

**PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE**

**By Soheil Gharebaghi, P.E.**



First and foremost, I would like to thank the Professional Engineers licensed in the great state of Delaware for bestowing upon me the honor of electing me to serve on the Delaware Association of Professional Engineers’ (DAPE) Council – occupying the Council’s Kent County seat. I would also like to thank my esteemed colleagues who serve on DAPE Council for granting me the honor of serving DAPE as Council’s President. A humbling experience, indeed.

It is with much admiration that I sing the praises of the Honorable members of DAPE Council, and the members of the Association serving on DAPE Committees, for their dedication, generosity with their time, energy and resources, respect for the institution of the Association and its mission, and their undeniable and genuine regard for the law. Working steadfastly, the members of DAPE Council and its committees, carefully consider the Delaware Professional Engineers’ Act, the Association’s bylaws, Code of Ethics, administration of disciplinary matters and the development of guidelines for handling the same, and other matters related to the lawful practice of engineering in Delaware and development of revisions to these documents when warranted. The development of guidelines for Continued Professional Competency (CPC) is an example of changes that needed to be made. The offering of ethics-related courses – at no cost to the membership to provide assistance in meeting the CPC requirements is among the various services that are afforded to the membership.

DAPE Council appoints Chairs of the various committees to manage committee assignments.

DAPE’s **Law Enforcement/Ethics Committee** is charged with the investigation of engineering related

concerns and complaints filed with DAPE; interpretation of the law in enforcement and disciplinary matters, along with the development of a list of crimes that are substantially related to the practice of engineering for consideration in such disciplinary matters.

DAPE’s **Examining Committee** reviews, among other things, the credentials of reciprocity and examination applicants for licensure in Delaware. The Examining Committee meetings have been known to hold out well into the small hours of the day after their meeting has convened.

The **External Affairs Committee** meets with other state organizations, including the Board of Architects regularly through a Joint Advisory Committee (JAC), consisting of equal representation from DAPE, the Board of Architects, and a building/permitting official (currently from Sussex County), for the discussion of overlapping practice concerns and related issues.

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The Association's **Finance Committee** evaluates fees, budgets and investments toward the best financial stewardship of DAPE's assets and resources. Remarkably, the license renewal fees, one of the lowest in the country, have not increased in more than 20 years.

The recognition of committees' efforts through the annual Distinguished Service Award is also made possible by the contributions of time and effort of the DAPE staff, council and committee members.

DAPE's involvement in national issues related to the practice of engineering and licensure, to stay abreast of the authorization matters across the country, is also made possible by Council's participation in NCEES regional and national meetings and with individual service on NCEES committees. The National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying (NCEES) is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing professional licensure for engineers and surveyors. NCEES develops, administers and scores the examination used for engineering and surveying licensure in the U.S. and abroad. It also facilitates professional mobility and promotes uniformity of the U.S. licensure processes.

Friends, it is with a heavy heart that I announce the retirement of DAPE's longtime Executive Director, Mrs. Peggy Abshagen. Peggy has served the Council as DAPE's Executive Director for more than a quarter century. I actually remember the days when Mrs. Margaret (Marge) Wise was the Executive Director of DAPE, who chose wisely when she groomed Peggy as her replacement. We are fortunate in that Peggy has assured me that her succession plan, including grooming the new Executive Director, would allow as much time as necessary to train her successor, as well as be available in the future on an as-needed basis. She has cared for her baby – that is DAPE – during the course of her tenure and now she has graciously agreed to gradually transfer the care of her baby – that is her institutional knowledge and memory – to the new Executive Director of DAPE. I am certain that I will never find the words to adequately express DAPE's admiration and gratitude for Peggy's loyalty and contributions to DAPE. Therefore, on behalf of DAPE Council and the engineering community of Delaware, it is my pleasure to convey her baby's appreciation and glad tidings to Peggy for the loving kindness she showered upon DAPE for more than twenty-five years.

It is likewise a great pleasure this time that I welcome Mrs. Jen Wootten to DAPE. Jen will work closely with Peggy and staff to gradually learn to care for and serve DAPE as its incoming Executive Director. Please join me in welcoming Jen to our family and wishing her a successful and flawless transition into her new position as Executive Director. Jen comes to DAPE after years of experience in the non-profit world and is eager to use her

skills to continue to make the process of licensure as efficient as possible. A graduate of Drexel University's Commerce and Engineering program, Jen lives in Newark with her two children and her husband, who fortuitously, happens to be a mechanical engineer.

