National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying, Clemson, SC

October 2007

# Council looks ahead to second century of engineering licensure

W. Gene Corley, Ph.D., P.E., S.E., accepted the position of NCEES president at the 2007 Annual Meeting on August 25. The following is taken from his inaugural speech.

Throughout this year, we have celebrated the first 100 years of engineering licensure. In 1907, the state of Wyoming created the first licensure law and started what became a 40-year struggle to get licensure in all states and territories.

We have taken 2007 to look back and celebrate our past. However, we need to continue to promote the advantages of pursuing careers in engineering and surveying and the benefits afforded through licensure. We need not have to suffer tragedies such as the bridge failure in Minnesota in order for the public to recognize the value of licensed professionals.

## "Making engineering a finer, nobler profession"

There is another very important anniversary that we should celebrate this year—the achievement of adopting licensure laws in all U.S. states, territories, and the District of Columbia. That goal was reached in 1947.

With the achievement of getting licensure laws in all jurisdictions, former NCEES president and founder of the National Society of Professional Engineers Dr. David B. Steinman, P.E., stated the following:

Our dream has come true. . . Our work will live after us. We are building not for ourselves, but for posterity. . . For those of us that have known the struggles and hardships of engineering in the lean and difficult years, there is deep satisfaction in knowing we have done our part in making engineering a finer, nobler, and more satisfying profession for those who come after us.

These words express the achievements of the first 40 years of engineering licensure. At that time, our Council had just taken engineering from an apprentice-based business to an education-based profession. On licensure's

100th anniversary, we now need to increase the education level beyond the bachelor's degree to ensure that candidates are technically proficient to pursue licensure. This is a key item for the Council. Although many details are yet to be resolved, the Council will continue its efforts to initiate this requirement for the well-being of the public.

As president-elect, I have seen firsthand the accomplishments of the first 100 years of licensure. I have witnessed the accomplishments of our efforts to protect the public. I have noted that, although licensing laws have somewhat different ways of stating their requirements, we have made progress toward more uniform comity throughout the United States and its territories. With few exceptions, engineers and surveyors who have appropriate education, experience, and examination are able to move easily from jurisdiction to jurisdiction. With our future goal of developing a single 16-hour structural exam that can be used by all jurisdictions, we will finally accomplish a system of one-stop shopping to obtain qualifications for licensure in states that have recognition of structural engineers.

## New leadership and a bright future

This year has been challenging from the point of view of Board of Directors' activities. While the Board has been required to concentrate a great deal of effort on unexpected activities, our outstanding staff has been able to come through and carry out the work of the Council without missing a beat. Following the retirement of our executive director, we hired Jerry Carter as acting executive director. I am pleased to announce that the first action of the 2007–08 Board of Directors was to hire Jerry Carter as NCEES executive director.

As we start this new century of licensure with a new executive director, we are already on the ground running. Over the past 12 years, sources of revenue to help run the Council have diversified and increased. Although exam usage has not increased at a rapid rate, new

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W. Gene Corley, Ph.D., P.E., S.E. NCEES President

activities have. During this year, it appears that we will add about a million dollars to NCEES reserve funds. Much of this surplus has come from increased revenues in non-exam-related activities. However, a large amount has come from careful management of expenses. We anticipate that Executive Director Carter will continue to diversify and grow the Council while maintaining a balanced budget and providing services to Member Boards.

The NCEES Board of Directors conducts regular strategy-planning reviews to identify issues of concern, desired outcomes, and methods for achieving goals. The Board needs to continue to emphasize the importance of strategic planning in order to keep the Council a viable organization.

## ANSI accreditation and national visibility

A new NCEES milestone is its accreditation as an accredited standards developer (ASD) by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI). This achievement provides NCEES with a recognized quality brand in engineering and surveying serving the built environment, industry, federal government, and international standards development community. Accreditation by ANSI will have a positive impact on enhancing the value of licensure, particularly in government and industry.

Accreditation as an ASD is the first step in positioning NCEES as the ANSI-recognized developer of consensus standards in engineering and surveying licensure. It positions NCEES to develop standards that may be endorsed at the state and federal level. At this time, for example, the U.S. Department of Labor Office of Personnel Management, the Defense Department, and other agencies have memoranda of agreement or other endorsements with ANSI based on the federal agencies' recognition that ANSI is the "seal of approval" for standards, both in the United States and internationally. In the coming year, we will use the milestone of ANSI accreditation and will work strategically to promote the development of NCEES standards for licensure.

We also need to continue to improve our visibility on the national scene. We will continue to explore ways of becoming proactive rather than reactive to events in Washington that affect the licensure of engineers.

## New opportunities in examinations

In 2005, the Council authorized the Board to enter into an agreement with the Japan FE/PE Examiners Council (JPEC) to allow the administration of NCEES exams in Tokyo. The FE exam has been successfully administered through this agreement since October 2006, and, effective October 2007, the PE exam will be offered as well. A number of foreign entities have expressed an interest in forging a similar arrangement with NCEES. If the Council desires to continue promoting the NCEES exams as an international standard for the licensure process, it would benefit from entering into agreements with appropriately sanctioned groups when possible and when there are assurances of compliance with NCEES exam policies and security measures. These efforts will result in licensees having an easier path to comity.

Engineers invented the digital computer. We designed it, built it, and taught it all it knows. It makes sense that, someday, we should give computer-based exams. When the Council last studied this issue in 2000, computer-based testing was not an appropriate delivery mechanism for NCEES exams for many reasons. Much has changed since, with many enhancements to the CBT process and an overall price reduction. A task force has been created to reevaluate the CBT process and provide recommendations for the Council's consideration.

As the people who steal exams become more sophisticated, we must become more diligent in the ways we prevent them from being successful. One way to protect the public from fools and rascals who would cheat is to properly screen credentials. The Center for Professional Engineering Education Services has become more successful than ever imagined. This credential screening service is doing well in its first year and will get the support it needs to continue to get the job done.

