

FROM THE PRESIDENT

BEGINNING TO ADDRESS ISSUES IS THE ONLY WAY TO ACHIEVE OUR GOALS

GENE DINKINS, P.E., P.L.S.
NCEES PRESIDENT



Gene Dinkins, P.E., P.L.S., of South Carolina, accepted the office of NCEES president during the awards and installation banquet held August 24 at the annual meeting in St. Louis, Missouri. The following is from his inaugural speech.

While it may seem that a year lasts a while, the president's term is really very short. The year may be short, but I want to make sure that it is productive. People have told me that it is impossible to get everything that I want accomplished in one short year. And, pragmatically, it may be. However, I am certain that it is impossible to get my goals accomplished in a year if I don't try. I pledge to you that there will be initiatives undertaken over the next year that, if successful, will enhance the goals of NCEES, the engineering and surveying professions, and the protection of

the health, safety, and welfare of the public for years to come. I would like to highlight some of the key aims that I will be shooting for during my term.

Licensure mobility

Mobility—we all know it is not a new issue or novel idea. In fact, one year after the “Council of Boards of Engineering Examiners” was founded in 1920, the main order of business in 1921 was extended debate and

discussion about reciprocal registration. Although we have made progress, we still have work to do.

I have created a task force this year to study the issue of mobility between states for Model Law Engineers. Most states license Model Law Engineers from one state to another by comity without any reservations whatsoever. I would like to see NCEES come up with a plan that will make mobility much simpler, easier, and quicker for a licensee. I am very excited about this possibility and think we can make it happen.

Public outreach and communications

I will be continuing the Public Outreach/Communications Task Force for the next year. It is very important that we increase awareness of licensure and the value of licensure to the general public. Marketing who we are and what we do is critical to our goals. If we can effectively communicate the value of licensure to the public, it will benefit us as we tackle the difficult issue of the industrial exemption.

I think NCEES needs to get more input—and, therefore, more relevancy—from the younger generation. If you look around any of our meetings, you will generally see an older and grayer group of people. We need to make sure that NCEES, licensure, and our business model in general are all going to be relevant in the future. The way we do this is to get input from the younger generation. I have made this a charge to one of our committees this year.

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Annual meeting delegates debate the issues

NCEES actions put focus on its exam format, industrial exemptions

Delegates attending the 91st 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 22–25 meeting in St. Louis, Missouri. Full details of the meeting will be included in the official minutes, which will be published later this year.

