



THE PELS NEWS

A Publication of the State Board of Licensure For Professional Engineers & Professional Surveyors

May 2013

Newsletter

Thirty-Second Edition

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Ronnie Hawkins, P.E., P.S.



Greetings. I don't have a lot to report to you concerning the Board activities as it seems the last few months have been busy but somewhat "normal". Probably one of the most interesting things we have been dealing with is the upcoming inception of Computer Based Testing (CBT) for the fundamental testing for both Surveyors and Engineers. Beginning in 2014 both the FE and FS testing will be offered through NCEES on a computer testing platform and there will be no "pencil and paper testing" for these tests.

Getting to this point has been an extremely aggressive undertaking by NCEES and will hopefully be advantageous for those FE and FS applicants going forward. One of the advantages of CBT is the ability of the applicant to arrange the testing time to better fit their schedule. Another will be the turnaround time for determining the results from the test. Although this will not affect most of you, it is somewhat of a watershed event for the professions.

For the time being the PE and PS tests will continue to be the transitional method (pencil and paper), but NCEES and the Board are moving forward with the plan to convert these tests, at least to the extent possible, to CBT. That probably won't happen in the near future but will at some point in time.

If you have any questions on this or any matters concerning the Board please do not hesitate to contact me or the Board office. ~ Ronnie Hawkins, P.E., P.S.

RULE AMENDMENT ANTICIPATED

A vote at a recent Board meeting will likely require a very minor rule amendment before the end of 2013. The amendment will coincide with implementation of computer-based testing (see Director's Corner article for more details on that) and allow examinees seeking to take either the Fundamentals of Engineering or Fundamentals of Surveying examinations to register directly with NCEES rather than first applying to the Board. Those passing may then apply to the Board for intern licensure.

The Board directed staff to prepare draft amendments at its March meeting and will consider them at its May meeting. If the Board approves the amendments and authorizes rulemaking, Licensees will be notified soon thereafter and the amendments will be posted on the Board's website at www.pels.arkansas.gov. A hearing date has not been set but will come later in the year.

ABSORBING ELECTRONIC PAYMENT TRANSACTION FEES

Those of you that have renewed a license or paid for an application or exam by credit card know that an additional fee was tacked on by the agency that processes electronic payments. Beginning with the 2013 Surveyor license renewals, that fee will be paid by the Board so the total amount will be the same whether by credit card or check. The reason behind this change is to further encourage electronic payment which is convenient to most licensees and electronic payments are much easier for staff to process than if made by check.

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Engineer & Surveyor
Member

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Engineer Member

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THE DIRECTOR'S CORNER

by Steve Haralson, PE

USING OUR TOOLS . . .

“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.” ~ Quote from then NCEES President Gene Corley in 2007.

We learned recently of Mr. Corley's untimely death. Besides being a past NCEES President, he was also a very highly regarded and well respected, forensic structural engineer. He consulted and reported on many disasters including the September 11th World Trade Center collapse and the Alfred P. Murrow Federal Building bombing in Oklahoma City. In honor of Mr. Corley, this seemed a good opportunity to let our licensees know of 2 things that NCEES is doing to make better use of the computer and related technologies.

COMPUTER-BASED TESTING

Beginning in 2014, Past President Corley's vision will become a reality when the NCEES Fundamentals of Surveying and Fundamentals of Engineering examinations will be administered via the computer. Rather than taking these exams in the traditional “bullpen style” and only twice a year, examinees will be able to schedule an appointment at a testing center of their choice on any of the 200 dates a year it's offered. A twenty-four inch monitor and keyboard will replace pencil and paper and rather than waiting weeks, the result will be e-mailed in a few days.

The primary driving force behind this change is security. A security breach at a test site in Puerto Rico a few years ago made us all realize the severe problems that an even mildly technologically savvy person can cause to the entire testing regime. The updated protocols, facilities and systems available with computer-based testing will go a long way to removing concerns about cheating, collusion and other irregularities. Visit <http://cbt.ncees.org/cbt-webinar-explains-latest-updates/> to view a free webinar via YouTube or download a PDF version.

ELECTRONIC CORRESPONDENCE

On a local level, starting with the 2013 surveyor renewals, the Board has expanded its use of electronic correspondence. Licensees were given the opportunity to opt out and 96% opted to receive correspondence such as license renewals, newsletter and rule change notices, by electronic mail rather than on paper.

The main reasons behind this change are twofold. First, is the expanded use of electronic correspondence in today's society and the need to stay somewhat current with that trend. A couple of years ago, we developed an online application program and today about 80% of applicants are voluntarily submitting license applications over the internet so we know the demand is there.