## **Serving Member Boards**

The Council exists to serve its Member Boards. The NCEES Board of Directors and staff are resolute in ensuring that there is regular and effective communication with Member Boards and that there is no misunderstanding that the will of the Council will be carried forward. I look forward to the next 12 months and to serving our boards.

W. Gene Corley, Ph.D., P.E., S.E. NCEES President

## MESSAGE

## A call to Member Board members

Despite the repetition, "Member Board member" is actually one of the few frequently used phrases for which NCEES has not invented an acronym. To put it simply, if you are on one of the 70 licensing boards that make up NCEES, then you are a Member Board member. This article is directed at you.

Why did you choose to serve on your board? If your answer is, "I want to improve the profession and make licensing increasingly significant in protecting the public," then you are at the right place.

You already know that you are guiding engineering and surveying licensure in your jurisdiction: Laws and rules have to be up to date to reflect the rapid progress of the professions. Applications for exams and comity licensure have to be checked. Mandatory continuing education has to be made relevant. Staff has to be trained to be mindful of excellent customer service. Examinations have to be trouble-free.

Of the tasks and issues facing your board, it is highly likely that other boards within the Council have also have faced them. NCEES, being mindful of its constituency, has developed means to assist its Member Boards in addressing these common issues. Therefore, participation in NCEES can be a big timesaver to you and your board. Involvement with the Council should help you in your service to citizens, the professions, and your board.

After your board notifies NCEES of your appointment, you'll receive a substantial amount of information, much of it available at www.ncees.org. I advise you to do two things upon receipt of your new member packet. First, look through the material so that you'll know where to turn when a need arises. Then, fill in the data sheet that will get you a CouncilNet ID and password—this is very important. If you did not get that packet, ask your board's administrator for it now.

Many of the most important Council activities are related to exams. Creating and maintaining the FE and PE exams involve hundreds of accomplished and dedicated volunteers, and there is room for a hundred more. Participants tend to agree that serving as exam committee

volunteers is an incredibly satisfying public service experience. I encourage you to contact NCEES if you are interested in getting involved in NCEES exam development.

An issue you are probably already aware of concerns comity (administrators will quickly tell you *comity* is not *reciprocity*). The professionals in your jurisdiction demand reasonable access to work in other states, and you have to balance this demand with the need to ensure that only qualified persons achieve licensure. If a need arises to amend your licensing law, the NCEES *Model Law* and *Model Rules* are excellent sources to consult. If the *Model Law* and *Model Rules* do not address your board's concern, take the time to let NCEES know that a revision to the model might be in order.

Licensure Exchange, the bimonthly publication of NCEES, keeps you current with developments that are important to your board. For example, the December 2007 issue will give you information on issues that the many NCEES committees will be working on in 2007–08. Before the 2008 Annual Meeting, I will be asking you to submit requests informing me of the committees on which you would like to serve. Reading Licensure Exchange can help you in making an informed request to serve on an NCEES committee or task force.

Although NCEES tries to make it easier for you to be an effective board member, nothing is quite able to replicate the information exchange that occurs at NCEES zone meetings. The meetings provide ample opportunities to discuss ideas and solutions to problems with colleagues both informally and in forums for engineers, surveyors, and administrators. You'll hear from each of the states in your zone on issues and happenings that are of interest both within the zone and nationally. NCEES administration and officers give reports and are often subjected to thorough questioning. You owe it to yourself and your board to go to the next one.

I hope to see and hear from all of you and look forward to the coming year.

Henn Rebane, P.E. NCEES President-Elect



Henn Rebane, P.E. NCEES President-Elect

## **UPDATE**

# Revised format spearheads successful Annual Meeting



Jerry T. Carter
NCEES Executive Director

With its revised format designed to increase the value of the meeting and to encourage greater participation, the 86th Annual Meeting was both productive and enjoyable. Comments and survey results about the meeting have been overwhelmingly positive. You can see the results of the 2007 Annual Meeting survey on page 9. The feedback from this survey is very important; we will look closely at the results when planning next year's meeting as we continue our efforts to increase the value to attendees.

## **Annual Meeting actions**

The actions taken at the Annual Meeting have set the course for the next year and beyond. Various committees and task forces will be working on the following:

- Revising our exam production and printing plan to provide separate books for each module of the afternoon portion of the FE exam and all depth modules of the Civil, Electrical, and Mechanical PE exams and to print three versions of the morning portions of the Civil, Electrical, and Mechanical PE exams.
- Modernizing the format of the SE I and SE II exams by creating a single uniform exam that will address the needs of all Member Boards granting structural engineering licensure.
- Taking advantage of the Council's new status as an ANSI-certified accredited standards developer in order to have certain processes such as exam development recognized as approved standards.
- Planning for the participation of NCEES as the major society sponsor of a future National Engineers Week.

You can find more highlights of the 86th Annual Meeting beginning on page 6.

#### **Award winners**

At the Annual Meeting, the Council recognized some of the people who have made noteworthy contributions to NCEES, their

Member Boards, and the engineering and surveying professions. The following award winners were honored at an awards luncheon on August 23.

## Distinguished Service Award

- Melvin Hotz, P.E., Maryland
- Jon D. Nelson, P.E., Oklahoma
- James R. Riney, P.E., P.S., Kentucky
- William T. Sutherland, P.E., Minnesota

### Meritorious Service Award

Rosemary P. Brister, Mississippi

#### The Center

September marked the first anniversary of the Center for Professional Engineering Education Services. Applications to the Center have greatly exceeded our expectations. One result of this success, however, has been a backlog in pending applications. NCEES is working with Center Director Eva-Angela Adán to address this challenge, including hiring additional credential evaluators. Our goal is to provide a quality and timely service that Member Boards can rely on.

