

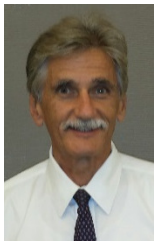


News from Delaware's Licensing Council for Professional Engineers

Spring 2015

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Hans M. Medlarz, P.E.



**The Special Importance of
Communication between DAPE's
Council and its Membership**

The DAPE Newsletter has been the staple form of communication with our members. Communication is important in almost all organizations but even more so in our unique association as it has been stressed many times before, Delaware's engineers are self-governed in accordance with Delaware Code Title 24 Chapter 28. The state code always constitutes great bedtime reading but you may find it interesting that DAPE's Council, in its overwhelming majority, is elected by its members and not appointed as in all other states. Only three out of fifteen of our members are appointed by the Governor. This sets Delaware's Council apart from the other state boards and places special emphasis on the communication part with our membership or should I say electorate to remain viable.

OK the pressure is on as I sit down to write the Spring 2015 President's Message, I suddenly realize why I never wanted to be a journalist. Writing technical papers or memoranda to political bodies comes easy, but I have serious writer's block when it comes to composing non-technical articles. This may be associated with my educational background. Having received part of my undergraduate education in Germany, we were never required to take any courses other than science and engineering. The situation was further compounded by the fact that I attended a specialized technical high school and therefore spent my last three years already solely in the fields of

science and math with the exception of English as a foreign language in my case. Once I arrived at Georgia Tech for my senior year and subsequent graduate studies, I certainly did not "waste" any time either in furthering my writing skills. I am paying the price now as DAPE's Executive Director Ms. Abshagen can attest to since she is the one who has to twist my arm reminding me of the looming message deadlines especially in the context of the first paragraph.

Wrestling with my handicap I looked for inspiration by researching past President's messages spending the better part of a Saturday reading old ones dating back more than ten years. I found a number of consistencies which thread throughout the years. The first one may be summarized as the "law," in our case Delaware Code, always evolving as we struggle to adapt to the ever-changing aspects of our profession and its technical challenges and licensing requirements. Many past Presidents, patiently and most of them more eloquently than myself, explained these law changes to our members. It was humbling to read substantive, relevant articles of all these men who I know well and respect.

Before moving on to my next historical thread let me stress one point, yes we are overdue for a woman president. Our profession has thankfully become more diverse since my starting engineering class in 1974 sported less than 2% of well qualified females. I am still friends with one of them who has become a well-respected professor at the Fridericiana University the second oldest, continuously operating technical university in the world founded in 1825, one year after New York's Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. Nevertheless our Council has been blessed with some

fantastic past and one current female member. Hence I am calling on all our female colleagues to consider running in the upcoming election for one of the open seats which are Electrical Engineering, Kent County (residency) and Private Consulting. Also deserving a mention is the fact that Council has been able to retain Ms. Abshagen the longest serving executive state board director of any gender who brings her great knowledge of the licensure and regulatory processes to the table.

The second thread in the newsletters throughout the years is ethics. One may get the impression we are one "rogue" profession but quite the contrary is true. Due to the ever diligent follow-up of DAPE we are constantly reminded to stay on the straight and narrow. This brings me full circle to the importance of the newsletter. One of the greatest responses to one of our newsletters was the sign-up surge for the free ethics seminar in 2014. I know it is hard to compete with free continued education especially after Council voted to make a certain number of ethics credits mandatory.

Two of the most discussed items of recent memory before Council are first of all the uncoupling of the PE testing from the professional experience; and secondly, the automatic granting of a PE license to an academic with a PhD from an ABET accredited university. With the looming computer-based PE testing, which by the way will be phased in by NCEES based on engineering disciplines, some states started to allow sitting for the PE test immediately after graduation. Passing does not automatically allow the use of the PE seal however. The successful candidate still has to wait a period of years, as determined by the particular state's board, before signing and sealing engineering documents. Some states grant licensure to academics without further examination, but Delaware does not. An ad-hoc committee is looking into this issue right now. I have some strong feelings on both subjects as many of you may have too. Hence I am soliciting some feedback to the President's Message of Spring 2015. Please show Council the Newsletter continues to be a valuable way of communicating with our professional members even in today's world of ever present social media.

