



THE PELS NEWS

An Official Publication of the
Arkansas State Board of Registration
for
Professional Engineers
&
Land Surveyors

August 2000

Newsletter

Sixteenth Edition

NOTES FROM OUR PAST PRESIDENTS

Bill Goodman – President 1998-1999

You will be pleased to hear that the Board is composed of some quality people who are dedicated to protecting the public. It has been an honor to be President of the Board and to serve with such fine people.

Our new Executive Director, Joe Clements, has been on board since the fall of 1998. He has been busy getting himself up to speed on a lot of different issues.

The Board had one meeting at ASU Jonesboro on March 9, 1998. It was an opportunity for our members to have lunch with Dr. Albert Mink, head of the Independent Department of Engineering at ASU, and his staff.

The Board is still considering how computer system engineering could be licensed in Arkansas. This is a problem because NCEES does not have an approved exam. The Texas Board recently approved an exam for this discipline. Computer system engineering is the fastest growing engineering department of those institutions that offer this degree.

The Board is developing a web page, which we hope to have online soon.

Tom Webb, PLS, and Woodrow Turner, consumer member, are the newest members of the Board. They both are making a good contribution to the business of the Board.

I have enjoyed chairing the Board this past year.

Don Brady – President 1999-2000

Much has occurred since our last newsletter. The Board will miss the keen input of three members who have retired Dan Flowers, Bill Goodman and Ms. Alice Hunt. Their replacements Bob Walters, Willard Reese and Ms. Bobbie Jones bring a wide range of experience and knowledge to the Board.

We have two new staff members, Linda Stone, Assistant Executive Director and Virginia Davis, Administrative Assistant. We also moved our offices from the Mercantile Bank Building in North Little Rock to 410 W. 3rd St., Ste. 110, Little Rock (no change to our mailing address PO Box 3750, Little Rock, Arkansas 72203). Our new telephone number is 501-682-2824 and our fax number is now 501-682-2827. The change in phone number probably caused more confusion and consternation to our registrants and public than anything else.

We went online with a web page at "www.state.ar.us/pels/" in July of 1999. The public and potential registrants can view our roster, laws and rules, and download forms for registration.

In April and October, we administered the examinations to a total of 352 applicants and added 539 new registrants to our roll in 1999. The overall results of the October 1999 P.E. exam were a 38% pass rate. Of the various types of exams taken, 50% of mechanicals passed (nationally 37%), 50% of electricals passed (nationally 22%), 32.4% of civils passed (nationally 32%), and 67% of PLS's passed.

During the past year we acted on 12 complaints; 3 surveyors and 9 engineers.

At our March 1999 meeting, the Board passed an emergency rule concerning filing of plats with the State Surveyor's office. This emergency rule change was extended at the November 1999 meeting. It is the Board's intention to schedule a public hearing to discuss this rule change.

The digital revolution has and will affect virtually every aspect of our lives. Engineers and surveyors are no exception. It is the policy of our Board to allow the use of an electronic seal, but an original signature is required unless the document contains the following notation: "THIS DOCUMENT WAS ORIGINALLY ISSUED AND SEALED BY (name of sealer) (license number) ON (date). THIS COPY IS NOT A SEALED DOCUMENT".

Board Members

David Knowles, PE, PLS
President
Engineer & Land Surveyor
Member

Tom Webb, PLS
Vice-President
Land Surveyor Member

H. James Engstrom
Engineer Member

Donald Brady, PE, PLS
Engineer Member

Woodrow Turner
Consumer Member

Willard Reese, PE
Engineer Member

Robert Walters, PE
Engineer Member

Bobbie Jones
Consumer Member

Mike Marlars, PE, PLS
Engineer Member

Board Staff

J.T. Clements, Jr.
Executive Director

Linda S. Stone
Asst. Exec. Director

Virginia S. Davis
Administrative Assistant

The newsletter is an official
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Professional Engineers and
Land Surveyors

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WELCOME TO NEW BOARD MEMBERS!

The following appointments have been made by
Governor Huckabee since our last newsletter:

Mr. Tom Webb, P.L.S., has been appointed as a Land Surveyor member, replacing James M. (Mike) Hart. Mr. Webb is with the McGoodwin, Williams and Yates Engineering firm in Fayetteville, Arkansas. His term expires in 2002.