## Appointment as executive director

Finally, I was truly humbled by my appointment as NCEES executive director on August 25, and I extend my deep appreciation to the Board of Directors for having the confidence in my skills to offer me the position. I appreciate the many words of congratulations and support that I have received from every sector of the NCEES organization since the announcement. Your support is very much appreciated. I thank my family for their constant support and understanding, particularly when travel takes me away from home. Also, I offer a special thanks to the NCEES staff, who take little credit for the many good things that they do while consistently making people like me look good.

> Jerry T. Carter Executive Director

# Council affirms support for additional education requirements

Although it passed as a motion last year, the bachelor's plus 30 requirement remained a hot topic of discussion at the 86th Annual Meeting in Philadelphia.

The requirement, which as written will go into effect in 2015, calls for undergraduate engineering students to complete 30 additional academic credits beyond the bachelor's degree in order to qualify for professional licensure. For many throughout the profession, it represents a step to address concerns that undergraduate engineering programs have grown less stringent in their graduation requirements, particularly in the areas of math, applied science, and engineering design.

The bachelor's plus 30 has its roots in a process that began earlier this decade with the Engineering Licensure Qualifications
Task Force and the Licensure Qualifications
Oversight Group. The conclusions of these groups, along with the simultaneous publication of white papers by the National Academy of Engineering and American Society of Civil Engineers, led to the passage of the bachelor's plus 30 as a motion from the Committee on Uniform Procedures and Legislative
Guidelines in 2006 (see the April 2007 *Licensure Exchange* for more detailed information).

At this year's meeting, delegates had ample opportunity to discuss issues related to the implementation of the requirement. Wednesday featured a workshop devoted to updating delegates on the Council's activities related to the requirement. On Thursday, the topic was discussed in forums for engineers and Member Board administrators.

Throughout the week, some delegates expressed concerns regarding potential logistical and legal difficulties resulting from the implementation of the requirement. Kathy Gustin-Williams, P.E., of Maine gave a presentation in both forums that showed statistics indicating that many recent applicants in Maine would not qualify for licensure under the bachelor's plus 30. Some said the Council was better served by addressing the decline of required academic credits through ABET, the accreditation agency for engineering programs.

Proponents of the bachelor's plus 30 requirement encouraged debate on the issue as a means to gaining a consensus in moving

forward with implementation. "Our goal was to gather as much input as possible from the Member Boards," said Skip Harclerode, P.E., the 2006–07 UPLG chair.

"There were concerns that implementing it could be an administrative nightmare for the boards," he added.

Harclerode said the Council's challenge will be to work out the details of the bachelor's plus 30 requirement, particularly with regard to acceptability of courses and providers. "We need to give the Member Boards something they can implement," he said.

During the forums, Monte Phillips, Ph.D., P.E., of North Dakota pointed to the 2015 implementation date, saying it provided sufficient time for the Council to work out the details of the requirement, including developing standards for identifying acceptable coursework to fulfill the requirement. Past President Jon Nelson, P.E., of Oklahoma expressed a desire to send a message to the profession that NCEES is serious about strengthening the educational requirements for engineering licensure.

During Friday's final business session, delegates voted on a floor motion that proposed removing the bachelor's plus 30 requirement from the NCEES *Model Law*. After a lengthy debate, the motion to repeal the bachelor's plus 30 was defeated by a larger margin than the previous year's margin in favor of adopting the requirement.

"I saw the vote as a signal that more people are saying it is important to raise the bar," said Harclerode.

According to NCEES Executive Director Jerry Carter, Council leadership has decided to create a new task force devoted exclusively to working out the issues cited by Member Boards as potential barriers to implementing the bachelor's plus 30. Carter added that the charges and leadership for the 2007–08 Bachelor's Plus 30 Task Force are currently being finalized under the supervision of President Gene Corley.

Doug McGuirt Editor Council leadership has decided to create a new task force devoted exclusively to working out the issues cited by Member Boards as potential barriers to implementing the bachelor's plus 30.

# Highlights from the 86th NCEES Annual Meeting

The following are some of the items delegates voted on at the Annual Meeting business sessions on August 24. The complete Annual Meeting *Minutes* will be posted on CouncilNet and mailed to all Member Board members, administrators, and emeritus members in October. It will include a form for requesting hard copies of the revised board member manuals—the *Model Lam*, *Model Rules, Constitution and Bylans*, and *Manual of* 



Oklahoma Board members Jon Nelson (emeritus), Glen Smith, and Roy Entz prepare for the business session. A shorter business session format was introduced this year.

Policy and Position Statements. The manuals will also be available for download on CouncilNet in October.

## **Examinations**

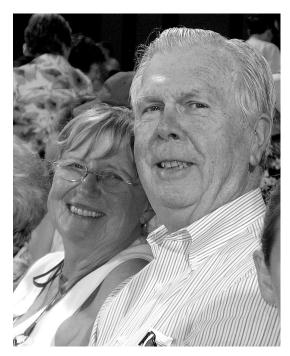
• Delegates approved a motion to print separate books for each module of the afternoon portion of the FE exam and all depth modules of the Civil, Electrical, and Mechanical PE exams. The motion also calls for printing three versions of the morning portions of the Civil, Electrical, and Mechanical PE exams to deter copying/collusion. The changes to the Civil PE exam will be implemented in October 2009; the changes to the FE and PE Electrical and Mechanical exams will go into effect in April 2010.

These changes will affect Member Board exam procedures in two ways. First, candidates for these exams will be required to declare their depth module when they register for the exam rather than selecting the module on the day of the exam. Second, non-ELSES jurisdictions will need to begin preparing for how they will handle the distribution of the booklets on exam day so that examinees with the same modules and

- versions are not seated next to each other. For larger jurisdictions, this could increase the workload significantly.
- The Council passed a motion to modernize the format of the Structural Engineering I and Structural Engineering II exams by creating a single examination for Member Boards that grant structural engineering licensure. This examination, which will be put into use by April 2011, will have two 8-hour components. A 2007–08 committee has been charged with researching how this restructuring will affect Member Boards who currently use the SE I exam for PE licensure.

