

An official
NCEES publication
for the exchange of information,
opinion, and ideas regarding the
licensure of professional
engineers and land surveyors.

ISSN NO. 1093-541X
VOLUME 7, ISSUE 4

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Task force recommends national IDs for applicants

At the 2003 Annual Meeting, the Examination Security Task Force, led by Chair Mel Anderson, will present four motions and 10 recommendations designed to improve NCEES exam administration and security.

The motions propose an addition to the Model Law, a candidate application numbering system, Council-wide assurance of proctor training, and a study of the feasibility of a uniform system to administer NCEES exams. The task force shared previous versions of its motions with attendees at the 2003 spring zone meetings. After receiving input from zone delegates, the task force discussed and then revised the motions to present at the Annual Meeting in Baltimore.

The task force's most significant motion—Motion 4—was reached by unanimous decision. To ensure administration consistency and minimize security concerns, the task force moves that the Council evaluate the feasibility of establishing one uniform administration system (sole source) for NCEES exams. A centralized administration system would help ensure that all examinees are tested under the same conditions, that exam proctors meet a minimum level of training, that disability and religious requests are handled in the same way, that candidates suspected of security violations are dealt with consistently, and that NCEES policies and procedures are adhered to at all times. It would also eliminate the potential liability of Member Boards to pay the replacement costs of a breached exam.

Motion 2 requests that the Council endorse the concept of a unique national numbering system for all NCEES examination applications, with development to begin in 2003–2004. Currently boards track only applicants to their respective jurisdictions. Each state has its own system of identification, and there is no effective means of tracing examinees across states. As a result, an examinee suspected of violating NCEES exam regulations in one jurisdiction may simply apply, qualify, and sit for an NCEES exam in another jurisdiction. An unethical

examinee may take an NCEES exam multiple times in various jurisdictions—with the sole purpose of gathering exam items to distribute—with no board being aware of how many times the examinee has taken the exam. A unique numbering system for all NCEES exam applications would allow jurisdictions to effectively track how many times an applicant has applied for, taken, and failed an exam, and whether there is disciplinary action against an examinee. It would also be useful in tracking any religious or disability requests granted or refused.

A unique national numbering system would make ESTF Motion 1 easier to enforce and more effective. Motion 1 requests that the President consider charging the Committee on Uniform Procedures and Legislative Guidelines with amending the Model Law to require that candidates with three or more unsuccessful attempts on an NCEES exam, regardless of where taken, submit a new application to be requalified for future administrations. If requalified by their respective boards, applicants must wait 12 months before being reseated for the exam. At the end of the 12-month period, the applicants may take the exam no more than once every calendar year. Amending the Model Law in this way would limit exposure to exam items for examinees who have failed an exam three times or more.

A key component of fair exam administration is ensuring that all examinees take the exam under equivalent conditions. They should receive the same instructions and have the same amount of time to work the exam items. Fair administration also includes equivalent lighting, temperature, restroom facilities, and seating arrangements. NCEES policy and procedures are designed to ensure that all examinees are treated fairly and that all have an equal opportunity to perform well. Often, how closely exam proctors abide by these policies and procedures depends on the training they have received. Quality training also ensures that

(continued on page 16)



Robert C. Krebs, P.E., L.S.
NCEES President

Never miss a good chance to shut up

The NCEES Annual Meeting is the end and beginning of the Council year. I will pass the presidential gavel to an able professional, Don Hiatte of Missouri. Presidents typically write their final *Licensure Exchange* article for the August edition with this transition in mind. Is this really my last *Licensure Exchange* article as NCEES President? As I was about to let out a few tongue-in-cheek Vermont yahoos, an unexpected wave of nostalgia came over me. I thought to myself, "I could get used to this, traveling around our great country and representing what to me is the foremost engineering and surveying organization. But even more so, what a privilege to meet and work with all of these dedicated and committed engineers, surveyors, and other volunteers." I will miss the opportunity to work with you and for you as NCEES President. Instead of attempting something profound in my last article, I thought I would share a few observations and perhaps a little levity.

A number of times this year I have diligently tried to fulfill some of my promises from a year ago, and one such promise was to be a good listener. I have often been accused of being too quiet, not speaking up, but I have learned a number of adages like "you can't listen while your lips are moving," "a closed mouth gathers no foot," and "if people think you're smart, why open your mouth and ruin it?" I hope I have taken those maxims to heart as NCEES President and listened to your concerns and ideas, instead of only explaining my opinion. Members of the NCEES Board of Directors must hear what you have to say to fully serve the Council, so I encourage you to continue to provide your input.

There have been a number of new challenges this year, some dealing with education and accreditation and some dealing with our exams and exam security. We certainly don't have all the answers, and together we will stub our toes more than once as we pursue what is best for the public and our professions. It has been said that good judgment comes from experience, which prompts the question, where do you get experience? Well, experience often comes from

bad judgment. As you participate in NCEES, don't be afraid to get involved and contribute and lend some positive enthusiasm to Council activities. Everyone may not agree with you all the time, but remember, some days you're the bug, and some days you're the windshield. On the days that you're the bug, you may not feel you've made much of a difference, but you may have influenced one person's opinion or been an important part in a developing discussion.

What the Council hopes to accomplish in the next 5–10 years will take a serious amount of effort and dedication from the younger faces. Our new strategic plan will give us the direction and guidance necessary. Accomplishing those goals won't be easy. Nothing worthwhile is! We need to share our institutional knowledge and allow the new members to flourish.

One more time, it is necessary to compliment the Council staff and all the work they do for NCEES and our Member Boards. Some have said that they are like Vermont boat chrome—duct tape. That is, they have a light side and a sticky side, and they hold the Council together.

My final plea is to all those planning to attend the Annual Meeting in Baltimore. Please read your conference reports, study and understand the issues, and solicit comments and concerns from your own board. Progress is dependent on the Council making informed and timely decisions. There will be numerous motions and actions to ratify the events of the last year, so please be prepared.

Lastly, no matter what happens, someone will find a way to take it too seriously. The most wasted day of all is one in which we have not laughed. If we find a way to add laughter and warmth to the most serious of situations, our discussions—among Council members, family, or friends—will be more productive and fruitful.

Don't forget to leave space for the rocks in your life!

—Robert C. Krebs, P.E., P.L.S.
NCEES President

It has been said that good judgment comes from experience . . . As you participate in NCEES, don't be afraid to get involved and contribute and lend some positive enthusiasm to Council activities.

