

LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS NEWSLETTER



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TRENTON L. JAMES, II, M.D., Baton Rouge
MELVIN G. BOURGEOIS, M.D., Morgan City
LINDA GAGE-WHITE, M.D., Ph.D., MBA, Shreveport

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News & Notes—Board Members, Officers

Dr. Nunnally concludes service, reappointment of members, Dr. Gage-White joins the Board, election of officers

In January 2002 the Board lost one of its most valuable members, saw the reappointment of two others, gained a new member and elected new officers.

Dr. Nunnally Leaves the Board—Richard M. Nunnally, M.D., has concluded his term of service on the Board. In recognition of his outstanding service the Board recently honored Dr. Nunnally at a dinner and presented him with a plaque expressing the appreciation of the State of Louisiana for so generously and graciously giving his time and talent toward bettering the practice of medicine in our state. A board certified pathologist by education and training, Dr. Nunnally has served as President of the Louisiana Pathology Society, Secretary-Treasurer and President of the East Baton Rouge Parish Medical Society, and he has held many posts within the Louisiana State Medical Society. On the national level Dr. Nunnally has held elected and appointed positions too numerous to mention within the College of American Pathologists, including Speaker of the House of Delegates and Governor of the Board of Governors. Within the Federation of State Medical Boards of the United States, an association to which all state medical boards belong, he has served as a member of the Board of Directors and was the recipient of the prestigious John C. Clark, M.D. Award in recognition of his distinguished service. As a member of the Board for the past 26 years, Dr. Nunnally has vigorously served the citizens of this state and the tenets of medical licensure through participation in all aspects of the Board's administrative, regulatory and disciplinary functions and duties. He has held the positions of Vice-President and President of the Board and most recently concluded service as its Secretary-Treasurer. Dr. Nunnally plans to continue practicing pathology in Baton Rouge and devote more time to his many other interests. The Board members will regret the loss of Dr. Nunnally's wisdom and expertise. We hope that you will join us in wishing him many years of good health, happiness and prosperity.

Reappointment of Members—The Board is pleased to announce that Governor Foster has reappointed two of its members. Kweli J. Amusa, M.D., an emergency medicine physician who practices medicine in Slidell, and Melvin G. Bourgeois, M.D., a family and occupational medicine practitioner in Morgan City, have been reappointed to a second term. The Board is grateful for the time and energy devoted by Dr. Amusa and Dr. Bourgeois over their past term and look forward to their continued assistance and good counsel.

Dr. Gage-White Appointed to Board—Governor Foster has also appointed Linda Gage-White, M.D., Ph.D., MBA, of Shreveport to replace Dr. Nunnally as a member of the Board. Dr. Gage-White is a 1978 graduate of the University of Miami Medical School and served her internship at Mount Sinai Medical Center, Miami Beach, Florida. She undertook her residency training in otolaryngology head and neck surgery at the University of Iowa. Dr. Gage-White is board certified by the American Board of Otolaryngology and currently serves as a clinical professor of otolaryngology, pediatrics and biochemistry at Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center in Shreveport. Please join us in welcoming Dr. Gage-White as a member of the Board.

Board Elects New Officers—As indicated on the masthead of this Newsletter, at its January 2002 meeting the Board elected new officers to serve for the succeeding two years. Elmo J. Laborde, M.D., a surgeon from Lafayette was elected as President of the Board. Kim Edward LeBlanc, M.D., Ph.D., a primary care sports medicine and family practitioner and Director of the Family Practice Residency Program at University Medical Center, will serve as Vice-President, while Dr. Amusa has been elected as the Board's Secretary-Treasurer.

The Board's selection of new officers marked the end of the term of Trenton L. James, II, M.D., of Baton Rouge as President of the Board. In recognition of his outstanding service over the past two years the members of the Board recently presented Dr. James with a plaque bearing a resolution commending him for his presidency and expressing the Board's deep appreciation for the time, energy and commitment he has devoted to that role.

2002 Board Meetings

Schedule, agenda deadlines announced

The Board has scheduled its regular meetings for 2002. The Board generally meets every month except April, when the annual meeting of the Federation of State Medical Boards of the United States is held, and November. Tuesday afternoons and Wednesday mornings of the meeting dates are devoted to the Board's regular business meeting which continues into Wednesday afternoon and Thursday as necessary to accommodate the business and administrative agenda and formal hearings on disciplinary and licensure matters. For consideration by the Board at a given meeting a written request for inclusion on the agenda must be received at least 15 working days prior to the first date of the meeting. A specific agenda for each meeting is finalized and published a week prior to each meeting.

The remaining regularly scheduled Board meeting dates during 2002 are set forth below.

March 19–20th

May 21–22nd

June 18–20th

July 23–24th

August 20–22nd

September 24–25th

October 22–24th

December 10–12th

Meeting dates are subject to change. Please contact the Board office at (504) 568-6820 or consult its web site www.lsbme.org to confirm particular meeting dates.

2002 Physician Orientation Program

Schedule announced

In 1999 the Board enacted rules governing continuing medical education of physicians. Pursuant to the rules commencing in January 2002 and annually thereafter each physician must document the completion of twenty (20) hours of Board approved Category I continuing medical education ("CME") in the preceding calendar year as a prerequisite to licensure renewal. A second component of the rules requires physicians seeking renewal of their license for the *first time* to have attended a Board sponsored orientation program, which is

utilized to acquaint new licensees with such matters as the Louisiana Medical Practice Act, the scope and function of the Board and its rules, complaint investigation and disposition, opportunities available in rural and professional health shortage areas, the Physicians' Health Program, *etc.* The program was offered at locations throughout Louisiana in 2001 and was well attended and received. If you are licensed to practice medicine in Louisiana for the first time during the year 2002—whether on the basis of examination or reciprocity or if your license is reinstated this year—you **must** attend an orientation program to qualify for renewal in 2003. (*Note:* Physicians otherwise required to attend the orientation program who practice exclusively out of state are excused from the program requirement until and unless they commence practice in Louisiana). The dates and cities where the orientation programs will be held in 2002 are set forth below.

March 1st—New Orleans

June 7th—Baton Rouge

September 13th—Shreveport

December 6th—New Orleans

All programs are scheduled from 8:30 a.m. to 1:45 p.m. Program dates are subject to change. For confirmation of dates and program locations please contact the Board's Continuing Education Department at (504) 568-6820, ext. 236, or consult the Board's web site www.lsbme.org.

Applicants/Licensees who default on student loans

Under the laws of most states, including Louisiana, individuals who default in the payment of federal or state educational loans are subject to exclusion from participation in Medicare and Medicaid programs and denial or suspension of medical licensure. The Board urges all applicants/licensees with outstanding student loans in default to make prompt arrangements for repayment to avoid such consequences by contacting the Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA) at the number listed below. Failure to make required payments on your loan or make appropriate repayment arrangements will necessitate the Board's denial or conditional issuance of an application or renewal application for your professional license, permit or registration.

Office of Student Financial Assistance
State of Louisiana
Post Office Box 9120
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821-9120
Telephone: (800) 256-6882
(225) 922-1086