

News from Delaware's Licensing Council for Professional Engineers Spring/Summer 2016

VICE-PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Theodore A. Thomson, P.E.



Recently, DAPE attended the NCEES Northeast Regional Zone Meeting in Burlington, VT. The highlight of the meeting was the dinner event on the last night. During this meeting, our Peggy Abshagen was awarded the Northeast Zone Distinguished Service Award, the ENNY. The

ENNY is an annual award presented to an individual who has rendered outstanding service to the Zone or NCEES. This was truly an exceptional feat as Peggy is the only two-time ENNY award winner. Although there is not enough space to highlight all of Peggy's service to NCEES (and DAPE), some highlights are: Peggy, has served as Executive Director for approximately 23 years, interfacing with the State Attorney General's Office, all DAPE committees, NCEES, creating budgets, arranging monthly meetings and running all office activities. Peggy has coordinated meetings between DAPE and the State Architect's Board and the State Surveyor's Board. She prepares the annual report to the Governor and facilitates the Professional Engineer's exams and in prior years the FE exams as well. She has organized discipline hearings for our Law Enforcement and Ethics Committee. Peggy organizes the DAPE's annual award banquet. Peggy has served as the NE Zone Treasurer, NE Zone Secretary, served on the NCEES MBA committee, chair of NCEES' Bylaws Committee 2009, organized the 2012 Zone meeting in Delaware, and on other NE Zone and NCEES committees which we cannot recall. Peggy has conducted outreach programs to make college students aware of the FE exam. She has also helped conduct outreach programs for code officials and high school students interested in engineering. Lastly, she has organized

Professional Competency programs in engineering ethics for DAPE members.



From all of the NCEES NE Zone and DAPE....Congratulations Peggy!!!!!!

Other NCEES News:

- New NCEES Records Program. In other NCEES news, one highlight of the meeting was discussion of the new and improved NCEES Records Program. On June 20, 2016, NCEES will launch a new and improved Records Program. The new system will feature:
 - Faster processing times. You can expect to complete the application process in the new system within approximately 30 days.
 - Online verification for work experience and references.
 - No application fee.
 - No annual renewal fee.

In addition, the new program will allow input and storage of your PDH's. This will allow you to upload your completed PDH credits for use in license renewal and faster and easier documentation for audits. **It is important to note that NCEES will not be "approving" PDH's.** As always, this remains at the discretion of the individual state board. DAPE encourages all

of our members to utilize the fast, easy, and FREE record keeping program.

- Decoupling. A much discussed topic at many recent NCEES Zone and Annual meetings is the idea of “decoupling” which essentially allows an individual to register for the PE exam prior to obtaining the requisite number of years’ experience. Proponents of decoupling generally cite the belief that this will increase PE licensure. Opponents generally cite that this procedure makes it more difficult for potential PE’s to pass the exam as they do not have the practical experience. Allow “early test taking” also does not coincide with several states’ laws regarding PE licensure. In an attempt to satisfy all parties, the NCEES is considering the following PE registration options:
 - An individual could register to take the PE exam on the NCEES website. Individual state boards could then approve the applicant (through NCEES) as meeting the state board’s requirements; or
 - An individual could register to take the PE exam on the NCEES website without individual states approving the applicant (this provision is to address states who have already adopted decoupling); or
 - An individual could register to take the PE exam on the NCEES website and certify that they have met the requirements for an individual state without the individual state board’s approval.

It is important to note that this issue is currently under discussion by DAPE and no position has been taken to date.

These options are being discussed by NCEES and more news is to follow...



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S MESSAGE:

LICENSE RENEWALS/CPC REQUIREMENTS

This is the year of license renewals. The top three reasons to renew in a timely manner:

1. Unlicensed practice is a violation of the law.

2. Late renewals begin accruing penalty fees of \$50/month.
3. All late renewals will be automatically audited for CPC compliance.

All 7,271 licensees have been notified electronically on two separate occasions to renew their licenses for the period of 7/1/2016 through 6/30/2018. All current licenses will expire on June 30, 2016! There is no grace period.

Late fees begin accruing on July 1st at the rate of \$50/month. Also, all late renewals will result in an automatic audit of CPC records.

New this renewal cycle is the additional requirement of Continued Professional Competency (CPC). Unless you are a new licensee by way of exam and this is your first renewal cycle, or you have been previously granted a medical or military exemption, or you have selected “Retired” or “Inactive” status, everyone is required to have 24 pdh’s by June 30th. The CPC guidelines on our website (www.dape.org) will provide the details. In addition to ethics and business/project management, courses related to your area of technical practice are required.

For those licensees also licensed in their resident jurisdiction, you need to meet your home state’s requirements. If your home state does not require CPC, you must meet the requirements of Delaware.

At the conclusion of the renewal period, approximately 5% of the membership will be randomly audited. This will require these licensees to submit the log of their CPC activity, as well as documentation to support the claimed pdh’s. Those found not in compliance risk additional education, fines, suspension and possible revocation.

