Certification Board Meeting  
Tuesday, February 11, 2014  
Conference Call, 2:00 PM EST

Certification Board Members Present  
Pat Copps, Certification Board Director  
Laura Higgins, Director-Elect  
Andrew Sutherland, Pacific Branch Representative  
Forrest St. Aubin, Ad Hoc Representative  
Shripat Kamble, Ad Hoc Representative  
Mustapha Debboun, Past Director  
Robin Todd, Eastern Branch Representative  
Molly Keck, Southwestern Branch Representative  
Jim Cilek, Ad Hoc Representative  
A. “Stormy” Sparks, Governing Board Representative

Staff  
Chris Stelzig, ESA Director of Certification  
Katherine Matthews, ESA Member Engagement Specialist

Certification Board Committee Chairs Present

Special Guests

Absent  
Arun Sen, CEU Committee Chair  
Stuart Mitchell, North Central Branch Representative  
Dennis Ring, Southeastern Branch Representative  
Juan Rodriguez, International Branch Representative

Meeting Call to Order 2:01pm EST  
Director Pat Copps opened the conference and welcomed the participants. A quorum was determined to be present.

MOTION: (Kamble, St. Aubin 2nd) Move to accept and approve the November 2013 minutes of the Certification Board Meeting. Vote passes unanimously and motion carries.

Discussion of HQ Report

- **Program Numbers** – The BCE numbers increased in 2013, after many years of remaining at the status quo. This growth hopefully indicates that the program is turning a corner and will continue to see increases in the coming years. ACE remains very strong with a 37% growth recorded in 2013.

- **New ACE Exam** -- The new ACE exam is in place and performing very well. Katherine Matthews shared that the exam, based on the results of 25 participants, is registering a difficulty of 77% which is in line with expectations. The current average score is 73%, the current maximum is 88% and the current minimum is 46.7%. Chris Stelzig thanked Forrest St. Aubin and the ACE Support Committee for their effort and work on the new exam.

- **ACE Renewals** -- The ACE renewals are seeing a different split than expected. Stelzig had expected roughly 60% of the ACEs to opt for the three year renewal; however, only 17% have selected that option so far. No negative repercussions are expected.

- **ACE International** – A committee has been formed to develop an international version of ACE. Originally the rollout of the international program had been penciled in for being announced in conjunction with ICE; however, the program is now scheduled to be launched much sooner. The committee is still reviewing and revising, but it appears that only minimal changes to the content outline will be required for the international version.

- **Alternative ACE Designations** -- Stelzig presented ACE to the board at the American Mosquito Control Association. They had been considering implementing a certification program of their own, so Stelzig suggested partnering with ESA and creating a new mosquito-specific or public health ACE designation. A
partnership with AMCA would help further the goal of creating multiple ACE specialties, similar to the BCE program.

- **Upcoming Travel for Stelzig** – Not as much is planned as in previous years. Shripat Kamble will attend the ICUP meeting in Switzerland. Stelzig will travel to San Antonio for the NCUE meeting.

- **Emeritus Requirements** – One of the BCEs requesting emeritus status does not have the required ten consecutive of certification. Stelzig asked the group for opinions on the ten year requirement and noted that the years must be consecutive because the BCE certification is lost if there is a gap. Copps and Kamble feel that ten years is an appropriate amount. The remainder of the Board felt similarly. Stelzig will remove the candidate in question from the list and inform him of the Board’s decision.

- **Meeting Space at the ESA Annual Meeting in Portland** – ESA Director of Meetings Rosina Romano has offered to simply copy all 2013 events forward to the 2014 meeting. All new committee meetings must be actively requested. Stelzig asks the members of the Board to send any requests for changes or new meetings to him in the near future.

- Three applications for BCE-emeritus status were submitted to the Board.

**Governing Board Report**

- Two Certification Corporation related items will be brought before the Governing Board during their next meeting (Tuesday, February 18th, at 2pm EST). ESA Director David Gammel will be presenting the changes to the bylaws that were requested during the November meeting in Austin to the Board. Additionally, the Board will be apprised of the updated timeline for the ACE International program rollout.

