

NCEES responds to changing times

In 1964, Bob Dylan released a song titled "The Times They Are A-Changin'." Although Dylan was singing about social change in the 1960s, the lyrics also rang true for licensure and NCEES at the time. During that decade, the *Model Law* was significantly revised, the first national uniform exam for professional engineers was administered, and the Council began addressing the growing complexity of the profession and the social environment.

Council leaders also began voicing concern about the number of state-government publications recommending the centralization of authority in a single professional or vocational licensing administrator. In his 1966 President's Report, Leo Ruth cautioned that "such an arrangement would completely nullify the effectiveness of boards in determining an applicant's competence based on his engineering judgment and experience."

Today, the Council is still facing changing times. A new licensure model, additional education requirements for licensure, and the effect of continuing-education requirements on mobility are some of the issues we are now addressing. Another issue that has recently received attention at Council meetings and in *Licensure Exchange* articles is how the makeup and authority of our Member Boards and the roles of various types of NCEES members are changing. Some have said that these trends do not bode well for the future involvement of engineers and surveyors in the regulation of their professions or for the future of the Council. In fact, research into past provisions of the NCEES *Constitution and Bylaws* demonstrates that significant change has already occurred to the fundamental principles that guided the founding of NCEES.

Over time, the Council has moved away from some of its founding principles. The key question we must answer is, should we move back to those principles or should we declare them out of date and forget them?

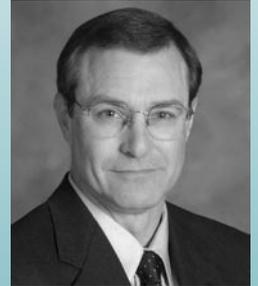
The transformation of Council membership

For its first 26 years, the Council recognized only Member Board members. No associate member designation existed. In 1946, provisions were added to the *Constitution and Bylaws* to include the associate member status and to allow those members to vote on behalf of their Member Board. This first definition included the requirement that an associate member also be a "registered engineer."

It is clear that the intent of the Council for its first 26 years was for Member Board members to be the voting block of the Council and thereby set its policy. Direct involvement by the Member Boards was desired and required. Perhaps it was due to post-war conditions, but by 1946 apparently some states were finding it difficult to have Member Board members participate in the meetings of the Council, and the *Constitution and Bylaws* requirements were changed as a result.

Although the Council allowed Member Boards to vest their vote in a non-board member, it is also clear that the Council wanted to maintain the professional connection to Council activities by requiring associate members to be licensed engineers. The Council maintained this definition until 1976 when the *Constitution and Bylaws* was again revised and the requirement was dropped. In his 1975 Annual Meeting address, Council President Morton Fine explained that "the shorter tenures and more

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Jon D. Nelson, P.E.
 NCEES President



Martin A. Pedersen, L.S.
 NCEES President-Elect

Special Annual
 Meeting Issue

NCEES responds to changing times
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rapid turnover in the personnel of Member Boards as well as the continued and accelerated addition of public members to our registration boards make it mandatory that the *Constitution and Bylaws* reflect these new conditions.” Once again, the Council was responding to changing times.

The face of the Council today

In 2000, the Council again revised the definition of associate member, in Section 3.031 of the *Constitution and Bylaws*. The definition changed from “a secretary, executive director, or other employee of a Member Board” to “an employee of a Member Board.” The rationale for the change was “to recognize the differences that exist among the Member Boards.”

Currently, at least 34 Member Board administrators are not employees of their Member Board but are instead employed and supervised directly by the state or another umbrella agency. Many are employed without the involvement of their Member Board, and the Member Board has little or no authority over them. Do we need to revisit the definition of an associate member? Should we drop the “employee of a Member Board” provision? If so, would this take us even further from our founding principles?

Perhaps even more significant is the definition of a Member Board. Section 1.02 of the *Constitution and Bylaws* defines a board as “a legally constituted board of any state, territory, or political subdivision of the United States of America that administers an Act regulating the practice [emphasis added] of professional engineering, a single branch of professional engineering, or land surveying.” This definition has not changed substantially since the early days of the Council, but the nature of the Member Boards has.

Today, some boards are subject to umbrella agencies and are advisory only. Does a board that does not have the authority to regulate the profession in its state fit our definition of a Member Board? If a board is merely advisory, does it qualify to be a voting member of this Council under the current *Constitution and Bylaws*? Should the Council set apart such

boards or embrace them just like all the others? Have some states strayed too far from the concept of the traditional professional board? Is it time to respond again?

The structures of our boards are changing, and the authority of the boards to regulate the professions and the ability of the boards to participate in national issues are diminishing. Gradually over the years, the Council has responded with revisions to the *Constitution and Bylaws* and in the process has redefined itself. Were the changes made out of necessity or convenience? Were they proper responses given the Council’s role, or were they examples of capitulation that facilitated misguided trends?

Over time, the Council has moved away from some of its founding principles. The key question we must answer is, should we move back to those principles or should we declare them out of date and forget them? A motion from the Advisory Committee on Council Activities will essentially pose this question at the Annual Meeting in August. ACCA Motion 5 proposes a change to the *Constitution and Bylaws* that only delegates who are members of Member Boards be entitled to vote and that an associate member may not serve as a Member Board delegate for voting purposes.