DAPE has assisted its membership to obtain pdh’s by providing several opportunities during this past two-year period. Our most recent ethics sessions were overwhelmingly received and limited seating for multiple sessions was exhausted within hours. DAPE should not be your only resource for obtaining the required pdh’s.

License renewal requires:

- ✓ Selecting status: Active, Inactive, or Retired
 - Active = CPC required, fees
 - Inactive = no CPC, no fees, limit 4 yrs.
 - Retired =no CPC, no fees, no reinstatement
- ✓ Updating your contact information

- ✓ Attesting that you meet the CPC requirements
- ✓ Attesting to your disciplinary history
- ✓ Making payment

The renewal process is easy, convenient and required to offer or practice engineering in the State. And it is your responsibility!



**FIRST LICENSE RENEWAL FOR
DELAWARE WITH CPC
REQUIREMENTS**

By William D. Balascio, P.E.

In the Winter DAPE newsletter, I wrote about CPC requirements, special provisions that Delaware has made to make getting PDH credits easier and proposed that we can develop course content in coordination with our professional societies to help each other earn PDH credits inexpensively.

While I think the last item is a good idea, it really isn't practical for helping anyone now. It can be useful in the future, but the need is imminent. Notices will be sent out approximately 60 days before the June 30, 2016 renewal date. When you log onto the DAPE website to renew your license, you will be asked if you have completed the requirements for CPC.

All of us on the DAPE Council hope that you have been preparing for this and can answer truthfully with a "Yes". If you are not prepared, you still have time. Please use it wisely. The absolute worst thing that you can do is to claim that you have met the requirements when you know that you have not.

Doing so could lead to consequences that you may not want to face. DAPE plans to audit up to 5% of our licensees. Neighboring states have shared their experiences that they have had problems with a significant number of failed audits. If you falsely claim to meet the requirements and cannot support that claim when audited, you will be subject to possible denial of license. The process and repercussions are spelled out in the CPC guidelines, but at a minimum you will lose some of your time in a hearing and could also face fines and suspension of license.

All of these bad outcomes are completely unnecessary. The best thing that you can do is meet the requirements on time. Earn credits in any format detailed in the CPC guidelines and make sure that you have enough by June 30th.

The next best thing that you can do is to submit a Corrective Action Plan. This plan was required to be submitted to DAPE by not later than May 16th and needed to show all CPC activities being completed by no later than 30 days after June 30th. Why is this the next best thing? Two very good reasons: DAPE must approve the plan and you are guaranteed to be audited.

The CPC Guidelines provide details on the type of proof that should be provided. Please review them to make sure that you have kept the right types of records – in case you are audited.

For future renewal periods, NCEES is developing a comprehensive CPC record tool that will be provided as a service to licensees. DAPE would like to have all licensees use this tool and is thinking of ways to incentivize its use.

We all have a lot to learn from this CPC process. DAPE staff and committees will be challenged by the work load and you all have credits to earn and records to keep. As we go through this together, share your thoughts, impressions and concerns with us so that we can all do a better job at safeguarding life, health, property and promoting the public welfare by contacting us at office@dape.org.



LAW ENFORCEMENT CORNER:

The enforcement efforts of the Law Enforcement/Ethics Committee remain vigilant in reviewing business publications, business license records, website content, and through its investigation of complaints.

In 2016 eighty-three cases have been opened and to date, we have been able to assist 46 of these cases into compliance with the law. Of the cases opened, two were complaints; 1 was an allegation of unlicensed practice; and 1 applicant had a felony conviction.

Other Case Activity:

Szayna, Matthis (Case 13/099) -- In 2013 a complaint was filed alleging the unlicensed practice of engineering. Although licensed in another jurisdiction, this individual provided engineering services for an insurance company on a Delaware project. A Cease & Desist Order was issued and Mr. Szayna requested a hearing. At the conclusion of the hearing, the panel did not find the arguments that he was an employee of the company and the company does not provide engineering services to the public; and that his services were intended to be used as expert testimony in a Delaware court persuasive and Council approved its final order. Szayna appealed to Superior Court and the original decision was affirmed by the court.

McDaniels, Susan
McGuire, Anthony
Medendorp IV, John
Mitchell, Wesley
Moniodis, Anthony
Panayotatos, Antonis
Perlow, James
Peters, Garrett
Possible, Marx
Reid, Thomas
Schoch, Alison
Schwander, Catherine
Sedigh Haghighat, Amir Reza
Seery, Daniel
Sheridan, Michael
Stringer, Thomas
Syed, Abdul Hadi
Thomas Jr., Stephen
Walls, Scott
Werley, Blake
Wexler, Michael



CONGRATULATIONS!!

