



State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Surveyors

FISCAL YEAR 2013

Annual Report to the Governor

December 31, 2013

COVER ILLUSTRATIONS

**OHIO
ENGINEERING
SCHOOLS**

FRONT COVER

Left to right, top to bottom

Air Force Institute of Technology
University of **Akron**
Case Western Reserve University
Cedarville University
Central State University
University of **Cincinnati**
Cleveland State University
University of **Dayton**
University of **Findlay**

BACK COVER

Left to right, top to bottom

Marietta College
Miami University
Muskingum University
Ohio University
Ohio Northern University
The **Ohio State** University
University of **Toledo**
Wright State University
Youngstown State University

Contents

Introduction..... 3
Staffing and Structure 4
Registrants 4
Examinations..... 5
Registration by Comity 6
Enforcement..... 6
NCEES 7
Other Activities..... 8
Efforts to Improve Service 9
FY 2013 Budget and Financial Statement 10
Biennial Renewal..... 11
Audit..... 11

Board Mission

The Board’s mission is to protect the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Ohio by providing effective licensure and regulation of professional engineers, professional surveyors, and firms offering engineering and surveying services in Ohio.

Introduction

The State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Surveyors is the agency responsible for regulating the professions of engineering and surveying in the state of Ohio.

The Board's mission is to protect the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Ohio by providing effective licensure and regulation of professional engineers, professional surveyors and firms offering engineering and surveying services in Ohio. This is accomplished by ensuring that only qualified individuals and firms are licensed to practice engineering and surveying in Ohio and ensuring that Ohio's laws and rules governing the practice of engineering and surveying are followed.

The Board is able to ensure that only qualified individuals are licensed to practice engineering and surveying by requiring minimum educational standards, passing two national licensure exams, completing supervised engineering and surveying experience prior to licensure that demonstrates that the individual is qualified to be in responsible charge of engineering and surveying projects and also requiring continuing education requirements after licensure.

The Board is also responsible for investigating complaints alleging violation of the practice act as well as complaints involving illegal practice by unqualified and unlicensed individuals and firms.

The Board's nearly 30,000 registrants are the professionals that design Ohio's roads, bridges and highways, design our homes, skyscrapers, schools, churches and commercial buildings, establish our property boundaries and GIS data, inspect our waterways and ensure the safety of our drinking water.

Members of the Board

Chair

James D. Mawhorr, P.E., P.S.
Mansfield

Secretary

Franklin D. Snyder, Jr., P.S.
Jefferson

Member

Bert Dawson, P.E., P.S.
East Liverpool

Member

Nelson E. Kohman, P.E.
Gahanna

Member

Dean C. Ringle, P.E., P.S.
Dublin

Staffing and Structure

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD The Board is comprised of five members: two professional engineer members, two professional engineer and professional surveyor members (known as dual registrants) and one professional surveyor member. The Board members are appointed by the Governor and serve five-year terms. The current Board members are: James D. Mawhorr, P.E., P.S., Chair, Mansfield; Franklin D. Snyder, Jr., P.S., Secretary, Jefferson; Bert Dawson, P.E., P.S., East Liverpool; Nelson E. Kohman, P.E., Gahanna and Dean C. Ringle, P.E., P.S., Dublin.

STAFF The Board has an administrative staff of nine full-time employees that handle the daily operations of the board and several consultants that assist the Board in evaluating applications for registration and developing the Ohio surveying examination. With one staff member for every 3,380 licensees, the Board has the lowest staff to licensee ratio of any of Ohio's licensure boards.

COMMITTEES The Board has three committees: 1) an expert panel consisting of four paid consultants which evaluate the examination and certificate of authorization applications, and offer professional opinions at the request of the Board; 2) the Credentials Review Committee, consisting of Board members and staff, which verifies and approves examination and certificate of authorization applications; and 3) the Ohio Professional Surveyors Exam Committee, consisting of volunteers and paid consultants that write and grade the Ohio-specific principles and practice of surveying examination that all applicants for licensure as a professional surveyor must pass.

The current composition of the Board, committees and dedicated office staff provide a high level of expertise, manpower and balance for carrying out the duties of the Board in an expeditious and unbiased manner.