# Exam administration and development

- Delegates passed motions modifying language in examination development policies (EDP) 6 and 7 to clarify the procedures for requesting that disciplines or modules be deleted or adopted. The revision to EDP 6 requiring that no fewer than 10 Member Boards collectively request the addition of a new discipline-specific FE exam module brings the policy in line with the requirements for establishing new disciplines or depth modules for the PE exam (EDP 5).
- Examination administration policy (EAP) 3, Access and Review to Examinations, was amended to state that if requesting a post-administration review of an examination, a Member Board must request the review on behalf of the failing examinee within 30 calendar days after results have been sent out by the Member Board and/or request hand scores within 60 days.
- The Council adopted an exam administration policy concerning exam administration audits. The policy states that Member Boards or their authorized representatives are required to participate in exam administration audits as established in 2006 by the Board of Directors' exam administration audit plan to ensure consistency in exam administration and security.
- EAP 8, Release of Examination Results, was modified to add language stating that exam results for any examinee who fails to comply with the conditions stated in the candidate information sheet are subject to invalidation by the Member Board.



President Gene Corley and his wife, Lynd, cheer on the Phillies at Citizens Bank Park. NCEES backing was not enough to secure victory for the home team, however; the San Diego Padres won 14—3.

### **Council activities**

- The Council passed a motion to combine the Constitution and the Bylaws into one document for the Council's consideration at the 2008 Annual Meeting. This motion resulted from recommendations from legal counsel to combine the documents to eliminate current and potential future conflicts between them.
- The Council voted to adopt a new position statement (PS 30), Professional Society Assistance in Practice Act Revisions, to recognize and encourage the involvement of professional societies with Member Boards in the legislative process.
- The Council adopted a second position statement that addresses record or "as-built" drawings. The Council adopted this position statement to clarify the issue of whether or not record drawings need to be prepared by a professional engineer or surveyor. The new position statement reads as follows:

## PS 31: Certification of Record/As-Built Drawings

NCEES does not consider the representation of what was believed to be constructed to be engineering or surveying work and that to seal such work may be in violation of local and state statutes and rules. However, an engineer or surveyor may be required to seal work not performed under the engineer's or surveyor's direct supervision and control. In such cases, a caveat should be included on sealed record drawings, incorporating, as applicable, the following factors:

- The record drawing is a compiled representation of the constructed project.
- The sources and the basis of information used in the preparation of the record drawing should be listed.
- The record drawing is believed to be correct to the best of the professional's knowledge.
- The accuracy of the information cannot be guaranteed.
- Delegates passed a motion to amend Section 4.05 of the Constitution to allow members of the Board of Directors to run for presidentelect if their term on their state board has expired during their term as NCEES vice-president or treasurer. Previously, only active members of state boards could run for this position. To qualify, they must have also obtained emeritus standing and have the approval of their state board. In addition, it must be their zone's



Louisiana Board Director of Enforcement Robert Eddleman and his wife, Wilda, take a break from the dance floor at the American Bandstand Kickoff Party. The Costume prize at the party.

rotation to elect a president-elect, and their zone must nominate them.

 A new administrative policy, Awards, was adopted to provide specific criteria for selecting recipients of NCEES awards based on the demonstration of outstanding service to NCEES. For further details, see page 10.

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#### **MISSION**

The Mission of NCEES is to coordinate with domestic and international organizations to promote licensure of all engineers and surveyors.

NCEES Strategic Plan

 The Council passed a motion to approve NCEES serving as the primary sponsor of National Engineers Week. This will be a one-time sponsorship that is in addition to the annual support NCEES already provides to National Engineers Week as part of its regularly budgeted licensure promotion activities.

### Licensure

- The Council passed a revision to the *Model Rules* definitions of Model Law Engineer and Model Law Structural Engineer (Section 210.20) to include the bachelor's plus 30 requirement beginning in 2015. This change was passed to make the *Model Rules* consistent with the related *Model Law* language that the Council passed at the Annual Meeting in 2006.
- Model Rule 240.30 was modified to clarify language related to continuing professional competency. The revisions were based on the changes recommended by the Continuing Professional Competency Task Force that the Council approved at the 2006 Annual Meeting.
- Delegates voted to adopt a new section in the *Model Rules* (Section 210.30, Clarifications to the Offering of Engineering and Surveying Practice)

to clarify what is considered offering to practice engineering or surveying in the solicitation of work, provided that the engineer or surveyor is licensed in another jurisdiction.

### **Finances**

- A motion passed to revise financial policy 3 to remove language providing for the Council's covering of travel costs of guests of members of the NCEES Board of Directors. This revision came about as a result of advice from NCEES legal counsel regarding the Council's nonprofit status.
- The Council approved Operating and Capital Budgets for fiscal year 2007–08.

## **Education**

• Delegates passed a Western Zone resolution urging ABET to stem the decline of required credit hours for engineering degrees at accredited institutions. The resolution urges ABET to institute a minimum number of credits required for bachelor engineering degrees and that these credits include a set percentage of engineering sciences and design coursework as appropriate. An additional clause directs professional societies overseeing ABET accreditation to determine these parameters.

## Board approves new exam item costs

At its meeting on August 21, 2007, the Board of Directors approved the following amounts as reasonable valuations of each exam item for 2007–08:

FE Exam Item Cost	\$2,109
PE Exam Item Cost Group I	\$3,068
PE Exam Item Cost Group II	\$2,504
FS/PS Exam Item Cost	\$2,254
Structural II Exam Item Cost	\$41,357

Each year, NCEES staff assesses the financial damages associated with an exam breach. Factors such as travel, subject-matter experts' time, psychometric costs, and office and personnel costs are considered when establishing the dollar value for each exam question. The Board of Directors then reviews these recommendations.

