

**MINUTES OF THE 2023 SOUTHERN ZONE ANNUAL MEETING
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS
AUGUST 15–18, 2023**



**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 16, 2023
BUSINESS SESSION 1**

Andrew Zoutewelle, P.L.S., Southern Zone Vice President, Presiding

Call to order

Southern Zone Vice President Andrew Zoutewelle, P.L.S. (NC) called the meeting to order at 10:35 a.m. and welcomed attendees.

Roll call

Southern Zone Secretary Linda Bergeron, P.E. (LA) performed roll call, with results below. A quorum was established.

Southern Zone Member Board	Members	Emeritus	Staff	Total
1. Alabama	4	0	4	8
2. Arkansas	4	0	2	6
3. Florida PE	6	1	3	10
4. Florida PS	5	2	1	8
5. Georgia	4	0	1	5
6. Kentucky	7	0	3	10
7. Louisiana	9	1	3	13
8. Mississippi	6	0	2	8
9. North Carolina	6	1	2	9
10. Oklahoma	4	1	5	10
11. Puerto Rico	5	0	0	5
12. South Carolina	5	2	3	10
13. Tennessee PE	1	0	1	2
14. Tennessee PS	2	0	1	3
15. Texas	10	2	2	14
16. U.S. Virgin Islands	0	0	0	0
17. Virginia	3	0	1	4
Total	81	10	34	125

Call for additional agenda items and agenda adoption

Gene Dinkins, P.E., P.L.S. (SC) asked to add a discussion on the NCEES Foundation to new business.

Vice President Zoutewelle noted that EPS Motion 1, “Move that NCEES develop a Public Land Survey System module to be used in conjunction with the Principles and Practice of Surveying examination for jurisdictions that require such an exam,” will not be voted on by the Council due to the board of directors having the authority to decide this.

There were no other topics, and members voted to accept the agenda with the addition of the Foundation item.

Zone committee reports

Secretary—Linda Bergeron, P.E. (LA)

Zone Secretary-Treasurer is now Secretary because financials are handled by NCEES; therefore, there is no financial or treasurer report. Minutes from the Southern Zone meeting at the Houston Interim Zone Meeting in April were posted on the NCEES website and emailed to MBAs. There were no changes or questions, and the minutes were approved with no opposition.

Site-Selection Committee—Kathy Hart (OK), chair

Locations for future Southern Zone meetings, which will be individual meetings for the Southern Zone, not combined with other zone(s):

- 2024: North Carolina in Asheville at Renaissance Hotel downtown, April 4–6, 2024 (note that date has changed)
- 2025: Arkansas in Little Rock
- 2026: Puerto Rico
- 2027: Georgia
- 2028: Kentucky
- 2029: Mississippi

It was also noted that the 2024 annual meeting in Chicago, Illinois, has been changed to August 14–17, 2024.

Awards Committee—Dennis Hoyle, P.E., P.L.S. (NC), chair

Committee members were thanked.

Recipients of the Southern Zone Distinguished Service Award winners were announced at the zone interim meeting in Houston, Texas. The 2023 recipients are Doyle Allen, L.S. (VA); Christopher Knotts, P.E. (LA and past president of NCEES); and Ivan Hoffman, P.S. (AR, awarded posthumously). The awards were presented to the recipients in person in Houston, with the Arkansas board and executive director Heather Richardson accepting Ivan’s award on behalf of his family.

It was noted to be thinking about individuals to recognize in the future.

New business

A discussion on the NCEES Foundation, as requested by Gene Dinkins of the South Carolina board, took place. Dinkins stated that there are benefits and challenges, and there are still many unknowns to address before approving the \$7 million.

The South Carolina board made a recommendation for a motion on behalf of the Southern Zone, seconded by Texas, for the \$7 million to be pulled from the 2023–24 budget package.

NCEES CEO David Cox stated that the \$7 million is in the proposed budget, which has been approved by the NCEES Committee on Finances and the NCEES board of directors and is designed to earn investment income for the Foundation. Cox added that this transfer is part of the budget package to be voted on by the Council, and no funds will be transferred until all legal and tax approvals have been obtained. However, the Foundation will be created even if this transfer is not approved.

Discussion continued, and South Carolina moved to amend its motion that the Southern Zone propose an amendment to the budget motion to remove the \$7 million transfer to the Foundation as shown in the budget package and create a task force to study the Foundation issue. The motion was seconded by the Louisiana board.

Cox provided additional clarification by stating that the NCEES Committee on Finances would make recommendations to the board of directors regarding the amount of money to be transferred to the Foundation each year. The NCEES board of directors would then determine what amount, if any, would be included as a transfer in the budget package to be voted on by the Council. The NCEES Committee on Finances would also recommend to the board of directors the maximum amount the Foundation would spend each year. The board of directors would select the Foundation board of directors based on a Qualifications-Based Selection process.

South Carolina then pulled their amended motion with unanimous consent to go back to the initial motion simply to remove the \$7 million from the budget package, which South Carolina originally recommended. This motion passed.

Discussion topic

Edgar Benoit, P.E. (LA) was to give a presentation entitled “Artificial Intelligence and Engineering”; however, due to lack of time, it did not take place in the Southern Zone meeting. Benoit did present this in the Engineering Forum.

Adjournment

Vice President Zoutewelle adjourned the individual meeting of the Southern Zone at 11:38 a.m.

Note

This was the only individual meeting of the Southern Zone at the 2023 annual meeting. The zone meeting session tentatively planned for August 17 did not take place due to the lack of need.