

Alabama State Board of Auctioneers

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MINUTES Board Meeting May 13, 2025

The Alabama State Board of Auctioneers met on Wednesday, May 13, 2025 at 9:00 a.m., at the Board's office located at 2777 Zelda Road in Montgomery. The meeting was advertised on the Board's website, www.auctioneer.alabama.gov, and the Secretary of State's website, www.sos.alabama.gov, in accordance with the Alabama Open Meetings Act.

Members in attendance were Mr. Mike Fisher (Board Chair), Mr. Chad Curvin (Board Vice Chair), Ms. Angella Morgan (member), Mr. Randall Grissett (member), Mr. Scott Barnes (member), Mr. Russ Wood (member), and Mr. Keith McDaniel (member). Member absent was Mr. Chip Pearce (member). Also in attendance were Mr. Keith Warren (Executive Director), Mr. Cameron Elkins (Assistant Attorney General and Board Counsel), Mr. Brannon Littleton (Chief Financial Officer), Ms. Karen Harlow (Legal Assistant), and Ms. Renee' Reames (recording secretary).

Chairman Fisher called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Mr. Warren called the Board member roll and indicated that a quorum of the members was present to conduct business. A word of prayer was given and the pledge of allegiance was recited by attendees. Mr. Warren read aloud the opening statement concerning Robert's Rules of Order and the Alabama Open Meetings Act.

Approval of Meeting Agenda: Chairman Fisher presented a copy of the agenda for the May 13, 2025 Board meeting.

MOTION: Ms. Morgan made a motion to approve the May meeting agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Curvin and unanimously approved by the Board. It was noted that the presiding Chairman would not vote on matters except in case of a tie vote.

Approval of Minutes: Chairman Fisher presented a copy of the minutes from March 5, 2025 regular meeting and the amended minutes from the November 12, 2024 regular meeting for the Board's approval.

MOTION: Mr. McDaniel made a motion to approve the March meeting minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Curvin and unanimously approved by the Board.

MOTION: Mr. Barnes made a motion to approve the amended November meeting minutes concerning the approval of the renewal contract with Smith Warren for Administrative Services as motioned by Mr. Barnes and seconded by Mr. Wood. The motion to amend the November minutes was seconded by Mr. McDaniel and unanimously approved by the Board.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT:

Mr. Warren presented the Executive Director's Report. A copy of the report was provided to the members prior to the meeting (report available in the Board's official Book of Minutes). Mr. Warren reported on the active number of licenses (#704) comprised of auctioneers, apprentices and auction companies. He reviewed the list of new licenses issued since the last Board meeting that was held in March. He reported that the Online Auction Company licenses would be added to the licensing statistics report.

Mr. Warren also presented the complaint activities for the current fiscal year, along with the status of complaints for fiscal years 2021 through 2025 and reviewed other licensing statistics and activities performed by the staff since the last Board meeting held in March.

New Licenses Issued: Mr. Warren presented a list of new licenses issued since the last Board meeting. MOTION: Mr. McDaniel made the motion to ratify the approval of new licenses issued by the Executive Director. The motion was seconded by Mr. Wood and unanimously approved by the Board.

Financial Report: Mr. Littleton presented the financial activities of the Board for the period of February 1, 2025 through April 30, 2025. He reviewed the revenue and expenses for this reporting period to include anticipated revenue and expenses for the remainder of the fiscal year. A positive ending cash balance for this period was reported. Further information regarding expenditures by category was reviewed compared to the budget. A positive cash balance was projected for the end of year (report available in the Board's official Book of Minutes).

MOTION: Mr. McDaniel made the motion to accept the financial report as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Morgan and unanimously approved by the Board.

LEGAL COUNSEL REPORT

Mr. Elkins reported that he had no report from the Investigative Committee concerning complaint cases.

Request to Waive Re-Examination: Mr. Elkins presented a follow-up report on a request to waive re-examination that was received from a former licensee. He explained that the Board's rules required renewal of a license within 12 months following expiration and, after 12 months, the former licensee would have to apply as new licensee and retake the examination. He indicated that the Board did not have the authority to waive examinations. Mr. Warren reported that reinstatement of inactive license was different than an expired license and reissuance of a license from inactive status did not require re-examination. The Board concurred with the denial of the request based upon the Board's Rule 150-X-1-.02.

UPDATE ON ASSOCIATION ACTIVITIES

Chairman Fisher report that the annual meeting of the Alabama Auctioneers Association would be held at the Hampton Inn in Gulf Shores on August 23-26, 2025, and an extra day of presentations had been added. He reminded the Board that the Association's continuing education program continued to be free to Alabama licensees.

MOTION: Mr. McDaniel made the motion to continue the participation in the Association's CE Program and \$5,000 to the Association to benefit the Board's licensees. The motion was seconded by Ms. Morgan and unanimously approved by the Board.

He also reported on National Association members meeting recently in Washington, DC with Congress members concerning issues facing the auction profession.

