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National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying, Clemson, SC
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Vice President explores surveyors, definitions, and dinosaurs

In the October 2001 edition of *CE News*, author James P. Weidener comments on what he perceives as a split in the surveying profession. Weidener writes, "I have been aware of a split in the surveying profession for a long time. For reasons that seem inexplicable, we have divided ourselves into two camps: those who take a narrow view of what surveying is and those who espouse a broad concept of what surveying can be. Please understand that I mean no offense in this distinction. I should also point out that this division has not always existed. It is recent, it is of our own making, and it is destructive."

This task force will recommend a new Model Law definition that addresses some of the problems states are facing with the new surveying concepts, equipment, and methods available today.
–Martin Pedersen, L.S.

Weidener underscores the comments that we as board members hear often from our registrants. Some registrants question why various items are (or are not) in the definition of surveying. Others state that the current examinations are not relevant to the practice of boundary surveying. Yet others state that we have raised the bar too high and made the surveying examination impassable.

Many states now require a four-year degree to be licensed as a surveyor, and other states are moving toward that or are in the grace period between enacting the legislation and implementing the education requirement. Licensed surveyors themselves acknowledge the need for academic-based education in the profession of surveying. This was reflected in the outcomes of the 1998 Professional Activities and Knowledges Study (PAKS). Based on the 1998 PAKS, the Council moved to a knowledge-based surveying examination in 1999.

The PAKS is a very important questionnaire mailed out every 7–10 exam administrations to a percentage of licensed surveyors across the nation. It asks surveyors to indicate what they believe to be the important items necessary for an entry-level surveyor to know. Historically, the response level to this questionnaire is about 36%. Participating in the PAKS is an opportunity to provide input into exam content for the next five years or so. Depending on the recommendation from the Committee on Examinations for Professional Surveyors, the next PAKS will be sent out in 2002 or 2003. As members of the profession and members of state boards, you can promote to registrants in your state the critical need to complete and return this study.

A large percentage of the older generation of surveyors (what the younger group of surveyors are calling the "Dinosaurs") do not have the formal education now required to become licensed. They feel consternation when they view the curriculum requirements that show geodesy, photogrammetry, GIS/LIS, and other specific non-traditional subjects, even though these requirements come from licensed surveyors themselves via the PAKS.

In 2000, Council President J. Richard Cottingham, at the request of the Multi-Organizational Task Force, [composed of the American Congress on Surveying and Mapping (ACSM), the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), the American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ASPRS), the Management Association of Private Photogrammetric Surveyors (MAPPS), and the National Society of Professional Surveyors (NSPS)] appointed a special committee to look into the

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Please distribute to those who are interested:

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From The
PRESIDENT

President reviews committee charges

Ted C. Fairfield, P.E.
NCEES President

"...largely as a result of the discussions that occurred in Little Rock this past August, the Council's Committee on Examination Policy and Procedures (EPP) has been given a special charge of attempting to define 'software engineering,' for potential licensure purposes."

As I write this, it is mid-October, and I have just returned from Houston, where I attended the annual meeting of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE). The crowd was large and the subjects interesting. One particularly interesting and "moving" presentation was made by Gene Corley, Illinois Structural Engineering Board chair. He showed photos and explained his ongoing activities as head of the team that ASCE has assigned to investigate the structural aspects of the attack on the World Trade Center towers and the subsequent collapse of those towers. It seems tragically clear that a new subject, nominally called "dealing with terrorism," has been written large on the radar screens of the engineering profession.

Also of interest is the fact that ASCE has somewhat modified/softened its call for a master's degree to be the first or "lowest" degree that would qualify one for licensure as a professional engineer. ASCE is now thinking in terms of "MOE" (masters degree or *equivalent*) and is anticipating that it will take a decade or two to achieve this transition. As I understand it, ASCE is stating that the breadth and depth of knowledge necessary to practice professional (civil) engineering is growing—in both quantity and technical difficulty, while engineering bachelor's degrees are tending to be reduced both in total units and in the absolute and relative number of technical units. Certainly, this subject will be debated in many venues, not the least of which will be our own Engineering Licensure Qualifications Task Force (ELQTF), which held its first meeting this year on October 19 in Atlanta.