**Committee Reports:**

**ACE Support Committee** (St. Aubin)
- St. Aubin has alerted the Committee members to the upcoming need to help develop the safety questions on the ACE International exam.

**ACE Pest Control International Committee** (Debboun)
- A meeting was held on February 6th which went very well. The Committee is in agreement that the new certification must be on par with the domestic program. The Committee is aiming to have the new exam material ready in time for Pest World 2014. One of the main issues discussed by the Committee was the fact that most countries do not require pesticide applicator licenses for spraying. As a result, everyone is in agreement that the new international exam should have a section focused singularly on safety. St. Aubin and his Committee members will help to write these additional questions. Additionally, the Committee has received feedback from the international community regarding the seven year experience requirement. Many feel that five years would be a much more realistic requirement and some even suggested three years as the minimum. Committee Chair Mustapha Debboun asked for input from the members of the Board as in the United States the requirement is either a degree or experience. Kamble feels strongly that the requirement should remain seven years for all branches of the ACE program. Several Board members agreed that the US applicants would be very disgruntled by the double standard. Copps feels that some compromise may be possible as both arguments are valid. He suggested that the same trade off being made in compensation for the licensing requirement (extra safety questions) could cover this difference as well. In response to a question from St. Aubin, Debboun shared that even some of the Committee members were in opposition to the seven year requirement. Sparks reiterated that backlash would be expected from the US applicants. Stelzig cautions that, with so many pieces still up in the air regarding the international program, it would be wise to not make any final decisions on the matter right now. The Board asked for opinions in the form of a straw poll and the results showed an even split. The Board agreed to have further discussions on the matter.

**Ad Hoc Military Committee** (Debboun)
- Debboun currently has five officers, as well as a few civilians, who are moving through the certification process. Debboun continues to advocate for certification at meetings.

**MOTION:** (Copps, Todd 2nd) Move to grant BCE-emeritus status to Dr. David A. Dame, Mr. Jerry L. Heath, and Mr Frank Van Essen. *Vote passes unanimously and motion carries.*
BCE Examining Committee (Kamble)
- Kamble suggested that the Board consider adding a few new members to freshen up the Committee and added that he would be happy to recommend some colleagues. Otherwise, everything is going very well. The Medical/Veterinary Exam is nearly completely online. The initiative to add more questions to the bank for the qualifying exam continues. Kamble asked that anyone interested in helping contact him.

BCE Recertification Committee (Stelzig in Sen’s absence)
- To date, 32 PM&C reports have been received and 53 are outstanding. As a reminder, the Board approved a change last year waving the fees for all reports submitted electronically and on time. Ten percent of the reports received will be audited by the Committee. Stelzig has sent a reminder to all those who have not yet submitted their reports.

BCE Continuing Education Committee (Kamble)
- Stuart Mitchell has submitted a program symposium entitled (Board Certified Entomologist's (BCE) Symposium: Bed Bugs, *Cimex lectularius*, Fighting a Nuclear War with Bows and Arrows). Currently, five speakers are attached to the symposium including one attorney and others with international perspectives. Kamble has also put together another symposium. Anyone attending the official BCE Symposium is eligible for an additional 4 CEUs on a BCE recertification.

Awards Committee (Kamble)
- As a reminder, all of the certification-related awards are now managed exclusively by the Certification Corporation. A new process will need to be implemented to manage the nomination and selection process. A Call for nominations for the awards, including the new ACE award, will need to be made.

Branch Representative Reports:

Pacific Branch (Sutherland)
- Representative Andrew Sutherland expressed his desire to help out with the Examining Committee and the symposium organized by Stuart Mitchell.

Discussion Items:

Proper Naming of the ACE Pest Control Certification (Stelzig)
- Stelzig suggested that sticking with the original, full title of Associate Certified Entomologist Pest Control would be most clear and also fit nicely with the goals to expand the program into other specializations. However, the length of the title makes marketing difficult. Debboun commented that the ACE titles should be structured to mirror the format of the BCE program. St. Aubin agrees and Kamble suggests putting the specializations (such as Pest Control) in a secondary space like the BCE specialties. The Board agrees that this set up is ideal and will work well for marketing. The Board also notes that both BCE and ACE wallet cards must indicate the specializations earned by the individual. Stelzig noted that no motion was necessary for this change and agreed to set in motion the administrative process.