NEW ENGINEER INTERNS

As you may recall, the Fundamentals of Engineering exam changed to a new computer-based format effective January 1, 2014. After gathering a full-year's data, we'd like to share some interesting information with our membership, as well as our congratulations to the following successful examinees who identified Delaware as their state.

Addonizio, Erica
Arrowchis, David
Attia, Peter
Baikadano, Yevgeniya
Bates, Alexander
Beyea, Aaron
Blankenhorn, Elizabeth
Blotta, Felipe
Botir, Bobir
Calabro, Daniel
Carey, Melissa
Carter, Courtney
Conti, Alexander
Coppola, Anthony
Dayton, Ryan
DiBona, Steven
Donnelly, Quillan
Duan, Yan
Esposito, Joseph
Gordon, Bruce
Grimes, Kassandra
Grove, Jared
Henry, Benjamin
Hoekstra, Altje
Hurst, Gregory
Houston, Erik
Hubschmit, Justin
Hughes, Matthew
Jakiel, Marta
Jerbasi, Anthony
Jones, Jamie
Kahlon, Inderjit
Kimble, Katherine
Lacey, Matthew
LaGrotta, Alexander
Landefeld, Stewart
Landmark, Audrey
Langhans, Zachary
Lee, Jonathan
Liu, Kan
Lowell, Samuel
Magruder, Christopher
Mainiero, Alexander
Maniscalco, Andrew
Martin, Wayne

NEW ENGINEER INTERNS (cont'd)

Materniak, Erica
Matthews, Andrew
McCormick, Mark
Mills, Kate
Murphy, John
Nelson, Kailey
Niemic, Jessica
O'Brien, Karly
Olcese, Elizabeth
Oliveria, Jillian
Patterson, Sara
Prvulovic, Vladan
Rafferty, Kevin
Ramirez, Amauris
Rector, Nathan
Reid, Timothy
Revell, Alexander
Reyes, Pedro
Richardson, Michael
Ryan, Audrey
Scarborough, Tyler
Schott, Rachel
Shearin, Nicholas
Spagnuolo, Robert
Strack, Matthew
Strein, Paul
Sunder, Ajay
Tobergte, Louis
Topp, Stuart
Viloria, Erica
Wang, Xuhai
Ward, Ryan
Wright, Parker
Zagaja, Daniel
Zhang, Chenyao

We wish these young engineers great success in their new careers and encourage them to continue on the licensure path!



ONE YEAR OF COMPUTER-BASED TESTING

FE EXAM STATISTICS:

2014 Delaware Statistics:

Passed = 80 (61%)
Failed = 52 (39%)
Retakes = 7

Most popular exam windows:

April-June = 58 exams taken
Oct.-Dec = 40 exams taken

National Statistics:

Passed: ABET degree = 76% first time takers
Passed: Other degrees = 70% first time takers

2014 = 30,457 FE exams admin.
April/May = 12,000+ exams admin.

Re-schedulers = 11,175
Most times rescheduled = 14
Authorized, not scheduled = 3,800
Cancellations = 3,071
Most popular day = Saturday

Top Schools by FE Exam Volume:

Texas A&M	=	605
Missouri Univ. of Science	=	516
Purdue University	=	484
Georgia Institute of Tech.	=	480
Penn State, Main Campus	=	434
North Carolina State	=	425
University of Texas, Austin	=	357
Virginia Polytech.	=	331
California Polytech.	=	330
University of Illinois, Urbana	=	301

Average Age of Examinees:

2010	=	27.5
2014	=	25

International Education Credentials Evaluated:

India	=	203
Egypt	=	162
China	=	111
Japan	=	45

NEW PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS

All of our new engineers were invited to attend the 2015 Engineers' Week Banquet. Attendees were presented with their PE certificates by President Hans Medlarz, P.E. The following individuals were successful in passing the October 24, 2014 PE examination.