Issues such as this, as well as the "new licensure model" proposed by the National Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE) and a host of other ideas being presented by numerous professional associations and individual task force members, will be contemplated in depth at the ongoing ELQTF meetings. ELQTF intends to present a status report and to make one or more tentative recommendations at our Council's annual meeting next August. This might even involve a straw voting process.

However, it is likely that any such recommendations will be "published" for ongoing debate amongst all the stakeholders, especially Member Boards, and will be discussed at the 2003 zone meetings, with final Council action expected to occur in August 2003.

Let me also remind you that, largely as a result of the discussions that occurred in Little Rock this past August, the Council's Committee on Examination Policy and Procedures (EPP) has been given a special charge of attempting to define "software engineering," for potential licensure purposes. EPP has been advised that its efforts and recommendations will play a large role in the Council's determination of whether to develop and offer software engineering examinations and, to some degree, the scope and content thereof.

Much else is going on within Council committees. An issue of note is the new Structural Engineering Examination/Recognition Task Force (SEERTF). A number of structural engineering professional associations, plus structural engineering "institutes" from associations such as ASCE and the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) are aggressively proclaiming the need for separate "recognition" (licensing, specialty certification, and so forth) for structural engineers. In addition, the Council's Structural I and II Principles and Practice of Engineering (PE) exams are the only two of our primary PE exams that are not being used consistently throughout the country. This creates serious comity problems for structural engineers. The SEERTF has been given the challenge of addressing these issues and making constructive recommendations that would have a good chance of achieving broad acceptance. This will not be easy, but neither should it be impossible. I have appointed to this task force a number of respected structural engineers, who will represent each of our four zones, including representatives from the state boards that represent the most diverse views and practices relative to the licensing of structural engineers. The results should prove very interesting to all of us.

Ted C. Fairfield, P.E.
NCEES President

Headquarters
UPDATE

Board Presidents/MBA Assembly to be held February 14–16

As many of you are aware, the business of the Council goes on in spite of recent tragic events. Numerous volunteers and Council staff have picked up a full schedule of committee meetings and the accompanying airline travel. Naturally, I approached my first several flights after September 11 with some trepidation, but I am happy to report that each successive plane trip gets easier and easier. We may never be able to slip back into our former nonchalance when boarding a jet, but perhaps that is as it should be. Each flight gives me a small moment to be thankful for my blessings—for friends and family, and especially my vocation. To quote President Fairfield's October *Licensure Exchange* article, "the Council's mission of protecting the public health, safety, and welfare must and will go on."

The 2001–2002 Board of Directors held its second meeting on November 15–16. Treasurer Elaine Fink presented the results of the third-party audit completed for fiscal year 2000–2001. I'm pleased to report the Council is in good financial standing. See Treasurer Fink's article on page 4 for additional information regarding the audit report and our current fiscal health. The Board approved a motion to proceed with the development of plans and specifications to renovate Council headquarters and to add approximately 16,500 square feet to the existing floor plan. The Board saw the need for the additional space when they met in Clemson for the October Board of Directors' Orientation.

NCEES is growing—in many areas, not the least of which is Engineering and Land Surveying Examination Services (ELSES). ELSES Director Susan Whitfield reported that she and her ELSES team will hold examination administrations for eight states in April 2002 and ten in October 2002. Clearly, this is a Member Board service with a very bright future.