The Council vote on this issue will be of significant interest because it will indicate a direction for the Council relative to the key question. It may also indicate that there is even more work to be done on the *Constitution and Bylaws* if we are to keep up with the changing times. In the past, the Council has responded to change. We can continue in this way or we can attempt to shape the future and return to the founding principles. There is risk either way. The choice will be yours.

Jon D. Nelson, P.E.
NCEES President
and
Martin A. Pedersen, L.S.
NCEES President-Elect

UPDATE

Council to meet in Memphis August 24–27

Welcome to Memphis, Tennessee, home of the 2005 NCEES Annual Meeting. This year's meeting at the Peabody Memphis Hotel, just a block from Beale Street, will offer Council members many opportunities to take in the soulful sights and sounds of this historic city. The Council will also come together to conduct critical activities at the Thursday and Friday business sessions.

Delegates will vote on wide-ranging initiatives presented for the Council's consideration by the Board of Directors, zones, and committees. This issue summarizes some of these motions (page 6), but be sure to read the *Action Items and Conference Reports* for in-depth information. You will receive a copy in the mail if you have registered to attend the meeting.

The Council will also elect a new president-elect and treasurer, and the article beginning on page 8 asks the nominees about some of the current issues the Council is facing. You'll also find a Q&A for the two incoming zone vice presidents, who were elected for two-year terms at their respective zone interim meetings.

In addition, the meeting agenda offers numerous forums and workshops. The Engineers' Forum and Surveyors' Forum on Wednesday will feature timely discussions about many of the committee findings. New board members will find the orientation session designed for them to be a valuable overview of how the Council works. In other sessions, attendees can learn about the results of the NCEES security audit, leadership roles within NCEES, and how to promote the benefits of licensure.

New Council publications

The publication *Results of the 2005 NCEES Member Board Survey* will be distributed at the Annual Meeting. This survey of U.S. engineering and surveying licensing boards is conducted every two years and contains information about licensing requirements for individuals and firms who practice or offer to practice engineering or surveying to the public in the United States and its territories. The survey questions were reviewed by the Member Board Administrators' Networking Group at the Board Presidents' Assembly in February to ensure that it is a useful source of information for both Member Boards and the public. The survey was then conducted electronically, and results were compiled this summer. Contact NCEES staff to request a printed copy of the survey. In addition, it will be posted online in late August.

A few years ago, the Council published the white paper *Using the Fundamentals of Engineering Examination to Assess Academic Programs*. An updated version of this publication is currently being printed and will also be available at the Annual Meeting. The revised paper includes new assessment methods, addresses the revised FE exam specifications that go into effect this October, and discusses standard deviation data not available for the original publication. The new white paper will also be mailed to all Member Board members.

Registered continuing-education provider program

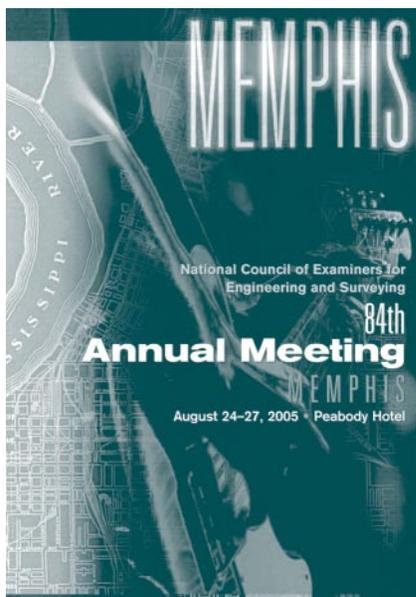
At its May meeting, the Board of Directors approved the development of a registered continuing-education provider program.

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Betsy Browne
NCEES Executive Director

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*Council to meet in Memphis
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Director of Professional Services Mike Shannon, P.E., has already started working on this so that it can be put into action next summer. This program will be a complement to existing Member Boards' approval programs. It will review educational processes used by organizations and monitor providers against established criteria to recognize providers that adhere to effective practices. The program will streamline the continuing-education process for licensees by providing a centralized recordkeeping system that will create reports or be accessible to attendees.

New exam development staff

Exam volunteers—licensed professional engineers and surveyors from consulting, industry, government, and education—work closely with the NCEES staff technical assistants to write and review new items, develop exams from the bank of approved items, and review assembled exams to prepare them for printing. The technical assistants are also licensed engineers with many years' experience in consulting, industry, and government. I'd like to introduce two new members of our Exam Development Department. Timothy Miller, P.E., and Terrell Parrish, P.E., recently joined the other members of the exam development department—Ron Bridwell, P.E., Lehmon Dekle, P.E., Davy McDowell, P.E., and Director Chuck Wallace, P.E.—and are already hard at work.

Tim is responsible for the Environmental, Mechanical, Metallurgical, and Control Systems PE exams. After receiving a B.S. in civil engineering from Virginia Tech, Tim worked as an engineering consultant for more than 20 years, 15 of which he was also a project manager. He is currently licensed in South Carolina.