Mr. Woodrow Turner has been appointed a Consumer Representative member, replacing Mr. Billy Wayne Fly. Mr. Turner lives in Tuckerman, Arkansas. His term will expire in 2002.

Mr. Robert Walters, P.E., has been appointed a Professional Engineer member replacing Dan Flowers, P.E.. Mr. Walters is the Chief Engineer for the Arkansas Highway and Transportation Department (AHTD) in Little Rock, Arkansas. His term will expire in 2003.

Mr. Willard Reese, P.E., has been appointed a Professional Engineer member replacing Mr. H.W. Goodman. Mr. Reese is with Garver Engineers in Little Rock, Arkansas. His term expires in 2003.

Ms. Bobbie Jones has been appointed a Consumer Representative member, replacing Ms. Alice Hunt. Ms. Jones lives in Pine Bluff, Arkansas. Her term will expire in 2003.

Mr. Donald R. Brady, P.E., P.L.S., was recently re-appointed as a Professional Engineer member of the Board. Mr. Brady is with Affiliated Engineers in Hot Springs, Arkansas. His term will expire in 2004.

Mr. Mike Marlars, P.E., P.L.S., has been appointed a Professional Engineer member, replacing Mr. Albert H. Miller, P.E., P.L.S. Mr. Marlars is with Marlars Engineering in North Little Rock, Arkansas. His term expires in 2004.

DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

The following disciplinary actions have been taken by the Board since the last newsletter:

1. November 11, 1997 – After a formal hearing against ATOKA, Inc., the Board found them guilty of having factually inaccurate or incorrect material in their mailout to solid waste landfill operators. The Board voted to put ATOKA, Inc. on probation for two (2) years with all marketing letters and brochures to be forwarded to the Board office during that time. This action has been appealed by ATOKA, Inc. On appeal the Circuit Court held that the complaint was not heard in a timely manner and dismissed the complaint.
2. November 11, 1997 – After a formal hearing against Mr. Jack Stiffler, PLS #772, the Board found him guilty of advertising as an engineering firm with no engineer in the firm and guilty of providing false information to the Board in its investigation. The Board voted to access a \$4,000.00 civil penalty against Mr. Stiffler and to revoke his Arkansas Professional Land Surveyor license #772. This action has been appealed by Mr. Stiffler. On appeal, Mr. Stiffler moved to dismiss the charges. At the May 25, 1999 meeting, the Board rescinded its action to revoke his Arkansas Professional Land Surveyor license #772 on condition that he pay late fees and penalties.
3. November 11, 1997 – After a formal hearing against Ms. Jamie Wheat (non-registrant), the Board found Ms. Wheat guilty of advertising as an engineer when in fact she was not licensed. The Board voted to impose a ...Continued on page 3