Registrants

During fiscal year 2013, the Board had 28,194 individuals registered as professional engineers and/or professional surveyors. There was a 0.46% increase in individual registration renewals this year. Certificates of Authorization were issued to 2,232 firms licensed to offer and provide engineering and/or surveying services in the state of Ohio. During FY 2013 the Board registered 1,084 new professional engineers and professional surveyors by examination and comity.

FY 2013 License Types

Number of Licensees

Professional Engineers

26,071

Professional Surveyors

1,380

Dually Licensed as

P.E. and P.S.

743

Firm Licenses

Certificates of Authorization

2,232

Examinations

The Board's examination process is quite thorough and our licensing process ensures that only qualified individuals are admitted to the practice of engineering and surveying. In order to become registered as a professional engineer or professional surveyor, Ohio law requires that applicants pass a fundamentals examination and a principles and practice examination.

CONVERSION OF FE AND FS EXAMINATIONS TO COMPUTER-BASED TESTING

The fundamentals examination is the first-stage examination that is usually taken after the applicant has completed an ABET-accredited or Board-approved four-year curriculum in engineering or surveying.

Effective January 2014 the NCEES Fundamentals of Engineering (FE) and Fundamentals of Surveying (FS) exams will no longer be offered in paper-and-pencil format. The FE and FS examinations will transition to computer-based testing after the final paper-and-pencil administration of the FE and FS exams in October 2013.

Beginning in January 2014 the FE and FS exams will be offered at *Pearson Vue Select* testing centers located throughout Ohio. The exams will be offered in four two-month testing windows with exams available in January–February, April–May, July–August and October–November. Candidates will be permitted to take the FE and FS exams one time during each testing window, limited to three times in a 12-month period. Registration for the exams opens in November 2013.

Candidates are eligible to take the FE or FS exams in Ohio during their final term of enrollment in an approved engineering or surveying curriculum.

PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE EXAMINATIONS The principles and practice examination is the second-stage examination taken after the applicant has passed the fundamentals examination and obtained four years of acceptable engineering or surveying experience. Each exam is eight hours long, with one four-hour session in the morning and another in the afternoon. Examinees must participate in both sessions on the same day.

The Board administers examinations and licenses individuals in the following engineering disciplines: agricultural, architectural, chemical, civil, control systems, electrical and computer, environmental, fire protection, industrial, mechanical, metallurgical and materials, mining and mineral processing, naval architecture, nuclear, petroleum, structural and surveying.

During fiscal year 2013 the Board reviewed 2,507 applications to take the engineering and surveying examinations. 1,239 persons took the fundamentals examinations, of which 870 (70%) received passing scores. 620 persons took the principles and practice examinations, of which 350 (56%) received passing scores.

Registration by Comity

Comity is the process where a professional engineer or professional surveyor is granted an Ohio registration based upon their registration in another state or United States territory. All comity applicants must pass the fundamentals examination and the principles and practice examination, as well as meet Ohio's registration requirements.

During fiscal year 2013, 766 individuals became registered in Ohio as professional engineers or professional surveyors by comity. This was an increase of 49 comity registrations granted over FY 2012.

Enforcement

The Board is charged with investigating complaints alleging violations of Ohio Revised Code 4733 and Ohio Administrative Code 4733. During fiscal year 2013 the Board received and investigated 77 complaints. The Board held 6 disciplinary hearings during fiscal year 2013.

During fiscal year 2013 the Board closed 40 complaints. Two complaints were closed because the complaint was outside of the Board's jurisdiction; nine complaints were closed because no violations were found; thirteen complaints were closed after the individual or firm voluntarily came into compliance; warning letters were sent in fourteen cases; two were closed as no further action was needed. At the end of fiscal year 2013 the Board had 68 pending complaints.

During fiscal year 2013 the Board opened 30 formal investigations. Seventeen were opened from complaints received during fiscal year 2013 and 13 were opened from complaints received prior to fiscal year 2013. During fiscal year 2013 the Board closed 37 formal investigations. Of the 37 formal investigations closed the following actions were taken: twenty-six investigations were closed after the individual or firm entered into a settlement agreement; six were closed after the Board conducted an adjudication hearing and/or issued disciplinary action; two were closed after the Board issued a warning letter; one was closed after an educational conference with the respondent; two were closed as being outside of the Board's jurisdiction. At the end of fiscal year 2013 the Board had five pending formal investigations.