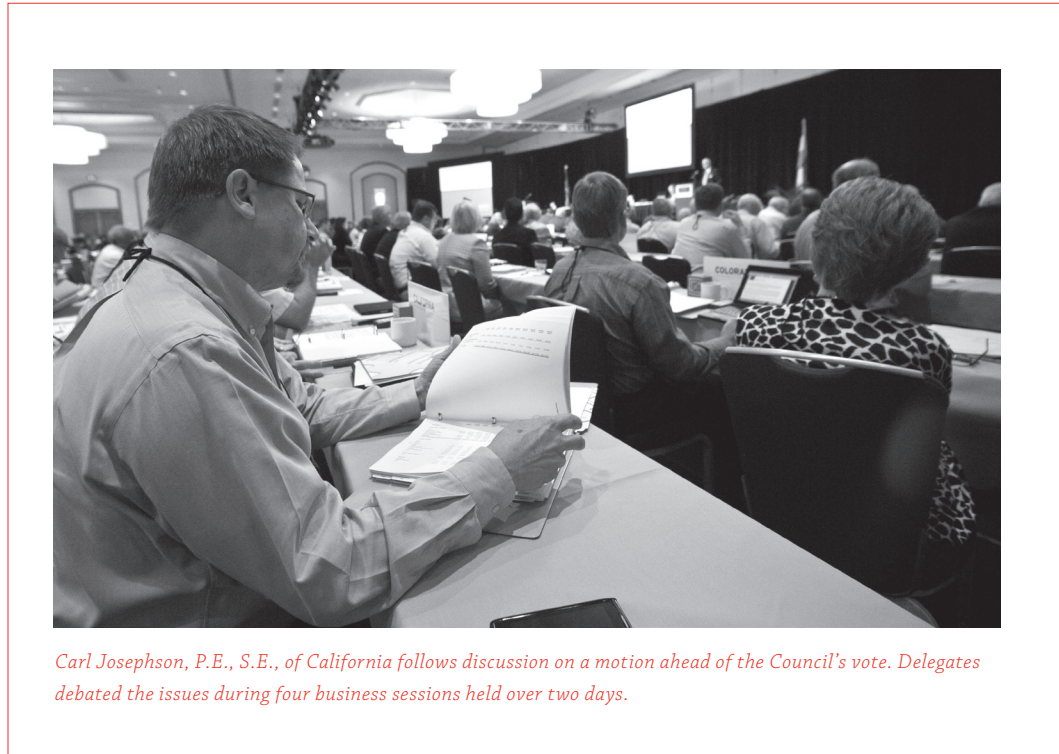
PE, PS exams to move to CBT

The Council voted to begin converting the PE and PS exams to a computer-based format. The unanimous decision follows a 2010 vote to convert the FE and FS exams to computer-based testing, a transition that will be complete in January 2014.

The PE exams will be converted to CBT in 2015 at the earliest, but as NCEES Executive Director Jerry Carter explained, the transition will be paced for each exam. “We offer 25 different PE exams in 17 different engineering disciplines, and NCEES will review each exam individually to determine what it needs to move to CBT,” he said.

“The language approved by the Council is ‘at the earliest feasible date,’ and NCEES will move carefully and deliberately with each conversion to ensure that the exam continues to reliably measure professional competence.”

There is no set time for converting the PS exam to a computer-based administration, but Carter explained that NCEES wants to



Carl Josephson, P.E., S.E., of California follows discussion on a motion ahead of the Council's vote. Delegates debated the issues during four business sessions held over two days.

gain experience with computer-based testing for the FE and FS exams before it moves another exam to the new format.

While recognizing the effort involved in converting an exam to computer-based format, Carter also noted the advantages, including greater scheduling flexibility for candidates, more uniformity in testing conditions, and enhanced security for exam content.

The PE or PS exam is typically the last step in the engineering or surveying licensure process. Licensure candidates who pass the FE or FS exam and meet education and work experience requirements must pass the PE or PS exam to become eligible for licensure as a professional engineer or professional surveyor.

Over 25,000 candidates took the PE exam in the past year, which included October and April administrations. Over 1,200 examinees took the PS exam during the same period.

NCEES focuses on industrial exemptions

Among other actions taken at the annual meeting, NCEES member boards expressed their support for strengthening licensure's protections by applying them toward engineered products and systems. They approved an amendment to the NCEES *Model Law* to require responsible charge of a licensed engineer over the engineering design of buildings, structures, products, machines, processes, and systems that can affect the public health, safety, and welfare.

The amendment is a response to provisions in many state laws, known as industrial exemptions, that exempt firms that manufacture products from requiring a P.E. to oversee their design.

"The newly added requirement is subject to implementation at the state level," Carter said. "But adding it to the *Model Law*—which serves as a best-practice model for state laws—demonstrates the boards' commitment to protecting the American public."

Newly installed president Gene Dinkins, P.E., P.L.S., has appointed a task force for the coming year to study which U.S. jurisdictions have industrial exemptions and to develop discussion points that state licensing boards can use to begin talks with their legislators about eliminating these types of exemptions.

2011–12 President Dale Jans, P.E., (right) congratulates Florida Atlantic University on its NCEES Engineering Award grand prize. FAU faculty and a P.E. who participated in the winning project accepted the award at Friday's luncheon.



