

# Board of Firearms Permit Examiners

## *At a Glance*

**JOSEPH T. CORRADINO, Esq., Chairman**

**Chief T. William Knapp, (Ret.), Secretary**

*Established -1967*

*Statutory authority - Connecticut General Statute Sec. 29-32b*

*Office address - 20 Trinity, 5<sup>th</sup> floor, Hartford, CT 06106*

*Number of employees - 1*

*Recurring operating expenses - Personnel, \$72,114 Other Expenses \$8,968*

*Organizational structure – Board Members are appointed by the Governor to serve during his/her term and until their successors are appointed and qualify. With the exception of two public members, the members shall be appointed from nominees of the Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection, the Connecticut State Association of Chiefs of Police, the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection, The Connecticut State Rifle and Revolver Association, Inc., and Ye Connecticut Gun Guild, Inc. At least one member of the board shall be a lawyer licensed to practice in this state, who shall act as chairman. Board Members are volunteers and are compensated for mileage.*

## **Mission**

*The Board provides the means to appeal through administrative hearings with a uniform interpretation and application of firearm laws. To provide a means of appeal for citizens aggrieved by the decision of the Commissioner of the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, to revoke their pistol permit or eligibility certificate. To provide a means of appeal for citizens aggrieved by the decision of the local Police Chief or First Selectmen to deny a pistol permit.*

## **Statutory Responsibility**

The statutory responsibility of the Board is to administer and enforce the provisions of Section 29-32b, Connecticut General Statutes. Under that section, the Board has the responsibility of making inquiries and investigations, taking testimony and rendering decisions, in connection with appeals brought to the Board, by persons aggrieved by the action or inaction of the Issuing Authorities, in matters pertaining to Connecticut General Statutes Sec. 29-28 or 29-28a, pistol permits; Sec. 29-36f or 29-36g eligibility certificates.

## **Public Service**

The Board received 723 new appeals, a 73% increase from the number of appeals received in the previous year. The volunteer Board Members held 20 meetings and heard 237 citizen's appeals in administrative hearings.

Of the 237 cases; 76 were in favor of the appellant, 99 were in favor of upholding the Commissioner or Chief's decision to deny or revoke, 14 cases were issued or reissued the day of the hearing, and 48 appellants withdrew their appeal due to a state statute disqualifier. During the same time, 7 appellants failed to appear and 8 local police departments failed to appear at the hearings.

In addition, another 188 citizens who appealed had their cases resolved prior to the hearing. As a final result, 425 citizens were provided services under the Connecticut General Statute 29-32b. The backlog of cases on the waiting list for an administrative hearing was kept under 8 months.

## **Improvements/Achievements 2012-2013**

The backlog of cases on the waiting list for an administrative hearing was kept under 8 months. The Board met 20 times and increased the number of cases heard at each meeting, thereby reducing the backlog.

Part of the process is for State and local police to complete questionnaires and provide supporting documents to the Board for administrative hearings. A fillable form was added to the website to make the process more user friendly. Appellants are able to print forms from the website but a fillable form will be available soon.

The passing of PA-13-3, AAC Gun Violence Prevention and Children's Safety generated and increase of phone calls from the public as well as law enforcement. Website links were added to the Boards website to provide the Legislative language of the public act, as well as a link to Frequently Asked Questions.

## **Information Reported as Required by State Statute**

The Board operates, and will continue to operate in conformance with Sec. 46a to 46a-78, inclusive of the General Statutes of Connecticut.

## **Membership**

Board members appointed by the Governor are: Chairman Joseph T. Corradino, Esq., Secretary Chief T. William Knapp, (Ret.), Craig C. Fishbein, Esq., Jay Greer, Esq., M. Peter Kuck, Colonel Kyle E. Overturf and Kenneth V. Tramadeo.