

E News



Summer 2012

From the Administrator's Desk

Could you please send us \$500? Could you please send us \$1,250? Of course, I am being facetious, but that is exactly what you might have to pay (or more) if you practice before licensure or while your license or your firm's license is lapsed. We KNOW you didn't intend to, we KNOW you've said you didn't get the renewal notice, we KNOW this is still a tough economy; we KNOW you could better use that money elsewhere.

Renewals are coming up – please pay attention to deadlines for renewing YOUR license. The Board holds YOU accountable for renewing your license—even though you may assign that task to an assistant. Since July 1, 2011, the Board of Engineers and Surveyors has levied fines totaling \$ 31,175 against 42 licensees who inadvertently failed to renew.

Elsewhere in this newsletter is an article on the requirement in South Carolina that the firm providing services must also be licensed. There are *very* few exceptions to this requirement. Please read the article carefully and contact the board office at (803) 896-4422 if you have questions.

Jan Simpson

It's Renewal Time

The deadline to renew individual registrations for engineers and surveyors is June 30, 2012. Online registration will be available at <https://renewals.llronline.com/> and renewal notices have been mailed with usernames and passwords to access the online system. Payment of the \$100 renewal fee can be made by MasterCard, Visa, or online check.

Registrants can also mail renewals on a paper renewal form. To do so, download the renewal form located on the website at www.llronline.com/POL/engineers and return it, along with a \$100 check made payable to LLR – Engineering Board, to the Board office.

Late fees will apply to registration renewals processed August 1 – September 30, 2012. Registrations that are not renewed by September 30th will lapse and must be reinstated.

Professional Development Hours (PDH) – also known as Continuing Education

To renew your license, you must have completed 30 Professional Development Hours or you must sign a statement on the renewal form that you WILL have completed 30 hours by June 30, 2012. If you don't have the hours needed, don't renew until you do have them.

If you are audited, you will be required to provide proof that you attended the activities you claim. "Proof" means a certificate issued by the sponsoring organization that includes—at a minimum—the date of the activity, program title, number of hours, your name, and the sponsoring organization's name. If you did not receive such a certificate, you will need to contact the organization and obtain a statement from them that their records show you attended the program.

What might NOT be acceptable as "proof"? Unacceptable items include a copy of the check you paid to attend, a copy of the agenda, a list of attendees, or a note from your friend that you attended. Why are these NOT acceptable proof? Because you could very well have paid for the event and not actually attended, because an agenda would not show your attendance, and the list of

BOARD MEMBERS

Theresa H. Hodge, PE, Chair
Thurl M. Amick, Sr., PLS, Vice -Chair
Nancy W. Cottingham, Public Member, Secretary
Gene L. Dinkins, PE & PLS, Member
Dennis J. Fallon, Ph.D, PE, Member
Miller L. Love, Jr., PE, Member
Timothy W. Rickborn, PE, Member
Charles M. Joye, II, PE, Member

For information on Board members' terms, boardmembers.llronline.com/bdmem

OFFICE STAFF

Jan B. Simpson, Administrator
Tiffany Conelly, Administrative Assistant
Alice DeBorde, Administrative Assistant
Connie Huffstetler, Administrative Assistant
Missy Jones, Program Assistant
Sherri Moorer, Program Assistant

www.llr.state.sc.us/POL/Engineers/

BOARD OFFICE HOURS

8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. Monday – Friday

2012 BOARD MEETINGS

All meetings will be held at LLR, 110 Centerview Drive, Columbia, S.C.

April 10, 2012
July 17-18, 2012
September 11, 2012
November 14, 2012

attendees may have been a list of everyone who paid to attend. If you subscribe to a third-party registry of continuing education activities that compiles the information for you then provides a “transcript” or other type of list of events, that transcript might be acceptable proof if the back-up documentation is included. The list by itself is insufficient.

If you believe you might qualify for an exemption to the Professional Development Hours due to a physical disability, illness, or other extenuating circumstance, you may submit a request to the Board along with supporting documentation BEFORE RENEWAL. The Board will consider your request and respond within a week.

Remember that the Board does not pre-approve sponsors or specific activities. You are expected to obtain the required 30 hours of professional development activities by June 30, 2012. For information on requirements, please see Article 6 of the Regulations, starting on page 64 of the Comprehensive Booklet of Laws and Regulations:

http://www.lironline.com/pol/engineers/PDF_Files/Engr-Surv%20lawregsbooklet7-09-rev.pdf

Director Holly Gillespie Pisarik



Holly Gillespie Pisarik is the new Director of the S.C. Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation (LLR). She was appointed by Governor Nikki R. Haley on March 2, 2012, and confirmed by the Senate on March 29, 2012.