Presenter Gregory Horn (right) explains plans for the new Mississippi River Bridge to John Harms, P.E., S.E., of Illinois (left) and M.L. Love, P.E., of South Carolina (center) during a tour of the construction site. The tour was one of a number of professional development workshops held on Wednesday.

Wednesday's kickoff party at Busch Stadium gave delegates and their guests—including Eugene Bentley III, Ph.D., P.E., of Washington, D.C., and his wife, Jean—time to relax before the business sessions started. NCEES helped cheer the St. Louis Cardinals to a 4-2 victory over the Houston Astros.



FROM THE PRESIDENT

continued from cover

NCEES exams

I am going to put an emphasis on where NCEES is headed with our rapidly increasing number of international exams. As you know, we now offer our exams in quite a few countries around the world. I would like to see NCEES set standards and parameters for our international exam offerings, and I will work with Executive Director Carter and the staff to formulate these guidelines.

We need to continue to study the alarming decrease in the number of FS and PS exams being administered. It is absolutely critical that we stop, and hopefully reverse, this dangerous trend in order to protect the public in the future and ensure that we have enough professional surveyors to handle the backlogged demand when our economy finally recovers.

Industrial exemption

And finally, the industrial exemption. According to *Black's Law Dictionary*, a license is a revocable permission to perform an act that would otherwise be unlawful. The PE and PS licenses equal competence and accountability. Our licensure system is instrumental in protecting the public from incompetence and unethical practice. Licensure is about prevention. Without licensure, the courts can only step in and take care of problems after the fact. This is a big difference—just ask the people along the Gulf Coast. Who employs you should not make a difference concerning the requirement to have a license to practice engineering.

We all know that this is a huge issue and will be very difficult to overcome. I have created a task force solely to research the industrial exemption and come up with some ideas as to how we may start to make progress in eliminating some or all of the industrial exemption. This task force will concentrate on putting together enough information that can be provided to individual boards for those boards to have the critical information and talking points to go to their legislatures and see if progress can be made on this serious matter.

Strategic plan

The board of directors has just completed a total overhaul and updating of our strategic plan. Our new strategic plan will allow continuity between one president's term and the next. This will allow for the focus and goals of the Council to continue year after year in a seamless manner. President-Elect Mamola and I have already had numerous conversations and strategy sessions to make sure that good ideas and plans are not started and then just die after one year. With this in mind, I am very optimistic that while any term as president is short and will end in only a year, the goals and initiatives starting now will continue well into the future.

In closing, I would like for us to imagine how great our organization can be in the future. We have important work to do to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public, and we will do it.

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 2013 annual meeting in San Antonio, Texas.

The deadline for nominations is January 31, 2013. 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).

2012 NCEES award winners

At its 91st annual meeting, NCEES recognized several individuals for their longtime service to the organization and the engineering and surveying professions. The 2012 NCEES award winners are

- Stanley Harris, P.E., of Virginia and James Milligan, Ph.D., P.E., of Idaho, who received the Distinguished Service Award with Special Commendation
- Govind Nadkarni, P.E., of Texas and David Whitman, Ph.D., P.E., of Wyoming, who received the Distinguished Service Award
- Lesley Rosier-Tabor, P.E., executive director of the West Virginia PE board, who received the Meritorious Service Award
- Martin Crawford, Ph.D., P.E., of Alabama, who received the Distinguished Examination Service Award



2011–12 NCEES President Dale Jans, P.E., presents the organization's highest honor to James Milligan, Ph.D., P.E. The DSA with Special Commendation was also awarded to Stanley Harris, P.E.



JERRY CARTER
NCEES EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Annual meeting sets the course for the coming year

My thanks to everyone for helping make this a productive year and for your continued support of the licensure process. I look forward to working with you in the year ahead.