The second reason is to try to keep our expenses and staffing levels low while accommodating an ever increasing number of licensees. We have a little over 12,000 licensees, which is about 25% more than we had 5 years ago. During that time we have not added any staff and our ability to do that is the direct result of using available technology including electronic correspondence.

LAW AMENDMENT PASSES

In the recent 2013 General Session the Arkansas Legislature passed and the Governor signed into law Act 589, that made some very minor amendments to both the Engineer and Surveyor laws. (A.C.A. §§ 17-30-101 *et seq* and 17-48-101 *et seq* respectively) The amendments were made necessary by another law, Act 1159, passed late in the 2011 Legislative session requiring that an agency have “specific authority” for any fees or penalties it charges. The legislation was sponsored by Representative Mark Perry of Jacksonville.

**SO YOU'VE BEEN ASKED TO BE A REFERENCE...
SOME THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW**

During your career as a professional engineer or a professional surveyor, you may be asked to provide a reference for an applicant pursuing his or her professional license. Here are some things to consider before you put your name and reputation on the line.

The professional engineer or surveyor who is asked to serve as a reference for an applicant has an important responsibility to the Board, the engineering and surveying professions, consumers and the applicant. The reference acts on behalf of the Board by endorsing or not endorsing an applicant for licensure. The Board relies heavily on the responses by the reference in the appraisal of the applicant. This duty should not be taken lightly.

First and foremost, only those that know the applicant and have personally reviewed the applicant's plans, calculations, plats, and/or reports, should complete a reference form for the applicant.

The *Reference Form* is the official form that is to be used by the applicant to prove to the Board their technical competency as an engineer or surveyor. Part A is completed by the applicant and Part B must be completed by the answering **all** questions on the form.

Also, as the reference, you should have personal knowledge of the applicant's engineering or surveying experience and be technically competent enough to assess the skills and abilities that the applicant is claiming.

If you have any questions regarding the completion of the *Reference Form*, please contact the Board.



2013	May	14	Board Meeting, PELS Board Office
		27	Memorial Day – State offices closed
	July	1	Cut-off date for applications to take the October Exams
		4	Independence Day – State offices closed
	July	9	Board Meeting, PELS Board Office
	Aug	TBD	Board Meeting, PELS Board Office
			21-24 NCEES Annual Meeting, San Antonio, TX
	Sept	10	Board Meeting, PELS Board Office
	Oct	25	PE/PS & AR State Specific Exams, Arkansas State Fair Grounds
		26	Last Pen & Paper FE/FS Exams – AR State Fair Grounds
			Last Pen & Paper FE Exams – Univ. of AR, AR State Univ., AR Tech Univ.
	Nov	4	Registration with NCEES opens for FE/FS exam in Computer-Based Testing format
		4	Registration with NCEES opens for April 2014 PE/PS exam
		11	Veterans Day – State offices closed
		12	Board Meeting, PELS Board Office
	28	Thanksgiving Day – State offices closed	
Dec	24-25	Christmas Eve & Day – State offices closed	

2014	Jan	1	New Year's Day – State offices closed
		1	Cut-off date for PE/PS applications for April 2014 Exams
		2	First available FE/FS exam in Computer-Based Testing format
		14	Board Meeting, PELS Board Office
		20	Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Birthday Day – State offices closed
	Feb	TBD	Board Meeting, PELS Board Office
	Feb	17	President's Day – State offices closed
	Mar	11	Board Meeting, PELS Board Office
	Apr	11	PE/PS & AR State Specific Exams, Arkansas State Fair Grounds Little Rock
	Apr	24-26	NCEES Southern Zone Meeting, Charleston, SC

THE WAY WE WERE

A history of the Arkansas Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Professional Surveyors

The Early Days – Applicants, Examinations & Licenses . . .

The last article (and the first in this series) outlined the efforts by the Board to prepare and administer examinations in its very early days. It showed that the first exams were given in July 1926 and subsequently administered in both written and oral forms. Although many of the exam details are not available, it seems clear that their duration was such that an exam was given and graded during a typical one-day meeting.

At a September 1943 meeting, members decided that future examinations should be more comprehensive and decided to give them over two days. Areas identified as test topics were: 1) education and experience; 2) knowledge of “accepted ethics and the engineer’s relationship with the public”; and 3) determination of knowledge of problems “of a technical nature”.

Then Board President Neal Garver in the Foreword to the 1945 Roster further explained the Board’s decision:

The Board has been giving serious thought to the type of examination given to applicants for registration. In order to broaden the scope of the examination and to get a more comprehensive view of the applicant’s capabilities, the examination has been extended to a two-day period. The first day is given to questions covering the fundamentals of the general engineering field and the second day to technical problems in the particular field in which the applicant is practicing.