- \$2,000.00 civil penalty. At the July 14, 1998 meeting of the Board, Ms. Wheat was interviewed. After giving her apology, the Board reduced the civil penalty to \$300.00 payable at \$25.00 per month for one (1) year beginning August 15, 1998.
4. May 12, 1998 – After a formal hearing against Mr. Arthur Deming, the Board found him guilty of performing engineering, when he was not a licensed Professional Engineer, by signing the seismic certification on Williamsburg Apartments in Jonesboro, Arkansas. Mr. Deming was issued a written reprimand and assessed a civil penalty of \$500.00.
 5. May 12, 1998 – After a formal hearing against Mr. John C. Williams, PLS #1091, the Board found him guilty of violating the Minimum Standards by performing a survey and setting no monuments. Mr. Williams was assessed a civil penalty of \$2,000.00 and placed on probation for six (6) months, during which, he would send all plats to the Board office for review.
 6. July 14, 1998 – Upon the recommendation of the complaint committee, the Board approved a Consent Agreement. In which, Mr. James R. Brown, PE #2369, plead guilty to a violation of the Code of Professional Conduct IIG and agreed to a civil penalty of \$750.00 for accepting compensation from more than one party for services pertaining to the same project without disclosing the circumstances to the parties.
 7. July 29, 1998 – After a formal hearing against Mr. Rick Kearney (non-registrant), the Board found him guilty of violating A.C.A. 17-30-100 et seq., on four (4) counts and imposed a civil penalty of \$8,000.00 (\$2,000.00 on each count).
 8. July 29, 1998 – In the matter of Mr. William Hope, Jr., LSIT #366, the Board agreed to accept a Consent Agreement, signed by Mr. Hope, in which he agreed to physically surrender to the Board his license as a surveyor-in-training and withdraw his application to become a licensed surveyor. He also agreed that he would not reapply to become a surveyor-in-training any sooner than one year from the date of physical surrender of his license. If such application is made and accepted by the Board, Mr. Hope shall retake the Fundamentals of Surveying examination.
 9. September 16, 1998 – After a formal hearing against Mr. James Henderson, PLS #711, the Board found him guilty of two (2) violations of the Minimum Standards; one for insufficient ties to known corners and one for failing to show encroachments. The Board determined that the penalty for these violations would be an official letter of reprimand and a civil penalty of \$200.00. The civil penalty would be dismissed if Mr. Henderson presents a completed survey of the property filed in the County and showing all encroachments within thirty (30) days.
 10. September 30, 1998 – In Lieu of a formal hearing, which had been waived by Mr. Gary Whitfield, PLS #882, the Board approved a Consent Agreement and Order, in which Mr. Whitfield admitted to multiple violations of the Minimum Standards on multiple surveys and agreed to physically surrender to the Board his license as a professional surveyor on or before December 1, 1998.
 11. September 30, 1998 – After a formal hearing against Mr. Gary Ingle (non-registrant), the Board found him guilty of two (2) instances in which he practiced or offered to practice engineering without a license and assessed him a civil penalty of \$4,000.00 (\$2,000.00 each instance).
 12. November 10, 1998 – After a formal hearing against Mr. Cavin C. Carter, LSIT #350, the Board found him guilty of ten (10) violations of the Board rules. Whereupon the Board voted to revoke his Land-Surveyor-in-Training license and assess a civil penalty of \$10,000.00 (\$1,000.00 per violation of the Board rules).
 13. November 10, 1998 – After a formal hearing against Mr. Fred Dunn, PLS #1289, the Board found him guilty of violating the Minimum Standards and ordered that he be issued a Letter of Caution.
 14. July 13, 1999 – After an informal meeting against Mr. William L. Matthews (non-registrant), the Board agreed to enter into a Consent Order, in which Mr. Matthews would plead nolo contendere and agree to a civil penalty of \$1,000.00.
 15. September 13, 1999 – The Board, after a formal hearing against Foundation Specialties, Inc., James Davis (non-registrant), Paul Gintonio (non-registrant) and Paul Reisdorph, (South Dakota EI #E6668), approved the following: Dismiss the charges against Mr. Gintonio; dismiss the charges against Mr. Reisdorph with instructions that he be issued a Letter of Caution against practicing engineering without a license; Mr. Davis was found guilty of two (2) violations and that he be assess a civil penalty of \$500.00 (\$250 per violation); and that Foundation Specialties, Inc., was found guilty of two (2) violations and be assess a civil penalty of \$1,500.000 (\$750.00 per violation).

UPCOMING BOARD EVENTS

2000

October	27	PE & PLS Examinations	7:30am-5:00pm
	28	EI & FLS Examinations	7:30am-5:00pm
November	14	Board Meeting	8:30 am
December	31	Engineer Renewals Due	

2001

January	9	Board Meeting	8:30 am
February	1	April exam cutoff for applications	
March	13	Board Meeting	8:30 am
April	20	PE & PLS Examinations	7:30am-5:00pm
	21	EI & FLS Examinations	7:30am-5:00pm

NEW REGISTRANTS

The following is a list of Professional Engineers licensed by exam since July 1998.