NOMINEE Q&A



President-Elect Nominee

Jon D. Nelson, P.E.

Member and past chair of the Oklahoma State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors; Vice President of the Southern Zone; Chair of the Engineering

Licensure Qualifications Task Force; Member of the Committee on Education, Assessment, and Qualification and the Special Committee on Experience Evaluation; Item writer on the Committee on Examinations for Professional Engineers Civil/Environmental subcommittee; President of the Oklahoma Water Environment Association and chair of OWEA committees; Member of the National Society of Professional Engineers, the Oklahoma Society of Professional Engineers, and the American Society of Civil Engineers; Recipient of the Southern Zone Distinguished Service Award. Nelson, vice president of Tetra Tech FHC, has worked in private practice for 26 years.

Q: *What do you plan to focus on during your term as President-Elect of the NCEES? What are your goals for the next two years?*

A: As President-Elect, I will focus on preparing myself for the presidency and supporting President Hiatte during his term. This will include increasing the depth of my knowledge on various issues and understanding and establishing clear directions for the following year.

My first goal will be to effectively continue the ongoing initiatives of the Council. Many transcend several administrations, and I want to do my part in advancing each of them. These and other broad goals include the following:

- ◆ Continuing the process of promoting licensure and building strong alliances with various professional societies. The professions of engineering and surveying continue to change. In my opinion, the advance of technology, an increased focus on commerce as opposed to professionalism, and the shrinking world all threaten our licensure ideal. We must get ahead and stay ahead of professional trends, and we must have partners to champion the cause of licensure. I believe in licensure, but it will not be safe unless our professions continually emphasize its importance and promote its value.
- ◆ Continuing to increase my understanding of ABET accreditation and the role it plays in

assuring the quality of engineering education as a qualification for licensure. The concerns with the current accreditation system as they relate to licensure must be fully understood, clearly conveyed, and properly addressed. Presidents Fairfield and Krebs greatly advanced our understanding of accreditation and started the process of educating our members. The next important step will be Council approval of the proposed position statement on education. It will serve as the foundation for future activities in this regard. President-Elect Hiatte is continuing the work by forming a new committee to thoroughly study these issues. It is my intent to continue the process as needed during my term as President.

- ◆ Establishing a consensus position of the Council on international licensure mobility, particularly relative to NAFTA. International practice is accelerating and bringing with it pressure to approve equivalencies that could lead to adjustments to the current U.S. standards for licensure. We need a clear consensus position or we risk not having a voice in shaping the future.
- ◆ Advancing exam process as to security, efficacy, and relevance. I am a strong advocate for licensure exams and the work of our exam committees. Our new all multiple-choice exam format is well founded, and the committees have done an extraordinary job in making the conversion, but the new format brings with it additional lessons to learn. We continue to learn, and we are adjusting well. This process must continue.

Q: *The Examination Security Task Force will make several recommendations to the Council at the 2003 Annual Meeting, including that a national numbering system be developed for examinees taking NCEES exams. Do you support this motion in particular? What are your feelings about requiring examinees who have failed an NCEES exam three times to wait 12 months before taking the exam again?*

A: I think the national numbering system is a good idea, but it has its own set of weaknesses and problems to overcome. If a numbering system can be developed and implemented that is manageable and can be used effectively for tracking examinees, then I would be in favor of such a system. It may be difficult, however, to

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— Jon D. Nelson

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(continued from page 3)

create a system that is truly effective and provides benefits that outweigh the cost. I am in favor of requiring examinees who have failed an NCEES exam three times to demonstrate measures they have taken to better prepare themselves for retaking the exam. In most cases, I expect that the additional preparation would result in missing at least one exam administration and thus result in a 12-month waiting period. At this point I am not as much time-focused on this issue as I am activity-focused, but I will listen to the arguments.

Q: *In your opinion, what effect do calculators used in the exam room have on exam security? Is limiting the models of calculators used by examinees a necessary step to ensure exam security?*

A: Calculators are becoming problematic for our system of examination and can compromise exam security in a number of ways. Many are effective data collectors that can allow examinees to leave the site with exam questions. Some calculators are able to communicate with other calculators, which could lead to the sharing of answers during the exam. Many universities and other testing organizations have wrestled with this issue and use lists of approved calculators. Limiting the models allowed in the exam rooms may be the only reasonable way to resolve these security concerns, short of moving to computer-based testing. The length of the approved calculators list is a concern, which is primarily related to the ability of the proctors to exert effective control. However, the role of the proctor in exams is becoming more and more critical in areas other than just calculator control. We must have well-trained proctors in adequate numbers, in every exam room, in every jurisdiction, during every administration, or we will suffer the consequences.

Q: *As chair of ELQTF, you were directly involved in that task force’s review of the engineering licensure system. What ELQTF recommendations do you hope to see the Licensure Qualifications Task Force pursue?*

A: All of the ELQTF recommendations have some merit, and they all should be thoroughly evaluated. I think some change in the model licensure system is necessary to keep up with our changing profession. A good example is the recommendation to allow the Principles and Practice of Engineering (PE) exams to be taken at any time

after graduation. The PE exams are knowledge-based, and it is difficult to see the advantage of requiring the applicants to wait before making an attempt. Another is the recommendation for additional education. Clearly, engineering education is less rigorous due to declining credit-hour requirements and the associated loss of technical coursework. Specialization also leads to the teaching of a smaller and smaller core body of knowledge, resulting in graduates who are not well rounded. For engineers practicing in very specialized areas (normally exempt from licensure) a narrow body of knowledge may not be a problem, but for engineers working in the built environment, it is a real concern. Anecdotal information indicates that graduates moving into this area are simply not well prepared. This issue is being pursued by other engineering organizations and will need careful study by LQOG.

The LQOG effort will be extremely important because it will consider licensure recommendations resulting from a task force composed of members from many different professional and technical societies. ELQTF produced some interesting recommendations which reflected a consensus of several engineering organizations. It also resulted in some profession-wide momentum for change. I hope we can maintain the momentum, provided the process moves in directions that sustain the licensure ideal.

Q: *You have served as Southern Zone Vice President for two years. What was the most important thing you learned about the Council while serving as a Vice President? How did your vice presidency prepare you for the position of NCEES President-Elect?*

A: During my two years as Southern Zone Vice President, I served as a member of the Board of Directors under two very fine Presidents and alongside two very fine sets of Board members. This experience first gave me an indication of the level of commitment necessary to be effective as President. I always knew the position was rigorous, but my involvement over the past two years resulted in a much better understanding. I imagine I still do not appreciate it fully and will not until I have actually been there, but I have been blessed with very good mentors.

