

NMTCB Report

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Chairperson

Frequently, technologist members of the Society of Nuclear Medicine request information concerning the activities associated with the NMTCB meetings. A better understanding of these activities may stimulate qualified technologist members to run for a position on the NMTCB Board of Directors. A typical Board meeting lasts three and a half days. Special projects, such as analysis of a task validation survey or new member orientation adds one half to one day. There are two regularly scheduled Board meetings each year, in the spring and in the fall.

As with any organization, activities and projects are performed by committees. The NMTCB is composed of eight committees, Bylaws, Competency, Credentials, Examination, Finance, Long Range Planning, Publication, and Task Analysis. Each Director is appointed as a member or chairperson of committees by the Chairman of the Board and must serve on two to three committees for at least a year.

The Bylaws Committee maintains and updates the bylaws of the Board and drafts changes under Board direction. The Competency Committee serves as a watch dog over continuing competency and recertification activities occurring in other disciplines in the allied health professions. It also is responsible for monitoring state licensure activities. A recent committee project was the development of the handbook entitled "Examination Services for State Licensing Activities." The Credentials Committee oversees all aspects of examination administration. This includes monitoring eligibility requirements, exam application processing, and determining individual candidate eligibility. The Credentials Committee reviews appeals from candidates who were refused the opportunity to take the exam. It also investigates problem test sites and proctors and makes decisions regarding all aspects of exam administration.

The Examination Committee oversees the development and overall quality of the examination. The Finance Committee is responsible for the financial operation of the Board and prepares the budget. The Publication Committee is responsible for the content and structure of all major publications of the Board. This committee must work with the other committees when a publication is being developed throughout the entire editorial process. Its recent semi-annual publication, "The NMTCB News," has been very successful. The Long Range Planning Committee is charged with identifying and prioritizing the long range needs of the Board. And finally, the Task Analysis Committee is responsible for updating and validating the task list from which the Examination Committee derives the exam matrix.

All committee meetings, except Examination, are held on the first day of the Board meeting. Each committee meets for 1 to 3 hours and discusses and votes on items pertinent to that committee. The Examination Committee meets early on the second day and reviews all work which must be completed on the examination. This is followed immediately by a formal convening of the Board, at which time the entire Board of Directors receives instructions and assignments from the Examination Committee concerning the NMTCB examination. For the next two days, the Board is sequestered in four groups (radiation protection/radiopharmacy, instrumentation, imaging, and nonimaging), which work on examination development, editing and writing items, and reviewing the final exam form. Each of the sub-

groups works until they have completed all appointed assignments. Midnight sessions are not uncommon. Exam development and maintenance requires approximately two-thirds of the time spent at each Board meeting. The Examination Committee reconvenes at least two more times during this process, so that they are aware of the progress being made by each subgroup.

On the last day of each Board meeting, the Board of Directors reconvenes for a formal business meeting. This is the governing body of the NMTCB, and business involved with the running of the corporation is taken care of at this time. Each committee chairperson reports to the Board those decisions made in committee meetings for Board approval. Reports are given by the Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and the Executive Director to update the Board on activities as well as the Board liaisons.

Through this entire process, the nuclear medicine profession has a healthy and viable certification board producing and maintaining an excellent certification examination. As you can see, the Board meetings require long hours of hard work with very little relaxation. The quality of the examination always comes first. This high level of excellence has been repeated each time an exam is developed and the task list is revalidated. Continuation of this process depends upon qualified individuals who are willing to serve on the NMTCB Board of Directors and sacrifice many hours to hard work. As Chairman of the Board for the past two years, I feel that I have made a significant contribution to the high standards of the nuclear medicine profession and all of the hard work and long hours have been worthwhile.