

AN OFFICIAL NCEES PUBLICATION FOR THE EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION, OPINIONS, AND IDEAS REGARDING THE LICENSURE OF ENGINEERS AND SURVEYORS

FROM THE PRESIDENT

FOCUS ON THE WHO, WHAT, AND WHERE OF ENGINEERING AND SURVEYING



PATTY MAMOLA, P.E.
NCEES PRESIDENT

Patty Mamola, P.E., of Nevada, accepted the office of president on August 23 at the NCEES annual meeting. She is the organization's first female president since its founding in 1920.

I am honored to represent NCEES as its president in the coming year. I'm excited to focus this organization on three things, and I hope that NCEES will be excited to join me: first, communicating

to the public what it is we do as engineers and surveyors; second, who is and can be an engineer or surveyor and the diversity within our professions; and third, where engineers and surveyors work and the borders they cross to do their work, or mobility.

Communication

Over the years, I've had several opportunities to hear my children's interpretations of what I do as an engineer: from "Duh, mom, you drive trains," to "You sit around and tell people what to do all day," to a rather unflattering

mime of me yakking on the phone and typing at my computer. If my children don't know what it is I do as an engineer, how can the general public—who don't eat dinner with a P.E. every night—be expected to know?

As part of a public outreach project last year, NCEES staff went to the streets and asked random people what engineers and surveyors do. One response sticks with me: "Surveyors, they're the guys on the side of the road wearing orange vests with the thingies doing something." People have no idea what engineers and surveyors really do. We don't do a good job of explaining it in simple terms.

On the National Academy of Engineering website, one of the frequently asked questions is, "What are engineers and what do they do?" Their response is, "Engineers take abstract ideas and create tangible items." To simplify, engineers create. We use math and science to turn ideas into reality.

Surveyors, in simple terms, measure and map the world around us. Boundary surveying and construction surveying—when they're on the side of the road in the orange vests with the thingies—are the most well-known specialties, but surveyors play an important role in many facets of our lives.

We as engineers and surveyors understand better than anyone how our professions contribute to the world around us in large and small ways. Each of us is an ambassador. We must tell people about the great things engineers and surveyors do—and keep it simple.

continued on page 4

Annual meeting delegates debate the issues

Key actions include *Model Law* change to let candidates take PE exam early



Wednesday's River Walk Block Party gave delegates and their guests—including Carolyn Langelotti, P.E., of the Virginia board and her husband, Gerry—time to relax before the business sessions started. Langelotti was one of 79 member board members and staff attending the annual meeting for the first time.

The San Antonio River Tunnel Tour presenter explains how the flood control tunnel protects the city. The tour was one of a number of professional development workshops held Wednesday.



Delegates attending the 92nd NCEES annual meeting addressed a range of issues related to the organization and to engineering and surveying licensure. The following summarizes key actions taken at the August 21–24 meeting in San Antonio, Texas. Full details of the meeting will be included in the official minutes, which will be published later this year.

Changes to *Model Law*

The Council voted to remove from its *Model Law* the prerequisite that the required four years of progressive engineering experience must be earned before a candidate can take the final licensing exam, the Principles and Practice of Engineering exam.

NCEES Chief Executive Officer Jerry Carter explained that the change does not alter the requirements themselves. “The *Model Law* still requires four years of engineering experience. You don’t have to meet the experience requirement before you can take the PE exam, but you do have to meet it—along with the education and examination requirements—before you can get licensed as a professional engineer.”

CEO Carter also noted that this change to the *Model Law*, a best-practice model for state laws, is subject to implementation at the state level. “Each jurisdiction will decide whether to remove the prerequisite aspect of the experience requirement from its laws or policies, and some have already done so.”

Reduction in FE, FS exam prices

Among other annual meeting actions, NCEES member boards also voted to amend its policy on exam charges to lower the price charged for the computer-based Fundamentals of Engineering and Fundamentals of Surveying exams, which it will begin offering on January 2, 2014.