During my term I also internalized the importance of the NCEES being a policy-driven organization. This is rather elementary, but I think

it is worth noting because it is easy to forget sometimes. Each year the makeup and personality of the Council membership and the Board of Directors change. Leadership approaches vary, perspectives differ, and priorities sometimes change. Staff provides institutional memory, a detailed knowledge of the inner workings of the Council, and much, much more, but it is Council policy that provides continuity from administration to administration. Of course, policies can and need to be changed now and then, but the process of change takes time. In our fast-paced world this can be frustrating, but the inertia of our processes is in place for good reason. Change in direction must be deliberate with careful consideration for the future.



Treasurer Nominee

Martin A. Pedersen, L.S.

President of the Wyoming Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Professional Land Surveyors; Treasurer of NCEES; Vice President of the Western Zone; President of the Professional Land Surveyors of Wyoming;

President of the Wyoming Association of Consulting Engineers and Surveyors; President and Secretary-Treasurer of the Wyoming Engineering Society; Bank Director; Rawlins Councilman and Mayor. Pedersen has been in private practice as a land surveyor for 37 years.

Q: *The 2003 report of the Advisory Committee on Council Activities contains a position description for the Council Treasurer. Having served as Treasurer for one year, in your own words, how would you summarize the role of NCEES Treasurer? Are there particular areas in which you will concentrate this year?*

A: The Treasurer is the financial overseer of Council funds for the Board of Directors and a participant in the Committee on Finances as the Board liaison. Duties include working with the Council Director of Finances, presenting the financial reports to the Board and membership, making recommendations for financial changes to the Board, and working with the Committee on Finances on the upcoming year's budget. If elected, I will continue to monitor the financial reports, assist the Director of Finances and staff explore ways to maintain and enhance the budget, and look for new revenue sources to help offset greater demands for services to Member Boards.

Q: *The Examination Security Task Force will make several recommendations to the Council at the 2003 Annual Meeting, including that a national numbering system be developed for examinees taking NCEES exams. Do you support this motion in particular? What are your feelings about requiring examinees who have failed an NCEES exam three times to wait 12 months before retaking the exam?*

A: The past two years have demonstrated the Council's vulnerability to exam security problems and the terrific cost to the Council and Member Boards associated with breaches. The Board of Directors has begun the process of protecting the Council and Member Boards by making ELSEES, the NCEES exam administration program, a separate limited liability corporation, but I believe that the Council must continue for a few years to set aside monies to insure against a catastrophic loss. In addition to self-insurance funding, the Council must continue to fund studies and programs to try to eliminate cheating, breaches, and exam losses. It may be necessary for one to two percent of our budget to be earmarked for exam security.

Q: *At the 2002 Annual Meeting, the Council increased the length of the term of Treasurer to two years. If elected, you will be the first Treasurer to serve a two-year term. What are the advantages and disadvantages to a longer term?*

A: The learning curve for the Treasurer is the steepest in the first year. By the time the one-year term had ended, the Treasurer is really just getting up to speed on how the Council finances and budget are put together. I believe that the two-year term will allow the Treasurer more opportunity to do the job rather than just learn the job. The other Board of Director positions are also two- or three-year offices, so this allows more continuity in the office and on the Board.

Northeast Zone Vice President

Louis A. Raimondi, P.E., P.L.S.

President of the New Jersey Board of Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors; Assistant Vice President of the Northeast Zone; Chair of the Northeast Zone Nominations Committee; Member of the NCEES Advisory Committee for Council Activities and the Law Enforcement Committee; Member of the National Society of Professional Engineers, the New Jersey Society of Professional

(continued on page 6)

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— Martin A. Pedersen

Licensure
EXCHANGE

Published by
National Council of Examiners
for Engineering and Surveying

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NOMINEE Q&A

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— Louis A. Raimondi

(continued from page 5)

Engineers, the New Jersey Society of Professional Land Surveyors, the New Jersey Society of Municipal Engineers, the American Institute of Certified Planners, the American Society of Civil Engineers, the American Academy of Environmental Engineers, and the American Congress on Surveying and Mapping. Raimondi has had over 40 years of experience in the civil engineering, land surveying, and land planning professions. He founded the consulting firm of Raimondi Associates in 1968 and served as President until 1998 when a merger was formed to create the firm of Azzolina, Feury and Raimondi Engineering Group, Inc.

Q: *What do you plan to focus on during your term as Vice President? What are your goals for the next two years?*

A: I plan to focus on encouraging the Northeast Zone to be more active in Council activities and issues. The Northeast Zone seems to sit back and react rather than act on Council matters. One of my goals is to obtain a larger attendance at zone meetings, which in my opinion will increase attendance at the NCEES Annual Meeting. Another goal will be to strive for joint zone meetings, to bring members in contact with their counterparts in other zones.

Q: *The Examination Security Task Force will make several recommendations to the Council at the 2003 Annual Meeting, including that a national numbering system be developed for examinees taking NCEES exams. Do you support this motion in particular? What are your feelings about requiring examinees who have failed an NCEES exam three times to wait 12 months before retaking the exam?*

A: I strongly support the recommendation of the Examination Security Task Force that a national numbering system be developed for examinees taking NCEES exams. I feel it will give the Council a more efficient way to control examinations and also aid in examination security. I would be in favor of requiring examinees to wait 12 months before taking an exam after failing an NCEES exam three times. It might also be prudent to have the examinee show proof of having taken additional courses during the said 12-month waiting period.

Q: *At the 2003 Annual Meeting, the ELQTF will present its report describing its review of the engineering licensure system. What ELQTF recommendations do you hope to see the Licensure Qualifications Oversight Group pursue?*

A: I would like to see the Licensure Qualifications Oversight Group (LQOG) pursue a non-technical exam covering practice issues for those seeking licensure, preferably available prior to graduation. I hope to see the licensure of engineering educators receive appropriate attention, as well as the recognition of the Fundamentals of Engineering (FE) exam as the means for graduates to demonstrate minimum competency in core subjects. I support the idea of an engineering internship that can lead to licensure, and I believe the FE should cover those areas of knowledge and/or subjects that all engineers need before entering such an internship. I also think the requirement in the Model Law of an EAC/ABET-accredited degree or the equivalent for engineering licensure should remain in the Model Law.