National Council of Examiners for Engineers and Surveyors

The Board is a member of the National Council of Examiners for Engineers and Surveyors (NCEES) and actively participates and represents Ohio in council activities. NCEES is comprised of the sixty-five state and territorial licensing boards in the United States that regulate the professions of engineering and surveying. NCEES develops and scores the engineering and surveying licensure examinations and assists member boards in the development of model laws and model rules. Ohio is one of twelve states that comprise the central zone. The Board and its staff frequently participate on NCEES committees and attend the annual and central zone meetings. It is important that Ohio is represented in NCEES and provides input on exam policies and procedures and the development of model laws and rules due to our large number of licensees, examinees and colleges and universities offering engineering and surveying programs compared to other states.



PHOTO COURTESY NCEES
2013 NCEES ANNUAL MEETING | AUGUST 21-24 | SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

Other Activities

The Board and its staff frequently speak at engineering and surveying association and society meetings and participate in their annual meetings. The Board and its staff also visit Ohio's universities and colleges that have engineering and surveying programs to speak about the examination process and requirements for professional licensure as well as other topics of interest.

The Board also participated in many other activities during fiscal year 2013, some of which are highlighted below.

PUCO James D. Mawhorr, P.E., P.S. served on the PUCO Nominating Council.

TREATMENT SYSTEM STUDY COMMISSION James Mawhorr, P.E., P.S. served on the Household Sewage and Small Flow On-Site Sewage Treatment System Study Commission.

NCEES LEADERSHIP Executive Director John F. Greenhalge served as a member of the NCEES Member Board Administrator Committee and the NCEES Central Zone Leadership and Site Selection Committees. Mr. Greenhalge was re-appointed to the NCEES Member Board Administrator's committee for 2013-2014 as well as the NCEES Central Zone Leadership and Site Selection Committees.

CERTIFICATE CEREMONIES The Board, in conjunction with the Ohio Society of Professional Engineers and the Professional Land Surveyors of Ohio, conducted spring and fall certificate ceremonies in the Statehouse atrium recognizing individuals that passed the fundamentals and principles and practice examinations.



PHOTO COURTESY PLSO
2013 AUGUST
CERTIFICATE CEREMONY
OHIO STATEHOUSE ATRIUM

Efforts to Improve Service

The Board is constantly looking for ways to be more efficient by better utilizing resources and identifying costs that can be reduced so that funds can be used more effectively elsewhere. During FY 2013 the Board continued to look for opportunities to increase efficiency so that we may better serve the public, our licensees and our applicants.

MONTHLY PERFORMANCE TRACKING The Board maintains a process to track monthly performance. The Board can track the amount of time it takes to process applications and verifications. This process allows the Board to identify opportunities for improvement in its daily operations. Based on performance tracking the Board has implemented a temporary certificate of authorization for firms applying for registration in Ohio and an expedited Model Law Engineer (MLE) comity application approval process. In both cases the changes have reduced the time it takes to approve an application from over thirty days down to two days.

SHARED COSTS The Board continues to partner with the Counselor, Social Worker and Marriage and Family Therapists Board, another state regulatory agency located in our building, to share IT costs, which results in significant cost savings.

INVESTIGATIONS The Board hired an additional investigator during FY 2014. This new position will be responsible for investigating complaints, assisting in the continuing professional development audit, investigating non-compliance with the continuing education requirement, assisting in exam site security and assisting in monitoring in-house examinees. An additional investigator will allow the Board to perform more timely investigations of complaints and ensure that the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Ohio are protected from the illegal or unqualified practice of engineering and surveying.

Fiscal Year 2013 Budget and Financial Statement

The Board is self-supported from fees derived from applications and renewals; the Board receives no money from the state of Ohio General Revenue Fund. The Board's \$40.00 biennial renewal fee is one of the lowest registration fees of engineering and surveying boards in the U.S. The Board has operated at a flat or reduced funding level since fiscal year 2006.