A three member committee consisting solely of Board members was appointed to prepare exams with this new format. At the next meeting in early 1944 one of the committee members gave a report on typical questions, and the Board approved the committee to proceed - the first two-day administration was conducted in early July 1944. The three member examination committee approach to developing and administering examinations continued for roughly the next 20 years and until the now-familiar NCEES examinations became available.

It seems clear that different examinations were given to applicants with different education and background. Minutes from the 1950 meeting shows that applicants were admitted to exams in Structural, Highways, Hydraulics, Electrical, Mechanical and Chemical Engineering. At this meeting too, University of Arkansas Dean of Engineering George Branigan asked that exams be added for Agricultural and Industrial Engineering. New rules enacted at a 1959 meeting noted that in addition to those already listed above, that Railway and Petroleum Engineering exams were also available.

The 1950’s saw several developments that ultimately led to the current national examination program. The first examinations were administered to students applying to be “Engineers in Training” (EIT) in May 1950, and the Board voted to pay University of Arkansas Professor R.C. Wray one dollar (\$1) for each examination prepared and graded although that amount was raised at a meeting later that year to \$2 dollars for exams given in Fayetteville and \$1.50 for exams given in Little Rock.

Unlike results for the Board-administered exams where there are simply notations in the file whether an applicant passed or failed, Dr. Wray’s kept detailed results for the EIT examinations. For example, the results from the May 13, 1950 administration shows that 45 Civil Engineering, 20 Mechanical Engineering, 19 Electrical Engineering and 3 Chemical Engineering Students took exams. The Civil exam covered 7 subjects and was worth 800 points, the Mechanical 8 subjects and 800 points and the Electrical and Chemical 4 subjects and 400 points and all required 60% to pass.

In 1952, the Board began sharing its professional examinations with other states in the region. The January 1952 meeting records a vote to send 14 copies of exams to the NCEES Southern Zone Director and the practice of exchanging examinations after each administration was established in 1959.

A “uniform” EIT examination being administered in the northeast was discussed at a 1955 meeting but it appears that the locally developed version continued to be used until 1963 when one developed by the NCEES Southern Zone states was administered and that continued through 1966 when the national exam replaced it. Dean Branigan was charged in 1966 with administering the national professional examination and it was first administered in April, 1967.

Next time . . . Surveyor Licensure Law Passes and examinations begin

EXAMINEES PASSING THE OCTOBER 2012 EXAMS

FUNDAMENTALS OF SURVEYING

Robert Blakeley	Hunter McCain
Bruce Crane	Derick Reynolds
Clayton Crotts	Jonathan Rogers
Justin Frans	Daniel Seifert
Michael Harness	Naomi Sweeney
Christopher Mason	Bracy Young

PRINCIPLES & PRACTICE

OF SURVEYING

Daniel Boyett
Nikolay Nedkov
David Nix
Alison Parker
Daniel Seal
Freddrick Trotter
Anthony Tyler

ARKANSAS STATE SPECIFIC

Jacob M Backowski	John A Moll, Jr.	Freddrick C Trotter
Vernon W Bell	Nikolay K Nedkov	Nicholas B Tucker
Daniel W Boyett	David A Nix	Timothy D West
Jonathan L Hope	Shannon D Ozment	Tyler K Wilson
Aaron D Horton	John C Ratliff	Jeffrey A Wood
Clifford McGill	Timothy A Sullivan	

FUNDAMENTALS OF ENGINEERING

Oyedotun Adeoye	Austin Chunn
Roxanne Adeuya	William Clark
Paul Aiyedn	Joshua Cook
Omolola Akintomide	Jarrett Cooper
Brian Ballew	Alex Crawford
Kyle Beam	Kelley Crismon
Manpreet Bham	Amanda Crosby
Andrew Blankenship	Richard Dail
Grant Blodgett	Allen Damron
Nathan Boye	Benjamin Davis
Amy Boyster	Brandon Durden
Erin Buchanan	Hayden Dwyer
Kyle Cantlon	Matthew Faisst
Justin Carney	Mark Ferguson
John Carr	Zachary Fittro
Dawson Carson	Christopher French
Dustin Cassell	Joseph Gerke

Isaac Goff	Christopher Lang
William Grant	Derek Laxton
Brandon Hampton	Kayleigh Lincomfelt
Tyler Head	Nathan Lockwood
Chase Henrichs	David Long
Jana Hindman	Matthew Loos
Nicholas Hixon	Edith Martinez
Brendan Ho	Synthia Mcleroy
Brandon Huber	Connor McWilliams
Dustin Hundley	John Metrailer
Beau Jackson	Charles Miller
Sara Johnson	Connie Moloney
Adam Jones	Stephen Morton
Rubal KC	Cameron Murray
Jonathan Kerby	James Newton
Rachel King	Mugabo I Nkurikiyimfura
Joseph Kmetz	Pacifique N Mwabo