This year, the Structural II exam was assigned its own item cost. Previously, its associated costs were included in the PE Group I exam value. Executive Director Jerry Carter explained that the Structural II exam, which consists of eight essay questions, must be considered separately. "We segregated this exam because the processes and procedures for its development are so distinct," he said. "This new value is a much more accurate assessment of the cost of replacing one of its questions."

The updated exam item costs went into effect in fiscal year 2007–08, which began October 1.

## **Annual Meeting evaluation results**

Thanks to everyone who completed the Annual Meeting online survey; the responses will be helpful in planning next year's meeting. Below is a summary of the survey results from the 162 survey respondents (actual number of responses shown in parentheses). You can read additional survey results in the addendum found at the end of this electronic file (page 17).

Annual Meeting Program	Unacceptable	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent	Did Not Attend
Keynote speaker	0% (0)	0%	12% (19)	33% (54)	42% (68)	13% (21)
Business session I	0% (0)	4% (7)	9% (15)	52% (85)	27% (43)	7% (12)
Business session II	0% (0)	1% (1)	3% (5)	52% (84)	36% (59)	8% (13)
Business session III	0% (0)	1% (1)	2% (3)	48% (78)	36% (59)	13% (21)
Business session IV	0% (0)	1% (1)	2% (3)	40% (65)	36% (58)	22% (35)
How well were overall expectations of Annual Meeting program met?	0% (0)	0% (0)	2% (3)	48% (78)	49% (80)	1%(1)
Zone Meetings (% based on number of respective zone meeting attendees)	Unacceptable	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent	% of All Survey Respondents
Central	0% (0)	0% (0)	19% (6)	69% (22)	12% (4)	20% (32)
Northeast	0% (0)	0% (0)	17% (5)	52% (15)	31% (9)	18% (29)
Southern	0% (0)	0% (0)	1% (1)	45% (26)	54% (31)	36% (58)
Western	0% (0)	0% (0)	4% (1)	67% (14)	29% (6)	14% (21)
Annual Meeting Workshops	Unacceptable	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent	Did Not Attend
Variety of workshops offered	0% (0)	1% (1)	5% (8)	48% (78)	38% (62)	8% (13)
Number of PDH workshops offered	1% (2)	2% (4)	8% (13)	43% (69)	31% (50)	15% (24)
Annual Meeting Materials	Unacceptable	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent	Did Not Receive
Annual Meeting brochure and registration form	0% (0)	1% (1)	4% (7)	34% (55)	61% (99)	0% (0)
Registration confirmation information	0% (0)	0% (0)	3% (5)	23% (38)	73% (119)	0% (0)
Delegate registration packet	0% (0)	0% (0)	4% (7)	33% (54)	60% (98)	2% (3)
Pocket schedule	0% (0)	0% (0)	2% (3)	9% (15)	89% (144)	0% (0)
Daily Bulletin	0% (0)	0% (0)	9% (14)	41% (66)	44% (72)	6% (10)
Awards luncheon brochure	0% (0)	1% (1)	2% (3)	31% (50)	53% (86)	14% (22)
Action Items and Conference Reports	0% (0)	0% (0)	3% (5)	33% (54)	62% (100)	2% (3)
Social Activities	Unacceptable	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent	Did Not Attend
American Bandstand kickoff party	0% (0)	1% (1)	4% (6)	20% (33)	49% (80)	26% (42)
Thursday awards luncheon	0% (0)	0% (0)	5% (8)	44% (72)	39% (63)	12% (19)
Phillies baseball game	0% (0)	1% (1)	1% (2)	9% (15)	13% (21)	76% (123)
King Tut exhibition	1% (1)	1% (1)	6% (9)	7% (11)	11% (18)	75% (122)
Saturday luncheon	0% (0)	2% (3)	7% (12)	23% (38)	23% (37)	44% (72)
Saturday farewell reception	1% (1)	3% (5)	12% (20)	17% (28)	21% (34)	46% (74)
Saturday farewell banquet	0% (0)	0% (0)	0% (0)	14% (23)	41% (67)	44% (72)
Saturday farewell after party	0% (0)	0% (0)	5% (8)	12% (20)	23% (38)	59% (96)
Loews Philadelphia Hotel	Unacceptable	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent	Did Not Use
Loews Philadelphia hotel—overall rating	1% (1)	1% (2)	8% (13)	43% (69)	47% (76)	1% (1)
NCEES Staff	Unacceptable	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent	
Availability	0% (0)	0% (0)	3% (5)	23% (38)	73% (119)	
Support	0% (0)	1% (1)	3% (5)	22% (35)	75% (121)	
Courtesy	0% (0)	1% (2)	1% (2)	12% (19)	86% (139)	
Knowledge	0% (0)	1% (2)	2% (3)	18% (29)	79% (128)	
Professionalism	0% (0)	0% (0)	2% (4)	12% (20)	85% (138)	

# UPDATE

# Awards Committee seeks nominations

The Committee on Awards is accepting nominations for the Distinguished Service Award, the Distinguished Service Award with Special Commendation, and the Meritorious Service Award. These awards will be presented at the 2008 Annual Meeting in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

New criteria will be used to evaluate the nominees for the 2008 awards. Delegates at the August Annual Meeting voted to modify

administrative policy (AP) 12, Awards, to include specific criteria for selecting recipients of an NCEES award.

Nomination materials were mailed to Member Board administrators (MBAs) in September. They are also available on CouncilNet or by contacting Sherrie Holcomb at sholcomb@ncees.org. Nominations are due by Thursday, January 31, 2008.