At the time of her appointment, Pisarik was serving as LLR’s Chief Advice Counsel. At LLR, Pisarik advised professional and occupational licensing boards on statutory and regulatory matters, provided legal advice to staff, drafted legislation for the boards and other agency programs, and managed a team of attorneys.

Before coming to LLR, Pisarik worked at Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough, LLP, practicing primarily in the area of health care, and representing clients before federal, state, and administrative law courts and administrative agencies.

Prior to law school, Pisarik worked for the Florida Department of Health as a public information officer and program manager.

Pisarik graduated from the University of South Carolina Law School in May 2007, where she earned the Bronze Compleat Lawyer Award. She earned her undergraduate degree in business administration, with an emphasis on health care administration, from Winthrop University in Rock Hill, S.C., in 1999.

Pisarik is a member of the South Carolina Bar, the South Carolina Women Lawyers Association, the American Bar Association, and Trenholm Road United Methodist Church in Columbia. She is married and has two children.

Meet the New Board Members

Dennis J. Fallon, PhD, PE, F.ASCE

The Citadel Distinguished Professor of Engineering Education
The Citadel

Dennis John Fallon is presently The Citadel Distinguished Professor of Engineering Education. He just recently stepped down after an eight -year term as the Dean of the School of Engineering and Louis S. LeTellier chair to return to the faculty of the Civil and Environmental Engineering Department. He received his BSE from Old Dominion University (ODU) with honors in 1970, and his MSCE and PhD. from North Carolina State University in 1972 and 1980, respectively.

Dr. Fallon’s industrial experience includes seven years at Carolina Power and Light Company in Raleigh, NC, two years as Chief Structural Engineer with a consulting firm, and three years with the Underwater Explosion Research Division in Portsmouth, Virginia. He is a Professional Engineer in the State of South Carolina. Dr. Fallon’s academic career includes six years as an Assistant Professor at ODU and 22 years at The Citadel where he served as Head of the CEE Department for ten years (1993-2003).

An active member of the Southeastern Section of American Society for Engineering Education (ASEE), Dr. Fallon has held numerous positions within the organization including the Chair of the Civil Engineering Division and the Administrative Unit, Conference Site Coordinator, Newsletter Editor for three years, Technical Program Chair and Instructional Unit Chair from 1994 to 1995, and was elected President of the Southeastern Section from 1996 to 1997 and then again from 2003 to 2004. He has also served for three years as the National Campus Representative and has recently begun a three-year term as Director of the CE Division of the National ASEE. In addition, he served a three-year term as Newsletter Editor of the CE Division. He is completing the second year of a two-year term as



the Zone II representative on the National ASEE Board of Directors. Dr. Fallon was inducted as a Fellow in ASEE at the June 2010 National Meeting of ASEE in Louisville, KY.

Dr. Fallon has been active in the American Society of Civil Engineers, where he has achieved the grade of Fellow. He has also served as President of the Eastern Branch in Charleston, SC and as Secretary, Vice President, and President of the South Carolina Section of ASCE. He has served the State of South Carolina by judging a number of times the competition for the engineering Excellence Award present annual by the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC.) In addition he has supported the state Board of Registration of Professional Engineers by serving on professional panels to evaluate portfolios of individuals seeking registration in the South Carolina

Dr. Fallon has received such prestigious awards as the Cumberland Gap Chi Epsilon Award for Teaching Excellence, the James Grimsley Citadel Teaching Excellent Award, Thomas Evans Best Instructional Paper at the Southeastern Section of ASEE conference in 1990, and a Section Leadership Award from the South Carolina Section of ASCE; he is also a five-time recipient of the Outstanding CE Professor at ODU. Dr. Fallon is a member of Tau Beta Pi, Chi Epsilon, and Phi Kappa Phi. He is also received the Tony Tilman Award for service to the Southeast Section of ASEE.

We welcome him as a new Board member.



Timothy W. Rickborn, MS, PE, SECB

Rickborn & Associates, LLC

Timothy William Rickborn is a structural engineer and owner of Rickborn & Associates, LLC, located in Mount Pleasant. He received his bachelor of science in civil engineering from Clemson University in 1991 and a master of science in civil engineering with a concentration in structural engineering from Clemson University in 1992. In October 2000, Rickborn received the Young Alumnus of Merit Award from the Clemson University Alumni Association.

