

TESTING & CERTIFICATION IMPROVEMENT

Present:

Brian Helander	IGRA
Russell Bleakney	TGRA
Jim Mitchell	FGRA
Rick Kelly	TGRA
David Hallwood	MIGRA
Michael Norman	RRRA
Kelly Peebles	NMGRA
Pierre Cadieux	ARGRA
Larry Lindstrom	IGRA
Michel Lentz	ASGRA
Barry Roberts	SMRA
Chris Keene	GSGRA
Heather Murray	ARGRA
Amy Griffin	ILGRA
Mitch Gill	NSGRA
Ron Trusley	AGRA/Committee Chair

The committee meeting began at approximately 10:45 a.m. with 16 people present.

President Helander opened the meeting with a brief explanation regarding the purpose of this ad-hoc committee. We want to work on standardization of testing for all certification committees. Too many times, there is the appearance of subjectivity in some tests which leads to much confusion and misunderstanding. We want to work on more standardization for all certification committees.

Ron then spoke on the development of the committee and what has transpired. An email was sent to the four certification committee chairpersons asking for a response to seven different questions related to their respective certification program. The current process seems to be a little “out of line” as people attend seminars and take exams each year on the current year’s rules, but recertification is for the following year. Comments have been received that committee chairs feel they must recommend recertification of an individual because he/she has met all of the requirements, and the Trustees simply “rubber stamp” the recommendations.

The committee discussed which committees currently utilize testing for certification and recertification. The entire process varies from committee to committee. Currently all of the committees require some type of seminar attendance in order to be certified or recertified. Length of the seminar also varies depending on the number of attendees, the experience of the attendees. In the Auditor/Secretary/Scorekeeper seminar, the length of the seminar is also dependent on whether the individual is seeking certification or recertification as Auditor, Scorekeeper, or Secretary. Some committee chairs do not feel a seminar should be required for recertification, or it should not be required every year. After a brief discussion, consensus was that the current seminar process will

continue; however, there will be further discussion in this area. The current “timing of seminars” seems to be a little out of place since one can choose to wait until Annual Convention to take a seminar and request recertification.

Certification committee chairs were asked to consider revising the current process as it relates to seminars and possibly having a requirement that a seminar be held in conjunction with IGRA University.

Consensus of the committee is that anyone seeking certification/recertification in any area must take and pass an exam each year.

There was further discussion that a “Testing Coordinator” should be appointed by the IGRA President immediately after Annual Convention. This person would:

- 1) Review all exams for clarity and accuracy. Each committee chair will prepare their respective exam and send to the Testing Coordinator by a specified date.
- 2) Tests will be returned to the Testing Coordinator.
- 3) Testing Coordinator will grade the exam and return it with results to the respective chairperson to follow up with the individual examinee.

All current committee chairs agreed to:

- 1) Write exams consisting only of true/false, multiple choice, and fill in the blank questions; there will be no essay questions!
- 2) Seminar process will continue as currently written.
- 3) Seminar attendance and exam must be completed during the year an individual requests certification/recertification.
- 4) Seminars will only be scheduled if someone has pre-registered per our standing rule.
- 5) A passing grade for an exam will be 90% or better.
- 6) Everything should be archived and kept in a central location.

This testing process will be in place for one year and then reviewed/evaluated.

Objectives are to remove all subjectivity from the exam process, try to ensure confidence in the entire certification/recertification process, and to encourage interested people to become certified.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Ron Trusley