On November 29–30, NCEES participated in a governing board meeting of the Center for Collaboration and Education in Design (C^2Ed). C^2Ed is a Web site where design professionals can access information on licensure, internet-based continuing education courses, useful links, and other information. The site represents a partnership between NCEES and the Council of Landscape Architectural Boards. One of our first actions has been to begin assembling NCEES volunteers to serve on a C^2Ed continuing professional competency (CPC) advisory board. This advisory board will provide valuable input on subject matter, content value, and presenters as well as provide advice on long-term direction for the venture. In addition, each Member Board with a CPC requirement has been asked to appoint an individual to serve as a conduit of information on continuing professional competency. We anticipate partnering primarily with educational providers to develop these internet-based continuing education courses for engineers and surveyors. Council staff is in active conversation with subject-matter experts, individual authors, and universities about development of such courses. Our first course will debut on the C^2Ed Web site in 2002.

We are also in the process of putting together a package of materials for use in outreach efforts at the Member Board level. Member Boards were surveyed about the materials they felt would be most effective in their efforts, and their feedback has resulted in a developmental plan that includes an outreach video, PowerPoint presentations, and other supporting materials that will help illustrate the value of licensure to college students. Look for more information regarding these outreach materials at the upcoming Board Presidents/MBA Assembly.

The Board Presidents/MBA Assembly is scheduled for February 14–16, 2002, at the Plaza San Antonio in San Antonio, Texas. Informational topics on the agenda include an update on the Engineering Licensure Qualifications Task Force and a discussion on examination security. Strategic planning will also be a key activity at this meeting. More information will be on its way in January. We are planning a busy meeting, and I look forward to seeing you there!

Betsy Browne
NCEES Executive Director

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NCEES Executive Director

"The Board approved a motion to proceed with the development of plans and specifications to renovate Council headquarters and to add approximately 16,500 square feet to the existing floor plan."

NCEES holds mechanical exam standard-setting study

At the October 2001 exam administration, examinees took the Mechanical Principles and Practice of Engineering (PE) exam for the first time in the all objectively scored, no-choice, breadth/depth format. When an exam's format changes, NCEES holds a standard-setting study to determine the passing score for the new examination. From November 30 to December 1, 2001, a group of 34 licensed mechanical engineers from around the country assembled in Greenville, South Carolina, for this important task.

Davy McDowell, P.E., NCEES Technical Assistant, explains the makeup of the group. "The standard-setting panel (often informally called the 'cut-score' panel) must be new to the exam they will assess. They cannot have participated in the development or review of the exam—they must be brand new to the process." McDowell continues, "The panel should also be diverse in regard to ethnicity, work experience, gender, age, and geographic location." When asked if such recruitment is difficult, McDowell responds with a wry smile, "Yeah, it's not easy."

For individuals with full-time jobs and families, traveling and spending a weekend away from home is a sacrifice. Morgan Watson, P.E., a mechanical engineer from Louisiana, holds a master's degree from Louisiana State University and has worked in private practice for over 29 years. He is in the middle of a six-year term serving on the Louisiana Professional Engineering and Land Surveying Board. Watson explains why he decided to participate: "I think NCEES examinations are very important, and what [the panel is] doing is quality control. I also wanted to give a little back to my profession, to help others coming behind, to have the opportunity to apply what I've learned in my profession."

Kathy Dolson, P.E., flew from Ohio to attend the meeting. She obtained a master's degree from Georgia Institute of Technology and earned her professional license a little over two years ago, though her employment in industry did not require it. "I think having your license is really important, and it's the best thing to have your professional peers determine what the criteria for licensure should be. Participating in this meeting is a unique opportunity [to be part of that process]."

The standard-setting study began on a Friday with a subgroup of participants defining a standard of minimum competency for the morning breadth portion of the mechanical exam. (This portion of the exam covers the breadth of knowledge all mechanical engineers should possess.)

Psychometricians from the Chauncey Group, NCEES' psychometric consultant, helped participants understand the concept of minimum competency—the standard by which all NCEES passing scores have been set since the mid-1980s. McDowell says, "Minimum competency is a tough concept to grasp. Typically engineers think of mastery when they think of a passing exam score." Mastery is not what NCEES exams are developed to measure. All

(continued on page 6)

"When asked if recruitment is difficult, McDowell responds with a wry smile, 'Yeah, it's not easy.'