He is a licensed Professional Engineer in the states of South Carolina, North Carolina, Georgia, and Louisiana. He has also received structural engineering certification from the Structural Engineers Certification Board (SECB).

Mr. Rickborn has been actively engaged in the practice of engineering for the past 19 years with 14 of those years as a Professional Engineer in responsible charge of numerous types of projects including residential, commercial, industrial and bridge projects. His responsibilities have included performing and reviewing structural engineering calculations for the design of new structures, as well as investigating and analyzing existing structures. He has also been responsible for overview of construction documents and specifications as well as the inspection of structures during construction.

As an active and founding member of the Structural Engineers Association of South Carolina (SEA of SC), Rickborn has held numerous positions within the organization including Vice -President of the state organization (2007-2008), President of the Charleston Chapter (2006-2009), member of the Building Codes Advisory Committee (2006-present), and Chairman of the Licensure Committee (2008-2012).

Rickborn has been an exam development volunteer since 2002 with the National Council of Examiners for Engineers and Surveyors (NCEES) for the former Structural I Exam and the current 16-hour Structural Engineering Exam. He is currently Chairman of the Multiple Choice Modules of the Vertical and Lateral Components for the new 16-hour Structural Engineering Exam.

We welcome him as a new Board member!

Thanks to Outgoing Board Members

Anderson M. Kinghorn, Jr.

Andy Kinghorn was appointed by Governor Mark Sanford to the Board of Professional Engineers and Surveyors in August 2005 and served until December 31, 2011. During those years, Kinghorn was a very active Board member, participating in Board meetings, NCEES meetings, Southern Zone meetings, and other activities of the Board, including reviewing hundreds of applications. He served as Board Chairman in 2011.

The Board extends its appreciation to Kinghorn for his exemplary service to the State as a Board member.

Cecil O. Huey, Jr., Ph.D., P.E.

Dr. Cecil Huey was appointed by Governor Jim Hodges in January 2002 and reappointed by Governor Mark Sanford in January 2008 for a term ending December 31, 2011. As a professor of mechanical engineering at Clemson University, Dr. Huey provided an academic perspective to Board issues and knowledgeable background on coursework and degree requirements that are core to licensure requirements and issues. He actively participated in Board meetings, attended NCEES Annual and Zone meetings, and served on Board committees, especially Portfolio Committees. He also reviewed hundreds of applications for licensure.

The Board extends its appreciation to Dr. Huey for his exemplary service to the State as a Board member.

The Effect of False Statements on Applications

Professional engineers and surveyors have historically valued good character, truthfulness and attention to detail. Each time an engineer or surveyor completes an application, whether for initial licensure or for renewal of a license, there is an opportunity to demonstrate those values. Those applicants who fail to do so may face serious consequences.

South Carolina law provides that a license may be denied or may be disciplined or revoked when an individual uses a false statement or document or omits a material fact in the effort to attain or maintain licensure. (S.C. Code Ann. § 40-1-110) Therefore, any individual who fails to answer all questions on an application completely and truthfully may be brought to the attention of the Board of Professional Engineers and Surveyors. If the false statement is made on an initial application, no license can be granted until the Board, as a whole, has considered the matter and determined whether to deny the application or to allow the applicant a license with possible sanction or other condition. If the false statement is made on an application for renewal, the individual may face disciplinary action, with a public order stating the facts of the false statement.

In addition, where correcting the false statement means that the individual does not qualify for renewal of the license, the license may be immediately suspended until the qualifications are met. The most common example is found when the applicant attests on the renewal form that all continuing education requirements have been met. If an audit of the continuing education shows that the individual did not, in fact, participate in the required number of hours, the individual may be suspended from practice until the qualifications for renewal are met. This action is separate from possible disciplinary action. Each applicant and licensee is held personally responsible for the accuracy of the application. Though staff members may prepare the documents, the Board expects its licensees to read and be responsible for the accuracy of all documents submitted to the Board over their signatures, just as it holds them responsible for the quality of the professional work prepared under their direct supervision.

Examinations

The Fundamentals of Engineering (FE) and Fundamentals of Surveying (FS) exams will be administered on Saturday, October 27, 2012, at The Jamil Temple in Columbia, at Clemson University, and at The Citadel. Senior students may submit applications through their department for this administration of the examination. Other applicants should submit an application directly to the board office. Applications are available online at www.llronline.com/POL/engineers/index.asp?file=pub.htm and should be submitted to the Board office by the **June 15, 2012**, deadline date to ensure approval for the October examination.