9530	Beitle, Jr., Robert R.	9693	Priore, Robert J.	10031	Ghidotti, Jason J.
9531	Bentley, Donald E.	9694	Raabe, Mark T.	10032	Hennelly, Thomas A.
9532	Catlett, Walter C.	9695	Sanders, Thomas G.	10033	Hill, Amelia A.
9533	Connell, William L.	9696	Shaw, Lee R.	10034	Holland, Jody D.
9534	Davis, M. L.	9697	Stewart, Michael B.	10035	Phillips, Brandon L.
9535	Handwork, David L.	9698	Teas, Chris J.	10036	Primm, James P.
9536	Hodge, Jr., Dwain W.	9699	Venable, Gerald D.	10037	Russell Tommy E.
9537	Jadhav Ranjit S.	9700	Wright, Michael L.	10038	Shellogg, II, Edward J.
9538	Kestner, Keith W.	9701	Zotti, Scott	10039	Sikes, Bryan D.
9539	Lane, Mark E.	9775	Hill, Michael A.	10040	Smith, III, Emmett F.
9540	Lewis, Phillip A.	9807	Allen, Chad J.	10041	Smith, Lloyd D.
9541	Li, Yanbin	9808	Barr, James L.	10042	Smith, Mark A.
9542	Lookadoo, Jim	9809	Barrick, Jason E.	10043	Stengel, Michael H.
9543	McGee, Aaron K.	9810	Bates, Geoffrey H.	10044	Green, Thomas W.
9544	Oliver, Jonathan L.	9811	Bramlett, Charles W.	10045	Vines, Kelvin R.
9545	Sarkar, Anindyo	9812	Burnett, Danny W.	10046	Williams, Brett T.
9546	Selig, John S.	9813	Callicott, Stephen C.	10202	Bailey, Darin K.
9547	Terhune, Keith B.	9814	Clinton, Stephen W.	10203	Bailey, Philip D.
9548	Vocque, Jr., Floyd	9815	Easley, John M.	10204	Barry, Marc T.
9549	Warnecker, Christopher D.	9816	Ennis, Jamie E.	10205	Britton, Spencer N.
9550	Williams, Jennifer B.	9817	Falkner, Catherine M.	10206	Brown, Bruce W.
9551	Williams, Vernon J.	9818	Garner, Gregory M.	10207	Brown, Gary D.
9663	Borkowskil, Tadeusz	9819	Hammons, Mark A.	10208	Burnett, William C.
9664	Bousquet, Travis J.	9820	Harrison, John M.	10209	Butler, Paul W.
9665	Brown, Christopher C.	9821	Harvey, II, Larry M.	10210	Coan, Rusty A.
9666	Buzbee, Gary E.	9822	Hathcote, John C.	10211	Cole, Alex W.
9667	Cain, Stephen D.	9825	Hotho, Steven V.	10212	Coulson, John L.
9668	Callahan, Michael A.	9826	Lee, Joshua E.	10213	Curtis, Stanley R.
9669	Chastain, Casey M.	9827	Leo, Ronald E.	10214	Fallon, Michael P.
9670	Cole, Jr., William H.	9828	Loethen, Joseph Q.	10215	Friddle, Harry J.
9671	Couch, III, Charles B.	9829	Lafayette, Daniel R.	10216	Guthrie, Kip D.
9672	Crawford, Mark L.	9830	McDaniel, Brett L.	10217	Hearne, Kipp G.
9673	Elgowainy, Amgad A.	9831	McKinnon, Robert E.	10218	Hughes, Danny C.
9674	Fineberg, Todd E.	9832	Murphy, Jr., Roy L.	10219	Jenkins, Robert L.
9675	Forsgren, Stephen V.	9833	Naylor, Richard B.	10220	Johnson, Craig A.
9676	Garvin, Derek D.	9834	Qualls, Christopher W.	10221	Love, Brandon R.
9677	Grounds, John D.	9835	Rainwater, Marcus L.	10222	Maurer, Brian S.
9678	Gunn, Linda S.	9836	Sheffey, John M.	10223	McDonald, Sean P.
9679	Hamilton, John H.	9837	Speers, Paul G.	10224	Michael, Nowell
9680	Hammons, Randy C.	9838	Staley, Timothy P.	10225	Noble, III, Cyrus O.
9681	Hanson, Karl M.	9839	Trotter, Roger W.	10226	Poole, David L.
9682	Harrison, Stephen T.	9840	Turner, Tracy R.	10227	Quick, Anthony T.
9683	Jackson-Griffith, Stacey E.	9841	Walker, James W.	10228	Shepherd, David B.
9684	Jordan, Wesley D.	9842	Watt, Charles J.	10229	Sherrill, Anthony L.
9685	Majors, III, Weaver L.	9843	Wetzler, Wade A.	10230	Teague, Evan A.
9686	McBrayer, L. S.	10025	Moore, Brian J.	10231	Titus, Stephen C.
9687	McCown, Shannon D.	10026	Collins, Gilbert J.	10232	Tynes, Keith L.
9688	McGee, Scott P.	10027	Floriani, III, Ben V.	10233	Uguccione, Mark A.
9689	Menley, Farrell W.	10028	McAlexander, Lynn J.	10234	White, Kevin T.
9690	Norman, David H.	10030	Archer, Michael S.	10235	Wiseman, Daryl W.

