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WINTER 2026



# DAPE NEWS

BY Vincent Fazio, P.E.

## President's Message

Greetings Delaware Engineering Community and Happy (not so) New Year!

The start of a new year is the perfect time to reflect on recent accomplishments and look ahead to the opportunities and challenges that lie before us. It has been an honor to serve as President over the past year and witness the incredible work of DAPE Committees and Staff. The list is too long to name them all, but here are some of the accomplishments from 2025:

- Modified the Professional Engineers' Act to include language for successor engineers
- Provided no-cost virtual and in-person ethics training to members

All of this was achieved while continuing our core functions: promoting licensure, enforcing the law, and administering licenses to safeguard life, health, and property and promote the public welfare. Looking ahead to 2026, we have ambitious priorities including:

- Continuing to engage in national conversations and exploring options for enhanced license mobility
- Maintaining a focus on diversity and inclusion within the engineering profession
- Completing the update of our website and licensing system to better serve members

Most importantly, I look forward to seeing how Delaware engineers creatively solve the challenges 2026 will bring.

One issue certain to dominate conversations this year is the impact of data centers on the electrical grid, with the major question being “How will power generation keep pace with increasing demand?” As artificial intelligence and cloud storage become integral to everyday life, this challenge will continue to grow.

According to the Institute for Energy Research (article hyperlinked below), electricity demand from data centers could triple by 2028. This trend underscores the need for talented engineers to lead efforts in grid modernization and innovative energy solutions. Read more here: [Data Centers Drive Up Electricity Demand, Causing Concern for Grid Operators - IER](#).

I wish you all a happy and healthy 2026 and look forward to connecting during upcoming E-Week events. As always, DAPE Council, Committees, and Staff remain committed to promoting licensure, enforcing the law, and administering licenses to safeguard life, health, and property and promote the public welfare.

If you are interested in getting involved, please reach out to [office@dape.org](mailto:office@dape.org).

# Executive Director's Message

From my earliest days here at DAPE, I knew that I wanted to make major changes to our website. Selfishly, this was to cut down on the need to answer the same questions over and over via telephone and email. With that in mind, I started reaching out to other State PE boards for advice on 3rd party licensing software providers. I researched their websites, looking for patterns in the presentation of information to applicants, licensees, and members of the public. Over time, we've refined the content of the site to anticipate and answer questions.

In late December, [we launched our new site](#), with improvements to the look and user experience. DAPE staff members and the Examining Committee have been learning to use our new system and working through the inevitable hiccups as we guide users through account setup, applications and renewals. Our Ad Hoc Website Committee has helped with every step of this process.

The new site features a "PE Dashboard" for all of our active, inactive, lapsed, and retired licensees (under the Licensees menu). You will be able to access your dashboard to update contact information, change the status of your license, and print a current wallet card. While far less common, you can also upload documents related to discipline in another jurisdiction. Firms will have access to a "COA" dashboard.

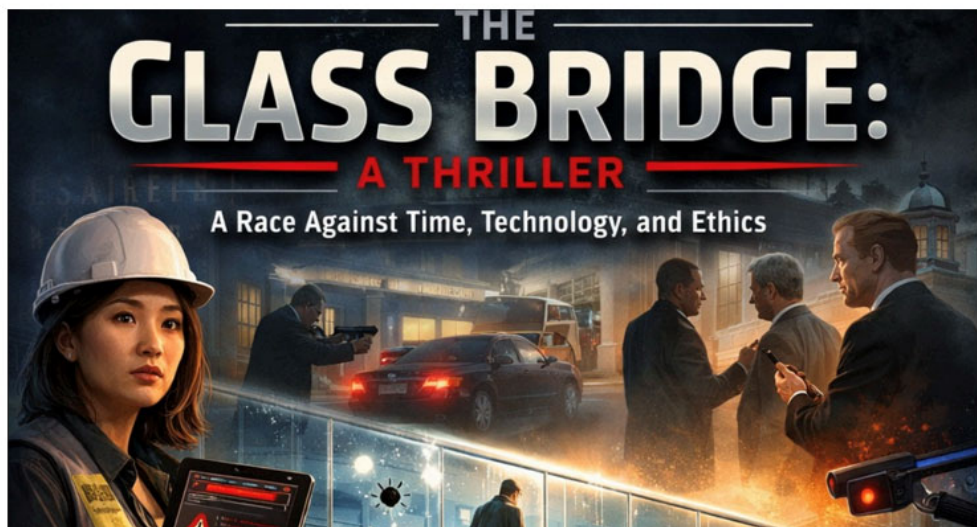
Approximately 85-90% of our applicants now hold NCEES records. Our new application enables NCEES record-holders to skip the employment and reference sections of the application, since that information appears on their record.