OLD BUSINESS

Online Auction Firm Rule, Reporting Unlicensed Companies and Review Process:

Mr. Warren reported that an email address had been created specific to reporting unlicensed online auctions, which would allow individuals to submit electronically on the Board's website. He indicated that this was the initial phase of notifying the unlicensed companies about the Board's new licensing requirements, and he indicated that there would be no investigations during this educational phase. He reported that the emails would be sent to the Legal Assistant, who would send notifications letters, monitor if a license was obtained and do additional follow-up, etc. The Board agreed that January 1, 2026 would be the date that a violation would become complaint-based for further action by the Board.

Mr. Warren indicated that he would have a report at the next Board meeting concerning the database log used to track unlicensed online auction notices.

Chairman Fisher requested that a link be added to the Board's website homepage about unlicensed online auction activities to be reported to the Board and add the message in the website scroll bar, potentially until January 2025.

Public Relations Campaign, Implementation and Reporting Process:

Mr. Warren presented a copy of the proposed contract with the Alabama Auctioneers Association to provide public relations campaign services in educating the public concerning the licensure of the auction profession and identifying auction businesses conducting business to the citizens of Alabama (copy available in the official Book of Minutes).

He reminded the Board that the contract would be for 12 months, with the option to renew for an additional 12 months, and the cost of services would not exceed \$48,000 per year.

MOTION: Mr. McDaniel made the motion to approve the contract between the Board and the Alabama Auctioneers Association as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Barnes and unanimously approved by the Board.

Chairman Fisher reported that the Association had created a public relations marketing team, comprised of the Association's members, who had expertise in this matter.

Examination Study Guide Update: Chairman Fisher reported that the Association had updated the examination study guide and submitted to PROV for review and comments on the content as it related to changes in the Board's statute.

The Board reviewed a list of examination question topics and discussed the topic value concerning cattle, furniture, etc. Chairman Fisher asked Mr. Warren and Mr. Barnes to review and recommend topics to the Board regarding examination content.

Newsletter Update: Mr. Warren reviewed a list of topics for the upcoming edition of the Board's newsletter and asked for any additional comments and articles to be sent to him by the end of the week. He indicated that, following Chairman Fisher's review, a draft of the newsletter would be submitted to the vendor to publish.

Proposed Rule – Apprentices: Mr. Warren presented proposed changes to Rule 150-X-1-14 regarding apprentice auctioneers' initial licensure during the fourth quarter of a licensure year. He reminded the Board about earlier discussions concerning the time between an apprentice applicant graduating from auction school and the end of the Board's licensing cycle. He explained that the proposed rule

changes would only be applicable to an apprentice applying for initial licensure during the last quarter of the licensure year who had completed auction school and successfully passed the examination for licensure. Mr. Warren recommended that the initial licensure period for apprentice auctioneers applying for licensure in the fourth quarter be advanced to the next year's expiration date.

MOTION: Mr. McDaniel made the motion to adopt the proposed amended rule as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Barnes and unanimously approved by the Board.

NEW BUSINESS

Chairman Fisher called an Executive Session of the Board to discuss an individual's good name and character.

MOTION: Mr. McDaniel made the motion for the Board to move into Executive Session to protect the good name and character of an individual for a period of approximately 20 minutes. The motion was seconded by Ms. Morgan and Mr. Elkins certified the reason for the Executive Session. The following roll call vote was recorded on the motion: Mr. Curvin, aye, Ms. Morgan, aye, Mr. McDaniel, aye, Mr. Grissett, aye, Mr. Barnes, aye, and Mr. Wood, aye. The Board adjourned into Executive Session at 10:05 a.m.

MOTION: Mr. McDaniel made the motion to adjourn the Executive Session and resume the regular meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Wood and unanimously approved by the Board. Chairman Fisher reconvened the regular business session at 10:35 a.m.

OTHER BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Submission of Board Travel and Compensation: Compensation requests and travel expense reports were submitted by the members and accepted by the Board.

Next Board Meeting: Chairman Fisher reminded the Board that the next meeting of the Board was scheduled August 12, 2025 at the Board's office.

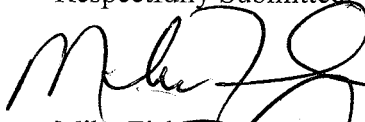
Mr. Warren reported that during the Executive Session of the Board, he had submitted the proposed amended rule for publication, which would have a July deadline for public comment. He also reported that he had submitted changes to OIT concerning the link to report unlicensed online auction activities violations.

ADJOURNMENT

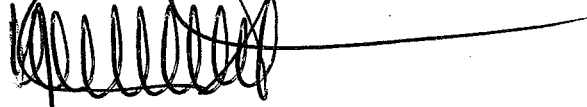
There was no further business by the Board and Chairman Fisher called for a motion to adjourn.

MOTION: Mr. Curvin made a motion that the meeting be adjourned. The motion was seconded by Mr. McDaniel and unanimously approved by the Board. Chairman Fisher adjourned the meeting at 10:40 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted



Mike Fisher
Board Chair



Keith E. Warren
Executive Director

Minutes approved on August 12, 2025 /rr 

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