## New language for AP 12

Following the vote to amend AP 12, the policy now reads as follows:

#### AP 12 Awards

Nominations for the Distinguished Service Award, the Distinguished Service Award with Special Commendation, and the Meritorious Service Award shall be submitted by an NCEES Member Board. NCEES will officially recognize members, associate members, and emeritus members who provide or have provided outstanding service to NCEES. The members of the Committee on Awards and the Board of Directors shall not be nominated for these awards while serving on the Committee on Awards or on the Board of Directors. In evaluating nominations, the following guidelines are to be observed:

#### Distinguished Service Award

- Must be a current member, a former member, or an emeritus member
- Must promote engineering or surveying licensure at the state or national level
- Must demonstrate positive contributions to the advancement of the engineering or surveying profession and the mission and vision of NCEES
- May include participation in professional or technical societies as a consideration
- Must demonstrate active participation in Member Board activities
- Must include distinguished service on at least one NCEES committee

## Distinguished Service Award with Special Commendation

- Must have been a recipient of the Distinguished Service Award
- Must be a current member, a former member, or an emeritus member
- Must promote engineering or surveying licensure at the national level
- Must demonstrate positive contributions to the advancement of the engineering or surveying profession and the mission and vision of NCEES
- May include participation in professional or technical societies as a consideration
- Must demonstrate active participation in Member Board activities
- Must include leadership or exemplary service on at least one NCEES committee

## Meritorious Service Award

- Must be a current or former associate member
- Must demonstrate positive contributions to the advancement of the engineering or surveying profession and the mission, vision, and goals of his or her board and NCEES
- Must participate in Member Board activities
- Must participate in the promotion of licensure
- Must include distinguished service on at least one NCEES committee

# Professional Services launches marketing campaign

Two of the Council's Professional Services programs are hitting the road with a new marketing campaign. The joint campaign of the new Registered Continuing Education Providers Program (RCEPP) and the Council Records Program will include exhibits at conferences and trade shows, print ads for various professional magazines, and targeted brochure mailings. Marketing Associate Erin Carroll and Records Manager Leigh Fricks launched the campaign at the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) Fall Conference on September 26–29 in Maui, Hawaii.

One of the campaign's goals is to raise awareness of RCEPP, which began operations in August 2006. "It's a new program, so people are still learning about it," said Carroll. "The Records Program is well-established, but the demand for comity licensure is increasing and we want licensees to know that we have programs to make the process easier."

RCEPP is a joint effort with ACEC to provide a centralized resource for licensed engineers and surveyors to track continuing education requirements. Through the RCEPP Web site (www.rcepp.com), licensees can search continuing education and licensing requirements by each U.S. state and jurisdiction and find qualifying continuing education activities by searching the master calendar of seminars and online courses from registered providers.

The new marketing campaign emphasizes the time-saving benefits of the program to multistate licensees. Both RCEPP and the Records Program allow licensees to track and manage the requirements of multiple licensing jurisdictions.

As of September, RCEPP featured 25 registered providers, with another set to join in October. "I look for that number to grow quickly as more continuing education providers become aware of the program," said Davy McDowell, the Council's director of professional services.

McDowell and Fricks said they hope the marketing campaign will also help the Records Program expand on its significant growth. This past year, applications increased by 24 percent, and transmittals to other jurisdictions

were up 21 percent. Currently, over 16,000 engineers and 150 surveyors hold Council Records. Fricks said that despite this growth, there is still work to do.

"The program is growing, but a lot of people still don't know about it or don't know what is

required to establish a Council Record," she said. "This campaign will give us the opportunity to tell licensees about how the program works and explain the benefits of being a Council Record holder."

The Records Program is designed to help engineers



and surveyors with multistate licensure. When licensees establish a Council Record, NCEES collects and stores the materials they need to apply for licensure in additional states, including college transcripts, employment verifications, professional references, and exam results—all verified by NCEES and available to licensing boards via an electronic network.

NCEES staff will take the campaign to the National Council of Structural Engineers Associations' annual conference in October and to ASCE's GeoCongress in March; other venues are currently being finalized. Print advertisements for RCEPP and the Records Program will appear in PE Magazine, Civil Engineering, Engineering, Inc., and Structure. Brochure mailing campaigns will target licensed engineers and surveyors, particularly those who are licensed in or are likely to need to be licensed in multiple jurisdictions. Additional brochures will be sent to Member Boards in October to include in the licensure packets that they send to candidates who have recently passed the PE exam.

"This is the first comprehensive campaign we've done for RCEPP and the first new campaign for the Records Program in a few years," Carroll said. "We're excited about this opportunity to increase awareness of how we can help licensees."

> Jennifer Minchin Associate Editor



L. (Larry) Robert Smith, P.E NCEES Treasurer

# It made us better engineers and people. Didn't it?

# Larry Smith looks back, gains perspective on bachelor's plus 30 debate

It was with a great amount of shock that I opened an envelope announcing my 40th college class reunion. I have found that, as I get older, I reminisce about my college days more fondly. However, it still seems like I spent five years on Devil's Island.

As an incoming engineering freshman, I went to an orientation of about 3,000 engineering wannabes held in the Great Hall of the City College of New York. Albert Einstein had once addressed a similar-sized group here. The engineering dean told us to look at the person to the right of us and the person to the left of us. He said, "Only one of you will be here at graduation." He meant it. Less than one-third of the entering engineering class would graduate as engineers.

The experience started with course registration. We would run from table to table trying to get in what was left of the openings. If we were shut out, we had the option of enrolling in the evening division or trying to get into a class offered at the downtown business school.

The engineering program was a five-year program with 145 credits. Of these, all but 21 were in science, math, or engineering. Lab courses, surveying camps, and design sessions were given 1 credit for every 3 hours of class. The rationale was that there were 2 hours of home study associated with each hour of lecture but that labs, surveying camps, and design sessions required no additional outside time. Obviously, no one ever told them about the 12 hours it would take to get a lab report done for the next week.