Terrell is overseeing the Structural I, Structural II, and Chemical PE exams as well as working with the Records Program evaluating applicants' engineering experience. He earned a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from Georgia Tech. He has 36 years' experience working for architectural engineering consultants and three years' experience at the Naval Facilities Engineering Command in Charleston, S.C.

He is currently licensed in South Carolina, North Carolina, and Georgia.

Examination news

Finally, while most of this issue is devoted to the Annual Meeting, it also a good opportunity to update you about the most recent exam pass rates (facing page), score turnaround times, and exam usage trends.

NCEES provides scoring services to boards and recommends a cutoff score for each administration. It scored a total of 30,269 PE, Structural II, FS, and PS exams this past year. The current contractor for the FE scored approximately 17,000 FE exams for October 2004 and about 24,000 for April 2005. NCEES will begin scoring the FE exam beginning with the October 2005 administration.

For the October 2004 and April 2005 exams, NCEES released the results of the PE exams in 6 weeks and the surveying exams in 3–4 weeks. FE results were returned in 6 weeks for both administrations. Unlike the other PE exams, the Structural II exam consists of essay questions, not multiple-choice ones. NCEES graders evaluate examinees' solutions in a scoring workshop, so this process requires more time than grading multiple-choice tests. Structural II results were released at 7 weeks post-administration for October 2004 and 10.5 weeks for April 2005.

The number of FE exams taken in 2004–2005 was about the same as the previous year (–0.6%) and still above where it was a couple of years ago. The number of PE exams taken in 2004–2005 was less than last year (–9%). A significant decrease in the numbers of candidates taking the larger exams—civil, mechanical, and electrical and computer—is the main contributor to this decline. The FS exam showed an increase of 8.6% from last year, and the PS declined (–6.1%).

Again, I look forward to seeing you soon in Memphis.

*Betsy Browne
NCEES Executive Director*

Pass rates for April 2005

Fundamentals of Engineering

FE exam pass rates below reflect results for examinees who attended EAC/ABET-accredited college/university engineering programs.

All modules

Examination module	First-time takers	Repeat takers
Chemical	86%	47%
Civil	83%	43%
Electrical	76%	24%
Environmental	80%	45%
Industrial	71%	37%
Mechanical	86%	37%
General	79%	35%

General exam only

Examinees' college/university degree discipline	First-time takers	Repeat takers
Chemical	83%	41%
Civil	77%	34%
Electrical	68%	29%
Environmental	85%	46%
Industrial	71%	16%
Mechanical	84%	43%
Others	76%	35%

Principles and Practice of Engineering

Examination	First-time takers	Repeat takers
Architectural	62%	31%
Naval Architecture and Marine	93%	50%
Chemical	69%	28%
Civil	66%	35%
Electrical and Computer	68%	34%
Environmental	74%	36%
Mechanical	66%	31%
Structural I	44%	23%
Structural II	47%	28%

Surveying

Examination	First-time takers	Repeat takers
Fundamentals of Surveying	57%	26%
Principles and Practice of Surveying	73%	33%

Council will vote on variety of issues at Annual Meeting

All members who register to attend the Annual Meeting will receive the *Action Items and Conference Reports*, which contains all committee and officer reports, a summary of action items and order of business, and the proposed 2005–2006 budget. Please take time to read through the publication before attending so that you can make informed decisions when the Council votes. Here are some of the highlights of the motions coming before the Council during the business sessions.

Board of Directors' motions

The Board of Directors will present three motions for Council action.

- ◆ The Board will move that the Council authorize the creation of an NCEES National Engineering Practice Award to be presented annually beginning in 2008 to recognize the integration of engineering education and the practice of engineering. The Board has endorsed the development of an awards program to advance the integration of licensed practice and education. The Board believes that this action will further the intent of the Council as expressed in the NCEES Strategic Plan by increasing the understanding of the value of licensure to both faculty and the undergraduate engineering population.
- ◆ The Board will move that the Council authorize an exception to Examination Administration Policy 10 to allow NCEES to contract directly with the Japan PE/FE Examiners Council (JPEC) to provide NCEES exams to JPEC candidates. Since 1994, the FE exam has been offered to candidates of JPEC through a memo of agreement between JPEC and the Oregon Board. In 2005, the Oregon Board entered into an agreement with ELSEES effective with the April 2006 exam administration. Under the provisions of EAP 10, NCEES may, with the approval of the Council, contract to provide exams or assistance in preparing examinations to an appropriately sanctioned licensing body of a foreign government. Although not currently sanctioned by the Japanese government, JPEC is certified by the Tokyo Metropolitan Government to

administer exams under the Oregon Board memo of agreement, which can be modified to include NCEES. JPEC is also actively pursuing recognition with the appropriate Japanese ministry to satisfy the provisions of EAP 5. The requested exception would allow the administration of NCEES exams to continue in Japan while allowing JPEC the opportunity to obtain the appropriate sanctions.

