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The Nebraska Professional

Nebraska Board of Engineers and Architects

Volume 35, August, 2023

NBEA Blog Release

This is the first edition of the brand-new *Nebraska Professional* in “blog” format. The blog is replacing the Board’s bi-annual newsletter with the same title. The Nebraska Board of Engineers and Architects (NBEA) is moving to this online format to allow for more timely release of information and increase the ease of access to information for licensees and members of the public. The blog format allows the Board to include many more “smaller” tidbits that would typically be cut from our bi-annual newsletter release. We intend for blog releases to occur the first week of each month. We will notify you when new releases are available via social media.

What you’ll find in our blog is very similar to the content in our newsletter, including updates on the Board, legislation and rules changes in Nebraska, important reminders for renewals and marketing for our webinars, compliance case summaries, licensure updates, and much more. Also, please note at the bottom of each release, we’ll have a “follow-up” section, answering questions from previous releases, webinars, or presentations that we feel everyone would benefit from.

NBEA Save the Date(s)



2022's Newly-Licensed Architects and Professional Engineers pose with their wall certificates in the Nebraska State Capitol.

Capitol Ceremony

This week, the Nebraska Board of Engineers and Architects mailed out *Save the Date* postcards to the eighty-five licensees (as of today) who will be recognized at the Board’s Capitol Ceremony this year; we hope all the first-time licensees will be able to join us at the State Capitol on November 3rd, 2023.

The Capitol Ceremony happens every year on the first Friday in November when the trees lining the avenues around the capitol make those perfect shades of red, yellow, and orange, signifying the change of the seasons. During the ceremony, the Board

LICENSE RENEWAL System Scheduled to Open October 1st

As we head into the close of summer, license renewals are coming up soon for those individuals whose license expires December 31, 2023. Make sure to mark your calendar for October 1, 2023, because the online license renewal portal will open on that date. Keep an eye on your inboxes for notification of the renewal system being ready. If you need to update your contact information before September 15, 2023, contact connie.belt@nebraska.gov.

first professional licenses. Meeting the rigorous requirements of licensure takes time, effort, and a great deal of motivation, and at the ceremony, our goal is to honor and recognize all the work put in by the licensees. Coming from different states or down the road, these licensees receive their wall certificates and are now charged with the duties and responsibilities of holding their titles of Architect or Professional Engineer.

Board Staff Implementing New Database

The NBEA also would like to remove the curtain for a second and announce that we are preparing to move our database containing licensee and organization information into a new one. The full implementation is a year or so down the line, but we are testing its initial launch with the landscape architects this year.



WEBINAR

LICENSE RENEWALS & CONTINUING ED. AUDITS

SEPTEMBER 27
12:00 NOON CENTRAL

RSVP

Invitations will be sent out the first week of september!

STATE OF NEBRASKA BOARD OF ENGINEERS AND ARCHITECTS

Lunch and Learn Webinar Series Updates

On September 27, 2023, the Board is hosting our last webinar in our *Lunch and Learn* series for the year. **We are going to cover the renewal cycle, as well as upcoming changes to the continuing education audit process.** RSVPs will be emailed in the first week of September, but if you don't receive one, please email NBEA.Marketing@Nebraska.Gov or visit our website and social media pages to request an invitation.

If you missed our latest webinar, here's some good news! A recording of our webinar is now available on our [YouTube channel](#)! The NBEA's Compliance Officer, Amy Habe, discussed the importance of licensed design professionals, how the Board is notified of projects not compliant with the E&A Regulation Act, the remediation process, and the expectations for licensees and firms to navigate the remediation process. The slides used in the presentation are also found [HERE on our website](#).

"Follow-Up" from our last webinar; A Guide to Remediation

Q: How can I find this webinar's recording, templates, and slides?

Q: Can I still join the Remediation list? What are the requirements?

A: The list is voluntary, and a licensee must be in good standing with the Board to volunteer. Email NBEA.Compliance@Nebraska.Gov to submit a request.

NCARB News

For students and aspiring architects taking steps to licensure, please take a look at two recent updates from NCARB.

First, Architect Registration Examination, or ARE, rescheduling exam fees are returning. NCARB waived the rescheduling fee to accommodate the pandemic but has seen continued use of the free rescheduling. The problem lies in examinees signing up and filling up seats but then rescheduling, causing others who would like to test at a specific time to be unable to fit into the full class. Read more about their updated rescheduling exam fees here: <https://www.ncarb.org/fees>

NCARB recently issued sanctions for six candidates who violated the ARE Candidate Agreement. Following an investigation by NCARB's Professional Conduct Committee, the six candidates were found to have violated Category 1 and Category 4 of the ARE Candidate Agreement for copying, sharing, and attempting to sell exam content. None of the candidates were from Nebraska, but to read more on this crucial issue, read NCARB's release here: <https://www.ncarb.org/press/sanctions-issued-are-candidate-misconduct-0>