There was also a complicated series of pre-requisites and co-requisites. To simplify this, the catalogue contained a flow chart of courses—our first introduction to critical path planning. To stay on track, I had to take a freshman chemistry lab at the downtown business school. This meant getting on a subway and going downtown to attend a 3-hour lab. Thank goodness it was only once a week because, as soon as the class finished, I had to make a mad dash for the subway and go back uptown to make my next class. I was thin in those days.

At the end of registration, we had to get our course enrollments approved. There was a blackboard that had two arrows drawn on it: one was labeled "Engineers" and the other was labeled "Non-Engineers." In the 10 times that I passed that blackboard, I can't remember ever having seen it not bearing the added annotation, "This is where we separate the men from the boys."

This was part of the organized terror tactics. The individual professors were left to their own devices to torture us. One practice was handing back exams in descending numerical order. The professor would call the name of the individual who had received the highest grade on the exam. If it was a perfect score, that fact would be announced. This usually would be cause for a polite round of applause and a few muttered comments. The names of the others were called in descending order. At some point in the reading, the professor would stop and state that below this point all others failed and then keep going down the list. The last person to receive an exam back was referred to as the anchorman. This person usually also received a round of applause, and comments were made in a somewhat louder voice. It could not happen today without lawsuits being filed.

Individual class grades were also posted at the end of the semester on the office door of the professor. Of course, these were also listed by name. Besides an F, there were two other failing grades. One was a G, which could be assigned at any time by a professor who felt that it was mathematically impossible for the student to obtain a passing grade. Why let him sit in a class and breathe everyone else's air? The other, more lethal grade was an H. This was assigned by a professor who felt the class was beyond the academic abilities of the student. It basically ended the student's career in that program if the course was needed for the degree.

In civil engineering, we would always get a number of transfers from electrical in their junior year. It was usually believed that they had received a career-altering H. A few days after we had taken an exam in a soils class, the professor asked one of the students if he could come speak to him in his office. As we walked out, the individual turned to a couple of us and asked, "Why do you think he wants to speak to me?" Someone said, "Either you did so well on the exam that he wants to personally congratulate you, or you screwed up so bad that he's going to drop a G or an H on you." The individual did not show up at the lab that day, and the next time I saw him was about a year later. He was enrolled as a biology major, hoping to teach in high school.

The classes were graded without curves. Class after class would have grades posted without a single A awarded. Sometimes there would be one A but then no Bs-if an individual was so far ahead of the class that to award Bs would diminish the merit of his A. One professor told us that in life and in engineering there were no curves. As a result, out of some 800 graduates, usually less than 10 would receive a degree with honors. There were some electrical students who would receive a degree summa or magna cum laude—we always said that you can't spell geek without a double-e-but in my five years in the civil program, I believe there were only two who received their degrees cum laude.

I now look at the engineering programs of today. The number of required credits is far less than the number of technical credits we were required to take. The number of liberal arts credits included in this total is far greater than when I was an undergraduate. The resulting engineering programs require less math, less science, and far less engineering. Classes are graded on curves. The dropout rate is far, far less than what it used to be. This explains why many in the profession are calling for 30 additional credits as a prerequisite for licensure.

Did what we went through as undergraduates make us better engineers and better people? At my 25th reunion, I was pleased to see how many of my classmates had become professors or owned or were principals of their firms. Those who had gone into government were almost all chief engineer or head of some impressive department or organization. A number had become quite successful in the business and industrial world. The general consensus was that we had done so well as a group because the bar had been set so high that only the best made it. We all agreed that what we went through as undergraduates had toughened us up for the careers ahead. We just didn't appreciate it at the time.

> L. (Larry) Robert Smith, P.E. NCEES Treasurer

Send letters to *Licensure Exchange* editor at NCEES, PO Box 1686, Clemson, SC 29633 or dmcguirt@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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## Member Board

## NEWS

## Florida PE

- Zafar Hyder, Ph.D., P.E., is a new appointee to the board. Nola Garcia, Robert Matthews, Daniel Rivera, David Bloomquist, P.E., and Katherine Hogenkamp, P.E., are no longer on the board.
- Carrie Flynn is the new executive director. She previously served as interim executive director.

## Maryland LS and PE

• Pamela Edwards is the new acting executive director for the LS and PE boards. Her e-mail address is pamedwards@dllr.state.md.us.

#### **Minnesota**

 Gary Demele, Tom Grue, P.E., Lisa Hanni, L.S., and Bruce Johnson are new appointees to the board. William Brown, L.S., Michael King, James O'Brien, and William Sutherland, P.E., are no longer on the board.

## Mississippi

• Joseph Lauderdale, P.E. is a new appointee to the board. James Kopf, P.E., P.S., is no longer on the board.

## Nevada

• Christine Milburn is a new appointee to the board. Bud Cranor is no longer on the board.

### Ohio

- The board's new address is 50 West Broad Street, Suite 1820, Columbus, OH 43215-3301.
   Telephone and fax numbers remain the same.
- Executive Director John Greenhalge's new e-mail address is john.greenhalge@pes.ohio.gov.

### **Puerto Rico**

Carmen Carreras is no longer director of the board.

#### South Dakota

Brad Scott is the new executive director of the board.

Utah

• Charles Powell is a new appointee to the board.

## **Vermont LS and PE**

 The Vermont LS and PE boards' new address is Vermont Secretary of State, Office of Professional Regulation, National Life Building, North Floor 2, Montpelier, VT 05620-3402.
 The new main telephone number for the Office of Professional Regulation is 802-828-1505.
 All other telephone numbers remain the same.

### **Virginia**

 The board's new address is Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation, 9960 Mayland Drive, Suite 400, Richmond, VA 23233. The new fax number is 804-527-4294.
 Telephone numbers remain the same.

