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THE Nebraska Professional

Nebraska Board of Engineers and Architects

Volume 36, September 2023

NCARB & NCEES Annual Meeting Recap

On June 15-17, the 55 member jurisdictions of the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB) met in Tampa, Florida, for NCARB's 2023 Annual Business Meeting, allowing member boards to elect members to the NCARB Board of Directors and to consider other resolutions. [NBEA's Lenora Isom](#), NCARB, was re-elected to serve as the [Region V Director](#), representing a large swath of the Midwest from Oklahoma to Montana.

During the meeting, members [voted on several resolutions](#)—including a vote to update [NCARB's governance structure](#). The new model, passed by NCARB's membership, merges several officer positions and creates two at-large director positions on the NCARB Board of Directors, streamlining the leadership timeline and encouraging diverse representation. Members also retired several historical resolutions in conflict with current Council policies and updated the Model Rules of Conduct to address evolving areas of professional practice.

Later, on August 15-18 in Boston, Massachusetts, the member boards of the National Council of Examiners for Engineers and Surveyors (NCEES) met for their annual meeting, hosting elections, passing resolutions, and sharing plans for changes coming down the line. [Jan Bostelman, P.E., PMP, of Nebraska](#), returns as Central Zone vice president and member of the NCEES Board of Directors.

One of the items coming out of the passed resolutions was the creation of a new non-profit entity called the [NCEES Foundation](#). The foundation will "support the mission of NCEES" by promoting licensure in engineering and surveying fields. While considerable work remains to be done in establishing this foundation—including establishing bylaws, finalizing a board of directors, and filing for incorporation—all will be completed in time. Still, the first step was the member boards authorizing a transfer of funds to kick-start the foundation.



Lenora Isom speaks about her nomination to the Board of Directors at NCARB's 2023 Annual Business Meeting.

New Licensee Ceremony Reminder

The new licensee ceremony will be held in the State Capitol Rotunda on Friday, November 3. RSVP's and requests for information have been emailed by Board staff to all newly licensed individuals who received their first-ever license to practice this year in Nebraska. If you are one of these new licensees, please respond to the Board's requests for information by October 20, 2023. As a reminder, while we are not limiting the number of guests, seating is limited to 300. Please arrive early if you or your family need spots for mobility accommodations.

If new licensees are unable to attend in person, please respond to the RSVP; wall certificates for those unable to attend will be mailed following the ceremony.

Lunch & Learn Webinar - DATE CHANGE – Oct 4th!

Check your inbox or spam folders for the invite to the NBEA's last webinar of the year! We have enjoyed these webinars as they allow everyone to be involved in the discussion, regardless of being from a large firm in a large city or a solo practitioner in the panhandle. Due to a date change, we will see you on **October 4, 2023**, covering the renewal cycle and upcoming changes to the audit cycle! Please check your inbox for the invitation; if you did not get one, email josh.frerking@Nebraska.Gov.

ADVANCED RENEWAL NOTICE

Online renewals for licensees whose last name begins with the letters A through K are set to be open in early October 2023. Check your inbox for the next few weeks for the initial email announcing the renewal period has opened. If you need a refresher on the renewal process in Nebraska, please join us for our next webinar (see above).

Continuing education audit processing will be conducted a bit differently this renewal cycle. Those licensees selected for audit will be notified in early 2024; decoupling the audit from the renewal process. Board staff will hold a more in-depth discussion of how the new audit process will work in the October 4th webinar. You may also check out our website for information and requirements about CE audits in Nebraska. ([Architects, click here](#)) or ([Professional engineers, click here](#))

NBEA Regulation Refresher - Chapter 6

Chapter 6 had some recent changes (Oct 2022) that appear to be giving licensees and others a bit of a headache. We recently held a webinar discussing Rules Chapters 5 & 6, and specifically designed the following chart for an overview of when to stamp and seal documents properly. To review our deep dive into this chapter from our last webinar, view a recording on our [YouTube page and through the slides](#).