CEO Carter explained, “Because the computer-based exams will be shorter, we won’t need to charge as much. The cost of \$225 will cover exam development, scoring, and administering the exam at Pearson VUE testing centers.”

Focus on non-accredited degrees

NCEES member boards also adopted the following position statement to address licensure candidates with engineering degrees that are not accredited by the Engineering Accreditation Commission of ABET.



Florida engineering board executive director Zana Raybon and executive assistant Rebecca Sammons enjoy the keynote luncheon before the first business session. Corporate comedian Greg Schwem focused on the lighter side of licensure for his keynote address.



Gary Thompson, P.L.S., of the North Carolina board, addresses delegates ahead of the election for NCEES treasurer. Thompson was elected treasurer for the 2013–15 term.



Bill O'Hara, P.L.S., and Ben Thompson, P.E., P.L.S. of the Texas surveying board follow discussion on a motion ahead of the Council's vote. Delegates debated the issues during four business sessions held over two days.

PS 4 Applicants with Non-Accredited Baccalaureate Degrees

Individuals with the following qualifications may apply for the licensure process.

Graduates of non-EAC/ABET-accredited baccalaureate programs in engineering or graduates of nonengineering baccalaureate programs who have earned a master's degree or doctoral degree in engineering. In both of these cases, the official degree program transcripts of applicants must be evaluated through a board-approved process, and any deficiencies found as a result of the evaluation must be corrected. Deficiencies in engineering courses, including engineering design must be remediated by taking courses offered by an EAC/ABET-accredited engineering degree program.

Graduates of EAC/ABET-accredited master's programs in engineering. In this case, no remedial work is needed because a current criterion for EAC/ABET accreditation of master's-level programs is fulfillment of the EAC/ABET baccalaureate-level general criteria.

The validation of the educational achievement by any of these methods cannot be applied for experience credit toward licensure.

"This position statement updates the Council's position on evaluating applicants with bachelor's degrees that aren't accredited by EAC/ABET, which was out of date with advances such as EAC/ABET allowing dual accreditation, or accreditation of both undergraduate and graduate degree programs. It addresses non-accredited degrees earned in the United States and in other countries," explained CEO Carter.

President Patty Mamola, P.E., has appointed a task force for the coming year to examine the evaluation of professional experience earned outside the United States to assist member licensing boards.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

continued from cover

Diversity

In addition to being better spokespeople for engineering and surveying, we need to encourage diversity in the professions.

Two years ago, my son wanted to study environmental engineering. He had to meet with a counselor before he could register for his classes. Looking at his high school transcripts, his counselor said, “Oh, honey, you’re going to need to take remedial math classes. You might want to consider a different major.” He enrolled in environmental sciences.

I, too, was discouraged from engineering. In college, I was typically the only girl in the class. I struggled to be included in study groups. Also, coming from a poor family, I had to focus on surviving—having a place to live, food, gas. My schoolwork suffered. Nevertheless, I was committed to engineering. My second semester as a freshman, one of my professors told me I should consider another major. Despite—or maybe in spite of—his advice, I stuck with it and became an engineer.

How often are kids discouraged from going into engineering because of someone else’s stereotypical judgments? They question their intelligence, their gender, or their race.

What about kids who don’t have an engineer or surveyor in the family? How do we pique their interest so they’ll consider these professions as career options? How do we make them determined to follow through despite the difficulties or discouragement they may face?

We often think of this loss of potential in terms of how it affects an individual, but we cannot ignore the price we pay as a society. Willam Wulf, a past president of the National Academy of Engineering, wrote, “Without diversity, we limit the set of life experiences that are applied, and as a result, we pay an opportunity cost.” Diversity increases the pool of possibilities. When you limit the idea of who can be an engineer or surveyor or what they do, you limit what can be achieved. We must

challenge those perceptions to accelerate advances in engineering and surveying.

Mobility

Where we work or the projects we work on can be anywhere in the world. The ability to practice our professions in more than one state—mobility—was one of the reasons this organization was founded in 1920. Ninety-three years later, we are still working on mobility issues.

