



SECRETARY OF STATE BRIAN P. KEMP

GEORGIA BOARD OF REGISTRATION FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS AND LAND SURVEYORS

Georgia Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors, 237 Coliseum Dr Macon, GA 31217
<http://www.sos.ga.gov/plb/pels> P: 478-207-2440 F: 866-888-9718

April 2010
Volume 2, Issue 2

Update from the Director

Randy Vaughn

The Professional Licensing Boards Division is committed to identifying and implementing efficiencies in every area possible. To achieve this, we are continuing to develop new online applications. In anticipation of spring graduations, we are currently working to ensure that additional types of license applications are available online. In addition to new online applications, we are in the process of upgrading our business software. The necessary upgrades will allow us to broaden our online services and increase our support for our applicants and licensees.

In March, Secretary of State Brian P. Kemp announced a multi-phase consolidation of the Securities, Charities and Cemeteries Division of the Office of Secretary of State. This Division will be consolidated and moved to the Professional Licensing Boards Division in Macon. We will be

About the Board

The Georgia State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors was established by legislative action in 1937 with the charge of protecting life, health, and property and to promote the public welfare. In order to carry out this charge, the Board has the power to adopt rules, set standards for licensure, adopt mandatory standards of professional conduct and ethics, and investigate and discipline unauthorized, negligent, unethical or incompetent practice. They review applications, administer examinations, license qualified applicants, and regulate the professional practice of licensees throughout the state.

The Board consists of nine members: six professional engineers; two land surveyors; and one consumer member. Typically, the Board meets 10 times per year. Board meetings are open to the public with the exception of executive session in which confidential matters such as complaints, disciplinary items, and applications are discussed.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Update from the Director	1
About the Board	1
2010 Meeting Dates	2
Board Members and Staff	2
Active Licensees and Expiration Dates	2
Actions Taken by the Board	2-3
License Renewal Process	3-4
Complaint Process Information	4
Frequently Asked Questions	5

working throughout the second quarter to complete this transition and will provide an update on the transition in the next newsletter.

The Secretary of State's office is committed to operating as efficiently as possible while providing excellent customer service to the citizens of the State of Georgia. We appreciate your confidence as we continue to improve our ability to serve and support you.

2010 Meeting Dates

June 8, 2010 at 9:30 a.m.

August 10, 2010 at 9:30 a.m.

September 14, 2010 at 9:30 a.m.

November 9, 2010 at 9:30 a.m.

December 14, 2010 at 9:30 a.m.

The Board meets at the Professional Licensing Board Office in Macon.

Minutes from the Board meetings may be found on the Board's website at:
www.sos.ga.gov/plb/pels

Active Licensees

Professional Engineer: 18,496

Land Surveyor: 1,353

Engineer Firm: 2,929

Land Surveyor Firm: 521

Engineer In-Training: 10,506

Land Surveyor In-Training: 334

Board Members and Staff

Elmo A. Richardson, PE, LS, Chair

Guy F. Ritter, Jr., PE (Structural), Vice-Chair

James W. Butler

Mark E. Chastain

William W. Dean PE (Mechanical)

E. Scott Evans, Public Member

Stephen R. Richards, PE

Danny Bennett, PE

Lanny Thomas, PE

Darren Mickler

Executive Director

Georgia Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors

Expiration Dates

Professional Engineer – December 31 of even numbered years

Land Surveyor – December 31 of even numbered years

“It is illegal to practice professional engineering or land surveying with an expired license.”

Actions Taken by the Board

January: The Board reviewed and approved 43 applications for applicants seeking registration as a professional engineer by comity, 62 applications for regular applicants seeking certification as a professional engineer by exam, three applications for regular applicants seeking certification as an engineer-in-training by exam, and 226 applications for senior applicants seeking certification as an engineer-in-training.

