



Ohio



State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Surveyors

FISCAL YEAR 2012

Annual Report to the Governor

November 15, 2012



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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.

COVER IMAGES FROM TOP TO BOTTOM

CLEVELAND GREAT LAKES SCIENCE CENTER

EASTERN OHIO MARCELLUS, UTICA SHALE DEPOSITS

DUBLIN CELL PHONE TOWER

COLUMBUS MAIN STREET BRIDGE

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 ensures the safety of our drinking water.

Staffing and Structure

The Board consists of five members: two professional engineer members, two professional engineer and professional surveyor members (known as dual registrants), and one professional surveyor member. Members are appointed by the Governor and serve five-year terms.

MEMBERS The current Board members are James D. Mawhorr, P.E., P.S., Chair, Mansfield; Chandra R. Shah, P.E., Vice-Chair, Cincinnati; Franklin D. Snyder, Jr., P.S., Secretary, Jefferson; Nelson E. Kohman, P.E., Gahanna; and Keith C. Swearingen, P.E., P.S., West Union.

Members of the Board

Chair

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

Vice-Chair

Chandra R. Shah, P.E.
Cincinnati

Secretary

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

Member

Nelson E. Kohman, P.E.
Gahanna

Member

Keith C. Swearingen, P.E., P.S.
West Union

Staffing and Structure CONTINUED

STAFF The Board has an administrative staff of eight 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 3,657 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.

One of the benefits of being an independent agency that only licenses engineers and surveyors is that our staff has the ability to focus on the two professions and has become acutely aware of the needs and issues affecting engineering and surveying.

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. We believe this dedicated focus enables us to provide excellent customer service to the citizens of Ohio.

Whether investigating complaints, evaluating exam applications, reviewing applications from out-of-state applicants and firms, or providing exam and licensure verifications, the knowledge and expertise gained by our staff helps ensure that the public is being protected.

Investigating a complaint involving engineering and surveying is very different than investigating a complaint in the medical profession. Likewise, evaluating an application for licensure as an engineering or surveyor is very different than evaluating an application to cut hair.

Having a dedicated staff with specialized knowledge and expertise in matters related to engineering and surveying ensures the public's right to competent licensure.

The Board will request that its appropriation for FY 2014 and 2015 be increased in order to hire an additional investigator.

FY 2012 License Type Number of Licensees

Professional Engineers
24,854

Professional Surveyors
1,350

**Dually Licensed as
P.E. and P.S.**
737

**Firm Licenses
Certificates of Authorization**
2,315

Registrants

During fiscal year 2012 the Board had 26,941 individuals registered as professional engineers and/or professional surveyors. There was a 0.4% increase in individual registration renewals during the year.

Certificates of Authorization were issued to 2,315 firms licensed to offer and provide engineering and/or surveying services in the State of Ohio.

During FY 2012 the Board registered 1,152 new professional engineers and professional surveyors by examination and comity.

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. The fundamentals examination is the first-stage examination that is usually taken after the applicant has completed a four-year curriculum in engineering or surveying. 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 2012 the Board reviewed 2,461 applications to take the engineering and surveying examinations. 1,221 persons took the fundamentals examinations, of which 878 (72%) received passing scores. 697 persons took the principles and practice examinations, of which 430 (62%) 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 2012, 717 individuals became registered in Ohio as professional engineers or professional surveyors by comity.

Enforcement

The Board is charged with investigating complaints alleging violations of Ohio Revised Code 4733 and Ohio Administrative Code 4733.

During fiscal year 2012 the Board received and investigated 118 complaints.

The Board held two disciplinary hearings during fiscal year 2012.

During fiscal year 2012 the Board closed 80 complaints. Six complaints were closed because the complaint was outside of the Board's jurisdiction; 26 complaints were closed because no violations were found; 24 complaints were closed after the individual or firm voluntarily came into compliance; warning letters were sent in 20 cases; four were closed as no further action was needed.

At the end of fiscal year 2012 the Board had 70 pending complaints.

During fiscal year 2012 the Board opened 39 formal investigations. Twenty-nine were opened from complaints received during fiscal year 2012 and ten were opened from complaints received prior to fiscal year 2012.

During fiscal year 2012 the Board closed 45 formal investigations. Of the 45 formal investigations closed the following actions were taken: thirty-five investigations were closed after the individual or firm entered into a settlement agreement; four were closed after the Board conducted an adjudication hearing and/or issued disciplinary action; five were closed after the Board issued a warning letter; one was closed as being outside of the Board's jurisdiction.

At the end of fiscal year 2012 the Board had ten pending formal investigations.