NCEES held its 91st annual meeting in August, and I think most will agree it was a great success. A large majority of the 60-plus motions that delegates considered passed on the consent agenda, and the remaining motions provided the opportunity for some healthy debate and discussion. More details of the annual meeting actions are included in the article beginning on page 2, but I would like to highlight a few.

The Council voted to begin moving the PE and PS exams to computer-based testing at the earliest feasible date. These motions passed unanimously, which is further evidence of the Council’s support for using technology to provide the best available experience for candidates while ensuring our ability to test for minimum competence in a secure and consistent manner. We are well on the way to meeting our timeline of transitioning the FE and FS exams to a computer-based format by January 2014 and will use the experience gained as we move toward converting the PE and PS exams.

Engineering Surveys Task Force created

An issue raised during the 2012 NCEES zone interim meetings and at the annual meeting concerned the term “engineering surveys” as contained in the NCEES *Model Law* definition of the practice of engineering (Section 110.20 A.5).

During the year, NCEES received petitions from various state surveying societies and the National Society of Professional Surveyors requesting that NCEES delete this term from the definition of engineering. The rationale offered in support of the request is that engineering curricula have

minimized emphasis on surveying principles while surveying has become more technical and nuanced.

Before the annual meeting began, the Rhode Island PS board communicated its intent to offer a motion to delete this terminology from the definition of engineering. Getting this advanced notice afforded delegates the opportunity to informally discuss this matter and to quickly determine that additional study and review were necessary.

After consultation with 2012–13 President Gene Dinkins, the Rhode Island PS board decided to not introduce the resolution. President Dinkins agreed to create a task force to give this matter full consideration in the coming year.

Headquarters renovation approved

One of the items included in the 2012–13 capital budget approved at the annual meeting is the cost of renovating NCEES headquarters to make better use of about 2,500 square feet of space. The renovations will allow more room for exam development committee meetings and possibly house a media center for activities such as online seminars and virtual item-writing sessions. The renovations will allow us to use other space in the building to set up testing carrels to simulate the computer-based testing experience. We will now seek the appropriate approvals and hope to have construction underway in the coming weeks.

My thanks to everyone for helping make this a productive year and for your continued support of the licensure process. I look forward to working with you in the year ahead.

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$$110,288 - 27,712$$
$$\frac{\text{kg}}{\text{m}^3} \text{m}^2 \left(\frac{\text{m}}{\text{s}} \right)$$

ENFORCEMENT BEAT

JIM SZATKOWSKI, P.E., DEPUTY DIRECTOR, IDAHO BOARD OF LICENSURE OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS AND PROFESSIONAL LAND SURVEYORS

Is everything equal among firms?

When one considers how things are done in a small- to medium-sized office, the laws and rules of engineering are pretty clear. Looking at how a project was handled; who was in responsible charge; who should sign, seal, and date the report or drawings—it's mostly black and white. But sometimes, even in these offices, it's not quite so straightforward. The owner or principal design professional may want to review and sign, seal, and date the cover page. This practice is allowed in some jurisdictions and often *required* at building departments for work that must be submitted to them under the International Building Code for plan review and permit issuance.

In larger firms, which are often multistate or even multinational, the breadth of professional expertise is seldom located at every office. Often, the expertise develops at one particular office from the nature of the work in which that office has grown. This could be a specialty in a certain type of wastewater treatment system or a specific type of HVAC equipment or even a specialty type of structural engineering for long-span bridge designs in high winds. Any of these might be useful at some other office in the multistate or multinational firm, and this expertise is often called on to submit content for proposal preparation or to help execute the difficult project just awarded. It is absolutely appropriate and required under law and rule to have only those who are qualified work on the project.

This can cause a violation if not handled properly. "Properly" means that the professional from Office A must have the requisite license for work at Office B located in another jurisdiction. It is immaterial that they both work for the same company. If the licensee in responsible charge of the project doesn't have all the requisite competencies, bringing in the "outside" help from the other offices is the right thing to do—but they need to be licensed in Office A's jurisdiction to sign, seal, and date the work that they do there. Often in these larger companies, the corporate brand is all that's considered, and the details of signing, sealing, and dating by the person with the necessary competence seems to be overlooked.