- ◆ The third Board motion will be for the Council to designate ELSEES, LLC, as the sole-source administrator for all NCEES examinations. During the 2004 Annual Meeting, the Council indicated its desire to move to a single administrator for all NCEES examinations by approving the following motion: "That NCEES package the exams and exam administration as a single source for all NCEES exams no sooner than 2009 and that the NCEES Board of Directors be charged with developing an appropriate action plan for implementation." Subsequent to the 2004 Annual Meeting, the Board was advised that the action as approved would constitute "tying of services" (exams and exam administration), which would be a violation of the Sherman Antitrust Act. The action was rescinded by the Board, and notification of this action was provided to all Member Boards. The Board consulted with legal counsel on the matter to provide alternate recommendations for the Council's consideration at this year's Annual Meeting.

Zone resolutions

The zones will present a total of six resolutions.

- ◆ The Northeast Zone will present a resolution concerning parliamentary procedure of meeting discussions in which delegates alternate between pro and con positions on the floor to further debate. If there is not a delegate to speak against a motion, discussion is suspended. The Northeast Zone will move that NCEES no longer use this procedure but leave it to the discretion of the presiding officer to determine if debate is becoming too lengthy or repetitive.
- ◆ The Northeast Zone will also move that any

motion that would affect exam format, policy, and procedures first be evaluated by the Examination Policy and Procedures (EPP), Examinations for Professional Surveyors (EPS), and Examinations for Professional Engineers (EPE) committees and that their recommendations be reported before a Councilwide vote is held on the motion.

- ◆ The Northeast and Southern Zones will present a resolution that resulted from confusion about who was eligible to attend this year's Board Presidents' Assembly as funded delegates. To clarify this issue, the zones will move that the Member Boards be authorized to designate any board member as the funded board member to attend and that the Member Boards, or their Member Board administrators (MBA), be authorized to designate any board staff person as the funded MBA representative to attend.
- ◆ The Southern Zone will present a resolution calling for Member Boards to allow candidates for licensure as engineers to take the PE exam anytime after they graduate from an EAC/ABET-accredited program and pass the FE exam. After passing the PE exam, they would be required to obtain experience acceptable to the board before they are granted licensure to practice engineering.
- ◆ The Southern and Western Zones will each present a motion related to collection and disbursement of zone funds and whether that responsibility will be transferred to NCEES.

Committee motions

Committees and task forces will present 48 motions. Here are a few highlights.

- ◆ The Licensure Qualifications Oversight Group (LQOG) is proposing several motions, including recommended language requiring additional engineering education for licensure, a professional practice feasibility study and task analysis, and a revised NCEES licensure model. Chair Monte Phillips, Ph.D., P.E., contributed an article to the April 2005 issue of *Licensure Exchange* describing these motions (available at www.ncees.org/licensure/licensure_exchange). One change to the model since that article's publication is elimination of the term *chartered engineer*, which has been replaced in

the proposed model with *engineer title to be determined*. This was changed to avoid confusion with the designation of chartered engineer in other countries.

- ◆ The Committee on Constitution and Bylaws prepared recommended revisions to the *Constitution and Bylaws* pertaining to the provisions for filling the unexpired term of treasurer, the requirements for placing Member Boards in an inactive status for fee arrearages, and the qualifications required for becoming the chair of EPE.
- ◆ The Examination Administration Task Force (ExATF) is presenting 11 motions. Some of the motions are to revise exam administration policies to reflect recent Council actions, some address special exam accommodation requests and exam hand-scoring, and some require Member Boards and testing services to follow current exam security administrative procedures. The task force is also moving to restrict the number of reference materials brought into the exam room and to begin a pilot registration system for exam candidates.
- ◆ The Committee on Uniform Procedures and Legislative Guidelines (UPLG) will move that the *Model Rules* be amended to incorporate an addition to the definition of responsible charge, stating that the licensee is responsible for meeting all the preceding requirements whether the work is being performed remotely or locally. UPLG will also move that language be added to the *Model Rules* stating that experience gained under the technical supervision of an unlicensed individual may be considered if the appropriate credentials of the unlicensed supervisor are submitted to the board. In addition, UPLG will move that the *Model Law* and *Model Rules* be amended to waive the FE examination for engineers holding a Ph.D.
- ◆ The Advisory Committee on Council Activities (ACCA) has prepared motions with suggested wording to be forwarded to the Committee on Constitution and Bylaws to codify the creation of the Board Audit Committee, to clarify the process for submitting and reviewing proposed changes to the *Constitution and Bylaws*, and to say that only delegates who are members of Member Boards shall be entitled to vote.

2005–2006 Board Officer

Elections for president-elect and treasurer will be held at the Annual Meeting on Thursday, August 25. The Committee on Nominations received the Northeast Zone recommendation for president-elect—Louis A. Raimondi, P.E., L.S.—and submitted it as a nomination for consideration by the Council.

The term of the treasurer expired this year. When Martin Pedersen was elected to the position of president-elect at the 2004 Annual Meeting, he resigned from his position as treasurer. This left the treasurer position vacant, with one year remaining on the two-year term. A special election was then held to fill this, and Gregg Brandow, Ph.D., P.E., S.E., was elected. At this year's Annual Meeting, the treasurer will be elected for the normal two-year term. The Committee on Nominations has nominated Gregg Brandow.

In addition to these nominations, any delegate has the privilege of making nominations for treasurer and president-elect from the floor. Such nominations from the floor must be seconded by at least four Member Boards, and the nominees must meet constitutional requirements for office.