NEW REGISTRANTS

Continued from page 4

Land Surveyors by exam since July 1998.

- 1347 Bryant, William O.
- 1348 Johnston, Michael H.
- 1349 Reeves, Ricky E.
- 1353 Davis, Robert L.
- 1354 Gilbert, Clinton W.
- 1355 Gorton, Eugene C.
- 1356 Harmon, Justin D.
- 1357 Petty, Jim D.
- 1358 Rambeau, Sr., Randy S.
- 1359 Rausch, Earl
- 1361 Bruck, Timothy J.
- 1362 Elkins, Thomas E.
- 1363 French, Robert D.
- 1364 Higby, James E.
- 1365 Know, Arnold G.
- 1366 Lourie, Jason T.
- 1367 McElroy, II, David W.
- 1368 Metz, Cary D.
- 1369 Whitlock, Douglas R.
- 1370 Castor, Robert J.
- 1371 Massmann, Jr., William F.
- 1372 Morgan, James T.
- 1373 Semmes, Jr., Thomas A.
- 1374 Aunspaugh, James S.
- 1375 Cunningham, Jr., Elwin S.
- 1376 Duff, Brady D.
- 1377 Findlow, David J.
- 1378 Garza, Joel D.
- 1379 Hight, Bart A.
- 1380 Paya, Lazaro G.
- 1381 Prince, Mark A.
- 1382 Rice, III, Jake
- 1387 Tilley, Kenneth W.
- 1388 Shambarger, Douglas C.
- 1389 McCutcheon, Charles A.
- 1390 Hamby, Richard E.
- 1391 DeClerk, Jr., Bernard J.
- 1392 Beavers, Lanny R.
- 1393 Wages, James W.
- 1397 Hambuchen, Thomas S.
- 1399 Cole, Timothy C.
- 1400 Hancock, Bradley P.
- 1401 Hickey, Raymond
- 1402 Singleton, Paxton R.

THE DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Starting in this job has been like jumping on a sled which is already one half way down the hill. It is now almost two years later and after much patience, guidance, and leadership from the Board, I believe we are going in the right direction.

The one thing which is central to all of our activities is "change". We have had a complete change of staff. We have changed our office automation network and the software to become Y2K compliant. We have changed office locations, which resulted in more work space on the upside and less parking on the downside. We have also changed our accessibility by creating a website. The public and potential registrants may download applications and instructions and view general information such as Board membership, the current roster of registrants and this newsletter. Look us up at ["www.state.ar.us/pels/"](http://www.state.ar.us/pels/)

The number of applicants for reciprocal registration is increasing. Of the 792 new PE licenses during these past two years, 642 were by reciprocity and only 150 (see list in this issue) were by examination in Arkansas.