The Professional Practice of Engineering (PE), Professional Practice of Surveying (PS) and State Specific exams will be administered Friday, October 26, 2012, at The Jamil Temple in Columbia. Applications for the PE are available online at www.llronline.com/POL/engineers/index.asp?file=pub.htm and should be submitted to the Board office by the **June 15, 2012**, deadline date to ensure approval for the October examination.

Repeat candidates for any of these examinations should e-mail the Board at engls@llr.sc.gov. Please include a full name, date of birth, and the last four digits of the Social Security number to ensure proper enrollment. Applicants who have taken the examination more than twice must complete a Certificate of Study in order to retake the exam. [The Certificate of Study](#) is available online.

NCEES will email exam registration and payment instructions to approved candidates in mid-July 2012.

Transition to Computer Based Testing

The Fundamentals of Engineering (FE) and Fundamentals of Surveying (FS) exams will transition to computer - based testing in 2014 and will be administered at Pearson VUE testing center locations. The last paper-and-pencil FE and FS exams will be given in October 2013.

The Professional Engineering (PE) and Professional Surveying (PS) examinations will remain in paper/pencil format for now but may transition to computer -based testing in the future.

Firm Registration

Firms practicing engineering and/or surveying in South Carolina must be licensed with the South Carolina Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Surveyors and with South Carolina Secretary of State's Office *prior to* offering or providing services in this state.

Firm licenses—or Certificates of Authorization—are valid for two years and expire on March 31 of odd numbered years. Firms must designate an engineer or surveyor who is a full-time employee, licensed in South Carolina, to be in responsible charge of the firm's work in South Carolina. That individual is responsible for ensuring the firm's address is always updated with the Board. Address updates may be emailed to ENGLS@llr.sc.gov or submitted online.

Firms also must ensure that the engineer or surveyor in responsible charge of the work in South Carolina is currently licensed. If the employee leaves the firm, he/she must be replaced by another full-time employee who is a South Carolina licensed professional

in order for the firm to maintain its license. Changes may be made by submitting an [Amended Certificate of Authorization](#) form. There is no charge for this service.

An individual practicing engineering or surveying in his/her own name *as individually licensed* is not required to obtain a COA. For example, Joe Smith, PE, may practice as an individual if he uses that exact name. His business must be conducted under the name Joe Smith, PE. If he practices as Joe Smith Engineers, or Smith Engineering, or Joe Smith, PE, LLC, or other similar name, he must get a license for the firm. Likewise, if a surveyor is licensed individually as Larry Jones, PLS, he may conduct surveying business under that exact name. If the individual has a corporation, LLC, PA, or other legal entity through which he/she practices engineering or surveying, that entity must be licensed as a firm in South Carolina prior to offering or providing engineering or surveying services. Please see Section 40-22-250 of the Code of Laws on this web site, especially subsection (A).

Out-of-state firms offering engineering/surveying services in South Carolina must be licensed even if there is no physical office in South Carolina. Out of state companies must first obtain a Certificate of Authorization from the [South Carolina Secretary of State's Office](#) to transact business as a foreign corporation. PLEASE DO NOT CONFUSE THE TERMS! Obtaining the "COA" from the SC Secretary of State's Office allows the firm to do business in SC. The firm must ALSO obtain a "Certificate of Authorization" to provide professional services by applying for a license from this Board. See Board applications and instructions for licensing firms on this website.

The South Carolina Board of Professional Engineers and Surveyors does not require that a majority of the company owners be licensed engineers or surveyors. However, a South Carolina licensed engineer or surveyor must be designated by the company to have corporate responsibility over the engineering or surveying work performed in South Carolina. The engineer or surveyor in responsible charge must be a full-time employee.

Please contact the Board office at (803) 896-4422 if you have questions.

Technology Degree Applicants

Applicants who hold a TAC/ABET accredited degree must apply for registration through the Portfolio Application Process. This is a process especially designed to grant individuals with technology degrees a Category A (unrestricted) registration and applies to both new and comity candidates. In order to qualify for the process, applicants must have a TAC/ABET accredited degree, eight years of experience after obtaining their degree, and have successfully completed the Fundamentals of Engineering (FE) and Professional Practice of Engineering (PE) examinations.

In order to apply for the process, applicants must first submit an application to the Board. Applications and forms can be obtained online at www.llronline.com/POL/engineers/index.asp?file=pub.htm (scroll to the bottom of the page and download the forms under the heading labeled "Engineering Technology Graduates"). The application will be reviewed by a Board member for approval to enter the Portfolio Review Process.