Q: *Being Vice President of a zone requires a great deal of time and energy. What compels you to serve as an officer of the NCEES?*

A: Ever since attending my first Annual Meeting in Albuquerque, New Mexico, I felt obligated to become involved and participate in the process of licensure. Some ten Annual Meetings later, I felt I had a grasp on the process and also the time, being semi-retired, to get more involved. Having been on several national and zone committees, I felt I could try to become more active and be instrumental in the licensure process of a profession that I enjoy and have devoted a lifetime to. Having benefited from my years in the engineering/surveying professions, I felt it would be proper to share some of my experiences and knowledge of the benefits of licensure. My health is good, and I look forward to a productive learning experience over the next two years.



Southern Zone Vice President

James McCarter, PE.

Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary of the South Carolina State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors; Assistant Vice President

of the Southern Zone; Member of the Committee on Education Assessment and Qualification and Committee on Examination Policy and Procedures; Chair of the Committee on Uniform Procedures and Legislative Guidelines; President of the local chapters

of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers and the American Society of Heating, Refrigeration, and Air Conditioning Engineers; served in all local chapter and state positions of the South Carolina Society of Professional Engineers; President of the South Carolina Council of Engineering and Surveying Societies; a National Director of the National Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE); Southeast Region Vice President of the NSPE; Chair of the NSPE Policy Review Committee; and Fellow in NSPE. McCarter has worked in private practice and construction for over 40 years.

Q: *What do you plan to focus on during your term as Vice President? What are your goals for the next two years?*

A: Exam security is a critical issue to the NCEES exam program. I plan to work for resolutions that are satisfactory to NCEES Member Boards and that will provide the necessary security for our exam programs. Having been active in the National Society for Professional Engineers (NSPE), I hope to use my relationships there to enhance communications between NCEES and NSPE. Being licensed in 19 states, I understand the need for licensure mobility. I also understand the problems faced by jurisdictions as they try to improve mobility and still protect the public. I have worked to improve mobility, and as Southern Zone Vice President will work to develop options for mobility that can be considered for adoption by NCEES Member Boards.

Q: *The Examination Security Task Force will make several recommendations to the Council at the 2003 Annual Meeting, including that a national numbering system be developed for examinees taking NCEES exams. Do you support this motion in particular? What are your feelings about requiring examinees who have failed an NCEES exam three times to wait 12 months before retaking the exam?*

A: I believe there are ways other than a national numbering system to monitor examinees; however, some jurisdictions may not be willing or able to develop and implement policies that would effectively provide the security sought for the examination process. A national numbering system is perhaps the only effective means for NCEES to provide the security required for the exam process. Therefore, I support the use of a national numbering system for purposes of exam security.

I feel those who have failed an NCEES exam three times should wait at least 12 months before taking the exam again. Some jurisdictions require those who have failed an exam three times to wait periods longer than 12 months and have required the applicant to assure the jurisdictional board that he or she has made the necessary effort to prepare for the exam before being allowed to sit again. While NCEES may not be able to require proof of preparation, the Council should stipulate a wait of at least 12 months before an applicant who has failed three times takes the exam again.

Q: *At the 2003 Annual Meeting, the ELQTF will present its report describing its review of the engineering licensure system. What ELQTF recommendations do you hope to see the Licensure Qualifications Oversight Group pursue?*

A: The ELQTF report represents a considerable amount of work accomplished by a task force made up of representatives from a cross section of the engineering profession. The research and thought that has gone into this report is such that all its recommendations merit serious consideration. My hope is that all recommendations will be given such consideration with particular emphasis on the ELQTF Consensus Licensure Model. Additionally, emphasis needs to be placed on the aspects of the report dealing with licensure of engineering faculty and mobility for U.S. and international engineers.

Q: *Being Vice President of a zone requires a great deal of time and energy. What compels you to serve as an officer of the NCEES?*

A: The engineering profession has done much to improve the quality of life throughout the world, and I believe it deserves a high level of respect from the public, who benefits from its contributions. If the profession is to gain that respect, members of the profession must give back by serving in leadership positions and providing the impetus for raising the stature of the profession. I have attempted to give back to the profession by serving in leadership positions of technical and professional engineering organizations. I want to continue by serving as an officer of NCEES. I consider it to be an honor to have been selected to serve in this position.

“The engineering profession has done much to improve the quality of life throughout the world, and I believe it deserves a high level of respect from the public, who benefits from its contributions.”

—James McCarter

Alaska

- ◆ Kimberly Mills and Robert E. Gilfilian are new appointees to the board. The terms of Marcia Davis and Lance Mearig have expired.

Delaware LS

- ◆ Russel Dalbeare is a new appointee to the board. The term of Joseph J. Kliment has expired.

Guam

- ◆ Elizabeth C. Gayle, Andrew T. Laguana, Miguel C. Bordallo, Nestor C. Ignacio, and Jose P. Morcilla are appointees to the board effective March 2003.

Indiana LS

- ◆ Randall Miller is a new appointee to the board. The term of John V. Schneider has expired.

Indiana PE

- ◆ Edwin Tinkle is a new appointee to the board. The term of Hubert Longest, Jr., has expired.

Louisiana

- ◆ Benjamin S. Harrison (bsh@lapels.com) is serving as acting executive secretary during the absence of H. Glen Kent, Jr.

Nebraska LS

- ◆ Gary D. Tinkham is a new appointee to the board. The term of Dennis D. Podany has expired. Darold E. Tagge is the new board chair.

New Jersey

- ◆ The board's Web address is www.state.nj.us. The e-mail address of Arthur Russo, executive director, is russoa@dca.lps.state.nj.us.

Oregon

- ◆ Mari J. Kramer and Edward Butts are new appointees to the board. The terms of Charles Crump and Joel Smith have expired.

South Dakota

- ◆ The board's Web site is www.state.sd.us/dol/boards/engineer/eng-hom.htm.

Orioles slated to whip Yankees

I welcome Council members to Baltimore's Inner Harbor, August 14–16, for the 2003 Annual Meeting. President Krebs will lead the business sessions on Wednesday and Thursday, and on Saturday night, he will introduce our President for the 2003–2004 year, Donald Hiatte. President-Elect Hiatte served on the Board as Central Zone Vice President before being elected to his current position. The Council will elect a new President-Elect and will also elect a Treasurer to serve a two-year term for the first time. At the Annual Meeting in La Jolla, the Council approved the motion to increase the Treasurer's term to two years.