The terms of the Northeast and Southern Zone vice presidents also expired this year, and the zones elected candidates to fill the positions. The Committee on Nominations was advised that L. Robert Smith, P.E., was elected Northeast Zone vice president and Mitchell S. Tibshrary Jr., P.E., was elected Southern Zone vice president. William T. Sutherland, P.E., and Jill S. Tietjen, P.E. are beginning the second year of their two-year terms as vice presidents of the Central and Western Zones, respectively.



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

Nominee for President-Elect **Louis A. Raimondi, P.E., L.S.**

Northeast Zone Vice President; member, NCEES Advisory Committee on Council Activities, Committee on Nominations; member, liaison, and consultant, Committee on Law Enforcement; liaison, NCEES Special Committee on Constitution and Bylaws, Committee on Examination Policy and Procedures; member, New Jersey Board of Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors; chair, New Jersey Board Continuing Education Committee for Land Surveyors, Joint Committee of Architects and Engineers; member, National Society of Professional Engineers, New Jersey Society of Professional Engineers (NJSPE), NJSPE Ethics Committee, American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC), ACEC Risk Management Committee, Colonial States Board of Registration, American Academy of Environmental Engineers, New Jersey Society of Municipal Engineers, American Institute of Certified Planners, New York State Association of Professional Land Surveyors, New Jersey Society of Professional Land Surveyors, American Congress on Surveying and Mapping; licensed in seven states as a professional engineer and in four states as a professional land surveyor.

Q: *What do you plan to focus on as president elect? What are your goals for the next two years?*

A: As president-elect, I would focus on issues that are brought before and reviewed by the Board of Directors as well as issues President Pedersen brings to the table. With reference to my goals for the next two years, I would like to accomplish a foolproof program of comity for continuing professional competency (CPC) that does not undermine the current program of comity for initial licensure among the various jurisdictions. I would like to establish a recordkeeping program for CPC credits for anyone who signs up with the Council to keep these records. I believe this would be a revenue-generating program as well as a help to the licensees in the program.

Another goal is to get more members of Member Boards involved in Council activities. It seems to me that we have a tremendous wealth of talent that has gone untapped and should be used. Their willingness to serve and return some of the experiences gained would be beneficial to all.

Also, a great deal of emphasis must be placed on licensure at the college level in whatever manner possible. This, in my opinion, is a must to get more awareness of the licensure

process and more cooperation from the college faculty as well as the colleges themselves.

Q: *At this year's Annual Meeting, the Licensure Qualifications Oversight Group will present several motions for Council consideration, including recommended language requiring additional engineering education for licensure, a professional practice study feasibility and task analysis, and a revised NCEES licensure model. What are your thoughts on this committee's work and the proposed changes to the licensure process?*

A: The Licensure Qualifications Oversight Committee has done a tremendous job in bringing forth proposed changes to the model licensure law. I believe changes are necessary and appropriate now so that they can become effective in 10 years. However, the profession will need to move away from the "if it ain't broke, don't fix it" attitude to get changes put in place. The comments I have heard concerning additional education, being allowed to take part of the exam prior to gaining four years' experience, and other new concepts lead me to believe we have a long road to travel. It is going to take some convincing of Member Board members, education about the issues, and some modifications to the proposed changes before the changes are accepted.

One of my concerns is the addition of another classification of engineer. I have long felt that our acceptance as a profession has been stymied by the many different titles we use to describe an engineer. Likewise, the different organizations that represent engineers are voluminous compared to those of architecture and medicine.

Q: *One topic that generated discussion at Council meetings this year is continuing-education competency requirements for licensure renewal. At its May 2005 meeting, the Board of Directors authorized the creation of a registered continuing-education provider program. What do you feel is the Council's role in dealing with this issue?*

A: I believe that the Council's role, when dealing with comity for CPC credits, is to be the leader in getting comity among all jurisdictions as well as providing a recordkeeping program that can act as a central clearinghouse for proof of compliance with all states' requirements. I hope they will eventually be one and the same.

In the February 2005 issue of *Licensure Exchange*, I wrote about the increasing number of states that are requiring continuing-education credits. In my opinion, this could become an obstacle in the licensure-renewal process. The Board of Directors' action at their May 2005 meeting to create a continuing-education provider program is a good start in addressing this issue.

Q: *Serving as president-elect requires a great deal of time and energy. What compels you to serve as an officer of NCEES?*

A: Serving on the Board of Directors for the last two years as Northeast Zone vice president has been a challenging and gratifying experience. I have spent many years in the professions of engineering and land surveying, and I have been a member of the New Jersey Board for 16 years. I feel it is only fitting that I return some of my experience by continuing to serve the licensure process. I will be retired and have the time to devote to the duties of the office.

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Gregg E. Brandow,
Ph.D., P.E., S.E.

Nominee for Treasurer Gregg E. Brandow, Ph.D., P.E., S.E.