Board staff will contact the applicant with guidelines and forms for submitting the portfolios when the application has been approved for the portfolio process. Portfolios must include three projects showing progressive experience and hand calculations are required for each project. The projects can be submitted by hard copy in three ring binders (not to exceed three inches), or electronically on CD or flash drive. Applicants should provide six copies of the portfolios and should maintain one hard copy to bring to the committee review and interview.

Once the portfolios are received, Board staff will send a confirmation to the applicant and will schedule a date for a portfolio review and interview. A five - member committee will be formed based on the applicant's discipline. A date will be scheduled for the committee to review the portfolio and interview the candidate. Applicants for this process must appear before the committee for an interview in order to complete the process. Reviews and interviews are held at the Board office in Columbia. Committees are typically formed in the spring and fall of each year. Applicants will be given at least two weeks' notice of the review and interview date so travel arrangements can be made. The committee will make a recommendation to the Board, which will be voted on at the next scheduled Board meeting. Applicants are welcome to attend the Board meeting, but this is not required to complete the process.

This is a lengthy process that can take up to six months to complete, so it's recommended that applicants submit applications well in advance of anticipating work in SC. Please contact Sherri Moorner at (803) 896-4618 or at sherri.moorner@llr.sc.gov with any questions about the portfolio process.

Portfolio Committee Members Needed

The Board is always in need of volunteers to serve on the Portfolio Review Committees. Committees are formed by discipline and typically meet twice a year (spring and fall) to review candidates for registration through the portfolio review process. The review process has been streamlined for more efficiency. Digital submissions are now being accepted on CD or flash drive, so that means less paper and fewer binders to review and carry to meetings. Another change is that the review and interview meetings have been combined, so committee members will only be required to travel to the Board office in Columbia one time for each review session.

Committee members will receive mileage reimbursement and one hour of continuing education for each hour they spend at the Board office performing reviews and interviews. Applicants for all disciplines are now being accepted. The Board is in particular need for volunteers in the area of civil engineering and fire protection.

Registrants interested in serving on a portfolio review committee should send a letter of interest and a resume to Sherri Moorer by e-mail at sherri.moorer@llr.sc.gov or by FAX at (803) 896-4427.

ANSI recognizes NCEES Model Law Structural Engineer Standard

The American National Standards Institute recently approved the Model Law Structural Engineer (MLSE) standard developed by NCEES.

This standard outlines the requirements for attaining licensure as a structural engineer, or S.E. Its criteria are divided into education, professional experience, and examinations. The standard is used by NCEES as a guideline for its member licensing boards, which grant licensure to engineers and surveyors in all 50 states and several U.S. territories.

NCEES was granted status as an accredited standards developer with ANSI in 2007. It currently has two other standards recognized by ANSI: the Model Law Engineer standard and the Model Law Surveyor standard, which outline the requirements for licensure as a professional engineer and professional surveyor, respectively.

As the U.S. representative to the International Organization for Standardization, ANSI oversees the development of standards for various products, services, and processes throughout the United States. Its membership includes more than 100,000 government agencies, corporations, and academic and international bodies. *Reprinted with permission from NCEES.*

Registration Verifications

There is a \$5 fee to provide verification of exam scores and/or registration information to other state boards. To obtain verification, please send the form and a \$5 check made payable to LLR – Engineering Board, to the Board office. While not required, providing a stamped envelope, addressed to the intended recipient, will ensure the completed form is sent to the correct address.

Online Services

LLR offers registrants online services at <https://verify.llronline.com/SecurePortal/Index.aspx>. Services available on this site include checking application status, entering a change of address, and printing registration cards. Registrants will need a username and password to access the system, which is provided on the renewal notice mailed to registrants.

State Holidays

The SC Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Surveyors will be closed in observance of the following state holidays:

Thursday, May 9, 2012 – Confederate Memorial Day
 Monday, May 28, 2012 – Memorial Day
 Wednesday, July 4, 2012 – Independence Day
 Monday, September 3, 2012 – Labor Day
 Monday, November 12, 2012 – Veteran’s Day
 Thursday and Friday, November 22-23, 2012 – Thanksgiving Day
 Monday, December 24, 2012 – Christmas Eve
 Tuesday and Wednesday, December 25-26, 2012 – Christmas Day

Licensure Statistics as of April 4, 2012

GIS Surveyor in Training	2
Engineer-In-Training	6,415
Professional Engineers	16,242
Land Surveyor in Training	155
Certificate of Authorization	2,591
Certificate of Authorization Branch Offices	731
Temporary Engineers	44
Temporary Certificate of Authorization	34

Total Licenses – 26,214