

Highlights from the 2009 Annual Meeting

Attendees mix Council business, professional development in Louisville

Delegates attending the 2009 Annual Meeting addressed a number of topics related to the organization and the licensure process for engineers and surveyors. The following summarizes some of the actions taken. Full minutes from the meeting will be published on the NCEES Web site in November. Copies will also be mailed to all licensing board members, administrators, and emeritus members.

2009-10 Board of Directors

The Council filled two positions on the NCEES Board of Directors when it elected Joe Timms, P.E., of West Virginia, as president-elect and Gene Dinkins, P.E., P.L.S., of South Carolina, as treasurer during the Friday morning business session. Timms was previously the Northeast Zone vice president, while Dinkins was the

Southern Zone vice president. David Widmer, P.L.S., and Govind Nadkarni, P.E., began their first year of their two-year terms on the Board of Directors as Northeast Zone and Southern

Zone Vice Presidents, respectively. Central Zone Vice President Dale Jans, P.E., and Western Zone Vice President Pat Tami, P.L.S., began the second year of their terms. Rounding out the 2009–10 Board of Directors are Immediate Past President Henn Rebane, P.E., and President Dave Whitman, Ph.D., P.E. (see cover article).

Council governance

The Council formally adopted two amendments to the NCEES *Bylaws*. The first clarifies the term of the NCEES treasurer, while the second specifies the procedure for permitting associate members of the Council to serve as voting delegates. The Council approved another

amendment to be considered next year for formal adoption: this amendment will remove references to affiliate member entities from the *Bylaws*, since such entities no longer exist. The Council approved a new policy stating the Board of Directors will annually review and approve costs for exam item replacement as a safeguard against losses from an exam breach.

Engineering education requirements

The issue of engineering education continued to be the subject of much debate this year, as delegates considered motions working out the specifics of the requirement set to go into effect in 2020.

Delegates voted in favor of a motion from the Engineering Education Task Force to proceed with developing a national clearinghouse to assist Member Boards with implementing the education requirement, which will require engineering licensure candidates to obtain a master's degree in engineering or its equivalent. The proposed clearinghouse would assist boards in determining whether candidates meet the new education requirement, with the goal of promoting consistency across jurisdictions as the requirement is implemented.

The Committee on Uniform Procedures and Legislative Guidelines (UPLG) presented a motion, approved by the Council, incorporating language into the *Model Law* and *Model Rules* specifying the terms *approved course providers* and *acceptable coursework* as they pertain to the master's or equivalent requirement. Another successful



Delegates debated several resolutions concerning engineering licensure requirements

The *Model Law, Model Rules, Manual of Policy and Position Statements*, and NCEES *Bylaws* have been revised as a result of actions taken during the meeting. They are online at www.ncees.org/introduction/about_ncees.

UPLG motion incorporated the ABET-accredited master's program category of degree into the *Model Law* and *Model Rules*. ABET had previously not accredited engineering programs at both the bachelor's and master's level.

Under New Business, the Council was presented with several resolutions concerning the master's or equivalent education requirement. It approved a resolution from the Southern Zone calling for the Engineering Education Task Force to further study alternatives to the current master's or equivalent language. This resolution also called for the task force to include within its study the possibility of reforming bachelor's degree programs so that they "contain the appropriate educational requirements to practice at a professional level."

Examinations

Each year, several NCEES committees and task forces present motions related to NCEES exams and related services. This year, the Council approved a motion for the Computer-Based Testing Task Force to continue to evaluate the possibility of NCEES switching its exam delivery method from the current paper-and-pencil format to a computer-based format. The task force will produce a recommendation for the Council's consideration at next year's Annual Meeting.

The Council also adopted a new exam development policy proposed by the Committee on Examination Policy and Procedures that outlines the requirements for dividing an existing exam into separate exams in situations where a larger discipline splinters into areas with distinctive bodies of knowledge that require separate testing for licensure purposes.

The NCEES Board of Directors presented a motion to authorize the NCEES executive director to negotiate a contract to provide exams and related services in Saudi Arabia in conjunction with the Saudi Council of Engineers. This motion resulted from a visit to Saudi Arabia made earlier this year by an NCEES delegation to discuss administering exams in that country and to ensure that the Saudi Council was equipped to adhere to NCEES exam policies. The motion passed.

President-Elect Whitman and President Rebane were presented with personalized Louisville Sluggers during the first business session.



One of the professional development workshops involved a site visit to the McAlpine Locks and Dam, located on the Falls of the Ohio. The locks, which recently underwent a major renovation and expansion, allow shipping traffic to bypass the only falls on the Ohio River.

Licensure practices

Apart from amending the *Model Law* and *Model Rules* to reflect the 2020 education requirement, the UPLG Committee conducted its five-year review of the *Model Rules*, which resulted in 29 motions that all passed.

UPLG was also charged with revising the *Model Law* to clarify the distinction between individuals and firms throughout the document. This was the result of a recommendation made by last year's UPLG Committee and was designed to make the document consistent with many state licensure laws. This charge resulted in 21 motions, all of which passed.

Finally, the UPLG Committee moved to add a grandfather clause to the *Model Law*, indicating that the status of current Model Law Engineers and Model Law Structural Engineers would not be adversely affected by subsequent revisions to the *Model Law*, such as the 2020 master's or equivalent requirement.