## **New Jersey Board honors Raimondi**

The New Jersey State Board of Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors recently issued a proclamation recognizing NCEES Past President Louis A. Raimondi, P.E., L.S., for "service to the State of New Jersey and in appreciation of his earned respect and gratitude" as a member and former president of the state board. Raimondi was the 2006–07 NCEES president.

## **EVENTS**

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION
October 26–27	Exam Administrations	
November 2–3	Board of Directors' Meeting	.Palm Springs, California
February 22–23	.Board of Directors' Meeting	.Naples, Florida
April 3–5	Northeast Zone Interim Meeting	.Boston, Massachusetts
April II-I2	Exam Administrations	
May I-3	. Southern Zone Interim Meeting	. San Juan, Puerto Rico
May 15–17	Central/Western Zone Joint Interim Meeting.	.Bismarck, North Dakota

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Doug McGuirt

2007-08 NCEES

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## Introducing the 2007-08 Board of **Directors**



Standing left to right: Timms, Rathbone, Whitman, Dinkins; Seated left to right: Smith, Corley, Rebane, Raimondi

t the 2007 Annual Meeting, Gene Corley, Ph.D., P.E., S.E., accepted the position of president, and Louis Raimondi, P.E., L.S., stepped into the role of immediate past president. Delegates voted for a new president-elect and chose Henn Rebane, P.E., to fill the position. Delegates also elected Larry Smith, P.E., to the position of treasurer.

Joe Timms, P.E., was commissioned Northeast Zone vice president, and Gene Dinkins, P.E., P.L.S., was commissioned Southern Zone vice president. Donald Rathbone, Ph.D., P.E., and David Whitman, Ph.D., P.E., began their second year as Central Zone vice president and Western zone vice president, respectively.



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## Addendum: Annual Meeting evaluation results

Below are additional results of the Annual Meeting electronic survey that began on page 9. Survey respondents were entered into a drawing for an iPod, and George Roman, P.E., P.L.S., of the Pennsylvania Board was the winner.

Respondent description*	Member Board Member	Member Board Administrator. 15% (24)		Society Rep.	Other (past president, emeritus, etc.) 26% (42)		
*This page includes the responses of one person who completed the survey after the print edition went to press. Therefore, the number of respondents is 163 on this page and 162 on page 9.	54% (88)			6% (9)			
Annual Meeting Materials	Binder/hard copy	/ CD Thumbdrive		2	Downloadable PDF		
If the Action Items and Conference Reports were available in different formats, which would you prefer to receive?	55% (89)	15% (24)	15% (25)	15% (25)		15% (25)	
Delegates and Guest Services	Unacceptable	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent	Did Not Attend	
NCEES self-service office hours	0% (0)	1% (2)	2% (3)	20% (33)	32% (52)	45% (73)	
NCEES self-service office equipment	0% (0)	2% (3)	1% (2)	17% (28)	31% (50)	49% (80)	
Hospitality suite hours	0% (0)	1% (1)	2% (3)	18% (28)	12% (20)	68% (108)	
Hospitality suite refreshments	0% (0)	0% (0)	9% (14)	19% (31)	16% (26)	56% (91)	
Colonial Philadelphia Experience	Unacceptable	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent	Did Not Attend	
Tour	0% (0)	1% (1)	1% (1)	6% (10)	9% (14)	84% (134)	
Tour guide	0% (0)	1% (2)	4% (6)	3% (5)	8% (13)	84% (133)	
Quality of food	0% (0)	1% (1)	1% (2)	8% (12)	8% (13)	82% (132)	
Transportation	0% (0)	1% (1)	1% (2)	8% (13)	7% (11)	83% (132)	
Philly Surf-&-Turf Tour and Taste	Unacceptable	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent	Did Not Attend	
Tour	0% (0)	0% (0)	1% (1)	1% (2)	2% (3)	96% (153)	
Tour guide	0% (0)	0% (0)	1% (1)	1% (2)	2% (3)	96% (153)	
Quality of food	0% (0)	0% (0)	0% (0)	3% (4)	1% (2)	96% (152)	
Transportation	0% (0)	0% (0)	1% (1)	3% (4)	1% (2)	96% (152)	
Loews Philadelphia Hotel	Unacceptable	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent	Did Not Stay	
Location	1%(1)	1% (2)	4% (7)	28% (45)	64% (105)	2% (3)	
Room rate	1%(1)	1% (1)	14% (23)	40% (66)	37% (61)	7% (11)	
Check-in, check-out procedures	2% (4)	2% (4)	8% (13)	32% (52)	48% (79)	7% (11)	
Guest rooms	0% (0)	0% (0)	6% (10)	38% (62)	48% (78)	8% (13)	
Meeting rooms	0% (0)	0% (0)	4% (6)	47% (77)	47% (77)	2% (3)	
Hotel staff	0% (0)	0% (0)	4% (6)	29% (47)	66% (107)	2% (3)	
Quality of the Food	Unacceptable	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent	Did Not Attend	
American Bandstand Kickoff Party	1%(1)	0% (0)	9% (14)	31% (51)	33% (54)	26% (43)	
Thursday breakfast	0% (0)	2% (3)	10% (17)	44% (72)	29% (47)	15% (24)	
Thursday awards luncheon	1%(1)	0% (0)	10% (16)	45% (73)	33% (53)	12% (20)	
Friday breakfast	0% (0)	1% (2)	12% (19)	43% (70)	32% (52)	12% (20)	
Friday luncheon	0% (0)	1% (1)	10% (16)	45% (73)	32% (52)	13% (21)	
Saturday breakfast	0% (0)	0% (0)	7% (11)	38% (62)	22% (36)	33% (54)	
Saturday luncheon	1% (2)	1% (2)	6% (9)	27% (44)	16% (26)	49% (80)	