The bottom line is that all companies, large and small, should be treated the same by the law, the rules, and the licensing board.

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CBT brings paradigm shift for FE, FS exam application and administration model

CBT Timeline

January 2013: FE and FS specifications will be released, including exam length.

July 2013: Sample exams and supplied references will be released.

October 2013: FE and FS exams offered in pencil-and-paper format for the last time.

November 2013: Registration for the computer-based FE and FS exams opens with NCEES.

January 2014: FE and FS exams offered in CBT format for the first time.

I hate the word paradigm—it is trite and overused. Some of you may remember that it was the catchword of NCEES annual meetings back in the 1990s. (In case you are wondering, the NCEES catchphrase of the 1990s was “opening Pandora’s Box.”) However, as member board administrators and members, NCEES staff, and leadership, I think I speak for all of us when I say that our paradigms regarding the intern application and exam administration process are shifting in such a sudden and unexpected direction that you can hear the rusty hinges squeaking open.

As far back as most of us care to remember, the NCEES model for administering the FE and FS exams and issuing intern certifications has basically been static, and most of us have adhered to it. There was a ripple in the model at the time NCEES Exam Administration Services (then known as ELSSES) was formed and NCEES began administering the exams for many states, but the model for applying for the FE and FS exams through the member boards has been set in stone for decades.

Just so we are on the same page (since all member boards are rarely on the same page), I’m talking about the following process. Let’s use the engineer intern model for this example: An engineering student applies to a member board to take the FE exam. The member board processes the application. Sometimes the information on the application is verified; more often, it is just attested to by the applicant. The member board approves the applicant (if qualified) to sit for the exam. The

applicant then applies to NCEES to register for the exam. The applicant sits for the exam, which is administered by the board, NCEES, or a third-party testing service. Results are distributed according to the member board’s policy. Passing examinees are notified they’ve been successful and are told how to apply for their engineer intern certification once they graduate and are otherwise qualified. This is basically the end of the examination process for the FE exam—not the *intern certification* process, but the examination process.

Preparing for the move to CBT

The details of computer-based testing are dissected by every committee to see how this change will affect each arm of the examination and licensure process. It’s a daunting task for the CBT Implementation Task Force and the exam development committees. However, the committees perform nothing short of a miracle to get this blimp off the ground, take it for a test flight, work out the glitches, and land safely.

At its February 2012 meeting, the Member Board Administrators Task Force reviewed the changes that will affect each of us as member boards in the application and exam administration process. For those MBAs who were not at the meeting when many of us experienced our “aha moment,” I’ll attempt to outline the discussion for you:

1. No more April and October fundamentals examinations—The exams are now given in two-month windows, four times a year.

$$\pi_3 : M^0 L^0 T^0 = (L T^{-2})^i (M L^{-3})^j (L^2)^k M^1$$

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

Applicants can take a fundamentals exam three times in a 12-month period.

2. Applicants may take the exam at any Pearson VUE approved venue. They are not required to sit for the exam in their resident state or the state to which they have applied.
3. Some jurisdictions currently allow their applicants to apply directly to NCEES to sit for the FE or FS exam without first applying to the member board. Once the applicant passes the exam, he or she then applies to the appropriate member board for intern certification.

Hmm ... So what would keep my Oklahoma applicants from signing up for the FE or FS exam directly with NCEES and selecting a Pearson VUE testing site in, for example, Texas? Then if they decide to get certified in Oklahoma, they would file an application with our board and pay a fee, and we would verify with NCEES that they had passed the FE or FS exam and verify the other information required to issue the certificate.

