

STATE OF LOUISIANA  
BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR  
NEW ORLEANS - BATON ROUGE STEAMSHIP  
PILOTS FOR THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER

QUARTERLY MEETING HELD  
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2024

At the offices of New Orleans - Baton  
Rouge Steamship Pilots Board of Examiner's office, 2805  
Harvard Avenue, Suite 101, Metairie, Louisiana 70006,  
commencing at 9:00 a.m.

REPORTED BY:  
LESLIE L. NICOSIA  
CERTIFIED COURT REPORTER

1	I N D E X	
2		PAGE
3	Title.....	1
4	Index.....	2
5	Appearances.....	3
6	Proceedings.....	4
7		
8		
9		
10		
11		
12		
13		
14		
15		
16		
17		
18		
19		
20		
21		
22		
23		
24		
25		

1  
2  
3  
4  
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6  
7  
8  
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A P P E A R A N C E S

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

CAPTAIN LEE JACKSON  
CAPTAIN CHRIS RITTINER

COUNSEL FOR THE STATE OF LOUISIANA NEW ORLEANS -  
BATON ROUGE STEAMSHIP PILOTS:

MICHAEL THOMAS, ESQUIRE  
RICK WARD, ESQUIRE

ALSO PRESENT:

Brian Eiselen, Esquire

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Leslie L. Nicosia, a Certified Court Reporter in  
and for the State of Louisiana,  
did report the following:

BY CAPTAIN LEE JACKSON:

We call the fourth-quarter  
meeting of the Board of Examiners for  
New Orleans - Baton Rouge Steamship  
Pilots of the Mississippi River to  
order.

We'll do a roll call. Lee  
Jackson, present.

BY CAPTAIN CHRIS RITTINER:

Chris RITTINER, here.

BY CAPTAIN LEE JACKSON:

Obviously, we have a quorum.  
Chris has -- I sent you the minutes  
from the meeting.

BY CAPTAIN CHRIS RITTINER:

I read them. I make a motion  
to adopt the minutes.

BY CAPTAIN LEE JACKSON:

I'll second. All in favor.

BY CAPTAIN CHRIS RITTINER:

Aye.

1 BY CAPTAIN LEE JACKSON:

2 This is the opportunity for  
3 public comments. Any public comments?  
4 Speak now or forever hold your peace.

5 (NO RESPONSE)

6 BY CAPTAIN LEE JACKSON:

7 No public comments.

8 Just a little brief update on  
9 the next agenda item, just a brief  
10 update on the apprentice program.  
11 Currently, all the apprentices are  
12 doing well. We have an average turn  
13 count. In two months, we are right at  
14 around 45 turns on average. We have  
15 some that are overexceeding that.  
16 That's because they are not taking off  
17 their designated off days. I think  
18 they are on track to do well.

19 Chris and I and the Board of  
20 Examiners met with them on yesterday  
21 as sort of an end-of-year event,  
22 talked through some of the challenges  
23 they are having, gave them some of the  
24 things they need to look forward to  
25 for 2025. I think all is well on that

1 front.

2 We also discussed with some of  
3 them who need extensions before  
4 commissioning October. So, we  
5 developed a plan on how we are going  
6 to execute that. All in all, that's  
7 going well for now.

8 Next item under new business is  
9 the drug testing policy. I want to  
10 remind the board of some of the  
11 challenges that we had with the semi-  
12 annual hair test going out. We have  
13 been doing it basically by snail mail.  
14 For the most part, everyone seems to  
15 get the letter to go take their hair  
16 test.

17 We have had a few incidents  
18 where individuals say they never  
19 received it. So, I think what we need  
20 to do is shore that up. I think what  
21 we can do, when we actually send out  
22 the letters moving forward, we will in  
23 turn do an email to each and every  
24 pilot to ensure they get the email.

25 The only other option we can

1 look at is potentially doing a  
2 certified letter. Again, if they  
3 don't accept the letter, with that  
4 email, I think we can do a re-receipt  
5 or something to that effect. That's  
6 something we can implement, Chris, as  
7 we move forward with that.

8 Just -- I don't think any of  
9 those solutions are a silver bullet.  
10 I think it gives us another crack at  
11 the apple if we ever get to a  
12 situation where someone says they did  
13 not receive the letter.

