

STATE BOARD OF MEDIATION AND ARBITRATION

38 WOLCOTT HILL ROAD, WETHERSFIELD, CT 06109

MINUTES OF SBMA BOARD MEETING

Monday, May 15, 2023

A meeting of the Connecticut State Board of Mediation and Arbitration was held on Monday, May 15, 2023. This meeting was held virtually, via Teams.

Present: Gerald T. Weiner, Esq., Chairman
Dennis C. Murphy, Esq. Deputy Chairman
Betty Kuehnel, Labor Member
Peter Carozza, Labor Member
Michael Culhane, Management Member

Guest: Douglas Cho, Esq., Director/Mediator

Public Guests: Steven McEleheny

The meeting of the State Board of Mediation and Arbitration was opened by Gerald T. Weiner, Chairman, at 8:30 a.m.

1) Minutes of Previous Meeting: A motion was made by Dennis Murphy to accept the minutes of the March 20, 2023, Board meeting. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

2) Old Business:

A. Review of Outstanding Arbitration Hearings: The number of pending arbitrations, the number of cases held in abeyance, scheduled and re-scheduled were examined by the Board. There are approximately two hundred and seventy (270) cases pending which is a slight decrease from 297; scheduled cases increased from 97 to 105; rescheduled cases increased from 12 to 35; and cases held in abeyance increased from 28 to 35.

- B. Review of Fiscal Year Figures: The SBMA fiscal year figures to date were compared to the past year and have decreased slightly; cases received to date have decreased from 226 to 189; revenues collected to date have also decreased slightly from \$92,450 to \$74,275; however, state cases filed to date have increased from 28 to 64. Also, two new grievances were filed by the State Public Defenders Union, which is a new development.
- C. Motions to Vacate: All open motions to vacate were briefly reviewed as to their status. Two new motions to vacate have been filed since the last Board meeting, and were briefly summarized.
- D. Outstanding Overdue Awards: There is one overdue award at this time, which is late by a few weeks; the final award has been provided by the public arbitrator and should be fully signed and distributed within a week.

3) New Business:

- A. The Board was made aware of the recent, sad, passing of a former management arbitrator, Robert Canning, who passed away on April 30, 2023 at age 95. A number of board members worked closely with Mr. Canning and remembered him fondly as a good person and a devoted arbitrator.
- B. The Board discussed holding the traditional SBMA summer conference in September at the Holiday Hill Resort, and agreed that planning for this conference should go forward.

4) Director's Report:

- A. SBMA has hired three new staffers who have recently begun working for SBMA; Jessica Prude is the new administrative assistant. Angelica Velez-Perez and Stacy Quinones have begun working in two new secretary 2 positions. The Board also generally discussed the status of all staff, and their work assignments.
- B. Brigitte Bisson has officially retired as an administrative assistant after 39 years with SBMA, with her official last day of work on May 24, 2023. SBMA wished her well in all her future endeavors.

5) Motion to Adjourn: A motion to adjourn was made by Michael Culhane and seconded by Dennis Murphy; the motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:47 a.m.

Douglas A. Cho, Esq.
Director/Mediator