

The Board of Licensure Report
January 2025
Kyle Elliott, Executive Director

Board of Licensure 2025

Governor Beshear has reappointed Gregory Meredith, PE to another four-year term on the Board expiring December 31, 2028. Governor Beshear has appointed Ryan Griffith, PE to serve out the remainder of Joseph C. Pyles term expiring on January 1, 2028. We are pleased to have Greg continue to serve on the Board and welcome Ryan back to serve on the Board.

Officer elections were held at the January 31, 2025, Board of Licensure meeting. The following slate of officers for 2025 were elected unanimously:

Joshua Calico, PLS – Chair

Michael McGhee, PE – Vice Char

Ryan Griffith, PE – Secretary/Treasurer

It is with great sadness that I announce the unfortunate passing of two individuals who meant a lot to the Board of Licensure. Board member Joseph “Tim” C. Pyles passed away on December 19, 2024, at the age of 73. Bob Giles, a former Board investigator, and one of my mentors, also passed away on December 19, 2024. See more about Mr. Giles below in a tribute provided by former Board Executive Director, James Ed Manning.

Joseph “Tim” C. Pyles, PE

Joseph “Tim” C. Pyles, PE, began his service on the Board of Licensure on December 10, 2020. Tim was serving his second term on the Board when he began having health problems. Knowing his availability was limited, Tim graciously resigned his position on the Board. He believed licensed professionals and the citizens of the Commonwealth deserved someone able to commit themselves unhindered to Board service.

Tim was a valuable member of the Board, as all members are. He was always thoroughly prepared, extremely professional, and believed everyone should be treated fairly within the law. He had a sharp eye for the small details, and had a huge interest in the licensing law, both current and historical. Before becoming a Board of Licensure member, Tim had a twenty-year career with the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet, another twenty years with Haworth-Meyer-Boleyn, and five years with WMB, Inc., where he interacted with many other licensees, and local and state officials. He will be missed by many across the region. He will be hugely missed at the Board of Licensure which he said had been one of the highlights in his long professional career. He enjoyed his time working with the other Board of Licensure members and with Board staff. Personally, I will miss his attention to detail as he challenged me to find historical regulations and board policies related to licensing while he was reviewing applications and questioned most things Board related because he looked at everything from multiple perspectives, as a good engineer should.

Tim leaves behind a large family, including his loving and caring wife Charlotte. I have never met a couple like Tim and Charlotte whose personalities complimented each other so well.

Robert “Bob” S. Giles, by James Ed Manning, PE, PLS

On behalf of the Board of Licensure, I would like to pay tribute to Robert “Bob” Stanley Giles, former board investigator, who passed away on December 19, 2024, at the age of 82.

A veteran of the United States Army, Bob’s first career was that of a police officer. He worked for the Lexington Police Department, serving in various capacities including motorcycle patrol officer, and detective. He attained the rank of sergeant and continued in that capacity until his retirement in 1989.

After his retirement from the police department, Bob became a self-employed investigator and security consultant. He conducted investigations for the Board of Licensure as well as Fayette County Legal Aid.

Bob’s work as a board investigator began in 1992. He served in that capacity for two decades. Bob investigated a wide variety of complaints, both individually and as part of a team. His primary focus was the investigation of the practice of land surveying and engineering by persons not legally authorized or licensed to do so. Over the years, Bob worked with numerous other board investigators, attorneys, and staff. He advised them on everything from taking statements and interviewing witnesses to gathering and preserving evidence and writing reports. Most importantly, Bob imparted the wisdom of his years as a police officer and his people skills. By his example, he demonstrated how to remain objective and impartial; and how to treat all parties fairly, with dignity and respect.

Throughout his entire life, Bob was a true example of what it means to protect and serve. The Board, and the citizens of the Commonwealth were fortunate to have had an investigator like Bob. On behalf of the Board, I offer my sincere condolences to his family.

Firm Renewals

All unexpired Firm Permits expired on December 31, 2024. Businesses with expired firm permits are prohibited from offering or providing engineering or land surveying services. The online firm renewal system is still open, and firm permits can be renewed online at: <https://kyboels.ky.gov/Renewals/Pages/default.aspx>. Please be sure to select **Online Firm Renewal** for firm permit renewal and not Online Individual Renewal. The firm will be assessed a late renewal penalty. You may check on the status of any permit or any firm by using the Board’s online searchable roster: <http://elsweb.kyboels.ky.gov/kboels-web/SearchableRoster.aspx>.

Calendar of Events 2025

January 31	Board of Licensure Meeting	Frankfort
April 11	Board of Licensure Meeting	Frankfort
April 24 – 26	NCEES Southern Zone Meeting	Little Rock, AR
July 18	Board of Licensure Meeting	Frankfort
August 19 – 22	NCEES Annual Meeting	New Orleans, LA
October 17	Board of Licensure Meeting	Frankfort

ENFORCEMENT REPORT
For The Period
October 1, 2024 – December 31, 2024
Heather L. Baldwin, PE, PLS, Director of Enforcement

UNLICENSED PRACTICE

BYRON IRVIN

On February 21, 2022, the Board received a complaint from a Kentucky licensed professional land surveyor, Michael Syphax, who moved to Florida in 2013. The complaint alleged that a former employee, Byron Irvin of Russell Springs, Kentucky, had used a copy of his stamp and signature to certify a plat of survey without his knowledge or permission. Prior to the complaint, on August 13, 2008, an Agreed Order and Injunction was entered in Franklin Circuit Court which enjoined Irvin from engaging in the unauthorized practice of land surveying in Kentucky unless he becomes licensed as a professional land surveyor. Upon investigation of the complaint, it was discovered that Irvin provided land surveying services for a subdivision of land for Oaks Hollow Two on Little Indian Creek in Russell County, Kentucky, and certified the plat of survey with a copy of the signature and stamp of Michael K. Syphax, PLS #3605, on July 9, 2018, without his involvement, knowledge, or permission. To resolve the Board's investigation, Irvin entered into an Agreed Amended Order of Settlement and Permanent Injunction which permanently enjoins him from engaging in the unlicensed practice of land surveying in Kentucky. The Order calls for a fine of \$2,000 and ten days in jail for any future violations. The Agreed Amended Order of Settlement and Permanent Injunction was entered in Franklin Circuit Court on November 4, 2024.