The Board voted to accept a cease and desist order from the following individual for advertising land surveying services:

- Jeff Sharp, Crawford

The Board voted to accept cease and desist orders from the following individuals for advertising engineering and land surveying services:

- Harry Cobb, Decatur
- Richard Madden, Snellville

The Board voted to accept cease and desist orders from the following individuals for advertising engineering services:

- Brian Chizmadia, Canton
- Toby Minter, McCaysville

The Board voted to accept cease and desist orders from the following individuals for practicing as a land surveyor:

- Derek Lee Harvel, Cartersville
- Joshua Berguron, Dahlonega
- Stan Flanders DBA Billy Flanders Land Surveyor, Dublin

The Board voted to accept a cease and desist order from the following individual for practicing as a professional engineer:

- Taz Ogletree, Albany

February: The Board approved 47 applications for applicants seeking registration as a professional engineer by comity, three applications for regular applicants seeking certification as a professional engineer by exam, two applications for regular applicants seeking certification as an engineer-in-training by exam, and 316 applications for senior applicants seeking certification as an engineer-in-training.

The Board voted to accept the following consent order for substandard work as a land surveyor:

- Joel Jordan, Blue Ridge

March: The Board reviewed and approved 72 applications for applicants seeking registration as a professional engineer by comity and five applications for reinstatement as a professional engineer.

License Renewal Process

How do I renew my license?

You may renew your license on the Professional Licensing Board website with a credit card. Click on the License Renewal icon and follow the instructions. You will be asked a series of questions including whether you have been arrested, convicted of a crime or received a board sanction since the last renewal, whether you have completed your continuing education requirements, and whether you are a U.S. citizen. Renewing your license via the website is the fastest way to renew your license.

The Professional Licensing Boards do not mail paper renewals unless requested. A paper renewal form may be requested by the licensee either by calling the Board office at 478-207-2440, or by submitting a written request.

Disciplinary Issues:

The Board addresses disciplinary issues on a case-by-case basis and applies sanctions to those who violate the Professional Engineer and Land Surveyors Practice Act, Board rules, and policies. It is important that licensees review all laws, rules and policies that affect their profession. These may be found on the Board's website at <http://sos.georgia.gov/plb/pels/>.

All public disciplinary actions will be reflected in the Board minutes which may be found on the Georgia State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors website.

Grounds for denial, suspension, revocation of a license, or other disciplinary actions may be found at O.C.G.A. § 43-15-19 and at O.C.G.A. § 43-1-19. State laws and Board rules may be found on our website at <http://sos.georgia.gov/plb/pels/>.

Complaint Process Information

The Georgia General Assembly created the Georgia Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors to regulate licensing and practice of engineering and surveying. The responsibility of administering the laws in O.C.G.A. § 43-15 is given to the Board whose members are appointed by the Governor. This Board determines if applicants meet licensure requirements, promulgates rules, and considers complaints against licensees and allegations of unlicensed practice. The process for disposing of complaints is as follows:

Complaint Form:

Complaints must be reported to and received by the Board in writing. Written complaints may be submitted to the Board office or be submitted on-line at <http://sos.georgia.gov/myverification/submitcomplaint.aspx>. Documents received in connection with a complaint will not be returned. The complaint must contain sufficient factual evidence indicating a clear violation of Georgia law or Board rules.

Investigations:

The Board gives serious consideration to all complaints. Further investigative action may be taken. Should you file a complaint, you may be contacted by a Board inspector or investigator for additional information. Investigative files are considered confidential for any purpose other than a hearing before the Board. However, the Board is authorized to release such records to another enforcement agency or lawful licensing authority.

Notification Process:

While the investigation is ongoing, the Board is unable to discuss the status of a complaint with anyone, including the complainant. When the Board has completed the case, the complainant will be notified in writing of the Board's actions. All public disciplinary actions will be reflected in the Board minutes which may be found on the Board's website.

Frequently Asked Questions

The Board list of frequently asked questions is available on the Board's website. If you cannot find an answer to your question, you may contact the Board office at (478) 207-2440.