We have prepared menus, reserved rooms, scheduled outings, and planned workshops for the time that you will stay in Baltimore. We are looking forward to a pleasant and productive weekend in a historic area of the city. Our tickets for the Orioles versus Yankees game have sold out, and the game itself is anticipated to sell out as well. The Annapolis historic tour has proven to be very popular—80 guests will take a walking tour of Annapolis, including the Naval Academy. I encourage delegates to take advantage of the opportunity to learn more about the Council and issues concerning licensure at the workshops on Wednesday and Saturday. A variety offer professional development hours, such as the Engineers and Land Surveyors Forums, the cut-score workshop, and the newly added workshop "Education, knowledge, and skills: What common core supports the licensure process?" (If you would like to register for the latter, e-mail ebartels@ncees.org.) The business sessions on Thursday and Friday will involve several issues of note, some of which the new members of the Board of Directors touch on in the Officer Q&A in this issue. The Advisory Committee on Council Activities will present the newly revised NCEES Strategic Plan, and the Examination Security Task Force will present its motions and recommendations to enhance exam security (see article). The Engineering and Licensure Qualifications Task Force has completed an extensive report, found in your 2003 *Action Items and Conference Reports*. The task force will pass its report on to the Licensure Qualifications Oversight Group for review and evaluation. The Structural Engineering Examination/Recognition Task Force will make recommendations concerning changes to the

Model Law, and the Committee on Uniform Procedures and Legislative Guidelines has a variety of housekeeping motions for delegates to consider. And those are only a few of the committees that will present reports—it will be a busy two days!

On Friday after the zone meetings, we will gather for the 2003 Awards Luncheon. It is an opportunity to recognize members of the Council for their efforts on behalf of licensure, NCEES, and their boards. Each of the recipients has offered something unique and important to the engineering and surveying communities. The Distinguished Service Award with Special Commendation is given to only one member a year. He or she must have won the Distinguished Service Award at least six years prior and continued to be of service after receipt of the award. A maximum of five Distinguished Service Awards may be given each year to members of Member Boards, and the Meritorious Service Award is given to employees of Member Boards who have made outstanding efforts to further the mission, vision, goals, and effectiveness of the Council through service to NCEES and their boards. This year the Council will award a posthumous Presidential Commendation to Leo W. Ruth, Jr., P.E., an NCEES Past President and long-time advocate for the professions and licensure.

You will see a new face among staff this year. Jennifer King is a certified meeting professional who joined us in October. She has worked hard to ensure that this Annual Meeting will be successful and enjoyable. Please help her put names with faces by introducing yourself when you have a chance. I look forward to greeting you at Baltimore's Inner Harbor!

—*Betsy Browne*
NCEES Executive Director



Betsy Browne
NCEES Executive Director

2002–2003 NCEES Award Winners

The following will be recognized at the 2003 Annual Meeting Awards Luncheon.

Distinguished Service Award with Special Commendation

John W. Steadman, Ph.D., P.E.

Distinguished Service Award

J. Richard Cottingham, P.E., P.L.S.

Roy W. Entz, P.E., P.L.S.

Dale A. Jans, P.E.

John R. Madden, P.E.

Murray L. Rhodes, L.S.

Meritorious Service Award

Cindi Christenson, P.E.

Angeline C. Kinnaird

Betty L. Rose

Presidential Commendation

Leo W. Ruth, Jr., P.E.



Don Hiatte, P.E.
NCEES President-Elect

“We could become our own worst enemy if we allow differences of opinion to keep us from working together as a professional community to achieve public protection.”

—Don Hiatte

We have met the enemy and he is us

The title of this article is a quote from Pogo Possum, a comic strip character created by the late Walt Kelly. Kelly did an outstanding job of getting us old timers who read the comics to keep abreast of the various worldwide current events in order to appreciate Pogo's comments. So why in the world am I quoting a comic strip character? One reason is that I am following the lead of at least three NCEES Presidents who either quoted a well-known baseball player, Yogi Berra, who grew up in the “hill area” of St. Louis, or Charles Schultz's characters Charlie Brown and Lucy in one of their articles. So the precedent has been set, and by the way, the names of the three Presidents are Krebs, Fairfield, and Liston.

I started this article with a quote from Walt Kelly's comic strip character to get us thinking about the many issues that are facing us as a licensure council for engineers and surveyors, and identifying any enemies in that effort. As we think about this statement, let's look at the NCEES vision statement.

The vision of the NCEES is to provide leadership in professional licensure of engineers and land surveyors through excellence in uniform laws, licensing standards and professional ethics for the protection of the public health, safety and welfare.

Who could possibly be our enemy in striving for the “protection of the public health, safety, and welfare”? We could become our own worst enemy if we allow differences of opinion to keep us from working together as a professional community to achieve public protection. We must work closely and cooperatively with those organizations and societies that have an interest in the engineering and surveying professions. I would like to try to develop additional relationships with technical organizations and strengthen the ones that we have.

I encourage each of you to study closely the report of the Advisory Committee on Council Activities, specifically that portion dealing with the NCEES Strategic Plan. The committee has done an outstanding job in taking our input and

identifying what we consider to be the five most important “issue areas” facing the Council. Specific goals to be accomplished in each issue area have been identified along with who is responsible for each and a suggested time frame for completion or reporting. The issue areas that you and I have identified in order of importance are exam issues, accreditation, value of licensure, mobility, and splintering. Be sure you are ready to vote on this most important document at the Annual Meeting.

In anticipation of the adoption of the revised strategic plan, we are using the goals in each of the issue areas to formulate the charges for the 2003–2004 committees and task forces. It is interesting to note that education, examination, and experience are addressed either directly or indirectly in one or more of the issue areas. A new group to be formed for the 2003–2004 year is the Education/Accreditation Task Force (EATF). Though new, this task force will springboard from the extensive discussion of education and accreditation that has been ongoing this year at NCEES meetings. The objectives of the task force will be to assist the Board of Directors in the matter of accreditation—an NCEES Strategic Plan issue area—by providing further study and recommendations on education/accreditation in the licensure process. The task force will define the issues and concerns with education/accreditation and make suggestions for consideration by the Board of Directors and the Council.