Victor Nutt	Sadie Smith
Seth Parish	Vincent Stanko
Jared Parr	Kevin Swab
Nicholas Peters	Philip Tawney
Chase Philpot	Minh Thoi
Kent Pipho	Anna Troutman
Jeremy Porterfield	Lucas Turner
Caroline Powell	Bradley Underwood
Sarmad Raheem	Matthew Wallace
Jonathan Raikes	Jennifer Warnert
Christopher Randall	Christopher Warren
Justin Ray	William Welch
Michael Roster	John Wells
Matthew Rowe	Joshua Winslager
James Ruthven	Erin Wright
Katie Satrom	Shuhai Zhang
Ashley Smith	

PRINCIPLES & PRACTICE OF ENGINEERING

Sergio Arratia	Jonathan Channell
Jonathan Ball	Maxwell Compton
Steven Beggs	Joshua Durham
Terry Blanton	Christopher Eichman
Andrew Bradford	Travis Estess
Matthew Brooks	Samuel Feezor
Ambrosia Brown	Benny Fuhrman
Jeremy Calloway	Andrew Fuller

Eric Fullerton	Kwangkook Jeong
Wei Guo	Eric Jones
Bryan Hall	Heath Lockley
Andrew Harding	Dean Massey
Daniel Harless	Brian Mattingly
Derek Hawkins	Joshua Morgan
Joseph Hawkins	Ryan Morris
Travis House	

Michael Mueller	Paul Timko
Craig Reisbeck	Adam White
Kevin Scott	Michael Whitten
Jon Skinner	Eric Wylie
Narayan Sreenivasan	Katherine Yarberr
Sarah Tamayo	David Yarbrough
Russell Tate	Brandon Zinser

EXAM CHANGES BEGINNING WITH THE APRIL 2013 EXAM ADMINISTRATION

The NCEES Principles and Practice of Surveying (PS) exam has new specifications and will be closed-book. On exam day, surveying reference material (PDF) will be provided and no other references will be allowed. A new edition of the PS Sample Questions and Solutions book, containing the new specifications and the supplied reference material, is available. <http://ncees.org/about-ncees/news/ps-to-become-closed-book-exam/>

The NCEES Principles and Practice of Engineering (PE) Software Engineering exam will be offered for the first time. <http://ncees.org/about-ncees/news/ncees-introduces-pe-exam-for-software-engineering/>

The NCEES PE Industrial exam has new specifications and will move to a spring administration (October 2012, was the last time this exam was offered in the fall administration). <http://ncees.org/about-ncees/news/pe-industrial-exam-moving-to-spring-administration/>

The NCEES PE Civil exam has revised design standards for the Construction, Civil Structural, and Transportation modules. <http://ncees.org/exams/pe-exam/>

The Arkansas Specific Surveying exam will be a two part exam, each part lasting 1 hour. One part will be on the USPLSS and related topics and the other on other relevant topics like Arkansas' Minimum Standards, state statutes, state plane coordinates, etc. <http://www.pels.arkansas.gov/examInfo/Documents/AR%20State%20Specific%20Exam%20Policies%20and%20Procedures-%20Part%20I%20n%202011.pdf>

MOVING?



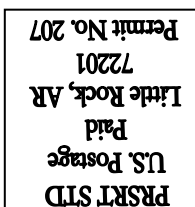
It is the responsibility of the licensee or certificate holder to keep your PELS contact information up-to-date. By logging into PELS, changes such as name, email/ mailing addresses, or phone numbers, or change of PE in responsible charge for a firm can be accomplished in real time. This information should be provided within 30 days of when the change occurs to ensure proper delivery of licensure correspondence and uninterrupted Board service. Please visit the Board's website at [www.arkpel.com](#) and click "Contact Information Change". If this is your first time accessing PELS, you will need to establish a new online user ID and password.

SOCIAL MEDIA

The Arkansas Board (PELS) has requested that the Information Network of Arkansas (INA) create a news page and social media presence via Facebook, create an RSS feed on our website, and set up a HootSuite account to create RSS feeds to push to the Social Media. So join us in the near future and be the first to know when the Board is revising Rules or when it's time to renew a license.



In the meantime, if you want to engage with others about the profession join NCEES on your preferred social network such as Facebook ([facebook.com/NCEES](#)), Twitter ([twitter.com/NCEES](#)), LinkedIn, YouTube ([youtube.com/NCEESMedia](#)), and Computer-Based Testing ([ncees.org/CBT](#)), to experience a new level of interaction and learning.



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