During my travels this past year as president-elect, I had the opportunity to attend a meeting of the International Engineering Alliance. Engineers from all over the world met to talk about professional issues, including mobility. The same issue that we in this country have been discussing among the states since 1920 is being discussed on a global level. The world is becoming a smaller place.

In 2005, George Bugliarello, foreign secretary of the National Academy of Engineering, wrote, “The global challenges facing our nation and the world today will require even greater commitment and courage from engineers, new visions of the possible, and the championing of new global agendas.” International mobility brings new ideas.

U.S. engineers have played key roles in significant international projects, and the United States has benefited from the contributions of engineers from other countries. Would we not have more advances if we embraced the unique experiences and expertise of others?

We need to champion improved mobility for engineers and surveyors here in the United States and be a part of the conversation to define our role in global mobility. Making it easier to practice our professions across borders will promote the exchange of ideas and accelerate engineering and surveying advances.

As president of NCEES this next year, my focus is on the what, who, and where of engineering and surveying. I challenge you to join me.

Ontario government abandons repeal of industrial exemption

Professional Engineers Ontario is strongly objecting to the provincial government's decision to abandon plans to repeal Ontario's industrial exemption.

The repeal of the exemption, scheduled to take effect on September 1, would have required that those responsible for professional engineering work related to production machinery or equipment must be licensed professional engineers.

"We are shocked the Ontario government has taken this course of action," said PEO President Annette Bergeron, P.Eng, in a statement released on June 13. "This is an important workplace health and safety measure that would close a serious regulatory gap and allow workers, under protection of the law, to refuse to do work that they may not be qualified to do."

PEO is the licensing and regulating body for professional engineers in Ontario.

While a licensed professional engineer was required to perform health and safety reviews prior to the start-up of newly installed or altered production machinery and equipment in Ontario, an exception for the work performed was enacted in 1984. Ontario is the only province in Canada with an industrial exemption.

To help industry make the transition, employers who filed a compliance plan with PEO before March 1—the original implementation date—would have had up to one year to meet the new requirement. Additionally, PEO extended its Financial Credit Program, which usually waives license application fees for eligible new graduates and newcomers to Canada, to any employees named in compliance plans. The organization is also committed to assisting these employees by providing application and Engineering Intern Program seminars and administering its professional practice exams at job sites for groups of at least 20 people.

In the U.S. engineering profession, industrial exemptions from state licensing laws have long been a controversial issue, especially since the BP oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. Since its founding, NSPE has questioned exemptions from licensing laws and believes state licensure laws should apply to all individuals who practice engineering as defined by the *Model Law* published by the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying.

Last year, NCEES amended the *Model Law* to require responsible charge by a P.E. over the engineering design of buildings, structures, products, machines, processes, and systems that can affect the public health, safety, and welfare.

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$$V_B - Q_c \rho V_c = \rho \frac{\pi D_B^2}{4} V_B^2 - \rho \frac{\pi D_c^2}{4} V_c^2$$



JERRY CARTER
NCEES CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

HEADQUARTERS UPDATE

NCEES making last efforts to complete move to CBT

As I write this article, we have just completed the 2013 NCEES annual meeting and are now in full planning mode for the coming year. The NCEES management team is preparing for our annual retreat, where we will conduct a critical analysis of the past year, including failures and successes. We will also build a list of projects beyond our day-to-day responsibilities that are critical to carrying out the mission of NCEES.

In recent months, we have continued to move forward with the transition of the FE and FS exams to computer-based testing (CBT) and are in the final stages before registration opens November 4.

Our IT staff is working at full tilt to ensure that our online registration process will link seamlessly with Pearson VUE software to allow candidates to select seating times and test locations and allow us to receive the raw data from Pearson VUE and translate it into a useful format for candidates and member boards.