Many current licensees have found their way to the new site and created new user accounts already. We will be emailing all of our active individual licensees with instructions. [Our plan is to do this in batches](#), so the DAPE staff doesn't get too overwhelmed with emails and phone calls. Here's what you can expect:

- You will be assigned a User ID (this is not your license number), and be prompted to create a password. You will need both to log in to our site going forward so please save this information.
- If you ever need to reset your password, enter the primary email account that is on file with DAPE (that's where we'll be sending instructions to set up your account).
- When our PE license renewal window is open in early May, you will log into your dashboard to complete the renewal (a renewal button will appear on your PE dashboards in early May, and on the COA dashboards in early August).

I'd like to extend my thanks to the many DAPE Committee members and Council members that helped with this project. Thanks also to DAPE's staff members (Kathy, Beth, and Katy), for their patience while learning a whole new application process. And thanks to all of you in advance for your patience as we all learn to navigate this new system together.

## Engineering Ethics Training Registration is Open



Ethical Issues Relating to the Growth and Development of AI and the Engineer  
Tuesday March 24

Newark, DE 19702

Presenter: Richard K. Herrmann, Esquire

This two-hour session will present several hypothetical uses of AI by engineers, and then allow PEs to discuss potential consequences and ethical implications. Richard Herrmann has prepared several **thrilling** case studies to keep our attendees engaged!

Doors will open at 8:00 AM, and the presentation starts at 9:00. A light breakfast/coffee will be served. Parking is plentiful and free.

Training will be in-person only this time (it won't be recorded), and space is limited. If your plans change, please take the time to cancel your registration, so someone else can have your spot.

Register Here

## Bylaws & Government Affairs Update

At the recommendation of DAPE's Examining Committee and the Bylaws and Government Affairs Committee, DAPE's Council has proposed some minor legislative amendments to the Delaware Professional Engineers' Act. These changes will remove restrictions on the timing of taking the Fundamentals of Engineering exam, primarily to allow candidates with a less traditional education path to take the exam earlier in their careers. While the House Bill has not yet been proposed, you can track legislation on the [Delaware General Assembly's website](#).

At recent meetings, the Bylaws and Government Affairs Committee also discussed potential changes to the composition of Council seats in order to better reflect the composition of our licensees, but has decided to postpone this issue so we can gather data and feedback.

elected member seats are as follows:

- One from each of the three counties in Delaware
- One from the following fields of employment: government, industry, private consulting
- One from each of the following engineering disciplines: civil, chemical, electrical, mechanical and “other” (any discipline other than civil, chemical, electrical or mechanical).

Generally, we have not had any trouble finding candidates to run for these seats over the years. However, DAPE’s nominating committee had to work more than usual to recruit a candidate to fill the Chemical Engineering seat (thank you, Melanie Smith for answering our call!). This led the Committee to discuss the seat composition and take a look at the engineering discipline statistics. Since DAPE was formed in 1972, the practice of engineering has evolved in Delaware for several reasons. Delaware’s economy has shifted away from traditional chemical engineering, and the demand for environmental engineers has increased due to regulatory changes and reuse of previously developed sites. Ideas under consideration to reflect current practice include changing the Chemical engineering seat to Chemical OR Environmental or changing it to a second “Other” seat. The Council is open to investigating other suggestions.

