

Getting Involved: Government Advocacy

Last month's article offered a look at the regulatory process, which provides a number of opportunities for the public to learn about and participate in decisions regarding the board's laws and rules. But there are many other opportunities for people to stay informed about Board policies and actions and to make their voices heard. Here are some of them:

- **Visit the Board's Web site:** A good place to learn about the Board's activities is the Board's Web site at www.barbercosmo.ca.gov. There are a number of fact sheets, bulletins and other materials relating to Board rules and policies. There is also a link to Board meetings past and future, complete with minutes, background materials and Webcast recordings. You can also visit the Board's Facebook page and follow the Board on Twitter.
- **Sign up for the Interested Parties List:** The list is updated regularly and used to notify the public about pending regulatory actions, upcoming Board meetings, policy changes and other matters regarding the industry.
- **Attend Board meetings:** Board meetings are typically held once per quarter, with the venue alternating between Northern California and Southern California. The Board urges the public to attend these meetings when possible. There is an opportunity for public comment before every Board vote, and also a period for public comment at the beginning and end of each open session for matters that are not on the meeting agenda. This is where members of the public can bring up matters that are important to them, or that they would like to see addressed by the Board. Keep in mind that while the Board will listen to your concerns during the public comment periods, it is legally prohibited from discussing issues or taking action if the matter is not listed on the agenda.
- **Monitor Legislative Actions:** It's important to remember that while the Board is responsible for making of many of the decisions affecting the beauty industry, those decisions have to conform to the statutes passed by the Legislature. In fact, a number of changes can only be made through legislative action. For example, the proposal for a new Master Esthetician license that is currently under discussion by the Board requires a change in state statutes by the Legislature. The Legislative process offers many opportunities for the public to be heard. You can also visit www.leginfo.ca.gov for information on bills before the Legislature.

Board Elects New Officers:

Public Member Richard Hedges was elected president of the Board, taking over the gavel from Joseph Federico. Dr. Kari Williams, an industry member, was elected vice president.

Mr. Hedges was educated as a teacher in Kansas where he received his undergraduate degree in English and History at Kansas State University. Mr. Hedges received his Master's Degree in American Urban History from San Francisco State University. He was employed as a union representative for 28 years by the United Food & Commercial Workers International Union. His term expires January 1, 2017.

Dr. Williams is a licensed barber and owner of the Mahogany Hair Revolution Salon and Trichology Clinic in Los Angeles. She was a hair stylist at Eclectic Salon from 2006 to 2007. She earned a Doctorate in trichology from Élan Center for Trichology. Ms. Williams's term expires on January 1, 2017.