For individuals with full-time jobs and families, traveling and spending a weekend away from home is a sacrifice."

Board authorizes mechanical pencils

At its November 2001 meeting, the NCEES Board of Directors authorized the purchase of sufficient mechanical pencils for all candidates taking the April 2002 and future examinations. Based on recommendations from an examination-security study, the Board voted to provide mechanical pencils to prevent the use of small wand-like scanning devices during examinations. The mechanical pencils will be included in each exam-order shipment and will include extra pencils for those candidates requiring additional lead.

Mechanical exam... *(continued from page 5)*

examinees passing an NCEES exam are judged to be minimally competent—the exams do not differentiate between degrees of competency.

After defining the standard of minimum competency, participants "took the exam" while envisioning the standard of minimum competency previously defined. Working individually, participants rated the difficulty of each exam question. Following this, participants engaged in a panel discussion led by a Chauncey psychometrician. The panel discussed each question, and participants were permitted to revise their initial rating of the difficulty of the question based on the discussion.

On Saturday the entire assembly divided into three groups to study the afternoon depth modules, one module per group: HVAC and refrigeration; machine design; and thermal fluids systems. The groups followed the same process that was used for the breadth portion of the exam. By the end of the weekend, based on the standards of minimum competency defined for the breadth portion plus each breadth module, the panel had generated data required for setting cut scores for the "three" exams.

In the days following the study, the Chauncey Group will process the data and give representatives of the Committee on Examinations for Professional Engineers (EPE) the panel-recommended cut scores, along with alternate cut scores based on higher and lower standard errors of judgment. The Council charges the EPE Committee with the responsibility for determining the final cut scores.

This process ensures that the NCEES examinations are criterion referenced. Unlike norm-referenced exams, the performance of the examinee population as a whole has no effect on the percentage of individuals who pass or fail. Theoretically, all examinees can pass if all meet the minimum standard of competency.

Concluding his comments, McDowell says, "The passing score for the mechanical exam affects over 2,000 people each administration. The standard-setting study and its participants play an essential role in the exam development process."

To volunteer for future standard-setting studies or to participate in examination item development, call NCEES headquarters at 800-250-3196.

In Case You
MISSED

Minnesota Board chair supports continuing education requirements

Originally titled, "A new look for registration"

Reprinted from November 2001 *Engineering Contacts,* a publication of the Minnesota Society of Professional Engineers.

The story is designed to evoke a chuckle. Two tipsy fellows are on the roof of a 50-story building. One falls off. His alarmed buddy immediately descends the stairs with the idea of catching his falling comrade. About halfway down he catches a glimpse of his falling friend through the window. "How's it going?" the buddy yells. "Well," the faller responds, "so far, so good."

That is a response with which Bill Sutherland, P.E., can identify. He is chair of the Minnesota State Board for Architects, Engineers, Land Surveyors. Landscape Architects, Geoscience, and Interior Design. He often responds in that manner when asked how continuing education is going.

The board is implementing a state statute approved last year requiring professional engineers to complete 24 professional development hours in order to maintain their engineering license. Professional engineers have until next June 30 to complete their obligation. There are about 10,000 engineers licensed to practice in Minnesota. Incidentally, since engineers are licensed and not registered, the board is promoting elimination of references to "registration" that have long been associated with its name.

"There have been no real problems [with implementing continuing education]," says the 53-year-old Sutherland, who heads his own consulting engineering firm called MinnTech Engineering. "Mainly the questions have been about procedure such as, 'What do I have to do?' There have been very few negative comments." He advises engineers with questions that the state board has guidelines available to help determine if a course would meet continuing education requirements. He says the board

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Minnesota Board... *(continued from page 6)*

has not pre-approved any courses. "It is up to the engineer to make that determination." he says. "If engineers feel a course is relevant, and they can back up that belief with course documents, there should be no problem."

The issue of required continuing education to maintain a professional engineering license has provided plenty of discussion for decades in Minnesota. Serious talks started in the 1970s. Neighboring Iowa was one of the first states to require continuing education of its professional engineers. At present, the concept is not universally accepted. Roughly half the states require it.