Licensure Summaries 5/20/23-8/01/23

Newly-Licensed Architects

Brenton A. Rahn – Lincoln, NE

Elizabeth M. Vinton – Lincoln, NE

Newly-Licensed Professional Engineers

Civil

James V. Ahlgren – Omaha, NE

Nicole E. Aschoff – Norfolk, NE

Daniel S. Blake – Lincoln, NE

Gregory M. Brozek – Lincoln, NE

Lucas D. Chmela – Norfolk, NE

Matthew J. Rennau – Wood River, NE

Ryan B. Ruenholl – Blair, NE

Nicholas A. Swoboda – Omaha, NE

Jena R. Vogt – Lincoln, NE

Logan M. Wachal – Lincoln, NE

Kanchan Devkota – Omaha, NE

Jacob J. G. Ellingson – Bennington, NE

Brandon C. Findall – Omaha, NE

Francisco Garcia – Omaha, NE

Noah D. Hawkins – Omaha, NE

Jebediah J. Hettich – Hartford, SD

Sarah M. Hruby – Lincoln, NE

Michael T. Johansson – Syracuse, NE

Isaac B. Kreikemeier – Wahoo, NE

Steven R. LaBay – Bellevue, NE

Elizabeth A. Potter – Lincoln, NE

Electrical & Computer

Cameron K. Gilinsky – Bennington, NE

Cody A. Largent – Omaha, NE

Mechanical

Georgina C. Johnson – Omaha, NE

John B. Massey – Omaha, NE

Anthony J. Pospisil – Omaha, NE

Compliance Case Summaries

21.33 – Unlicensed Practice

Summary: The Board was notified of the submission of unsealed plans to another state agency to construct a two-story building [Assembly (A) Occupancy], known as Hancock Lumber, comprising approximately 10,800 square feet. The plans did not bear the seal of a Nebraska-licensed architect or professional engineer.

Action: This project was subject to the Act due to the building area comprising more than 1,000 square feet of A-Assembly occupancy. The Board authorized architecture and engineering remediation to bring the project into compliance with the Act. Per Board Rule 8.4, Hancock Lumber, LLC engaged the remediation professionals who reviewed the project, identified deficiencies, and recommended corrections. The Board proposed a settlement agreement for the unlicensed practice of architecture and engineering, including investigative costs and a \$5,000 civil penalty. The civil penalty would be stayed if the project complied with the Engineers and Architects Regulation Act within sixty (60) days.

The Board dismissed the complaint without seeking enforcement of the civil penalty upon removing all deficiencies and receiving payment of investigative costs within the timeframe.

22.16 – Unlicensed Practice

Summary: The Board was notified of the submission of unsealed plans to another state agency for the renovation of a two-story building [Assembly (A) Occupancy] comprising approximately 2,016 square feet. The plans did not bear the seal of a Nebraska-licensed architect or professional engineer.

process to bring the project into compliance with the Act. Per Board Rule 8.4, the remediation professionals reviewed the project, identified deficiencies, and recommended corrections. The complaint was dismissed without prejudice based on the engagement of remediation licensees.

22.05 – Unlicensed Practice

Summary: The Board was notified of the submission of unsealed plans to another state agency to renovate a two-story building [Business (B) Occupancy] comprising approximately 4,424 square feet. The plans did not bear the seal of a Nebraska-licensed architect or professional engineer.

Action: This project was subject to the Act due to the building area comprising more than 3,000 square feet of a B-Business occupancy. The Board authorized the remediation process to bring the project into compliance with the Act. Per Board Rule 8.4, the remediation professionals reviewed the project, identified deficiencies, and recommended corrections. The complaint was dismissed without prejudice based on the engagement of remediation licensees.

23.02 – Professional Misconduct

Summary: Alexander Zuendt (E-18794) disclosed disciplinary actions taken by the Florida and North Carolina Boards, resulting in the restriction of his license in Florida and revocation of his license in North Carolina to perform Mechanical and Electrical engineering. This violates Board Rules 5.4.1 & 5.4.3.3.

Action: Following an investigation and communication with Mr. Zuendt, the Board proposed a settlement, restricting respondent's Nebraska license from practicing Mechanical and Electrical engineering until similar restrictions from the North Carolina and Florida Boards have been resolved.

23.11 – Audit Failure

Summary: A complaint was initiated alleging Choon Hong David Tan (E-9929) supplied false information regarding completing continuing education requirements during the license renewal process. Board Rule 9.1.1 requires every licensee to meet the continuing education requirements for license renewal.

Action: The Board found that Choon Hong David Tan failed to meet continuing education requirements during the 2021-2022 renewal period. The Board proposed a settlement agreement in which he agreed to a \$500 civil penalty to be paid within sixty (60) days and the compliance of the CE audit. The Board accepted and executed the settlement agreement in May 2023.

<p>Brian Kelly Chair, Architect, Omaha</p> <p>Jason Suelter Vice-Chair, Professional Engineer, Lincoln</p> <p>Alan Wedige Secretary, Architect, Kearney</p> <p>Jan Bostelman Professional Engineer, Brainard</p> <p>Bruce Dvorak Professional Engineer, Lincoln</p> <p>Brett Foley Public Member, Denton</p> <p>Lenora Isom Architect, Ashland</p> <p>Daniel Thiele Professional Engineer, Omaha</p>	<p>Jon Wilbeck Executive Director</p> <p>Jean Lais Admin. Program Officer</p> <p>Amy Habe Compliance Officer</p> <p>Josh Frerking Public Information Officer</p> <p>Diana Stahlnecker Admin. Program Officer</p> <p>Connie Belt Accountant</p> <p>Tina Hall Office Specialist</p>
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If you have questions about topics in this blog post, previous issues, or other topics that would be helpful to publish in our next blog release, please email NBEA.Marketing@Nebraska.Gov.

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