I would also like to express our collective appreciation and thankfulness to Mrs. Kathy Davis and Mrs. Mary Savona, for their contributions to the success of DAPE's administrative functions. A warm and heartfelt thanks, Ladies!

Finally, I would like to bring to the membership's attention that members of DAPE enjoy a unique opportunity to participate in DAPE Council's and Committee's activities. Each year three Council seats are up for election. I look forward to serving the best interests of DAPE's members and Council. I also look forward to a fruitful and successful year for all engineers licensed in Delaware!



### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE**

***By: Peggy Abshagen***

This will be my final message so I thought it appropriate to reflect on the past 25+ years ... those that I have worked with and the many accomplishments that have been achieved during this time. I have had the privilege of working with fourteen DAPE Presidents.

In 1992, the most admired gentleman I know, **Gene Snell** (who is no longer with us) shared with me the goals of DAPE and taught me the meaning of professionalism. Always on top of his game, he was prepared for every meeting and shared his time mentoring many.

In 1994-1996 **Edwin Kuipers** served as President. This during the time of the Engineered Systems & Design (ES&D) case that was heard in Chancery Court and then appealed to the Supreme Court on the use of the term "engineered." The MOU with the Architects was signed, forming the Joint Advisory Committee to discuss issues of overlapping practice.

**Hugh Martin** (1996-1998) was the first public member to become President. I remember his unique outlook on many issues while discussing them in his office where he kept an antique barber's chair.

During the period of 1998-2000, **Bob Chagnon** began the discussions of Continued Professional Competency (CPC). Bob always shared his vast experiences with all.

He attended every committee meeting and was always available to lend an ear.

**Greg Moore** (2000-2002) was so much fun to work with. We were productive, but laughed always! We continued discussions of CPC; for the first time hired an investigator to work with the Law Enforcement Committee; and the hot topic was conflicts of interest. We also began our outreach to permitting officials throughout the state.

The period following, **Ross Harris** (2002-2004) led this organization until his passing. He was an extremely interesting man who was very generous with his time (although he had little). He is missed.

**Paul Jones** (2004-2006) addressed the issue of substantially-related crimes in our Code of Ethics and we revised the law to streamline the enforcement procedure.

During the tenure of **Guy Marcozzi** (2006-2008) we addressed the idea of sustainable development in our Code of Ethics; revised the law to reduce the experience requirement for those with an MS or PhD; and relocated the DAPE office.

In 2008 **Frank Newton** was elected President as the second public member to serve in this capacity. Frank's gentle disposition and vast worldly experiences were enjoyed over many a fine meal recommended by Frank. Frank still works with DAPE keeping an eye out for legislation that might impact us.

**Greg Pawlowski** served a brief time as President, but he enjoyed serving just as much as we enjoyed his leadership. Greg always accomplished tasks in a fun way.

**Charlie McAllister** (2011-2013) served multiple terms on Council and has led the Law Enforcement/Ethics Committee for some time. DAPE celebrated its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary during Charlie's presidential term.

**Hanz Medlarz** (2013-2015), the current Delaware Engineer of the Year, found time in his busy schedule to serve as our President. During his tenure, CPC and the "retired" status were added to the law, after some 15 years of discussion by Council.

**Dan Barbato** (2015-2017), who was mentored by one of our Past Presidents, himself now mentors many young engineers. He's a strong proponent of licensure and the process.

Which brings us to the present .... **Soheil Gharebaghi** (2017) was elected to the office of President and will continue his quest to make this organization the best it

can be. We routinely improve the licensing process, while keeping fees at bay and looking to provide more and more services to the membership.

In 1992 we had about **5,000** licensees; we administered approximately **600** exams/administration; we actually mailed out renewal notices, received checks, and then mailed out wallet cards! Today, things are remarkably different, but somehow we have not gained any additional time.

Today with **7,239** licensees and **1,118** firms renewing electronically, we are monitoring/auditing CPC activities; processing applications for licensure electronically; and answering the constant stream of email communications from applicants, licensees and the public. We are investigating complaints, gathering evidence and assisting many to come into compliance with the law.