While we are still a few months away from the 2026 PE renewals, you will notice when you renew your license that we are going to ask you to choose your “major discipline of engineering” from a drop down list related to the NCEES PE exam disciplines (Major is defined to be that one discipline a licensee feels most qualified to practice). This will replace the prior free form text box, where licensees often abbreviate, occasionally misspell, and sometimes create their own engineering discipline. This will enable us to improve our online roster search feature, and get better data related to the current engineering disciplines of our active PEs. We’ll also be looking at exam discipline trends using data from NCEES.

Do you have any feedback on the current Council composition? Please email [jen@dape.org](mailto:jen@dape.org).

Speaking of the DAPE Council composition, there will be three seats on the Council ballot in 2026. Nominating petitions are due May 1, 2026. All petitions must be supported by at least ten PEs on our active roster. Please contact [jen@dape.org](mailto:jen@dape.org) for details on how to complete a petition form.

The 2026 Open Council Seats are:

- New Castle County
- Civil Engineering
- Industry

Council members are elected to 4-year terms, and may serve two consecutive terms.

## A Fond Farewell to Richard Shelton

If you have a Delaware P.E. Certificate hanging on your wall, the chances are very good that your name, license number, and approval date were hand lettered by DAPE's long-time calligrapher, Richard Shelton.



Richard was born in Wilmington, Delaware in 1939. He had a long career as a graphic artist for the DuPont Company. He was also proficient in calligraphy, and his work has been illustrated on nearly every PE certificate issued by DAPE since the late 1970s all the way up until December 2025.

In addition to being a skilled artist, Richard was a true friend to DAPE's

# Welcome Delaware's Newest PEs

PE Number	Name	PE Number	Name
29178	Bridget M. Hettler	3036	Mae Elizabeth Langrehr
33076	Annie Lin	33022	Mamadou Cisse
31358	Casey Lorimer	24688	Margueritte Ngeyop Ngami
33087	Christopher E. Reed	30913	Michael S. McClintock
30715	Colleen Gwyndolyn Parris	33024	M. Emaad Fayaz
30990	Illya Trofymenko	30048	Nicholas Carter
33038	James R Applegate	31996	Samuel A. Bunitsky
31669	Kyle James Satterfield	33037	Sayed Arafat Bin Sayed
33023	Laurel Perkins		

## Council Executive Committee

- Vincent Fazio, P.E., President
- Theodore Thomson, P.E., Vice President
- Kenneth Tadler, P.E., Secretary
- James Puddicombe, P.E., Treasurer
- Michael Clendaniel, P.E., Immediate Past President

## Council Members (Term Expiration Date)

- Daniel Barbato, P.E., New Castle County (8/31/26)
- Joseph Jakubowski, P.E., LEED AP, Civil Engineering (8/31/26)
- Mark Scarborough, P.E., Industry Seat (8/31/26)
- Chad R. Lingenfelder, Esq., Sussex Co. - Appointed (10/6/26)
- Vincent Fazio, P.E., Electrical Engineering (8/31/27)
- James Puddicombe, P.E., Kent County (8/31/27)
- Theodore A. Thomson, P.E., Private Consulting (8/31/27)
- Diane Calloway, P.E., Sussex County (8/31/28)
- David Reinhold, P.E., Education (8/31/28)
- Kenneth Tadler, P.E., Mechanical Engineering (8/31/28)
- Michael Rasmussen, Kent Co. - Appointed (6/18/29)
- Anthony Ingram, New Castle Co. - Appointed (6/20/29)
- Anthony Kline, P.E., Other Engineering (8/31/29)

## DAPE Staff

- Jennifer Wootten, Executive Director
- Kathy Davis, Executive Assistant
- Beth Baughman, Administrative Assistant
- Katy Steimling, Investigation and Outreach Assistant



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