PHOTO COURTESY NCEES
2012 NCEES ANNUAL MEETING
AUGUST 22-25
SAINT LOUIS, MISSOURI

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.

NCEES CENTRAL ZONE Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, Wisconsin



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 2012, a few of which are highlighted below.

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

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

CERTIFICATE CEREMONY 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.

NCEES LEADERSHIP Executive Director John F. Greenhalge served as a member of the NCEES Committee on Law Enforcement and the NCEES Leadership Task Force in 2011-2012 and was appointed to the NCEES Member Board Administrator's committee for 2012-2013.

CPD SEMINAR In February 2012 the Board conducted a program for new licensees covering the registration and renewal process, the laws and rules governing the practice of engineering and surveying and the continuing professional development requirement. The goal of the program is to educate new licensees on the requirements and responsibilities associated with professional licensure.

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 fiscal year 2012 the Board instituted several changes in order to increase efficiency so that we may better serve the public, our licensees and our applicants. These changes are highlighted below.

SHARED IT COSTS The Board has teamed with the Counselor, Social Worker and Marriage and Family Therapists Board, another Ohio regulatory agency located in our building, to share information technology costs. This has resulted in an annual savings of \$3,600.

Efforts to Improve Service CONTINUED

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 comity application approval process. In both cases the changes have reduced the time it takes to approve an application from over 30 days, down to two days.

BIENNIAL RENEWAL The Board also has moved from an annual renewal to a biennial renewal which will result in a cost savings of \$22,000 over the biennium and will improve the efficiency of the Board's staff.



BOARD PHOTO
MARCH CERTIFICATE CEREMONY
OHIO STATEHOUSE ATRIUM

Fiscal Year 2012 Budget and Financial Statement

The Board is self-supporting from fees derived from renewals and applications and receives no money from the 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 \$921,778 in FY 2012 and \$921,778 in FY 2013. The Board collected \$1,723,821 in revenue in FY 2012. The increase 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 27,000 individual 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 2012

FY 2012

Budget Allotment	921,778
Less Total Expenses	(907,674)
FY 2012 Balance	\$ 14,104

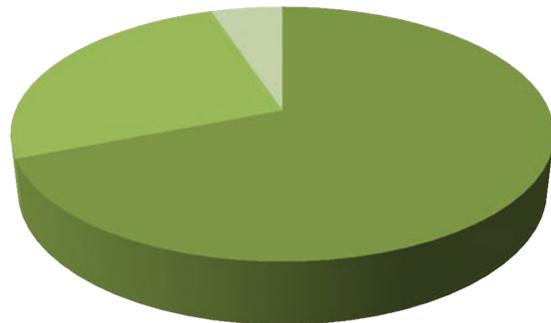
REVENUE

Renewal Fees	1,189,548
Application and Comity Fees	446,260
Verifications, Penalties	86,720
Other	1,293
Total Revenue	\$1,723,821

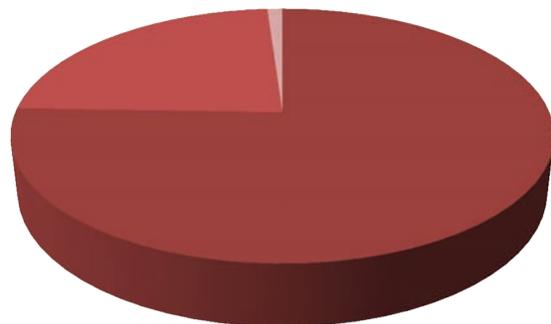
EXPENSES

500 Staff Payroll, Board Member Payroll, Personal Services	685,903
520 Maintenance	212,007
530 Equipment	9,724
595 Refunds	40
Total Expenses	\$ 907,674

■ Renewal Fees
■ Application, Comity Fees
■ Verifications, Penalties, Other



■ Payroll, Personal Services
■ Maintenance
■ Equipment, Refunds



Biennial Renewal

Pursuant to changes in Ohio Revised Code Chapter 4733, the Board converted to a biennial renewal cycle for professional engineers and professional surveyors beginning with the 2012 renewal cycle.

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.

Biennial 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 2010 and FY 2011 revenues, licensing, payroll and non-payroll disbursements, and legal compliance was completed during FY 2012.

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

This annual report was prepared by the State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Surveyors and submitted to the Governor of Ohio on November 15, 2012.

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

Chair

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

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

Secretary

 John F. Greenhalge

John F. Greenhalge

Executive Director

ABOUT THE

LeVeque Tower

50 West Broad Street | Columbus

COMPLETED

1927

HEIGHT

555.5 FEET NOT INCLUDING MASTS

FLOORS

44 ABOVE GROUND



PHOTO COURTESY NATHAN BROWN



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