Agostini, Ryan	-	#19162
Arroyo Bonilla, Obed	-	#19356
Barnes, Deron	-	#19253
Battle, Samantha	-	#18994
Beben, Walter	-	#18236
Benson, Andrew	-	#19338
Berth, Sarah	-	#19431
Bruce, Michael	-	#18714
Cooper, Dennis	-	#18823
Davis, James	-	#19143
DeCastro, Daniel	-	#19472
Desimone, Carrie	-	#18439
DiBona, Steven	-	#19421
Dinkel, Alex	-	#19382
Faucher, Justin	-	#19427
Fazio, Vincent	-	#19423
Gabel, Charles	-	#18803
Griffiths, Matthew	-	#18785
Harbeson, Eric	-	#16155
Hatfield, David	-	#19083
Headley, Ryan	-	#19448
Heaps, Lauren	-	#19098
Heil, Christopher	-	#19417
Hoang, Thien	-	#18829
Kaiser, Gavin	-	#19484
Klinedinst, Kyle	-	#17629
Knighton, James	-	#19216
Lim, Brian	-	#18620
Marozzi, Mario	-	#19373
May, Alyssa	-	#19313
Morris, William	-	#19473
Mulvey, Athena	-	#19053
Nahabedia, Robert	-	#19199
Nurudeen, Olayiwola	-	#19512
Parkhurst, Matthew	-	#19086
Polanin, Gregory	-	#19024
Roberts, Michael	-	#16857
Shorter, Thomas	-	#19514
Slocum, Travis	-	#18653
Spellman, Steven	-	#19124
Strayer, Claude	-	#19157
Suthar, Arunbhai	-	#18671
Syed, Mohiuddin	-	#18198
Walker, Steven	-	#19362
Wienke, Bret	-	#19516

Wittreich, Gerhard	-	#18887
Yeatman, James	-	#18571
Ziemblicki, John	-	#19430

Licensee Sam Mutia passed his second PE exam. The first in Mechanical engineering and the second in Fire Protection engineering.



THREE COUNCIL SEAT VACANCIES

The Council of the DAPE consists of fifteen members, twelve of which are elected by the membership. Council terms are four years and each year the Council election includes three Council seat vacancies.

The 2015 Council election will be held to fill the following three vacancies:

- ✓ Electrical Engineering seat
- ✓ Kent County seat
- ✓ Private Consulting seat

Perspective petitioners must be residents of Delaware and be qualified by discipline or field of employment or residence to fill the vacancy for which the candidate is seeking election.

Petitions are available upon request and must be completed and returned to the DAPE office by May 1st.

Electronic voting will be open from June 15th – July 15th. Instructions for casting your ballot will be provided in the near future.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

March Madness, First day of Spring, PE Exams

With Spring approaching, we are looking forward to many things here in the DAPE office. We are working on **outreach** efforts to schedule visits to speak with the students at the University of Delaware about the need to get licensed and, more directly, taking the Fundamentals of Engineering examination while that knowledge is still fresh in their minds.

We will be participating in a **Career Fair** at Delaware Technical & Community College, along with other business representatives, to discuss licensure issues with DelTech students.

Of course, the **PE exam** scheduled for April 17th will be administered to about 100 examinees. Once this is concluded, we'll be focusing on the **renewals** of our Certificates of Authorization.

By June 15th, we'll be preparing the ballots for our 2015 **Council election** to fill three Council seats: Electrical Engineering, Kent County and Private Consulting. Once again, this year our election will be conducted electronically. Members that live or work in Delaware are eligible to participate in the election process. Voting is simple and your vote does count. Your participation is strongly encouraged.

NCEES Activities – Earlier this year, Council member Keith Kooker, who also serves as our Treasurer, and I attended the **NCEES Board President's Assembly** in Atlanta. This venue serves as a meeting for all state boards' Presidents and Directors to convene to discuss national and state specific issues. Reports from the various committees on its work provide updates on the numerous tasks going on.

The **NCEES Northeast Zone** meeting on April 28-May 2, 2015 will be a joint meeting with the Central zone and will be held in Hershey, PA. Several members of the Council will be in attendance. This is our opportunity to listen and share concerns with the states not only within our zone, but the Central zone as well, to prepare for the NCEES Annual meeting in August.

It's a chance to learn about the new endeavors of NCEES in the areas of NCEES' records program, education credentials program, verifications and computer-based testing of the FE and the future of the PE exams.

The mobility of the engineer and how we can unify the licensure process somewhat is always included on the agenda. For instance, now that approximately 43 jurisdictions require continued professional competency (CPC), perhaps getting the buy-in of states to count the prerequisite professional development hours (pdh) on a calendar year vs. the various renewal cycles of multiple states.

Delaware is always well represented at NCEES meetings and its participation is necessary to keep our state at the forefront of issues that affect our members.