Sutherland, who says he has been a "lifelong fan of learning," acknowledges that almost all engineers support the idea of continuing their professional education but notes that some have difficulty accepting the concept that government should play a greater role in determining their qualifications. "There is no doubt that it was a philosophical issue for many of the engineers who expressed opposition," he says. He added that the "driving force" toward continuing education was public perception that the state already required it for professional engineers. "The state mandates continuing education for a number of other groups," he says. "People were surprised engineers were not included."

There has also been discussion about whether the board's interests are too splintered. The board oversees the activities of six other groups as well as engineers. Sutherland believes the current board, which has 21 members including five engineers, works well. "A good mixture creates a variety of viewpoints," he says. The board is composed of individuals from the various regulated groups as well as members of the public. "This setup allows for good conversation. Many people have a different perspective that enables them to ask good questions," Sutherland says. "We have some very good discussions. Most important, under this arrangement, we are able to resolve many issues prior to direct involvement by the state legislature."

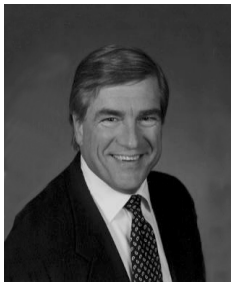
Making sure engineers adhere to the rules is a constant factor both for regulators, such as Sutherland, and the regulated. Rule violations represent a perennial concern of professional engineers. Their license to practice is a valuable piece of paper. Sutherland observes that a popular misconception is that the board actively seeks violators of licensure law. It does not. The board responds to complaints filed by the public, often by other engineers. Sutherland says the work the board does in this area is constrained by Data Privacy laws. "We are prohibited from telling people, including the person filing the complaint, the status of a particular investigation. This can be very frustrating. Fortunately," he notes, "once we tell them about privacy laws they are much more understanding." Sutherland says he is unaware of any effort to change the situation. "To change the law would open up new problems relative to privacy," he says.

Sutherland says that one area in which Minnesota engineers might see some change involves current requirements regarding the licensure of professional engineers. He is chair of an Engineering Licensure Qualifications Task Force subcommittee established by the NCEES. He observes the group has a "very bright light and a very blank piece of paper" to review licensing standards and procedures.

In the meantime, Sutherland will also be focusing on his major concern as Minnesota Board chair and that is a "proactive" approach to better informing engineers about procedure they are expected to follow as professional engineers. "Our discipline and complaint process has been working well and the backlog of complaints is currently at the lowest level in modern board history, but it is reactive by nature." Sutherland sees education as the "highest single priority" for the coming year. That effort will include distribution of written materials, maintenance of an up-to-date Web site, and programs for professional societies, schools, and other interested parties.

"Most of the problems we have relating to alleged violations involve engineers who tell us they were unaware of requirements or restrictions. 'I didn't know' is a common response from engineers," Sutherland says. "I want to eliminate that. We want licensees to know the rules."

Jim Meusey
Engineering Contacts



Bill Sutherland, P.E.
Minnesota Board Chair

It's common to ask engineers, "In which states do you hold a license?" For Bill Sutherland, P.E., it's quicker to ask, "In which state are you NOT licensed?" Alaska. The 49th state requires its licensed engineers to be knowledgeable in artic engineering. "I didn't think studying the care and feeding of permafrost would be that advantageous to me," Sutherland comments. However, if his schedule permits, there remains a possibility he may pursue licensure in Alaska, for "no other reason than not having to answer 'Alaska,'" when he's asked where he doesn't hold a license.

Licensure EXCHANGE

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Please send your board news, including notice of board member changes, to the editor of *Licensure Exchange*. NCEES, P.O. Box 1686, Clemson, SC 29633 or email to lwilliam@ncees.org.

Member Board NEWS

Alabama
- Veston Bush is the new board chair. Lynn Doyle has been reappointed to the board. The board has a new e-mail address: engineer@bels.state.al.us.