Our Public Affairs department has been hard at work putting together online seminars for educators to help them understand what the transition to CBT will mean to their students and for those who offer review courses. This group is also in the process of major modifications to the NCEES website

to provide clear and distinct portals for candidates to register for the proper exam whether it is administered via CBT or pencil and paper.

We also have our new Client Services department up and running and serving as the primary communication link for all clients. We are all eager to get through the coming months and see our efforts to computerize the FE and FS exams come to fruition.

The entire Council deserves credit for recognizing that in order to grow and improve, change is required. The decision to move the FE and FS exams to CBT was a huge decision that took several years of study and review. George Bernard Shaw is quoted as saying, "Progress is impossible without change, and those who cannot change their minds cannot change anything." It is gratifying to know that progress is possible within NCEES.

Remembering Past President John Lyons

At the annual meeting, I learned of the death of NCEES past president John Lyons, P.E. He passed away in October 2011, and I'm sorry that I didn't hear the news before.

John was a man of many talents who gave much of his time to the engineering

profession and his community. He was an emeritus member of the New Hampshire PE board and served 18 years as its chair. His contributions to NCEES include serving as Northeast Zone vice president (1985–87), treasurer (1988–89), and president (1990–91). He received the NCEES Distinguished Service Award in 1988 and the Distinguished Service Award with Special



Commendation—this organization's highest honor—in 1993 for his many contributions to NCEES, his board, and his profession.

I am glad to say that I knew John. He was a very kind man and a professional in every sense of the word.

Expert witness testimony in regulatory cases

During a recent presentation about the Arizona Board of Technical Registration's enforcement program, I discussed the board's use of volunteer registrants to evaluate the technical knowledge and skill used, or not used, in particular investigations and disciplinary cases. I received several interesting questions and comments from the audience, specifically, that our volunteer registrant opinions would not carry as much weight in court as a "professional" (i.e., paid) expert witness testimony. I respectfully disagreed with those comments.

The law presumes that board members who are licensed engineers or surveyors possess the necessary knowledge, skills, and experience to evaluate the evidence in a disciplinary case without the aid (and added expense) of a "professional" expert witness. In fact, in Arizona, at smaller health regulatory boards that do not have the budgets to hire investigators, board members perform all the investigations themselves and issue all the disciplinary orders. Those orders have withstood judicial scrutiny in Arizona courts. [See *Golob v. Arizona Medical Board*, 217 Ariz. 505, 512, 176 P.3d 703, 710 (App.2008).]

Arguably, board members are appointed to regulatory boards because they possess the requisite specialized knowledge and technical competence to perform the duties required.

[See *Gaveck v. Arizona State Board of Podiatry Examiners*, 222 Ariz. 433, 437, 215 P.3d 1114, 1118 (App.2009).] Boards do not have to hire outside expert witnesses to assess the technical knowledge and skill required of professionals in their jurisdictions.

States may have specific statutes that establish the required technical knowledge and skill to withstand the burden of proof in civil law suits. Those standards may and probably do differ from the standards regulatory boards establish for minimum competence to practice. But the burden of proof should be distinguished from the capability and qualifications of the professional registrant providing testimony in a disciplinary case before a regulatory board or in a civil law suit.

Board members and registrants who provide expert opinions regarding the technical knowledge and skill of a respondent before a regulatory board possess legally sufficient expertise to offer opinions against a respondent that violated the practice act. It's this writer's opinion that regulatory boards do not need to hire experts to testify about the standard of technical knowledge and skill. Board members' opinions are expert enough to withstand appellate scrutiny.

The law presumes that board members who are licensed engineers or surveyors possess the necessary knowledge, skills, and experience to evaluate the evidence in a disciplinary case without the aid (and added expense) of a "professional" expert witness.



A 20-year perspective shows our advances and yields lessons for today

In 1993, all exams were on paper and used #2 pencils that the board staff sharpened by hand before every exam administration.