14 Any questions on that?

15 BY CAPTAIN CHRIS RITTINER:

16 No. That sounds good.

17 BY CAPTAIN LEE JACKSON:

18 Old business, none to report.

19 Moving to the next item --

20 Well, I think we at this point will  
21 entertain a motion to go into  
22 executive session.

23 BY CAPTAIN CHRIS RITTINER:

24 I make the motion to go into  
25 executive session.

1 BY CAPTAIN LEE JACKSON:

2 I'll second. All in favor.

3 BY CAPTAIN CHRIS RITTINER:

4 Aye.

5 (OFF THE RECORD FOR EXECUTIVE  
6 SESSION)

7 BY CAPTAIN CHRIS RITTINER:

8 I'll create a motion to return  
9 from the break.

10 BY CAPTAIN LEE JACKSON:

11 I second that.

12 We have a couple of motions  
13 that we are going to need to get on  
14 the record. One is a motion from the  
15 board to remove items 101023, 101523,  
16 102323, and 111023 off our current  
17 roster, as they have reached the year-  
18 long status within our roster. We  
19 typically get rid of them after a year  
20 if we haven't heard.

21 I entertain a motion.

22 BY CAPTAIN CHRIS RITTINER:

23 I make the motion to remove  
24 those four from the ledger.

25 BY CAPTAIN LEE JACKSON:



1 I second that. In favor.

2 BY CAPTAIN CHRIS RITTINER:

3 Aye.

4 BY CAPTAIN LEE JACKSON:

5 Second motion would be to,  
6 January -- At some point in early  
7 January, we would have to issue a  
8 waiver for Captain David Billiot if he  
9 does not meet his 60-turn requirement,  
10 or anybody who doesn't. I think  
11 there's a few of them.

12 I think they are going to make  
13 it. If it's okay with the board, I  
14 would like the approval to issue a  
15 waiver for specifically David Billiot  
16 because of his medical issue.

17 BY CAPTAIN CHRIS RITTINER:

18 I agree. I make the motion to  
19 move forward with giving him his  
20 waiver.

21 BY CAPTAIN LEE JACKSON:

22 I second it. All in favor.

23 BY CAPTAIN CHRIS RITTINER:

24 Aye.

25 BY CAPTAIN LEE JACKSON:

1                   Unless there's any other  
2                   comments or thoughts from the board, I  
3                   think that we will adjourn our final  
4                   meeting for the year 2024.

5                   I motion to adjourn.

6                   BY CAPTAIN CHRIS RITTINER:

7                   Motion to adjourn.

8                   BY CAPTAIN LEE JACKSON:

9                   All in favor.

10                  BY CAPTAIN CHRIS RITTINER:

11                  Aye.

12                  [WHEREUPON THE MEETING WAS  
13                  CONCLUDED AT 9:25 A.M.]

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## 1 REPORTER'S PAGE

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3 I, Leslie L. Nicosia, Certified Court  
4 Reporter, in and for the State of Louisiana, the  
5 officer, as defined in Rule 28 of the Federal  
6 Rules of Civil Procedure and/or Article 1434 (B)  
7 of the Louisiana Code of Civil Procedure, before  
8 whom this sworn testimony was taken, do hereby  
9 state on the record;

10 That due to the interaction and the  
11 spontaneous discourse of this proceeding, dashes  
12 (--) have been used to indicate pauses, changes  
13 in thought, and/or talk-overs; that same is the  
14 proper method for a court reporter's  
15 transcription of proceeding, and that the dashes  
16 (--) do not indicate that words or phrases have  
17 been left out of this transcript; that any words  
18 and/or names which could not be verified through  
19 reference material have been denoted with the  
20 phrase "phonetically spelled."

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22

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Leslie L. Nicosia, C.C.R.

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## C E R T I F I C A T E

This certification is valid only for a transcript with my original signature and original required seal on this page.

I, LESLIE L. NICOSIA, Certified Court Reporter in and for the State of Louisiana, the "Officer" before whom this testimony was taken, do hereby certify:

That this proceeding and testimony was reported by me in stenotype method, was prepared and transcribed by me or under my personal direction and supervision, and is a true and correct transcript to the best of my ability and understanding;

That this transcript has been prepared in compliance with transcript format guidelines required by statute or rules of the Board, and I am informed about the complete arrangement, financial or otherwise, with the person or entity making arrangements for deposition services;

That I have acted in compliance with the prohibition on contractual relationships as defined by Louisiana Code of Civil Procedure Article 1434 and in rules and advisory opinions of the Board;

That I have no actual knowledge of any prohibited employment or contractual relationship, direct or indirect, between a court reporting firm and any party litigant in this matter, nor is there any such relationship between myself and a party litigant in this matter;

That I am not related to counsel or to the parties herein, nor am I otherwise interested in the outcome of this matter.

\_\_\_\_\_  
LESLIE L. NICOSIA, CCR  
Cert. No. 95004