Treasurer, NCEES; chair, NCEES Structural Engineering Examination/Recognition Task Force; member, California Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors, Structural Engineers Association of Southern California, American Society of Civil Engineers, Earthquake Engineering Research Institute, American Institute of Timber Construction, Consulting Engineers and Land Surveyors of California, Seismological Society of America, Rotary International; recipient, 1990 Engineering Alumnus Award for Outstanding Achievement from University of Southern California; president, Brandow & Johnston Associates; licensed in 18 states, with 34 years' experience in structural engineering and consultation and 34 years' experience as an adjunct professor at the University of Southern California.

Q: *You have served as treasurer for the past year. What is the most important thing you learned during the year on the Board of Directors?*

A: I've been able to see first hand that NCEES is a fiscally sound organization run by a Board of Directors that is truly dedicated to both NCEES and the engineering profession. One of the most striking things I've seen while serving on the Board is how much time and energy the other members of the Board—especially President Nelson and President-Elect Pedersen—put into this organization throughout the entire year.

Serving on the Board is different from my experiences serving as chair of the Structural Engineering Examination/Recognition Task Force. With that, we were focused on one area and that committee's activities. Being on the Board means focusing on the Council as a whole and learning what that entails.

Q: *What do you plan to focus on in serving a full two-year term as treasurer of NCEES? What are your goals for the next year?*

A: Because this first year has been a learning year, I hope to use this knowledge to look to the future and see where NCEES' financial strengths and weakness are. I spent much of this year learning how the budget for the next year is developed. Even though it's nonprofit, NCEES has in place the strong controls and checks and balances that any corporation has. As I mentioned in the last issue of *Licensure Exchange*, the budget process starts very soon after the Annual Meeting, and I was able to see all of the energy devoted to developing it.

Q: *Serving as treasurer requires a great deal of time and energy. What compels you to serve as an officer of NCEES?*

A: Coming from a family of engineers, I have always felt that I am obligated to improving the engineering profession. That's why I have taught at the University of Southern California for more than three decades. Working full time and teaching part time give me a unique perspective on issues such as the value of additional education requirements. Additional education is needed and in fact is already being required by many companies when they are hiring engineers. Especially for civil engineers, that fifth year of education is vital to being able to do what is expected when they're hired. There isn't enough time in most programs to cover the things that are required to perform on the job. Being a part of NCEES gives me a role in improving engineering at a different level.

Incoming Northeast Zone Vice President

L. Robert Smith, P.E., F.ASCE, F.NSPE

Chair, Rhode Island State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers; senior section advisor, American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE); chair, NCEES Committee on Examination Policy and Procedures, Committee on Examinations for Professional Engineers; member, NCEES Education/Accreditation Task Force, Committee on Nominations, Committee on Professionalism and Ethics; past president, Rhode Island Society of Professional Engineers, Providence Engineering Society; founding member, Society for the Study of Professional Ethics; member, Order of the Engineer; vice chair, Civil and Environmental Engineering Advisory Council of the University of Rhode Island; affiliate member, Rhode Island Association of Wetland Scientists; past national director and fellow, NSPE; northeast regional vice chairman, Professional Engineers in Private Practice; recipient, 1999 Providence Engineering Society Humanitarian of the Year Award, 2002 NCEES Northeast Zone Distinguished Service Award, 2004 NCEES Distinguished Service Award, and 2005 ASCE Rhode Island section Faithful Service Award; 1980–2004 president, Waterman Engineering Company; licensed in six states.

Q: *What do you plan to focus on in your term as Northeast Zone vice president? What are your goals for the next two years?*

A: I would like to foster more activity in the Northeast Zone, including getting more zone members interested in serving on committees. I especially would like to have more Northeast Zone board members serve on exam committees. Additionally, I hope to engender a feeling of openness as to the entire governance process. I would feel better if some day I received a phone call asking, “Why are *we* doing this?” as opposed to “What are *they* doing?”

Q: *At this year's Annual Meeting, the Licensure Qualifications Oversight Group will present several motions for Council consideration, including recommended language requiring additional engineering education for licensure, a professional practice study feasibility and task analysis, and a revised NCEES licensure model. What are your thoughts on this committee's work and the proposed changes to the licensure process?*

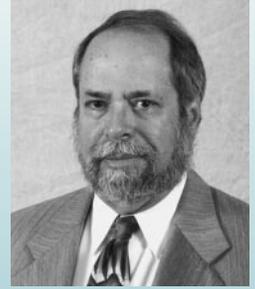
A: I believe that engineering education has been diluted and that there is a need for technical education beyond the B.S. My only concern about requiring more education is what effect doing so might have on the number of young men and women considering engineering as a profession.

I have no problem with conducting a study to see if a practice exam is warranted. I would not want to see technical questions removed from the PE exam, though. I would not want to see someone who was not fully adequate at the technical level become registered because he or she knows how much liability insurance a federal agency might require. I believe the exam should be a separate stand-alone exam to be taken after passing the PE exam. I also feel that the decision to administer a national practice exam, a state practice exam, or no practice exam is a decision to be made at the local board level.

I am opposed to the licensure model change as it relates to the creation of a new engineering status, which was formerly called *charter engineer* and is now known as *engineering title to be determined*.

