

**MARYLAND REAL ESTATE COMMISSION**  
**500 North Calvert Street**  
**Baltimore, MD 21202**

Mission: Protecting the health, safety, and welfare of the public  
through examination, licensing, and regulatory activities regarding real estate

**BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES**  
**March 16, 2016, 10:30 a.m.**

**Highlights from the meeting:**

- Current license count is 40,874
- January guaranty fund balance is \$926,368.12
- Continuing education bill for brokers with over 40 years of experience did not pass
- HUD document going up on web and by email to all brokers

**PRESENT:**

Commissioner Anne Cooke (Industry)  
Commissioner Karen Baker (Consumer)  
Commissioner Marla Johnson (Industry)  
Commissioner Jeff Wright (Industry)  
Commissioner Robin Pirtle (Consumer)  
Commissioner J. Nicholas D'Ambrosia, Chair (Industry)  
Commissioner James Reeder (Consumer)  
Brian Weeks, AAG  
Katherine F. Connelly, Executive Director  
Charlene Faison, Education Administrator, Session Recorder

**ABSENT:**

Commissioner Jeff Wright (Industry)

**PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE:**

Mark Feinroth, MAR  
Bob Johnston, AACAR

**CALL TO ORDER:**

J. Nicholas D'Ambrosia, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:38 a.m.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**Motion** (made by Marla Johnson, seconded by Karen Baker) **To approve the minutes of the February 17, 2016 business meeting. Unanimous approval.**

**REPORT OF COMPLAINTS/ADMINISTRATIVE DISMISSALS:**

**Motion** (made by Anne Cooke, seconded by Robin Pirtle) **To approve the Administrative Dismissals for the month of March 2016. Motion carried.**

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

1. Education – Exam statistics read silently.
  - For the month of February 2016 PSI administered 840 salesperson and 51 broker exams, compared to 584 salesperson and 22 broker exams in February 2015.

- Ms. Connelly made Commissioners aware of a security incident that occurred at a PSI testing location.
2. Legislative – Marla Johnson, Legislative Chair
- No comments from Commissioner Johnson.
  - Ms. Connelly gave update on bills of interest
    - HB 1421 has died
    - HB 1453 has had two readings as of March 15, 2016
    - SB 824 passed March 15, 2016
    - HB 1469 had second reading on March 15, 2016
    - SB 828 passed on third reading
    - HB 1508 had first reading; currently in rules
    - HB 747 passed on third reading
    - HB 989 passed on third reading
    - SB 539 passed Senate
    - SB 923 doesn't affect MREC because we already allow hearings
  - Brian Weeks added that there are amendments to the contractor bill. The agency bill contains most of what he and Ms. Connelly wanted, wording was added to include first contact being face-to-face. HB 1171 was referred to summer study along with other bills regarding foreclosures. SB 67 passed Senate.

**COMMENTS FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:** Katherine F. Connelly

1. Current license count totals 40,874, of which 4,361 are brokers, 3,047 are associate brokers, 32,502 salespersons, 594 branch offices, 104 reciprocal brokers, 33 reciprocal associate brokers, and 233 reciprocal salespersons. Of the total count, 1,726 are inactive.
2. Guaranty Fund Balance for January \$926,368.12 with \$2000.00 paid out in claims.
3. Continuing education bill for brokers with over 40 years of experience did not pass.
4. HUD document going up on the web this week and going out by email to the brokers. Have to send in small batches of about 500 so it doesn't overwhelm over email system.
5. All travel reservations and registrations have been completed and emailed to Commissioners
6. Ms. Connelly will be visiting all Berkshire Hathaway PenFed offices and has started visiting Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage and Long & Foster offices. She has been a guest at several Weichert offices in Montgomery County as well. She will be at the Harford County Association of Realtors Fair and has been asked to teach at MAR Convention and GBBR convention in the fall.
7. **Motion** (made by Anne Cooke, seconded by Marla Johnson) **To approve the travel of Ms. Connelly to the NAR convention in May. Motion carried.**
8. **Motion** (made by Marla Johnson, seconded by Robin Pirtle) **To approve the travel of Ms. Connelly to the REEA conference in June in Denver. Motion carried.**
9. Ms. Connelly advised Commissioners of an incident that occurred at one of the testing facilities, whereby a candidate assaulted a proctor with their car and fled the scene. They have been arrested. We are not pursuing anything, unless the individual attempts to take the exam again.
10. Discussion held about restrictions of electronic devices in the classroom. Discussion held regarding the qualification and retention of quality instructors for the schools. Ms. Connelly is looking for suggestions on these two items. It was noted that some states use volunteer members to review instructors and courses and make suggestions. Ms. Connelly will reach out to other boards on their policy regarding electronic devices and what they are doing to improve the quality of instructors.
11. Next meeting is Wednesday, April 20, 2016.

**COMMENTS FROM COUNSEL:** Brian Weeks

- Comments made during legislative reports.

**COMMENTS FROM CHAIR:** J. Nicholas D'Ambrosia

- None.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

- None

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- None

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:37 A.M. The next monthly business meeting is Wednesday, April 20, 2016.

APPROVED AS PRESENTED \_\_\_\_\_  
J. Nicholas D'Ambrosia, Chairperson

APPROVED AS AMENDED \_\_\_\_\_  
J. Nicholas D'Ambrosia, Chairperson