Cooperation, collaboration, and commitment are words all of us have heard used frequently. It has been my experience since being involved with NCEES that we as a Council attempt to cooperate with each other and with those who have like interests. This spirit of cooperation will continue, and I hope that it will become stronger. What I have seen within NCEES leads me to believe that our members are committed, are cooperative, and are willing to collaborate where appropriate. If this is true then, we will never have to worry about “the enemy” being ourselves.

—Donald L. Hiatte, P.E.
NCEES President-Elect

USCIEP voices concern about procedures developed to implement NAFTA MRD

*The USCIEP distributed the following news release in July 2003.
NCEES is a member organization of USCIEP.*



Dale W. Sall, PE, L.S.
Chair of USCIEP
NCEES Past President

The United States Council for International Engineering Practice (USCIEP) has voiced concerns about the Operational Procedures Document (OPD) developed by Canada, Mexico, and the Texas Board of Professional Engineers in September 2002, designed to implement the North

American Free Trade Agreement Mutual Recognition Document (NAFTA MRD). The OPD contains procedures for processing applications for temporary licensure submitted by engineers from Canada, Mexico, and Texas wishing to practice in one another's jurisdictions. While applauding the efforts of Texas, Canada, and Mexico to enact the NAFTA MRD, USCIEP points out that the current OPD is not consistent with the *Model Law* supported by U.S. engineering and surveying licensing boards across the United States.

Titled the NAFTA Mutual Recognition Agreement Operational Procedures Document based on NAFTA MRD Articles (or OPD for short), the OPD states that it is intended to serve as the

...controlling document with respect to standards, criteria, policies, procedures, and measures for jurisdictions implementing and operating under the NAFTA MRD. In the absence of any reference or specification in the OPD (Operational Procedures Document), provisions in the host jurisdiction shall prevail. In the absence of any reference or specification in the OPD or host jurisdiction, the MRD shall prevail. (from Section 1.2)

The OPD instructs Canada, Mexico, and Texas how to process applications of Mexican, Canadian, and U.S. engineers who want to

obtain temporary licenses under NAFTA to practice engineering in any of the three jurisdictions. With common procedures in place, the OPD proposes to help ensure consistency in application processing and assessment of applicants' qualifications.

The USCIEP supports the concept of a document designed to implement the NAFTA MRD, but it cannot support the OPD because of its significant departure from the *NCEES Model Law*, guidelines approved by U.S. jurisdictional licensing boards to use in developing and revising licensing law and rules of conduct for professional engineers. First established in 1932, the *Model Law* functions as the common denominator for all U.S. engineering licensure boards regarding qualifications for engineering licensure. Without such an agreed-upon document as the *Model Law*, interstate licensure mobility would be very difficult.

The *Model Law* requires applicants to meet specific education and experience standards and pass individual competency examinations, including the Fundamentals of Engineering (FE) examination and the Principles and Practice of Engineering (PE) examination. These requirements ensure competency in engineering and protect the public health, safety, and welfare. In contrast, the OPD permits applicants to be licensed essentially on the basis of experience alone, even without an accredited degree. The OPD accepts 12 years of acceptable engineering experience (of which at least 8 years must follow licensure) for individuals holding accredited or recognized degrees; or 16 years of acceptable engineering experience (of which at least 12 years must follow licensure) for individuals holding non-accredited or non-recognized degrees of 4 years' duration or more. References are required to verify an applicant's experience which must demonstrate that the individual has been "in responsible charge of significant engineering work" as defined in the OPD.

(continued on page 12)

The Model Law . . . ensures competency in engineering and protects the public health, safety, and welfare. In contrast, the OPD permits applicants to be licensed essentially on the basis of experience alone, even without an accredited degree.

... procedures developed to implement NAFTA MRD (continued from page 11)

According to the Web site of the Texas Board of Professional Engineers (www.tbpe.state.tx.us/), the Texas Board has implemented this provision of the OPD. The Web site states that Texas will allow cross-border applicants to waive the FE examination and the PE examination if they have either 12 years of creditable experience with an EAC/ABET-accredited degree; or 16 years of creditable experience with a non-accredited degree; or six years' experience with an EAC/ABET-accredited Ph.D. degree without having failed the PE examination in the previous four years. This is a significant deviation from the *Model Law*, which for decades has been accepted by all U.S. jurisdictions.

USCIEP Chair Dale W. Sall, P.E., L.S., outlined USCIEP's concerns and recommendations in a recent letter to E. David Dorchester, P.E., who represented the Texas Board of Professional Engineers during talks with Canada, represented by the Canadian Council of Professional Engineers (CCPE), and Mexico, represented by the Comité Mexicano para la Práctica Internacional de la Ingeniería (COMPII). In his letter, Sall applauds the efforts of Texas; however, he says USCIEP "cannot endorse the OPD as the optimal route for all jurisdictions."

As a Representative Engineering Organization

(REO) of the OPD's parent document—the NAFTA MRD—and recognized by the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative as the relevant professional body to represent U.S. professional engineers in development of the NAFTA MRD, USCIEP will closely monitor the progress of the OPD. In an effort to do so, USCIEP has requested copies of the annual activity reports exchanged between Texas, Canada, and Mexico. USCIEP invites the Texas Board of Professional Engineers (the Representative Engineering Organization of the OPD only) and the other parties to discuss provisions of the OPD and address USCIEP concerns. Recognizing that the NAFTA MRD has implications that reach far beyond the jurisdiction of one or a few states and because of its status as REO, USCIEP expects to be notified of and involved in any efforts to modify the NAFTA MRD. USCIEP also insists upon addressing and approving any proposed changes to the document.

—NCEES Staff

For more information, please visit the USCIEP Web site at www.usciep.org. If you have questions or comments, contact USCIEP Secretary-Treasurer and NCEES Executive Director Betsy Browne or her assistant Lisa Townsend White at lwhite@ncees.org or 800-250-3196, ext. 482.

The United States Council for International Engineering Practice (USCIEP) promotes qualifications and procedures to assist professional engineers licensed in the United States who wish to practice internationally. The USCIEP identifies constraints to practice, recommends procedures to eliminate artificial constraints, promotes interest in cross-border practice, and negotiates and recommends tentative agreements to U.S. jurisdictions for cross-border practice. It is a not-for-profit organization composed of four member organizations—ABET, Inc.; the American Council of Engineering Companies; the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying; and the National Society of Professional Engineers. Formed in 1989 to negotiate with its counterparts in Mexico and Canada to develop a Mutual Recognition Document for engineering services under the North American Free Trade Agreement, USCIEP has expanded its role by participating in international organizations including the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Engineer Coordinating Committee, the Engineers Mobility Forum, and the Transatlantic Economic Partnership.