In the wake of another NCEES annual meeting, it can be a struggle to view our current licensure system with the “glass half-full” perspective. When faced with all the challenges that we have ahead of us, the tasks sometimes appear to be insurmountable. Mobility, education evaluations, international issues, computer-based testing, state surveying exams—not to mention our own state issues that arise in our legislatures and financial challenges for our boards—can easily take the wind out of your sails.

For those of us who have been around for a while, it’s a good exercise to put ourselves in the place of a newly appointed board member or administrator and try to view these issues from their perspective. It’s easy to see how they may come away from an NCEES annual meeting thinking, “What have these people been doing the past 20 years to have so many issues left to address?” But for those of you who are relatively new to the process, I think it’s equally important to acknowledge the progress that has been made in the past 20 years.

Exam Administration

In 1993, all exams were on paper and used #2 pencils that the board staff sharpened by hand before every exam administration. Exams were shipped to the board office (in a not particularly secure manner) and a couple of days were spent unboxing and lining up the exams to be distributed (in a not particularly secure manner) to the different exam sites,

using handmade seating charts. Examinees could bring in whatever calculators they wanted and as much material as they could carry.

Mobility

Twenty years ago, applications for licensure were printed and mailed (by snail mail) to anyone pursuing licensure. The application form had to be hand-typed, signed in front of a notary, and mailed back to the board office. The staff would receive the application form, process the application manually—including typing individual reference letters to be mailed out to the references—and request verification forms from other states by mail. Once the application was complete, it would be placed on the agenda for the next scheduled board meeting, which could be another two months away depending on the timing of completion of the application. The NCEES Record existed, but not in its current format, and no designation such as Model Law Engineer existed.

Review of applications with non-U.S. degrees

Two decades ago, no formal degree evaluations were conducted. The board requested original transcripts from the non-U.S. universities—and at times those were not available, so we had no research available to us. So basically, if they could produce a document, they would be accepted.

$$\pi_3 : M^0 L^0 T^0 = (L T^{-2})^i (M L^{-3})^j (L^2)^k$$

$$M^0 L^0 T^0 = M^{j+1} L^{i-3j+2k} T^{-2i}$$

Today

The NCEES staff, committees, and member boards have worked tirelessly over the past 20 years to address issues that we didn't know were issues 20 years ago. Understandably, the underlying culprit of many of the issues that got ahead of us arose when technological advances exploded on the scene. As with all businesses from the 1990s to today, every process involved in our day-to-day lives became obsolete almost overnight. The most progressive of board offices was considered antiquated. And so the hard work began to identify what the issues had become and how to address them.

The catching-up process took time, but it is apparent from the topics of discussion at the NCEES annual meeting that the Council and member boards have caught up and are ready to address these issues. We should commend ourselves for persevering but also recognize that it is dangerous to put our heads back in the sand and let issues loom without giving them immediate attention. As we face today's issues, such as computer-based testing and evaluating international education and experience, we must do our best to be proactive instead of reactive in addressing change.

Nominations open for NCEES service awards

The NCEES Committee on Awards is now accepting nominations for the following: the Distinguished Service Award, the Distinguished Service Award with Special Commendation, the Meritorious Service Award, and the Distinguished Examination Service Award. These awards will be presented at the 2014 annual meeting in Seattle, Washington.

The deadline for nominations is January 31, 2014. Nomination materials have been sent to member board administrators. They are also available online at My NCEES or by contacting Executive Assistant Sherrie Holcomb (sholcomb@ncees.org). Nominations for the DSA, DSA with Special Commendation, and MSA must be made by a member board. Nominations for the Distinguished Examination Service Award may be made by a member board, an exam committee, or the NCEES board of directors. The criteria for these awards are specified in Administrative Policy 12, which can be found in the *Manual of Policy and Position Statements* (available on the NCEES website).

David Johnston to receive Construction Institute of ASCE Roebling Award



The Construction Institute of the American Society of Civil Engineers will present David Johnston, Ph.D., P.E., its prestigious Roebling Award at the ASCE annual conference on October 11 in Charlotte, North Carolina. The award recognizes outstanding contribution to the advancement of construction engineering.

as professional engineers and for continuing leadership in preparation of the NCEES construction engineering exam module for the civil engineering PE exam.”