Arkansas
- Charles Tenney is a new appointee to the board. Tom B. Webb is the new board chair. Bobbie Jones has resigned from the board. The Arkansas Board has begun the process of changing its rules to confirm to recent law changes and current practices of the board.

Arizona
- Joy Lyndes, Robert F. Roos, and Ronald A. Starling are new appointees to the board. Paul Scott, Lori Woods, and Douglas Folk are no longer serving on the board.

Colorado
- George O. Thomas and Dan Corcoran are new appointees to the board. The terms of Michael W. Drissel and Vukoslav E. Aguirre have expired.

Delaware
- Pasquale S. Canzano and J. Paul Jones are new appointees to the board. The terms of James S. Davidson and Karin A. Sweeney have expired.

District of Columbia
- Norman D. Mills is a new appointee to the board. The term of Gary L. Harris has expired. This board's official name has been changed to include land surveyors: the District of Columbia Board of Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors.

Florida PSM
- The Florida Board of Professional Surveyors and Mappers (PSM) has a new fax number (850-921-2321) and Web address (www.MyFlorida.com). Frances C. Popell, Beverly J. Sutphin, Jim Davis, and Jeffrey C. Cooner are new appointees to the board. The terms of Ralph Armstead, Henry Eschezabal, and Gail Oliver have expired.

Georgia
- Mollie L. Fleeman is serving as Interim Executive Director.

Hawaii
- Ken Ota is a new appointee to the board. Russell Chung is the new board chair. The term of Gary Dura has expired.

Illinois PE
- John McKinney is the new board chair.

Illinois LS
- Duane Weiss is the new board chair. The term of Terrence Ruettiger has expired.

Indiana PE
- Cristine Klika is a new appointee to the board. The term of Raman Patel has expired.

Indiana LS
- David Blankenbeker and Michael Falk are new appointees to the board.

Kansas
- The Web site for the Kansas Board has changed to www.accesskansas.org/ksbtp/.

Louisiana
- Joseph C. Wink, Jr., and Kerry M. Hawkins are new appointees to the board. The terms of Allison J.P. Launey and Jerry G. Lazenby have expired.

Maryland PE
- Alison Hunt is a new appointee to the board. Hunt is the first female engineer to serve on the Maryland PE Board. The term of James Lesikar has expired.

Massachusetts
- Deborah Milliken replaces Marie DeVeau as administrative assistant.

Minnesota
- Kel Heyl has resigned from the board.

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SC Board reaches out to engineering schools

The South Carolina Board is pleased to report that a new focus on ambassadorship began with its September meeting. We held our regular meeting at the Swearingen Engineering Complex at the University of South Carolina's College of Engineering and Information Technology. The business session of the meeting took place in the morning followed by a pizza lunch shared by South Carolina Board members, faculty, and students. After lunch we took the opportunity to share information about the importance of examinations and licensure in this state.

NCEES Director of Professional Services Mike Shannon and the South Carolina Board Chair shared presentations on "Outcomes Assessment" and "The Importance of the FE Examination." The presentations provided an excellent forum for faculty and students to ask board members questions and for us to learn more about the needs of students and our constituents in the academic world.

Board members finished the day with a tour of the College of Engineering including visits to several laboratories. The laboratory faculty members showed enthusiasm as they described their research and experiments in the various disciplines of engineering. The South Carolina Board extends its gratitude to Dean Ralph White and his faculty, staff, and students for their generous hospitality.

A major goal of the South Carolina Board is to increase contact with the engineering colleges of this state. As a part of this program of ambassadorship, we will visit these schools to meet with faculty and students and discuss the importance of licensure. Clemson University and The Citadel are on our traveling schedule for the next few months. We also want to encourage students to take the Fundamentals of Engineering (FE) examination as the first step toward becoming licensed in South Carolina. Board members are interested in holding an annual seminar for juniors and seniors at engineering schools to discuss the value of being on a licensure track.