SO, WHO DOES NEED A CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORIZATION?

Delaware law is very specific regarding who is required to obtain a Certificate of Authorization (C/A). §2821 of the law states:

"An engineering corporation or partnership must have a certificate of authorization in order to practice, or offer to practice, engineering as defined in this chapter."

The law further states:

"A licensee who practices, or offers to practice, engineering under a name other than the person's licensed name is required to obtain a Certificate of Authorization..."

If your firm's name and your full licensed name is not the same, you need a C/A. If your firm is a PC, LLC, Corporation – regardless if you are the sole employee – you need a C/A. It's the law!

CERTIFICATES OF AUTHORIZATION RENEWAL

In the next few weeks, the 1,106 firms currently holding Certificates of Authorization (C/A) for the practice of engineering in Delaware, will receive a renewal packet. All C/A's will expire on **June 30, 2015** and are required by law to be renewed by that date.

Unlicensed practice is a violation of the law and will be prosecuted accordingly. Penalty fees in the amount of \$100/month for a maximum of six months will apply on completed renewals received after **June 30, 2015**.

Renewal of a firm's C/A requires updating all information, including the engineer(s) in responsible charge of engineering activities on behalf of the firm, as well as proof of compliance with Delaware State tax laws. Renewals may be accomplished directly on our website or by mailing in the appropriate renewal application, attachments and payment.

As a reminder, Delaware law also requires the DAPE office be provided with any changes/updates of company information within 30 days of the effective date.



IS YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION CURRENT?

The majority of correspondence from our office is now electronic, making your email address one of the most important pieces of data in our records. Unfortunately, many licensees change their mailing address when they relocate, but overlook changing their email address when there is a change.

Please don't forget to update this vital piece of contact information. You may either log into your PE record directly on our website to make this change, or forward this information to our office directly at office@dape.org

We'll be happy to assist!

LABORATORY FOR LEARNING UPDATE

Council member and Public Information Committee Chair Soheil Gharebaghi, P.E., has organized and participates in a two-year program to give engineering students an opportunity to see the real-life \$2 million water system expansion project of the Camden-Wyoming Sewer & Water Authority.

As reported to you previously, students get to interact with experts in all fields of engineering.

Capt. Dan Whalen, an aerospace engineer with the Dover Air Force Base, made a presentation on his experiences as an aerospace engineer.

Bret Martine, P.E., of Century Engineering provided a traffic engineering and signals presentation.

Meghan Lester, P.E., a geotechnical engineer, prepared a hands-on demonstration of testing sample soils and using those results to test the bearing capacity of soils.

There have also been presentations on the operation of Camden-Wyoming Sewer & Water Authority and progress reports on the development project.

Future presentations include **Keith Harrison**, trainer/educator at the State of Delaware Office of Drinking Water. And, **Carmin Balascio, P.E.**, who will demonstrate surveying related to the project.

Interested members who are willing to share a little of their experience with this group should contact us at office@dape.org. Please accept our appreciation!

2014-2015 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	K.R. Kooker, P.E. Private Cons. Seat
		
M.A. Lennon, P.E. Chemical Eng. Seat	M. Lester, P.E. New Castle Co. Seat	J.P. Ludman, P.E. Industry Seat
		
H.M. Medlarz, P.E. Gov't Emp. 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. Tracy, Esq. Apptd.-New Castle	R.C. Wheatley Apptd.-Sussex Co.

Council Executive Committee

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

Council Members

William D. Balascio, P.E., Electrical Engineering	8/31/15
Keith R. Kooker, P.E., Private Consulting	8/31/15
Soheil Gharebaghi, P.E., Kent County	8/31/15
Carmine C. Balascio, P.E., Education	8/31/16
Robert E. Hayden, P.E., Mechanical Engineering	8/31/16
Erik F. Retzlaff, P.E., Sussex County	8/31/16
Daniel P. Barbato, P.E., "Other" Eng.	8/31/17
Hans M. Medlarz, P.E., Government Employment	8/31/17
Michael A. Lennon, P.E., Chemical Engineering	8/31/17
John E. Tracey, Esq. -- New Castle 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

Charles L. McAllister, P.E. – Advisory Role

Council Staff:

Peggy Abshagen	Lauren Thomson
Executive Director	Executive Assistant

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C.L. McAllister, P.E.
Advisory Role