We search for programs to provide our membership with dynamic speakers addressing legal and ethical issues. We arrange outreach programs to speak with students about licensure and building officials about compliance and enforcement issues.

I am extremely proud to be associated with this esteemed organization. Like fine wine, so many things improve with age!



### **2018 COUNCIL ELECTION**

One of the things that sets DAPE apart from all other regulatory boards across the nation is our ability to elect our Council representatives. The law specifically states the composition of the Council (engineering disciplines, fields of employment and representatives from each of its three counties). It also states that each year three members of Council shall be elected for a four-year term (limited to two consecutive terms). In 2018, those seats are:

**Civil Engineering Seat  
Industry Seat  
New Castle County Seat**

Delaware law §2807 requires petitioners to be a citizen of the U.S., a resident of Delaware, a member of the Association, and be qualified to represent the constituency of the seat.

If you meet these qualifications and are interested, please contact the DAPE office to obtain a petition, which is required to be filed by May 1, 2018.

Electronic election ballots will be distributed to the membership on June 15<sup>th</sup>.



### **RENEWALS, RENEWALS, RENEWALS**

All licenses for individuals and firms will expire on **June 30, 2018** and are required to be renewed by that date. Renewal notifications will be emailed to your email address on record early April.

If fees are not paid by the expiration date, the individual and/or firm shall be declared ineligible to practice engineering in the State and will be removed from the active roster. Unlicensed practice is a serious violation of the law and will be prosecuted.

A reminder that licensees are required to meet all Continuing Professional Competency (CPC) requirements at the time of renewal. Licensees should maintain adequate CPC documentation to support any claimed professional development hours (pdh). This documentation is not required to be submitted at the time of renewal, but maintained in the event you are randomly selected for an audit of your pdh activities. All late renewals are automatically audited.

During the renewal process, you may elect to renew, or place your license in an "inactive" or "retired" status.

**Inactive** status does not require any pdh's nor fees. And, the license may be reactivated at any point during the next four years with proof of CPC compliance and payment of the renewal fees. After expiration of the 4-year period, reinstatement requires reapplication.

**Retired** status again does not require any pdh's nor fees. However, the license may not be reinstated. A retired member shall be entitled to utilize the term "P.E. (ret.)".



### **CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCY**

A recent survey indicates that there are just five jurisdictions that do not require Continuing Professional Competency (CPC). Although the specifics of each state's CPC program may differ somewhat, there are many commonalities – the requirement for ethical and technical professional development hours (pdh); licensees that

meet the CPC requirements of their resident jurisdiction have no additional requirements; and the need for appropriate documentation to support any claimed pdh activity.

Our analysis of the yearly requirements indicates that the majority of jurisdictions require 15 pdh's/year. Delaware happens to be one of 10 jurisdictions that requires 12 pdh's/year. The remaining states require from 4-16 pdh's/year.

Many CPC programs have been in existence for several years; therefore, individuals that are licensed in multiple jurisdictions are fully aware of requirements and acceptable recordkeeping.

Delaware's "Guidelines for Maintaining Continuing Professional Competency (CPC)" are available on our website at [www.dape.org](http://www.dape.org).

If you have not met your CPC requirement, you are unable to renew your license, as Delaware law §2831 states: *"All active members shall be required to comply with and satisfy all Continuing Professional Competency guidelines and requirements approved by Council."*



### **CPC OPPORTUNITY**

Once again, DAPE is offering its members the opportunity to participate in an ethics workshop on **May 3, 2018 (8:30 – 11:30 a.m.), at the Executive Banquet & Conference Center, 205 Executive Center, Newark, DE 19702.**

This session will once again be led by Anthony S. Potter, Esq. who conducted our previous ethics session to rave reviews. This workshop will be an interactive case study involving engineering ethics. If interested, please contact the DAPE office at [office@dape.org](mailto:office@dape.org) to reserve your seat. Seating is limited.



### **NCEES UPDATES:**

NCEES has offered the Software Engineering PE exam since April, 2013. Since its inception, only 81 candidates have opted to take this particular exam. In accordance with NCEES policy, a review of an exam is required with so few takers. Following its review, the decision has been made to discontinue offering the Software Engineering exam subsequent to the April 2019 exam administration.