American Mosquito Control Association Meeting Review (Stelzig)
- Stelzig asked the Board for their opinions on the potential for partnership. The Board is in favor of a partnership and feels that the public health specialization should be pursued even in the event that the AMCA decides not to move forward. Stelzig and Copps will continue to work on the relationship and keep the Board informed.

Certification Awards (Stelzig)
- (See Agenda Brief for additional information). Cilek suggested that the existing Awards Committee work to appoint judging panels for the awards which will then handle the review of all nominees and be responsible for selecting recipients. The Awards Committee would ideally then be composed of three BCEs and three ACEs. Kamble commented that the Certification Board would be able to judge in the event that a judging panel was not available.
- A suggestion was made that the Branch representatives to the Board serve as judges for the Distinguished Service Award. Representative Robin Todd offered to volunteer as a judge for the Eastern Branch.
- The Board agrees that judges are allowed to recuse themselves from judging any of their students.
- Stelzig suggested that the Director-Elect serve as the Process Coach to the various judging panels. The Board agrees that this would be a great way for the incoming Director to become more involved. Director Elect Laura Higgins agrees to take on this role.
Stelzig suggested having one judging panel for both student award and the BCE award. The composition would be up to 2 Certification Board members, up to 6 BCE members (all on three year terms), an award sponsor (if applicable) with the Director-Elect to Chair. Todd and Cilek offered to serve on this judging panel. Stelzig noted that the set up can always be re-evaluated for future years. This idea was favored and accepted.

- The ACE award is still in need of a name. The Board suggested and accepted “ACE Professional Award”.
- The ACE award will be presented at the annual Pest World conference so that the ACE will be recognized in front of their peers. The winner of the award will also be announced at the ESA meeting.
- Stelzig believes that there should be nothing preventing the award from being given this year so long as the current schedule is adhered to.
- The ACE Support Committee will be responsible for appointing the judging panel and St. Aubin will try to secure a Chair.
- Stelzig reviewed the bylaws changes being forwarded to the ESACC Governing Board, which were the final text of ideas previously approved by the Certification Board.

MOTION: (Cilek, Kamble 2nd) Move to accept the Awards Brief as amended which outlines the awards management and development process as suggested by ESA Staff. Vote passes unanimously and motion carries.

Proctoring (Stelzig)
- Copps has written a guest blog post which will be shared on the certification blog discussing what it means to be a proctor for an ACE candidate. The post includes the responsibilities and notes that the instructors are very explicit and spell out the penalties for any transgressions. Stelzig reminds the Board that the program needs to be as airtight as possible. It is extremely important that there be no personal relationship between the proctor and the candidate. Stelzig discussed the importance of proctoring and that the alternative to the current proctor model would be testing centers – a more costly solution.

New ACE Specialization (Stelzig)
- Stelzig commented that he would like to see any committees developed to work on these be chaired by a Certification Board member.

New Business:

Military Discount (Cilek)
- In his new position with the Navy Center for Excellence, Cilek has encountered many Navy members who would consider becoming certified if the cost were lower. Cilek asked the Board for their opinions on offering a military discount. Stelzig and Copps are investigating what is offered by other associations and certification programs. A discount would only be offered to active duty military and would not extend to reserves or retired members. Any military member who moves in to the civilian sector would no longer be eligible for the discount. Several Board members expressed interest in offering this discount. However, Stelzig commented that the discount would likely be a “slippery slope” to offering other discounts and would impact revenue for the Certification Programs, which continue to operate in the red. Furthermore, Stelzig commented, the value is truly there and the cost of certification is proportionate with the value and the industry. Debboun agrees with Stelzig, even though he would stand to benefit from implementing the discount. Research will continue.

MOTION: (Kamble, Debboun 2nd) Move to adjourn the meeting at 3:32pm. Vote passes unanimously and motion carries.

Note: The next Certification Board meeting is scheduled for May 13, 2014, at 2pm EST.