Through these efforts, the South Carolina Board hopes to increase knowledge and interest in licensure throughout the Palmetto State.

Mitchell S. Tibshrany, Jr., P.E.
Chair, South Carolina State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors

"A major goal of the South Carolina Board is to increase contact with the engineering colleges of this state."

C²Ed = Online Continuing Education

The Center for Collaboration and Education in Design (C²Ed), a new Internet site for design professionals providing (among other things) online continuing education courses, is issuing a call for continuing education topics and instructors. Are you an authority in your field who wishes to work with C²Ed staff to design and deliver effective online education? Do you have topic ideas that are interesting, current, and relevant to the engineering and/or land surveying professions? Please contact NCEES Director of Professional Services Mike Shannon, P.E., at 800-250-3196 or mshannon@ncees.org.

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Montana
- Jake Neil is a new appointee to the board. Steve Wright is the new board chair. The term of Dave Hummel, Jr., has expired.

Nebraska
- Dennis D. Podany is the new board chair.

New Hampshire PE
- Carmela Amato-Wierda is a new appointee to the board. Kenneth W. Malcolm has resigned.

New Jersey
- James D. Kelly is the new board president.

New Mexico
- The board's new zip code is 87505.

North Carolina
- C. Phil Wagoner has resigned from the board.

North Dakota
- Eugene C. Jackson is a new appointee to the board. The term of Monte L. Phillips has expired.

Northern Mariana Islands
- Elizabeth Salas-Balajadia is the new board chair.

Oregon
- Stephen L. Dyrnes is a new appointee to the board. Jack W. Burris has resigned from the board.

Pennsylvania
- Robert C. Grubic is a new appointee to the board.

Rhode Island LS
- The board has a new phone number: 401-222-2038.

Texas PE
- James R. Nichols is the new board chair. The term of E.D. Dorchester has expired. The board has a new fax number: 512-440-0417.

Utah
- Kim Harris is a new appointee to the board. The term of Kenneth Larry DeVries has expired. Lynn Bernhard is the new board administrator.

Vermont LS
- Malcolm Moore, Albert "Terry" Harris, and Justin J. Hart are new appointees to the board. Leonard Lamoureux and Ronald E. Gauthier are no longer serving on the board.

Virgin Islands
- The new address for the board is as follows: Board for Architects, Engineers, and Land Surveyors, Dept. of Licensing and Consumer Affairs, Golden Rock Shopping Center, Christiansted, St. Croix, VI 00820.

Wisconsin
- Martin Hanson is a new appointee to the board. The terms of Terry Richard, Harold Kolb, and Harvey Shebesta have expired. Katharine Hildebrand is the new executive director for the board.

WANTED: Your expertise

Continuing education offered at 2002 Annual Meeting

Are you the subject-matter authority on a particular land surveying or engineering topic? NCEES plans to offer relevant and significant continuing education opportunities at our next annual meeting held in August 2002. If you have an interest in leading a seminar or have a topic idea, please contact NCEES Director of Professional Services Mike Shannon, P.E., at 800-250-3196 or mshannon@ncees.org.

Letters To The
EDITOR

Surveyor responds to 2001 Annual Business Meeting survey

I read with interest, and with some alarm, Executive Director Browne's report on the Annual Business Meeting in the October 2001 issue of *Licensure Exchange*. Ms. Browne reported comments from land surveyors in attendance at the 2001 meeting indicating that the interests of the surveying profession are not prevalent in Council activities. I believe that nothing could be further from the truth.

While I concede that 2001 was a quiet year in terms of survey-related actions at the meeting, the past few years have seen a tremendous amount of activity, debate, motions, and positive actions relative to surveying examinations, licensure, and education.

As a member of NCEES since 1991, I have seen great change and progress for surveyors in the organization. Since the standing Committee on Land Surveying was discontinued in 1993 and surveyors from each zone were required on the ACCA, EAQ, Law Enforcement, and UPLG committees, surveyors have had a strong voice in Council activities. Survey issues have received great attention at annual meetings since that time.