I personally would suggest *nonprofessional engineer*. I believe that those who came up with the concept thought that it would help get people in industry involved with the registration process. It is a title to be bestowed after working for a period of time and having passed the FE exam but doesn't seem to confer any rights or powers. It has been my experience that if you don't have to work hard to get something, you don't really appreciate it. I see it having a negative effect in that engineers who practice with the public, who should become P.E.'s, can settle for this new engineering designation instead. If someone fails the PE exam numerous times, he or she could still qualify for this new status. I don't think it farfetched to consider the possibility of job descriptions at various agencies being changed to allow positions that currently require a P.E. license to be filled by this lesser-status position. I see this position only creating confusion in the public's mind. This proposal seems to change, as a knee-jerk reaction, after every public presentation. With this being the case, I feel it shows that the proposal needs to be restudied with more

Continued on page 12



L. Robert Smith,
P.E., F.ASCE, F.NSPE

time devoted to it or that it needs to be scrapped. I don't believe that, with all the uneasiness that has been expressed about the concept, this proposal truly represents a consensus of the profession.

Q: *One topic that generated discussion at Council meetings this year is continuing-education competency requirements for licensure renewal. At its May 2005 meeting, the Board of Directors authorized the creation of a registered continuing-education provider program. What do you feel is the Council's role in dealing with this issue?*

A: I am not a great believer in continuing education. Other than public perception, I don't believe it has much value. I feel the marketplace forces people to update their education and knowledge. Requiring people who do want continuing education to go sit in the back of a room to get the requisite number of professional development hours

(PDH) doesn't necessarily improve them as engineers. However, if states are going to have PDH requirements, I would like them to be uniform across the country, and I think NCEES could have a role in assisting with the recordkeeping.

Q: *Serving as a zone vice president requires a great deal of time and energy. What compels you to serve as an officer of NCEES?*

A: Engineering has been good to me, and I feel I should give something back to the profession. I am very proud to be a P.E., and I try to instill that in others. Now that I have retired, I feel that I have the time to do justice to the job of zone vice president. It also affords me the opportunity to help groom potential candidates to run for the spot in two years so that they, and not I, can run for the NCEES presidency in four years.



Mitchell S. Tibshirany P.E.

Incoming Southern Zone Vice President Mitchell S. Tibshirany Jr., P.E.

Chair, South Carolina State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors; member, NCEES Committee on Awards, Licensure Mobility Task Force, Advisory Committee on Council Activities; member, NSPE; past president, Columbia Chapter of South Carolina Society of Professional Engineers (SCSPE), South Carolina Engineers' Joint Council, Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE); recipient, SCSPE Engineer of the Year, IEEE Centennial Medal Award; chair, Board of Family Service Center of the Midlands, Training Committee of United Way of the Midlands; past president, Columbia Kiwanis Club; captain, United States Navy Reserves (retired); vice president, South Carolina Electric and Gas Company; currently adjunct faculty member at the University of South Carolina.

Q: *What do you plan to focus on in your term as Southern Zone vice president? What are your goals for the next two years?*

A: I think it's important to keep focusing on getting students throughout the country on a licensure path before they leave college. One of the mechanisms through which we can do

this is to get an advocate in the classroom. That advocate is usually a faculty member. Finding flexible ways to get faculty licensed is vital because faculty have such an impact on students.

I also think we should continue promoting the FE exam as an outcomes assessment tool in EAC/ABET-accredited schools. In fact, one of my other interests is to pursue ways NCEES and ABET can develop a real partnership.

I'm also concerned that not enough students are pursuing surveying as a profession. At the same time this is happening, states are requiring more education. We need to look for ways to advance surveying in the schools, such as encouraging our board members to visit schools and providing tools such as the Surveying Speaker's Kit that was introduced earlier this year.

Another goal is to make sure that Council members see the Board of Directors as being accessible. For years, I've been concerned when I hear people talking about the Board of Directors and staff as not being involved with the Council membership, and I disagree with this view. I'd like to make sure that members know that the Board of Directors is

listening to them and doing what the members want them to do. I'd like to convey the idea that at zone meetings and the Annual Meeting we're making an effort to get to know many different groups within the Council.

Q: At this year's Annual Meeting, the Licensure Qualifications Oversight Group will present several motions for Council consideration, including recommended language requiring additional engineering education for licensure, a professional practice study feasibility and task analysis, and a revised NCEES licensure model. What are your thoughts on this committee's work and the proposed changes to the licensure process?

A: I applaud the committee for its work, especially in looking for new approaches to licensure. We need to have a continual process of evaluating and upgrading licensure, and this is one of the most valuable things this committee has done.

I'm supportive of adding education requirements because over the last few decades, we've diminished the requirements needed to receive a bachelor's degree in engineering. However, I see a direct conflict between mobility and education requirements because of the changes to the Model Law Engineer designation. I am always concerned about licensure mobility—providing a mechanism for it is one of the true functions of NCEES. We need to be careful that we don't make mobility a bigger issue than it is.

By changing the licensure model to include a master's degree or a bachelor's degree plus 30 hours, it will take a long time for states to catch up with that model in their legislation. This could affect how states accelerate mobility.

With regard to the other LQOG motions, I support conducting a feasibility study for a practice exam. At this time, though, I'm not

supportive of a new engineering designation. I think it would bring confusion to how the public understands our profession and what we do.