Overview of Seal/Info Required

Seal/Info Type	Reference	Drawings	Specifications, Reports, Studies, and Other Documents
<i>Seal of licensee(s) who prepared the work</i>	<i>N.R.S. § 81-3437.01 Rule 6.1.4</i>	Each sheet	Cover/first page and last page
<i>Coordinating Professional seal/designation (if applicable)</i>	<i>N.R.S. § 81-3437.02</i>	Cover sheet	Cover sheet
<i>Project name and address/location [required on all projects]</i>	<i>Rule 6.5.1</i>	Each sheet	Cover/first page
<i>Licensee information [work not done through an organization(s)], OR</i>	<i>Rule 6.5.2</i>	Each sheet	Cover/first page
<i>Organization(s) information [work done through an organization(s), including the Coordinating Professional's organization if applicable]</i>	<i>Rule 6.5.3 N.R.S. § 81-3437.02</i>	Each sheet, except cover sheet only for Coordinating Professional	Cover/first page



Licensure Summaries 8/24/23 - 9/22/23

Civil

Naisargi Dave - Lincoln, NE
Francisco Garcia - Omaha, NE
Stephen Gnagy - Hastings, NE
Nathan Schmidt - Omaha, NE

Mechanical

Ali Al-Zamily - Lincoln, NE
Keegan Bell - Lincoln, NE
Michael Friest - Omaha, NE
Jennifer Hames - Gretna, NE
Andrew Holthaus - Omaha, NE
Jacob Pales - Columbus, NE

Structural

Mitchell Gocke - Sioux City, IA

Compliance Case Summaries

21.40 – Unlicensed Practice

Summary: The Board was notified of the submission of unsealed plans to another state agency for the construction of a single-story, 5,244-square-foot building classified as I-4 Daycare. 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 2,000 square feet of I-4-Daycare occupancy. The Board authorized architecture and engineering remediation to bring the project into compliance with the Act. Per Board Rule 8.4, the project owner engaged the remediation professionals who reviewed the project, identified deficiencies, and recommended corrections. The Board dismissed the complaint upon removing all deficiencies identified by the remediation professionals at the September Board meeting.

23.21 – Audit Failure

Summary: A complaint was initiated alleging Bradford J. Raffensperger (E-9449) supplied false information regarding the completion of 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 Mr. Raffensperger 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, compliance with the CE audit, and public reprimand. The Board accepted and executed the settlement agreement in the September Board meeting.

practicing engineering in the State of Nebraska without being issued a Certificate of Authorization by the Board.

Action: Following an investigation by the Board, the company violated Neb. Rev. Statute 81-3442(1) & Board rule 7.1 for advertising design services without being issued a Certificate of Authorization. The company applied for and was issued a Certificate of Authorization after paying the application and *in-arrears* fees of \$110. The Board dismissed the complaint on the receipt of the *in-arrears* fees.

Promoting Licensure

Do you have younger design professionals on the path to licensure, or are thinking about it in your firm? Do you want to help promote licensure amongst your newer colleagues? Are there any unlicensed individuals who have questions about Nebraska regulations? If you answered yes to these questions, ask us to speak with them! Small informal meetings can be set up between Board staff and those looking to take the steps towards licensure. Have multiple offices? We can meet virtually as well! Contact josh.frerking@Nebraska.gov to schedule a meeting or for questions regarding the promotion of licensure in Nebraska.

"Follow-Up" from our last Blog

Q: Will this blog format have a C.E. component like the newsletter?

A: The Board is not allowing reading of the blog to qualify for CE credit.

Q: How can I join the blog emailing list? How can I invite a colleague?

A: Anyone wishing to join the emailing list can submit their name and preferred email to NBEA.Marketing@Nebraska.Gov.

Q: How can I unsubscribe from this blog email?

A: An unsubscribe feature is at the bottom of this email.

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.

<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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