Is fire protection engineering more than designing sprinklers?

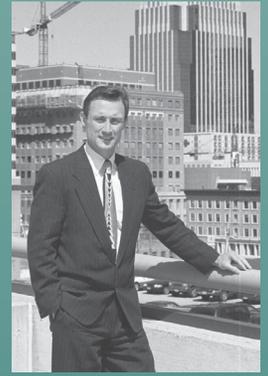
In the wake of recent fire tragedies, it is ever more important to have licensed fire protection engineers deal with the numerous health and safety provisions of board codes. Unfortunately, not all jurisdictional authorities appreciate the value of a licensed engineer being involved with fire protection systems design. It is important for licensing boards to proactively reach out to code officials and fire marshals. As design professionals and licensure board members charged with the responsibility to protect the public, we must educate and build bridges with enforcement officials regarding the role of fire protection engineers in building design. We must lead by example and continue to better educate ourselves in the current practices of fire protection. I spend many volunteer hours educating code officials, attending their meetings, and tackling the challenges of code enforcement with them—there are many dividends in doing so—and I encourage other fire protection engineers and design professionals to do the same.

When I was first appointed to the Minnesota Board of Architecture, Engineering, Land Surveying, Geoscience, and Interior Design, it was very apparent to me that no one truly comprehended and appreciated the technical discipline of fire protection engineering (i.e., what and who we are). At the time of my appointment, the board was struggling with licensing issues with respect to sprinkler design and layout. This proved to be one of the major reasons I was appointed to the board—to help sort this out. The board unsuccessfully struggled to claim sprinkler design as within the realm and purview of a licensed design professional. Minnesota law, initiated by the state fire marshal's office, pre-empts the board's authority and allows an NICET Level III or higher technician to design and lay out sprinkler systems. During the debate, I established a voluntary technical advisory group (a wonderful way for fire protection engineers [FPEs] to get involved with their licensing boards) composed of industry representatives, engineers, contractors, a few board members, and even an occasional lobbyist. The jurisdictional authorities believed the sprinkler contractors were as competent (if not more) as the practicing engineers at large (i.e., mechanical) and that there were just not enough FPEs to suffice the demand if the law were changed. It was the old chicken-and-egg argument.

In the end, the law remained but the lively discourse resulted in building a communications bridge between the state fire marshal's office and the board. Similarly, the board became more proactive with the state's Building Codes Division. The design professionals gained a better understanding of the jurisdictional authority challenges and needs, and vice versa. The professional attributes of fire protection engineering were elevated. While those intimately involved in this debate enjoyed a better understanding of fire protection engineering, it was very apparent that other regulatory groups, professional associations, and the public at large were still ignorant of the role of the FPE in the design process. The Minnesota Designer Selection Review Board, which is responsible for the selection of design teams for select state construction projects, asked me to make a presentation to the Selection Board, describing the role of the fire protection engineer in the design process. It was quite evident by the questions asked by the members of the Selection Board that their understanding of the discipline of fire protection engineering was extremely limited to that of sprinkler design. The Selection Board concluded that there were non-FPE-licensed engineers competent to design sprinklers and fire alarm systems, yet wrongly neglected the other attributes of a fire protection engineer.

The Western Zone will present a resolution at the 2003 Annual Meeting requesting that the President "appoint a task force to study and develop a national position and/or policy that will provide a method to prevent the bypassing of the engineering registration laws by building officials and other fire protection authorities regarding fire alarm and fire sprinkler systems." If appointed, the task force would definitely have its work cut out for it. However, I anticipate that with more education and bridge building by design professionals with code officials and others, the common and dangerous misconception that fire protection engineers are at best an afterthought and at worst unnecessary to building design can be dispelled.

—Michael A. O'Hara, P.E., Past Chair of the Minnesota Board



Michael A. O'Hara, P.E., Past Chair of the Minnesota Board

Most of O'Hara's work with the Minnesota Board was not specific to fire protection issues but related to the broader challenges facing design professionals. An article by O'Hara regarding his experience on the board will appear in a future edition of Licensure Exchange.

Portions of this article originally appeared in the Winter 2002 issue of *Fire Protection Engineering* magazine. Copyright, Society of Fire Protection Engineers. Used with permission.



L. Robert "Larry" Smith, R.E.
EPE Committee Chair

Parking smarking

Someone once said that history does not repeat itself; historians repeat themselves. However, there has been one theme in my 35 years of professional experience that has always repeated itself: The lack of sufficient parking for a project. Well informed, well-intentioned developers seem to have a blind spot on this point.

We had a group of six doctors who wanted to build a medical office complex. By the time the architect drew footprints that satisfied their needs, they basically had zero lot lines. We discussed the fact that the city was not going to allow the building to be built without parking. They decided to raise the building by one floor and park under it. The problem was that the total height of the building was higher than the zoning ordinance allowed. A smaller problem was the fact that they still lacked sufficient parking for their square footage. They asked for a recommendation. I recommended that they scrap the top floor. This would reduce the demand for parking and lower the height of the building to meet zoning. What could be more rational? I was told to be more creative and less rational. The land had been purchased by the group of six doctors. They were all part of an LLC that was going to put up the building. Whom did I want to not have an office? I told them that maybe none of them was going to have an office, if they didn't start being reasonable.

The business manager for the group had a great idea. They would go for a variance for the building height. They would have their employees park each other in. The doctors and their patients would have accessible spaces. I pointed out the section in the zoning ordinance that prohibited spaces that were blocked by other spaces. They thought that was outrageous. I explained to them that the first people to arrive were usually the first ones to leave. Accountants refer to this in inventory control as "FIFO"—first in, first out. With their plan, the late arrivers would have to go and move their cars. Very disruptive and very likely to cause dents in surrounding vehicles. One of the doctors had the perfect solution. His father-in-law, who used to own a parking lot, could valet park all the cars. He wouldn't have to contribute as much

to his in-laws'support' that way. I inquired if this individual could work from 7:00 am to 6:00 pm every day. Those were their proposed hours of operation. Probably. Except for the six months he spent in Florida each winter and the time he went to the time shares in New Hampshire and Newport each summer. Seeing the real feasibility of that plan, they now wanted to know if they could have their employees park in a DOT Park-and-Ride lot, and have a janitor drive them back and forth to their cars. No one would have to know that they were using the lot. No one except the Zoning Board, that is. I also pointed out that the janitor might need a school bus to drop off everyone at the end of the day—the one time when people tend to leave as a group. I suggested they consider buying the property next door and using it for parking. Their next question was, if they bought the property next door, how much could they expand the building? They weren't getting this. I told them they could lower the building and park on the property next door.