Q: One topic that generated discussion at Council meetings this year is continuing-education competency requirements for licensure renewal. At its May 2005 meeting, the Board of Directors authorized the creation of a registered continuing-education provider program. What do you feel is the Council's role in dealing with this issue?

A: Continuing professional competency (CPC) is also an issue of mobility because it is a means for professionals to keep their licenses. NCEES could serve as a clearinghouse for CPC requirements in a similar way that the NCEES Records Program facilitates comity for licensure among states. Getting states to accept continuing-education comity through NCEES would take years to accomplish, but it needs to be something we work toward. We need to get beyond our reluctance to accept change and find ways to ensure that CPC requirements don't get in the way of mobility.

Q: Serving as a zone vice president requires a great deal of time and energy. What compels you to serve as an officer of NCEES?

A: I take the responsibility of being on the Board of Directors very seriously. Some people have asked me why, now that I'm retired, I would want to give up the amount of time it takes to serve on the Board. It's because I feel that if you're in an organization, you should give whatever you're capable of contributing. I'm proud to be part of the engineering community, and it's important to me to move the engineering and surveying professions forward any way we can.

NEWS

ALASKA

◆ Nancy Hemenway has retired as executive administrator, and the position is vacant. The board contact's e-mail address is eleanor-vinson@commerce.state.ak.us.

CALIFORNIA

◆ The terms of William Schock and Elizabeth Warren have expired. David Fruchtman has resigned from the board.

COLORADO

◆ The board's Web site address is www.dora.state.co.us/engineers-surveyors.

HAWAII

◆ Michael Chu, Shelli McCelvey, Ross Okuda, and Riley Smith are new appointees to the board. Russell Y.J. Chung and Wallace T. Oki are no longer on the board.

IDAHO

◆ William Ancell is a new appointee to the board. The term of Leslie Walker has expired.

MAINE PE

◆ Board member Charles J. Behounek passed away May 28, 2005. Behounek was also serving as a member of the 2004–2005 NCEES Committee on Finances.

MARYLAND LS

◆ Joan Dunne is a new appointee to the board. The term of John Witmer has expired.

MASSACHUSETTS

◆ Robert Hall is no longer on the board. The board's Web site address is www.mass.gov/dpl/en.

MICHIGAN PE

◆ M. Regine Beauboef and Karol Grove are new appointees to the board. Ralph Hodek is no longer on the board.

MISSISSIPPI

◆ The board's name has changed to the Mississippi Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Surveyors.

MONTANA

◆ The board's name has changed to the Montana Board of Professional Engineers and Professional Land Surveyors. The new email address is dlibsdpels@mt.gov, and the Web site addresses are www.engineer.mt.gov and www.landsurveyor.mt.gov.

NEBRASKA PE

◆ The board's e-mail address is board@ea.ne.gov.

NEW MEXICO

◆ The board's mailing address is 4001 Office Court Drive, Suite 903, Santa Fe, NM, 87507-4962.

NORTH DAKOTA

◆ Kevin Nelson is a new appointee to the board. The term of Lawrence Woodbury has expired. The board's new e-mail address is cliff.ndboard@btinet.net.

**NORTHERN
MARIANA ISLANDS**

◆ Mitch Aaron is a new appointee to the board.

OREGON

◆ The term of Stephen Dyrnes has expired.

SOUTH DAKOTA

◆ Leonard Neugebauer and David Stafford are new appointees to the board. The terms of Mark Aspaas and Wallace Larsen have expired.

TENNESSEE LS

◆ The term of Marshall Ragan has expired. The board's new mailing address is 500 James Robertson Pkwy., Third Floor, Nashville, TN, 37243-1146. Its fax number is 615-532-9410.

TEXAS PE

◆ The board's email address is db.farrow@tbpe.state.tx.us.

TEXAS LS

◆ Daniel Martinez is no longer on the board.

VERMONT PE

- ◆ Theodore McKnight is no longer board administrator. Patricia Sartell (psartell@sec.state.vt) is the new board administrator.

WASHINGTON DC

- ◆ The board's fax number is 202-442-4528.

WEST VIRGINIA LS

- ◆ The board's new e-mail address is wvbps@mail.state.wv.us.

WISCONSIN

- ◆ Charles Kopplin is a new appointee to the board. The term of Dale Paczkowski has expired. Jerry Lowrie is no longer executive director. Kimberly Nania is the acting executive director.

WYOMING

- ◆ Roger Jacobsen is a new appointee to the board. Richard Moore is no longer on the board.

Send letters to *Licensure Exchange* editor at NCEES, P.O. Box 1686, Clemson, SC 29633 or dtalbert@ncees.org.

Please include your name and state of residence on the letter. Letters may be edited for clarity, brevity, and readability

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2004–2005 NCEES

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Upcoming
EVENTS

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION
August 23	Board of Directors' Meeting	Memphis, Tenn.
August 24–27	NCEES Annual Meeting	Memphis, Tenn.
September 5	Holiday—Council Office Closed	
September 30–October 1	Board of Directors' Orientation	Clemson, S.C.
October 28	PE and PS Exam Administration	
October 29	FE and FS Exam Administration	
November 3–5	Board of Directors' Meeting	Florida Keys, Fla.



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