Speaking about examinations, they too are changing. The Principals and Practice of Engineering examinations are being converted to width and depth, objectively scored formats. The Civil Engineering examination will be in this format for the first time on October 27, 2000. Others are to be converted at the rate of one or two a year until they are all in this format. It is anticipated that the scoring and reporting of results will be much quicker when this occurs. The Fundamentals of Land Surveying examination was rewritten beginning with the October 1999 administration for the Bachelor Degree level examinee. This matches the trend of a number of States which are now requiring a Bachelors Degree for

A major change for Professional Engineers was the requirement for reporting Continuing Professional Competency (CPC) training beginning December 1998 for the renewal of their 1999 license. Like a lot of new requirements, this one caused a fair amount of confusion. Things are more settled now, and in looking back, we see that more registrants are requesting exemptions based upon age and experience. Some are requesting an "inactive" status and a few (less than 150) have elected not to renew their license. We have about 135 dual registrants who must report a minimum of 20 Professional Development Hours (PDH) per year for both licenses. On those, we are using June 30, 1998, LS status as the base for crediting PE & LS pdh's on subsequent December 31 and June 30 reporting periods. If you are a dual registrant and would like a copy of your crediting report, please contact the Board office.

We are experiencing an increase in the number of out-of-state corporations requesting Certificates of Authority (COA's) so that they might register at the Secretary of State's office to offer Engineering services in Arkansas. This is consistent with the increasing number of reciprocal registrants

NCEES implements first breadth/depth exam in October 2000

The times they are a-changing," sang Bob Dylan, and it's certainly true right now for NCEES exams. New Principles and Practice of Engineering (PE) exam formats envisioned and begun five years ago are now coming to fruition. With change often comes stress and confusion as people make adjustments to the new, but the Council saw in 1995 that the growing pains of change would be worthwhile to help alleviate the wide variance in exam pass rates from administration to administration. In discussing the advantages of the new formats, it is also important to recognize the differences between them.

The Council decided to change Group I PE exams to the breadth and depth format at the 1995 Annual Meeting. This new format, which has taken the longest to implement, involves testing the breadth of an engineering discipline (civil, electrical, or mechanical) in the morning section, and the depth of the discipline in an examinee's chosen specialty area in the afternoon. [The NCEES determined the specialty areas through a survey of licensed engineers called the Professional Activities and Knowledges Study (PAKS).] The exam is effectively no-choice as all examinees within the same specialty area or depth module answer the same questions. A no-choice exam allows NCEES to use equating techniques that will account for varying exam difficulty and help even-out the exam pass rates from year to year without lowering the bar of minimum competency. The PE no-choice, breadth/depth exam measures an examinee's minimum competency in the generalities and a chosen specialty area of an engineering discipline.

The analysis, the exam committees determined that only three PE disciplines had a statistically significant number of test takers to support the breadth/depth concept: civil, electrical, and mechanical. For this reason, though PE exams have been changing for some time, the October 2000 administration of the Civil exam is the first of the no-choice, breadth/depth, 100% objectively scored exam format.

The Mechanical exam is slated to make this change in October 2001 and the Electrical exam no sooner than October 2001.

At the 1996 Annual Meeting, the Council passed the motion to make most PE exams no-choice, 100% objectively scored. This exam format has been implemented in an increasing number of PE exams since October 1998. [The Fundamentals of Engineering (FE), the Fundamentals of Land Surveying (FLS), and the Principles and Practice of Land Surveying (PLS) exams have been no-choice, objectively scored since the late eighties.]

The most recent exams to make the transition from choice, part essay/part multiple choice to no-choice, 100% objectively scored were the Chemical and Structural I exams in April 2000. Again, one advantage to this no-choice format is the ability to use scoring techniques to account for differences in exam difficulty and moderate the variation in pass rates from exam to exam while still upholding the bar of minimum competency. In addition, grading of essay questions contains an element of subjectivity, and grading subjectivity will be eliminated with the all multiple-choice format. These are the objective advantages -- examinees also acknowledge the more subtle advantages to no-choice, all multiple choice based on personal preferences and test-taking styles. One test taker from the April 2000 chemical administration said, "I like the new exam format better than the last. I was able to scan the multiple-choice questions quickly and put tick marks beside the ones I was confident about. This allowed me to spend more time on the items I was sure of and save until last the items I had to make an educated guess about." Another examinee said, "Not having to take exam time to choose which questions to answer was a big plus."

The October 2000 administration will debut the breadth/depth, no-choice, all objectively scored PE Civil exam as well as the no-choice, all objectively scored PE Manufacturing exam. What changes can be anticipated with the change in format?