Isn't it true that, at least in Oklahoma, we are mainly interested in the fact that the individual passed the FE or FS exam and completed the other requirements for certification as an intern and that all that information is verified at the time they are applying for certification? Perhaps the better use of our resources would be to ask our intern candidates to sign up directly with NCEES to take the FE and FS exams, and then when they are ready to become engineer or surveyor interns, they will apply for certification in Oklahoma. *Aha.*

One model doesn't fit all

NCEES staff, in conjunction with the exam committees and input from discussions with the MBAs, has developed several approval models that member boards may choose from for the FE and FS application/exam administration process. It's my understanding that this is being further developed to accommodate the needs of the member boards. I encourage each of you to put some serious thought into how your intern application process is currently handled with pencil-and-paper exams and then walk through the same thought process as the MBA Task Force did when considering the changes that CBT brings to that process.

Listed below are the FE/FS CBT approval models provided by NCEES staff following the August 2012 annual meeting. All of these options exist within the NCEES-defined constraints of no more than one test attempt in a given window and no more than three attempts in a 12-month period from the initial approval date.

Option 1. Examinees apply to NCEES directly and do not choose a board, and they attest that information submitted to the registration system is accurate and complete, at which point they are marked approved automatically. They take the exam, and results are reported directly to the examinees automatically. The examinees may or may not apply to a board of their choosing at that time for engineer/surveyor intern certification. If they do, the board logs in to the NCEES examinee management system and verifies the exam results. This option

is best for boards who wish to only process the FE/FS examinees once they have passed the exam and wish to pursue certification or licensure in their state.

Option 2. Once examinees attest to a board's requirements in the examinee management system, they are marked approved automatically for a defined number of attempts as identified by the board, after which they must be approved by the board for each additional attempt. Results are reported to the board. This option is best for boards that simply want examinees to attest to their requirements, but the examinees have to perform some action after a board-defined number of attempts.

Option 3. Once approved by a board, examinees have a defined number of attempts as identified by the board, after which they must be approved by the board for each additional attempt. Results are reported to the board. This option is best for boards that wish to continue approving their examinees manually.

Registration for computer-based FE and FS exams will be here soon. It is important for boards to study the options, ask questions, and choose the approval model that works best for them.

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c. Total paid distribution (sum of 15b 1, 2, 3, 4)	0	0
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f. Total distribution (sum of 15c and e)	1,983	2,250
g. Copies not distributed	350	250
h. Total (sum of 15f and g)	2,333	2,500
i. Percent paid (15c divided by 15f times 100)	0	0

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

NCEES outreach

October 1-3 WEFTEC NCEES staff will travel to New Orleans, Louisiana, to the Water Environment Federation's annual technical exhibition and conference, where they will promote licensure and the Records program and answer questions about the transition to computer-based testing.

October 3-6 FIE Texas PE board Executive Director Lance Kinney, P.E., and NCEES staff will attend the Frontiers in Education conference in Seattle, Washington. They will educate attendees on the transition to computer-based testing and promote the PE Software exam, which will be administered for the first time in April 2013.

October 14-17 ACEC Fall Conference NCEES staff will attend the American Council of Engineering Companies conference in Boca Raton, Florida, to promote the Records program and answer questions about the transition to computer-based testing.

November 8-10 SWE Annual Conference NCEES staff will attend the Society of Women Engineers conference in Houston, Texas, to promote licensure.

November 14-18 SHPE Conference Texas PE board Director of Licensing David Howell, P.E., and NCEES staff will attend the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers conference in Fort Worth, Texas, to promote licensure.

MEMBER BOARD NEWS

$$F = Q_B \rho V_B - Q_C \rho V_C = \rho \frac{\pi D_B^2 V_B}{4}$$

ALASKA Howard Keith Walters is a new appointee. Daniel Walsh is no longer a member.

CALIFORNIA Patrick Tami was reappointed.

COLORADO Neville (Bud) Gaines and Scott Sandberg are new appointees. Jeffrey Olson and Dan Donegon were reappointed. Sandra Scanlon and William (Bud) Starker are no longer members.

