I would like to thank each of you who contacted your respective legislators during the session just ended. Senator John Cooper from Jonesboro, submitted SB410 which would have abolished the licensure of barbers and allowed anyone to cut hair for a $50 fee to the state. When over 200 barbers showed their opposition during the committee hearing, he withdrew that bill and filed SB567, which would have abolished the barber law and merged us under the Cosmetology Laws of the Department of Health. SB567 failed when it was presented in Senate committee. Our barber law has been saved, as has our Barber Board and its members. Now, we make a transition to The Department of Labor and Licensing, rather than the Department of Finance and Administration. With that move will come many changes, especially in the inspection of our barber shops. Again, thanks to all of you who supported your profession. And to those who supported Senator Cooper, we hope you will contact us with your complaints, so we may resolve any issues within our statutory capabilities. Remember, our board meetings are public and you are more than welcome to attend. If you wish to present an issue please call and reserve a time for your presentation. In addition, our board minutes are posted at www.arbarber.com, along with other pertinent information.

Thank you,

Michael L Wooldridge

Arkansas State Board of Barber Examiners

501 Woodlane, Suite 311C
Little Rock, AR 72201-1025

YOUR BARBER LICENSE RENEWAL STARTS JULY 1
$25.00 PENALTY AFTER SEPTEMBER 1
Thank you for your support and attendance at the capitol during a very crucial time in the barbering profession in Arkansas.

With the defeat of SB 410 and SB 567 sponsored by Senator John Cooper from Jonesboro (which would have abolished the barber law) comes obvious responsibilities in the barber profession.

Much has been said of professionalism, and the Board of Barber Examiners is holding each of you to that claim.

Last year the board informed us that our inspector, Ed Jordan, was not to collect any renewal fees from barbers. Those renewal fees can be paid in person at the office, mailed in or paid on-line at www.arbarber.com. The office does not keep cash on hand. You must bring exact change.

If our inspector comes by your shop and determines that you do not have a current license or a receipt for payment, a fine will be imposed.

The board also reminded us of the new Sanitary Rules for operation of a barber shop and you are being informed that any infractions to those rules will result in a fine being imposed.

Answers to Frequently Asked Questions:

Use of the traditional symbol known as the “barber pole” in an establishment that does not employ barbers, is prohibited.

A copy of the RULES AND SANITARY REQUIREMENTS shall be posted in a conspicuous place in the barber shop, along with the barber shop license, the personal license and the current inspection report.

A barber license must be renewed before issuance of a shop license or a TMI license.

It shall be unlawful for anyone to operate a barber establishment in which any occupation of a barber are taught or practiced until licensed.

It shall be unlawful to act or attempt to act as a barber unless currently licensed in Arkansas. Out of state licenses are not recognized.

It shall be unlawful for anyone to operate a barber shop unless it is operated under the personal supervision and management of a currently licensed barber.

No person having charge of a barber establishment, whether as an owner or an employee, shall permit any room or part thereof to be used for sleeping or for any other purpose that would tend to make the room unsanitary.

A barbering establishment shall have a direct entrance separate and distinct from any entrance in connection with private quarters.

At any time the name, location, owner or manager changes at any barber shop, the owner must report that change by application and be subject to the $70.00 fee.

It shall be the responsibility of all barber shop owners to assure that their employees, or those who work in their establishment have appropriate licenses. The fine is up to $250.00 for owner and employees or worker.

Barber establishments who have persons licensed by the Cosmetology Section of the Department of Health must also have their appropriate current licenses to practice and a Cosmetology establishment license.

Arkansas barbers who hold a current license will be issued a personal LIFETIME LICENSE at age 80 upon request. However, their shop license must be renewed yearly.

A TMI (teacher manager instructor) must have received not less than eight (8) hours of additional training in an instructor’s training seminar or continuing education course certified by the Board on a yearly basis before renewal of their TMI license.

No student barber may act as a barber outside the school for pay or otherwise.