They approached the owner of the land next door. It was owned by two other doctors. They planned to build an office. The group was now going to be eight doctors. They wanted to enlarge the building plan. I told them they were going backwards. They went forward, and the Zoning Board told them to not pass go, not to collect \$200, and go directly to jail.

Ultimately, two of the doctors bought out the other four. They still put up too big a building and were never able to successfully rent more than half the space at any time. They finally did rent to a telemarketer whose employees came in early in the evening, so as to be able to call people sitting down to dinner. I don't think he paid a lot of rent.

A knowledgeable developer was buying an abandoned school. He was going to convert it to office space and had a pension company that would lease it all. They were talking a ten-year lease with a bunch of five-year options. The developer was really excited. I mentioned to him that there was a major difference between 12 teachers, 4 administrators, and 300 students using the building and 100 people working in an office. The big difference was the fact that 16

people could find parking in the surrounding streets, but 100 couldn't. He took this to heart and negotiated, in his purchase of the building, that the city would allow him to change the building use and not require him to provide on-site parking. The city said fine. They had a white elephant to unload. He went about this project and was under way, when the prospective tenant asked, "Where is the parking lot going to be?" Good question. He didn't have a good answer. As a result he didn't have a tenant. He gave me a call.

The building would be ideal for me. When my surveyors left, they took their vehicles with them. I could schedule all meetings out of the office. I could change our working hours so that we arrived before the streets started to fill with vehicles. As a matter of fact, he was going to move his operation into the building himself. His brother-in-law was also going to take space. Since I wasn't a relative, I figured I could pass on this one. The work stopped on the building. The last time I saw it, it was still standing empty, with the exception of the developer's space. Of course, I was a rat for not renting from him.

Another client received a zoning variance many years ago. The employees were to park in a remote lot down the street. If anyone ever parked in the remote lot, memory of such was lost to all but the oldest inhabitant of the village. The lot was chained. No one knew where the key for the lock was kept. The variance was long forgotten. The employees parked in the street.

The client wanted to put in an emergency generator to back up the building. The natural place was in the adjacent parking lot. He would only lose two spaces. The zoning officer asked for a parking analysis. We did it and were shocked to find that the client was short a bunch of spaces already. I asked the client if the spaces were nonconforming use. This was going to require a trip to the Zoning Board if they were planning to change a non-conforming use. His lawyer got the application ready for filing, and we supplied the back-up materials. The zoning officer, in reviewing the zoning history of the parcel, discovered that the client had received a zoning variance to use the remote

lot. We redid the parking analysis using the remote lot in the calculations. The client was still short some parking spaces and was making things worse by removing two spaces at the main building for the generator. The client went to the Zoning Board, requesting relief, and was lynched. The board was not going to allow a diminution of spaces that include in the calculations the mythical use of a remote lot. The client argued that if the tenants parked on the street, in legal spaces, what harm was there? The board told him that the ordinance required off-street parking. He had received a variance and had ignored it for over 20 years. The application was defeated, and the client then faced an enforcement action. The chain was cut, and the lot was used. For about two months. I assume it will be used, again, if they ever plan to go back to zoning.

To every rule there is an exception. We had a client who wanted to turn a flop house into a temporary residence for the homeless. He was going to make small efficiency apartments. Maximum length of stay was to be six months. 40 units. Parking requirement was 60 spaces, according to the ordinance.

The flop house had the distinction of being a former hotel, one block from a former downtown railroad station. It had actually been quite the place, prior to the Great Depression. When train use fell off, the hotel went downhill. Part of the problem was there were only six parking spaces. The main problem was that no one traveled overnight to this city anymore. It was a city in Massachusetts that had its heyday when shoes were still manufactured in this country.

We appeared before the city selectmen. The property needed to be changed from commercial to multi-family. They were appalled by the difference between parking provided and parking required. Finally, the developer's lawyer put it into perspective. He said, "The people who will be staying here are homeless. They don't own cars. If they did, they would be living in them." The zoning was granted unanimously.

—L. Robert "Larry" Smith, P.E.
*Chair of the Committee for Examinations
for Professional Engineers*

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Upcoming
EVENTS

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION
August 13–16	Annual Meeting	Baltimore, MD
September 1	Holiday—Office Closed	
September 26–27	Board of Directors' Orientation	Clemson, SC
October 24	PE/PLS Exam Administration	
October 25	FE/FLS Exam Administration	

Enhancing exam security *(continued from page 1)*

proctors are aware of security concerns and understand how to protect “live” examinations before and after the testing period. ESTF Motion 3 requests that staff develop and implement a process to assist Member Boards in ensuring that all proctors have successfully completed relevant training before participating in any NCEES exam administration. With this process in place, the Council can be assured that all proctors are aware of proper procedures and that all candidates will take the exams under similar conditions.

In anticipation of the Annual Meeting, please read the ESTF report in its entirety, found in the *2003 Action Items and Conference Reports*, mailed to Annual Meeting registrants in July. An in-depth explanation of each of the four motions is presented. Also in the report are 10 recommendations for additions to or changes in procedures designed to enhance security and support the implementation of the four motions. If you have questions regarding the ESTF motions, recommendations, or report, ask your board delegate to the spring zone meeting, consult a member of your zone leadership, or ask questions at the Annual Meeting. In order for NCEES exams to continue to be excellent tools for boards to use when determining candidates' eligibility for licensure, exam security must be a top priority. Consider the findings of the ESTF, provide your input, and prepare to act on the ESTF report at the Annual Meeting.

—NCEES Staff

POSTAL NOTICE

Licensure Exchange is published bimonthly by the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying, 280 Seneca Creek Road, Seneca, SC 29678-9214

Periodicals postage paid at Clemson, SC 29633

Postmaster:
 Send address changes to
Licensure Exchange
 P.O. Box 1686
 Clemson, SC 29633-1686

ISSN NO. 1093-541X
 Volume 7, Issue 4



National Council of Examiners
 for Engineering and Surveying
 P.O. Box 1686
 Clemson, SC 29633-1686

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