Until 1995, the Model Law definition of surveying included only the traditional practice of boundary surveying and ignored all other aspects of normal survey practice, sometimes referred to as geomatics. That year a wider definition was adopted. This change has spurred much debate both inside and outside the surveying community, and modifications to the Model Law and Model Rules and Regulations have continued since that time. There is currently a special Task Force on the Model Law for Surveying conducting a thorough study of the issues involved. Recommendations from that task force will be presented at the 2002 Annual Meeting with adoption of a revised definition anticipated in 2003.

The Fundamentals of Land Surveying examination migrated from a task-based exam to a knowledge-based exam, at the Council's direction—another subject of much debate at an annual meeting. In 1998 a Professional Activities and Knowledge Study was completed that was the basis for new exam blueprints for the survey exams. The exams have been kept relevant and appropriate through these Council actions.

In 2000 a new exam policy was adopted in anticipation of the need for development of exam modules in the subdisciplines of surveying. Again, a long debate took place at the annual meeting prior to adoption.

The education of surveyors has also been emphasized in recent years. A Model Law Surveyor is one who holds a four-year degree from an ABET-accredited program. Many in the Council have worked hard at promoting survey education.

Finally, surveyors have held many positions in the Council. Many officers and board members in the past few years have been licensed surveyors or dual licensees. Surveyors have chaired important committees and served on many more. I urge anyone who has doubts about the surveyors' importance in the Council to look deeper. We have many great leaders involved in many issues of importance to the surveying profession.

Rita M. Lumos, P.L.S.
Nevada State Board of
Professional Engineers and Surveyors

Rita Lumos, P.L.S.

"While I concede that 2001 was a quiet year in terms of survey-related actions at the meeting, the past few years have seen a tremendous amount of activity, debate, motions, and positive actions relative to surveying examinations, licensure, and education."

Send letters to *Licensure Exchange* Editor, NCEES, P.O. Box 1686, Clemson, SC 29633 or e-mail to lwilliam@ncees.org.

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

PURPOSE

The purpose of this Council shall be to provide an organization through which State Boards may act and counsel together to better discharge their responsibilities in regulating the practice of engineering and land surveying as it relates to the welfare of the public in safeguarding life, health, and property. The Council also provides such services as may be required by the boards in their mandate to protect the public"

Constitution Article 2. Section 2.01

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Upcoming EVENTS

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION
February 14–16	Board Presidents/MBA Assembly	San Antonio, TX
February 17–23	National Engineers Week	
February 22–23	Board of Directors' Meeting	Monterrey, CA
April 4–6	Southern Zone Interim Meeting	Baton Rouge, LA
April 19	PE and PLS Examinations	
April 20	FE and FLS Examinations	
April 25–27	Central Zone Interim Meeting	Chicago, IL
May 2–4	Western Zone Interim Meeting	Sun Valley, ID
May 9–11	Northeast Zone Interim Meeting	Burlington, VT

Vice President explores...

(continued from page 1)

Model Law definition of surveying. The NCEES Task Force on Model Law for Surveying is now entering its second year of existence with additional charges from current Council President Ted Fairfield. This task force will recommend a new Model Law definition that addresses some of the problems states are facing with the new surveying concepts, equipment, and methods available today.

The work of the task force will be presented at the 2002 interim zone meetings for discussion prior to the annual meeting in La Jolla, California. This is the time for NCEES Member Boards to review, discuss, and comment on the proposed changes. The final version of this task force's work will shape the next PAKS for surveyors.

Weidener ends his article with the following: "The need to combine history, research, legal concepts, and local conditions (art) with measurements (science) is unique to each survey and is never boring or repetitive. I truly love boundary surveying. **Yet it's only part of the surveying profession, and if you believe otherwise, you're picking your time to die."**

Surveying is a dynamic profession, not a static one. It is incumbent upon us to change with it.

Martin Pedersen, L.S.
Western Zone Vice President

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