## **NEW PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS**

At its January 10, 2018 meeting, Council approved the licensure of the following 41 successful candidates of the October, 2017 PE examinations:

Addeo, Anthony	#21199
Becker, Matthew	#19649
Belardi, Robert	#21174
Charles, Tyler	#21090
Chedrawi, Paul	#21122
Coolahan, James	#20369
Draper, Christopher	#21082
Draper, Nathan	#21487
Earle, Briana	#21146
Enslein, Bryan	#20437
Everett, Stephanie	#20930
Graubart, Matthew	#21147
Hilferty, Joshua	#21263
Hume, LaMar	#21077
Isazadeh, Siavash	#20554
Iwanczuk, Piotr	#18858
Jackson, Timothy	#19867
John, Deepak	#21471
Karam, Jonathan	#21169
Kong, William	#19793
Koutsouros, John	#14934
Li, Yi	#21372
Ma, Wing Ho	#21181
Mandy, David	#21355
Moradkhany, Ali	#20809
Morrison, Patrick	#20792
Mullen, Edward	#21007
Newkumet, Jonathan	#21060
Northridge, David	#21462
Prusko, Matthew	#20401
Raciti, Jaclyn	#21472
Rauceo, Richard	#21523
Rice, Kevin	#21348
Sparacio, Jonathan	#21185
Taylor, Kenneth	#21140
Tseng, Po-Hua	#21201
Walker, Ryan	#21433
Wasef, Roumany	#21255
Whelan, Michael	#21387
Wong, Winter	#21015
Yun, Brian	#21461

At the DES Engineers Week Banquet on February 22, 2018, DAPE President Soheil Gharebaghi, P.E. presented certificates to the newly licensed engineers in attendance.

*Congratulations*

## **2018 ENGINEER OF THE YEAR**



DAPE Past President Hans M. Medlarz, P.E. (2013-2015) was awarded the 2018 Engineer of the Year award at the DES Engineers Week Banquet on February 22, 2018.

Medlarz was issued license #9418 in 1993, having started his engineering career with Davis, Bowen & Friedel, Inc., representing the City of Milford as its engineering consultant, followed by the representation of thirteen additional municipalities throughout the state. In 1992 he became a principal of Davis, Bowen & Friedel.

In 2002, Medlarz was appointed by the Kent County Levy Court as Kent County's engineer serving until 2015, after which time he was appointed by the Sussex County Council as the Sussex County engineer, the position he currently holds.

Medlarz served two terms on Council in the Government Employment seat. He was elected as Secretary in 2010-2011; Vice President in 2011-2013; and President 2013-2015. He participated on various committees and his contributions to this organization are immeasurable.

*Congratulations*










## **2018 DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD**

Annually the DAPE Council considers nominations for its Distinguished Service Award. This recognition is for a committee member who exemplifies superior contributions to the engineering profession in their work on DAPE committees.

This year Pasquale S. Canzano, P.E. (ret'd) will be recognized on April 11, 2018 at the Deerfield Conference Center for his many achievements, along with all other committee members serving on the Finance, Examining, Law Enforcement, External Affairs and other committees.

Our sincerest appreciation to "Pat" for his time and dedication to DAPE and the engineering profession!

## **2017-2018 COUNCIL MEMBERS**

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

## **Council Executive Committee**

Soheil Gharebaghi, P.E., **President**  
 Carmine Balascio, P.E., **Vice President**  
 Charles McAllister, P.E., **Secretary**  
 Joseph Jakubowski, P.E., **Treasurer**  
 Daniel Barbato, P.E. **Immed.Past President**

## **Council Members**

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  
 Joseph Jakubowski, P.E., Civil Engineering 8/31/18  
 Meghan Lester, P.E., New Castle County 8/31/18  
 John P. Ludman, P.E., Industry 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  
 Carmine C. Balascio, P.E., Education 8/31/20  
 Robert E. Hayden, P.E., Mechanical Engineering 8/31/20  
 Erik F. Retzlaff, P.E., Sussex County 8/31/20  
 Michael A. Clendaniel, P.E., Gov't Employment 8/31/21  
 Jeremy Kalmbacher, P.E., "Other" Eng. 8/31/21  
 Michael A. Lennon, P.E., Chemical Engineering 8/31/21

Daniel Barbato, P.E. – Ex-Officio member

## **Council Staff:**

Peggy Abshagen/Jennifer Wootten  
 Executive Director

Kathy Davis  
 Executive Assistant

## **Council Office:**

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