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The review process for all objectively scored exams will be the same as it has been for some time with the FE, FLS, and PLS exams. Most jurisdictions provide a post-examination review to give unsuccessful examinees a chance to review their answers. Examinees failing the exam may review their answer sheet with a cardboard template provided by NCEES showing the correct answers. No worked solutions will be provided as there will be no subjectivity involved in the computer-scanned grading of the answer sheets. Most importantly, neither questions nor solutions will be provided to the reviewing examinees, in an effort to limit exposure to the exam questions. The scoring technique NCEES uses to compensate for the variation in exam difficulty from administration to administration is called equating, and equating involves using questions and data from previous examinations in order to compare the difficulty level of future exams. With equating, each additional exposure to exam questions, such as through post examination reviews, could increase an examinee's chances of performing well on the exam because of memory rather than because of minimum competency.

The Committee on Examination Policy and Procedures (EPP) is proposing a change to the October 2005 exam administration. The Council will vote at the 2000 Annual Business Meeting on the EPP recommendation that examination scores be reported to candidates as pass/fail with an appropriate diagnostic performance statement also issued to examinees who fail the examination.

As with the architectural exam which is reported pass/fail, psycho-metricians prefer pass/fail scores because licensing examinations are designed only to measure minimum competency. Any other breakdown of point differences besides pass/fail is misleading and is not what the exam is designed to measure. Some jurisdictions report the raw score, some report the scaled score (for example, a 48 might become a 70 in scaling), and some jurisdictions report both scores.

The problem, aside from general confusion resulting from jurisdictions reporting raw or scaled or both scores, is that with equating the no-choice, 100% objectively scored exams, the recommended cut score may move from one administration to another. For example, imagine that in 2000 mythical Maurice earns a 48 on the PE Civil exam and passes. In 2001, Diane earns a 49 on the PE Civil exam and passes. In 2002, James earns a 51 on the same exam and fails. By looking at the raw scores without appropriate information on equating (which psychometricians prefer is not general knowledge), James would be very confused about why he failed in 2002 and the examinees from previous administrations passed. Skip Lewis, NCEES Past President and chair of EPP, says, "The PE exam is not designed or intended to competitively measure one candidate against another for employment purposes or for any other reason. Further, it is confusing and misleading when either raw or scaled scores are compared with such scores from other disciplines, sub-disciplines, or from one administration of examinations to another. For this reason, the committee is recommending that scores be reported only as pass/fail with a diagnostic report to aid in future preparation being sent to those failing the examination."

The Council is actively pursuing the protection of public safety, health, and welfare with each exam format change. The first no-choice, breadth/depth, 100% objectively scored Civil exam and the no-choice, 100% objectively scored Manufacturing exam will be administered October 2000. Exams are "a-changin'," and exam procedures as well. If you have any questions about the October 2000 administration, please visit the NCEES Web site, www.ncees.org, to view the exam specifications or call PE/LS Exam Development at (800) 250-3196.

—NCEES staff

Reprinted courtesy of NCEES from the June 2000 issue of "Licensure Exchange"

FROM THE PRESIDENT
David Knowles, P.E., PLS

The past two years have been rather disruptive – a change in Executive Director, a change of five Board members, all new office staff, implementing continuing education for Engineers, a change in the location of our office, and the most hectic, a change in telephone number. It seems that telephone companies are not immune to communication problems. In addition, only two members, Don Brady and Jim Engstrom have served more than one four-year term. Needless to say there have been many things that required our attention, and unfortunately some items such as this newsletter had to be delayed. The good news is that we have an excellent Executive Director, staff and new Board members including the newest, Mike Marlar. I look forward to working with all of them this next year.

A couple of items are noteworthy – hosting the next NCEES National Meeting, and the new formats for the Principals and Practice of Engineering exam. The 80th Annual Convention of NCEES will be held the first part of August, 2001 in Little Rock with approximately 350 attendees. Let's hope for something other than 100 degree weather. Beginning this October, the civil engineering examination will have the breadth and depth format. This means that all examinees work the breadth (AM) exam and one of the five depth (PM) exams. Beginning in October 2001, mechanical engineering and electrical engineering exams will also have a breadth and depth format. More information on this, other exams, and preparation publications can be found on the NCEES website (www.ncees.org).

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