eight. We crossed the seas in 1954 and arrived in Canada. We did not have very much, but we worked hard to establish ourselves. In 1963 I came to the USA and got married. A friend remembered I had studied the basics of barbering in Italy and took me under his wing, thus starting my career as a barber.

When we lived in Italy, God was very hard on us. He has since blessed me with a wonderful family and a thriving business (not without hard work), so giving back to Him has been my goal. My motto has always been, “It must be good for all, not just for one.”

My tenure on the Barber Board has come to an end. I have very much enjoyed the experience, which has been one of learning and sharing. I have met new friends, have had many opportunities to travel to represent the board, have met the Governor of the commonwealth, as well as met all of the fine individuals on this board. I extend a special thank you to our Commissioner Basil L. Merenda and his office staff, including board administrator Hilarene Staller. I will miss all of you, but I know all good things must come to an end. God bless to all.

Sincerely,
Vincent Iacono

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