MEMBER BOARD SPOTLIGHT
Montana

In 2015, the Montana Board of Medical Examiners supported HB 429 with the goal of expanding access to healthcare and to facilitate licensee mobility. The bill was ultimately passed by the legislature, enabling Montana to enter the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact. James Feist and Ian Marquand were the first Montanans appointed to serve on the Compact Commission, with Ian serving as the Commission’s first chair.

Compact participation has directly contributed to the growth of Montana’s physician licensee population. To date, Montana has issued 2546 licenses through the Compact. Application volume via the Compact has surpassed application volume through Montana’s conventional application process.

When a hospital, clinic, or telemedicine service loses a provider and has an urgent need, the Compact provides the fastest way to get a physician licensed and practicing. “From the time we receive a Letter of Qualification for a compact physician, we issue a Montana license in less than twelve hours, on average,” said Sam Hunthausen, the board’s executive officer.

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IMLCC Annual Meeting — November 2023

The Hyatt Regency Denver Tech Center has been selected as the site for the 2023 Annual Commissioner meeting. The meeting is scheduled for November 13th and 14th.

The 13th is Committee Day, when each committee will meet and discuss topics relevant to their committee, including setting up goals and objectives for 2024. The day includes lunch and ends with a reception and dinner.

The 14th is the Commission Day, when the business of the commission will be conducted — highlights include: a rulemaking hearing, committee reports, and elections held for the three officer positions — Chair, Vice Chair, and Treasurer. The rulemaking hearing will most likely include changes to IMLC Rules Chapter 3, Chapter 4 and Chapter 6; along with changes to IMLC Bylaws Article III and Article VII. More information about the meetings will be included in the Notice and Agenda published 30 days prior to the meeting.

It is hoped that Commissioners will attend the meeting in-person; however, like in all previous years, a virtual attendance option will be available. Remember that the IMLCC will reimburse the reasonable travel expenses for each Commissioner to attend the meeting.

You can make reservations using this link: Hyatt Regency DTC Reservations. Please note that the cutoff date for making reservations is October 23, 2023.
IMLC Committee Highlights

Budget Committee – Treasurer Cleveland (MS), Chair
• FY2024 Budget developed and approved
• FY2022 Audit completed and published
• FY2023 saw an increase of gross revenue of over $13 million
• An investment strategy to create long term fiscal stability was implemented and saw significant gains with a conservative approach

Communications Committee – Commissioner Rodman (KY), Chair
• The committee completed its comprehensive review of the IMLCC’s webpages (page by page), system generated letters, and system generated emails. This was the culmination of a 3-year project. They will start back at it in 2024.
• Next on the agenda is working on verbiage for military and veterans to connect them with the member boards who offer discounts or waivers.

Personnel Committee – Commissioner Herlihy (VT), Chair
• This is the second year that the personnel committee has advised the executive director in the development of a comprehensive employee compensation plan. This includes a review of the established compensation ranges by position along with the performance and cost of living increases.
• The committee continues their work on how the performance evaluation process should work for the executive director.

Rules & Administrative Procedures Committee – Commissioner Bohall (AZ), Chair
• The committee has been focused on amending IMLC Rule Chapters 3, 4, and 6.
• The changes to Rule Chapter 6 were requested at the November 2022 Commission meeting. The rule was reviewed by committee over the course of 5 months, with each section reviewed in detail.
• The committee is finalizing the draft rules so that a rulemaking hearing can be held at the November 2023 Commission meeting.

Technology Committee – Commissioner Manahan (MN), Chair
• The primary focus of the committee has been working with IMLCC staff to prepare and publish the Request for Proposal (RFP) for the Enhanced Physician Portal (EPP). The RFP was published in May and awarded earlier this month to MyMOC, Inc. (dba “Mocingbird”).
• The committee has now turned its attention to the next phase of the iStarsII system enhancement – the financial reporting and processing aspects of the system.
The IMLCC’s Fiscal Year 2023 ended on June 30th. It was another year of growth and helping physicians gain licenses in multiple states. The annual data study revealed that, although the volume of applications has increased, average processing times have remained consistent and even improved. This is a testament to the dedication and hard work performed day in and day out by our member boards and IMLCC staff. They are the people that make success happen every day. Since April of 2017, over 46,000 Letters of Qualification (LOQ) have been processed and over 72,000 licenses have been issued to physicians.

We are fully staffed with 12 full-time positions and 1 part-time position. This increase in staffing has created a situation where we needed to find new office space. Treasurer Cleveland and I conducted an extensive search for new space during the spring and visited over 15 different places before we decided on our new location. The phone numbers, email and website remain the same, but starting October 1, 2023, the IMLCC’s new office will be located at:

7921 Southpark Plaza, Suite 109
Littleton, CO 80120

Two member boards began active participation in calendar 2023:

• District of Columbia
• Indiana
• Connecticut began actively issuing licenses in October 2022 and is scheduled to begin full participation as an SPL soon as they recently gained approval from the FBI to conduct criminal background checks.

The following boards are actively training and it is anticipated that they will go live over the course of the next 6 to 12 months — in alphabetical order:

• Hawaii
• Missouri
• New Jersey
• Pennsylvania
• Rhode Island

Legislation has been introduced in:

• Massachusetts
• New York

We are actively working with interested groups in several states and hope to see legislation introduced in 3 or 4 states during the 2024 legislative session.