DELAWARE PS Sandra Wagner is no longer executive director. Sheryl Paquette is serving as acting executive director.

FLORIDA PS Patrick Talbott was reappointed. Pamela Nobles is now an emeritus member.

GUAM Sylvia Leon Guerrero is no longer the board administrator. Raymond Borja is serving as interim administrator.

INDIANA PE Crystal Heard is the new board administrator, replacing Christina Wiseley.

KENTUCKY John Walz is a new appointee. Thomas Lester is no longer a member.

LOUISIANA Emeritus member Bobby Price passed away on August 1, 2012.

MAINE PE David Jackson is the new executive director.

MINNESOTA Terry Groshong, Robert Gunderson, William Kuretsky, Dennis Martenson, and Daniel Murphy are new appointees. William Arockiasamy, Gary Demele, Tom Grue, Billie Lawton, and John Uban are no longer members.

MONTANA Ian Marquand is the new board administrator.

NEW HAMPSHIRE PE Charles Ackroyd is a new appointee. Lee Carroll is no longer a member.

NEW JERSEY Karl Reidel is the new executive director, replacing Paul Ray.

OREGON Susan Frey is a new appointee. Grant Davis is no longer a member.

TENNESSEE PE Susan Ballard and Stephen King are new appointees. Hal Balthrop was reappointed. Carlton Norris and Leslie Shankman-Cohn are no longer members.

TEXAS PE Sockalingam (Sam) Kannappan is a new appointee. Govind Nadkarni is no longer a member.

VERMONT PS Joseph Flynn and Susan Senning are new appointees. Debra Mithoefer and Timothy O'Meara are no longer members.

WISCONSIN Mark Mayer is a new appointee.

Upcoming Events

October 5-8

PE Petroleum Exam Meeting
San Antonio, Texas

October 6-7

PE Metallur./Mat. Exam Meeting
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

October 11

EPE Committee Training
Atlanta, Georgia

October 12-13

EPE Committee Meeting
Atlanta, Georgia

October 26-27

Exam Administration
FE Exam Meeting
Clemson, South Carolina

November 2-3

SE Exam Meeting
Clemson, South Carolina

November 8-10

Board of Directors Meeting
Cape Cod, Massachusetts

November 9-12

PE Nuclear Exam Meeting
San Diego, California

November 16-17

EPS Committee Meeting
Phoenix, Arizona

November 28-30

PE Chemical Exam Meeting
Clemson, South Carolina
PE Fire Protection Exam
Standard-Setting Study
Chicago, Illinois

November 30-December 1

EPP Committee Meeting
Asheville, North Carolina

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Columbia, South Carolina

Dale A. Jans, P.E.
Immediate Past President
Sioux Falls, South Dakota

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Clemson, South Carolina

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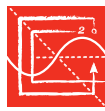
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NCEES

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NCEES installs 2012-13 board of directors



*Standing (l-r): Hill,
Harclerode, Sack,
Konzett. Seated (l-r):
Mamola, Dinkins, Jans,
Widmer*

Gene Dinkins, P.E., P.L.S., began his term as president at the conclusion of the NCEES annual meeting, held August 22–25 in St. Louis, Missouri. He replaces outgoing president Dale Jans, P.E., who will remain on the board of directors as immediate past president. During the annual meeting, delegates elected Patty Mamola, P.E., president-elect for 2012–13. Also, NCEES welcomed newly commissioned Central Zone Vice President Michael Konzett, P.E., and Western Zone Vice President Von Hill, P.S., as they began the first year of their two-year terms.

Completing the board of directors are Treasurer David Widmer, P.L.S.; Northeast Zone Vice President Howard (Skip) Harclerode II, P.E.; and Southern Zone Vice President Theodore Sack, P.L.S., who have begun the second year of their two-year terms.