Johnston has been a volunteer with the PE Civil exam development committee since 2004 and currently serves as chair of the subcommittee for the exam’s construction module.

According to the award citation, Johnston is being honored “for outstanding leadership through the ASCE Construction Institute in developing a path for construction engineers to pursue licensure

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I certify that all information stated above is true and correct. *Jennifer Williams*

MEMBER BOARD NEWS

DELAWARE PS Amanda McAtee has been named interim board administrator, replacing LaToya Stephens.

IOWA Howard Stewart is a new appointee.

MAINE Beatrice Labbe retired after 24 years as the supervisor of licensing and administrative office manager. All correspondence should be forwarded to Executive Director David Jackson.

NEBRASKA PE Jon Wilbeck is no longer board administrator.

NEVADA Bud Cranor is a new appointee. Christine Milburn is no longer a member.

NEW HAMPSHIRE PS William Doucet is a new appointee.

PENNSYLVANIA Joseph Mackey is a new appointee. Jeffrey Wood is the board's new attorney.

WASHINGTON Nirmala Gnanapragasam is a new appointee.

WYOMING Jeffrey Jones and Robert Norton are new appointees.

NCEES outreach

October 11 UNC Charlotte NCEES staff will attend the annual fall picnic of the University of North Carolina Charlotte's college of engineering to promote licensure and answer questions about the FE and FS exams' move to computer-based testing.

October 24-26 SWE NCEES staff will attend the Society of Women Engineers' annual conference in Baltimore, Maryland, to promote licensure and answer questions about computer-based testing for the FE and FS exam.

October 31-November 2 TBP NCEES staff will travel to Ames, Iowa, to the annual conference of engineering honor society Tau Beta Pi, where they will promote licensure and answer questions about computer-based testing for the FE and FS exam.

Upcoming Events

October 4-5

PE Environmental Exam Meeting
Clemson, South Carolina

October 10

EPE Committee Training
Atlanta, Georgia

October 11-12

EPE Committee Meeting
Atlanta, Georgia

October 14-15

PE Software Exam Meeting
Clemson, South Carolina

October 25-26

Exam Administration

FE Exam Meeting
Clemson, South Carolina

October 25-27

PE Metallur./Mat. Exam Meeting
Montreal, Canada

October 31-November 2

Board of Directors Meeting
Sedona, Arizona

November 1-2

SE Exam Meeting
Clemson, South Carolina

November 8-9

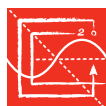
EPS Committee Meeting
Ft. Lauderdale, Florida

November 15-16

Public Outreach/Communications
Task Force Meeting
Seattle, Washington

November 16-17

PE Industrial Exam Meeting
PE Mining/Mineral Processing
Exam Meeting
Clemson, South Carolina



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NCEES installs 2013-14 board of directors



*Standing: (l-r): Purcell,
Turner, Hill, Conzett.
Sitting (l-r): Dinkins,
Mamola, Widmer. Not
pictured: Thompson*

Patty Mamola, P.E., began her term as president at the conclusion of the NCEES annual meeting, held August 21–24 in San Antonio, Texas. She is the organization's first female president since its founding in 1920. She replaces outgoing president Gene Dinkins, P.E., P.L.S., who will remain on the board of directors as immediate past president.

During the annual meeting, delegates elected David Widmer, P.L.S., president-elect for 2013–14 and Gary Thompson, P.L.S., treasurer for 2013–15. Also, NCEES welcomed newly commissioned Northeast Zone Vice President James Purcell, P.E., and Southern Zone Vice President Daniel Turner, Ph.D., P.E., P.L.S., as they began the first year of their two-year terms. Completing the board of directors are Central Zone Vice President Michael Conzett, P.E., and Western Zone Vice President Von Hill, P.S., who began the second year of their two-year terms.