For the FY12/FY13 biennium budget the Board's appropriation was \$934,264 in FY 2012 and \$921,778 in FY 2013. The Board collected \$599,994 in revenue in FY 2013. The decrease in revenue over the previous year is due to the Board's conversion to biennial renewal. The Board's biennial renewal cycle results in fluctuations in revenue and expenditures on a year-to-year basis with a higher level of revenue received and expenditures incurred during the even-numbered fiscal years when the Board renews over 28,000 licensees.

During the upcoming biennium, the Board's primary objective will be to provide effective operations and services, and to maintain its commitment to operate within its financial resources.

Fiscal Year 2013

FY 2013

| | |
|------------------------|------------------|
| Budget Allotment | 921,778 |
| Less Total Expenses | (825,356) |
| FY 2013 Balance | \$ 96,422 |

Revenue

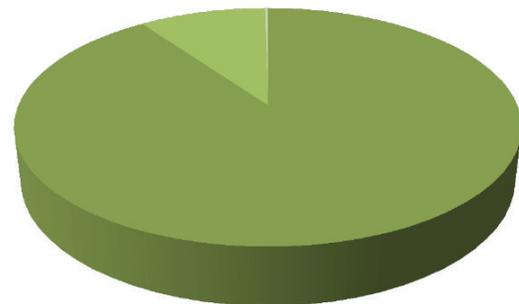
| | |
|--------------------------|------------------|
| Renewal, Exam and Comity | |
| Application Fees | 540,789 |
| Penalties | 57,855 |
| Other | 1,350 |
| Total Revenue* | \$599,994 |

**Due to the biennial renewal process, the revenue total for odd numbered years does not reflect the revenue received for the 2012-2013 renewal period.*

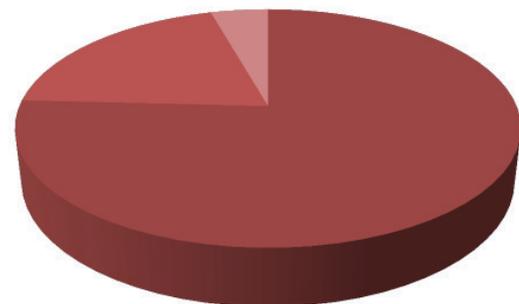
Expenses

| | |
|---------------------------------|------------------|
| 500 Staff Payroll, Board Member | |
| Payroll & Personal Services | 625,835 |
| 510 Purchased Services | 36,185 |
| 520 Maintenance | 155,003 |
| 530 Equipment | 8,334 |
| Total Expenses | \$825,357 |

■ Renewal, Exam, Comity
■ Penalties
■ Other



■ Payroll, Personal Services
■ Maintenance, Equipment
■ Purchased Services



Biennial Renewal

Pursuant to changes in law, the Board converted to a biennial renewal cycle for professional engineers and professional surveyors in 2012.

All professional engineers and professional surveyors now renew every other year and are required to obtain 30 hours of continuing professional development during the two-year renewal cycle. If a licensee exceeds the 30 hour requirement during the renewal period, a maximum of 15 hours may be carried forward into the subsequent renewal period.

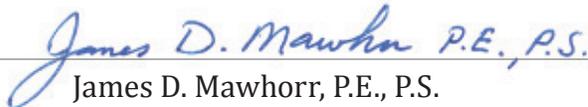
The biennial renewal fee is \$40.00.

Audit

Each biennium the Auditor of State is required to conduct an audit of the Board's operations. An audit of the Board's FY 2012 and 2013 revenues, licensing, payroll and non-payroll disbursements, and legal compliance was completed during FY 2013.

There were no instances of noncompliance, internal control weaknesses, findings or written recommendations.

This report was prepared by the State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Surveyors and submitted to the Governor of Ohio on December 31, 2013.


James D. Mawhor, P.E., P.S.

Chair


Franklin D. Snyder, Jr., P.S.

Secretary


John F. Greenhalge
Executive Director



State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Surveyors

50 West Broad Street • Suite 1820
Columbus, Ohio 43215-5905
www.peps.ohio.gov WEB
pes.board@pes.ohio.gov EMAIL

877 | 644 6364 U.S. toll free
614 | 466 3651 Columbus metro
800 | 750 0750 Ohio Relay Service