NEW PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS

Forty-four new Professional Engineers were approved for licensure recently by successful passage of the April 15, 2016 examination:

Agnaou, Mohamed
Aversa, Domenic
Biddle, Jason
Bonetti, Santiago
Dean, Nicholas
Devkota, Santosh
Endres, Konrad
Fede, Jennalee
Feigenheimer, Eric
Ghodoussipour, Kasra
Graf, Kathlene
Henner, Colin
Huston, Kenneth
Hyman, Craig
John, Bincy
King, Taylor
Kulynych, Melinda
LaGrand, Sonya
L'Esperance, Brittany
Loux, Theresa
Loveday, Valerie
Maier, Derek
Martin, Wayne



PE EXAM STATS – APRIL EXAM ADMINISTRATION

<i>Exam</i>	<i>National</i>		<i>Delaware</i>	
	First	Repeat	First	Repeat
Architectural	86%	33%	100%	0
Chemical	74%	33%	0	0
Civil	67%	37%	58%	34%
Civil Construct.	62%	36%	33%	25%
Civil Geotech.	66%	24%	60%	0
Civil Structural	64%	35%	83%	25%
Civil Transportation	71%	39%	50%	56%
Civil Water Res.	71%	41%	63%	33%
Electrical/Power	64%	32%	50%	50%
Environmental	64%	21%	75%	100%
Mechanical	73%	40%	75%	67%
Mech HVAC	76%	34%	33%	50%
Mech Mech	70%	36%	100%	0
Mech Thermal/Fluids	73%	47%	100%	100%

EXAM PROCTORS THANKS!

We couldn't administer our exams without our team of proctors. A special thanks to the following DAPE members who volunteered their time and energy to enabling this exam administration to be conducted seamlessly and without incident:

- Bob Leitsch
- Doug Seavey
- Mike Ellis
- Joe Volk
- George Harding
- Jordan Morrison
- Movser Ngai

You're the best!
Thank you!



COUNCIL ELECTION








DAPE is unique in many regards, but none more than the process of electing its Council members. Each year three Council seats are up for election. In 2016, there are actually four seats with the vacated seat of our Government Employment representative, Hans Medlarz. The seats are:

- Education Seat***
- Mechanical Engineering Seat***
- Government Employment Seat***
- Sussex County Seat***

At the time of election, and during the term of office, an individual must be a citizen of the U.S., a resident of the State, a member of the Association, and be qualified to represent the constituency from which the individual is elected.

We received petitions for each of the four Council seat vacancies and although all seats are unopposed, the Bylaws require that an election be held. Electronic ballots have been sent to all those eligible to participate in the election. Balloting concludes on July 15th.

2015-2016 COUNCIL MEMBERS

 C.C. Balascio, P.E. Education Seat	 W.D. Balascio, P.E. Electrical Eng. Seat	 D.P. Barbato, P.E. "Other" Eng. Seat
 S. Gharebaghi, P.E. Kent County Seat	 R.E. Hayden, P.E. Mechanical Eng. Seat	 M.A. Lennon, P.E. Chemical Eng. Seat
 M. Lester, P.E. New Castle Co. Seat	 J.P. Ludman, P.E. Industry Seat	 C.L. McAllister, P.E. Private Cons. Seat
 H.M. Medlarz, P.E. Gov't Empl. Seat	 E.F. Retzlaff P.E. Sussex Co. Seat	 R.D. Smith, Esq. Apptd.-Kent Co.
 T.A. Thomson, P.E. Civil Eng. Seat	 J.E. Tracey, Esq. Apptd.-New Castle	 R.C. Wheatley Apptd.-Sussex Co.

Council Executive Committee

Daniel P. Barbato, P.E., **President**
Theodore A. Thomson, P.E., **Vice President**
Soheil Gharebaghi, P.E., **Secretary**
Charles L. McAllister, P.E., **Treasurer**
Hans M. Medlarz, P.E., **Immed.Past President**

Council Members

Carmine C. Balascio, P.E., Education	8/31/16
Robert E. Hayden, P.E., Mechanical Engineering	8/31/16
Hans M. Medlarz, P.E., Government Employment	8/31/17
Erik F. Retzlaff, P.E., Sussex County	8/31/16
Daniel P. Barbato, P.E., "Other" Eng.	8/31/17
Michael A. Lennon, P.E., Chemical Engineering	8/31/17
John E. Tracey, Esq. -- New Castle Co. -- Apptd.	8/31/17
Robert C. Wheatley -- Sussex Co. -- Apptd.	8/31/17
Ronald D. Smith, Esq. -- Kent Co. -- Apptd.	8/31/18
Meghan Lester, P.E., New Castle County	8/31/18
John P. Ludman, P.E., Industry	8/31/18
Theodore A. Thomson, P.E., Civil Engineering	8/31/18
William D. Balascio, P.E., Electrical Engineering	8/31/19
Soheil Gharebaghi, P.E., Kent County	8/31/19
Charles L. McAllister, P.E., Private Consulting	8/31/19

Council Staff:

Peggy Abshagen	Lauren Thomson
Executive Director	Executive Assistant

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