JOHN RICHARD SEWELL, PE #26732 (SURRENDERED)

On July 19, 2024, John Richard Sewell entered into a Consent Decree with the Board through which he surrendered his Kentucky PE license, #26732, as if revoked for violations of the Code of Professional Practice and Conduct. In August 2024, the Board received information that Sewell provided engineering services for a Kentucky project after he surrendered his PE license. The investigation found that Sewell certified engineering documents for that project on July 26, 2024, and used a title tending to convey the impression that he is a professional engineer by using the post-nominal designation "PE" after his name in an email through which he delivered the engineering documents on July 26, 2024, after he surrendered his PE license as if revoked. To resolve the Board's investigation, Sewell entered into an Agreed Final Order of Settlement and Permanent Injunction which permanently enjoins him from engaging in the unlicensed practice of engineering in Kentucky. The Order calls for a fine of \$1,000 and seven days in jail

for any future violations. The Agreed Final Order of Settlement and Permanent Injunction was entered in Franklin Circuit Court on January 16, 2025.

DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

WHITSUN LLC F/K/A THE ASSET COMPANY, PLLC

Whitsun LLC f/k/a The Asset Company, PLLC, is a professional limited liability company organized in the state of Mississippi. The company was issued a business entity permit to practice engineering in Kentucky on July 28, 2005, which expired on December 14, 2014. On June 15, 2023, the Board received a complaint that the company provided engineering services in Kentucky without a business entity permit to practice engineering. The subsequent investigation found that the company provided engineering services for three Kentucky projects from 2021 to 2024, after its engineering permit expired, in violation of KRS 322.060. To resolve the investigation, the company, through its managing partner Ronald Neal Rich, entered into a Consent Decree with the Board and agreed to: (1) receive a Letter of Reprimand; (2) pay a fine of \$3,000 within 30 days; and (3) maintain a current and valid business entity permit for any period of time in which the company is providing engineering services in Kentucky. The Board of Licensure approved this Consent Decree on January 31, 2025.

TRIDENT ENGINEERING ASSOCIATES, INC.

Trident Engineering Associates, Inc. is a corporation organized in the state of Maryland. On June 25, 2024, the company applied for a business entity permit to practice engineering in Kentucky and failed to disclose a February 15, 2024, disciplinary action from Oklahoma on its permit application. The subsequent investigation found that the company had provided engineering services for five Kentucky projects in 2023, prior to applying for or being issued an engineering permit, in violation of KRS 322.060. Additionally, the reports for these projects were signed by individuals who are not licensed as a professional engineer in Kentucky, but used the post-nominal designation "PE" after their names on the reports. To resolve this investigation, the company, through its president Donald W. Vannoy, entered into a Consent Decree with the Board and agreed to: (1) receive a Letter of Reprimand; (2) pay a fine of \$6,000 within 30 days; and (3) maintain a current and valid business entity permit for any period of time in which the company is providing engineering services in Kentucky. The Board of Licensure approved this Consent Decree on January 31, 2025.

ERIC CHARLES SCHRADER, PE #36991

On June 26, 2024, Eric Charles Schrader, PE, renewed his Kentucky PE license and responded “yes” to the question, “Were you licensed as a Professional Engineer in Kentucky prior to January 1, 1972, and have you maintained your license in a “current” status and in good standing since that time?” Schrader was not licensed prior to January 1, 1972, and was not exempt from the continuing professional development requirement pursuant to KRS 322.290(16)(c). Since he falsely answered the renewal question, he was sent a notice of CPD audit for the 2022/2023 reporting period on July 1, 2024. Schrader did not respond to that notice of audit, nor subsequent notices of audit by both email and telephone, which caused the Board to file administrative charges against Schrader on November 18, 2024, for failing to respond to the Board’s notice of CPD audit within 30 days, failing to provide evidence of completing 30 PDH during the 2022/2023 reporting period, failing to maintain records of his CPD activities, failing to cooperate with the Board in an investigation, and renewing his PE license without meeting the CPD requirements. Schrader subsequently submitted evidence of completing 5 PDH during the 2022/2023 reporting period and 25 PDH after administrative charges were filed. To resolve the investigation, Schrader agreed to: (1) receive a Letter of Reprimand; (2) complete the 3 PDH Texas Tech Engineering Ethics course within 60 days; and provide evidence of completing 30 PDH for the 2024/2025 reporting period by January 10, 2026. The Board of Licensure approved this Consent Decree on January 31, 2025.

NON-DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

Cases Closed with a Written Admonishment – 34

PE – admonishments for CPD violations – 26 (1 late renewal audit 2023, 20 random audits, 5 late renewal audits 2024)

PLS – admonishments for CPD violations – 7 (6 random audits, 1 audit during investigation)

Firm (land surveying & engineering) – failure to notify the Board within 30 days of the addition of a new Kentucky branch office and a change in status of the responsible charge surveyor of an existing Kentucky branch office, and failure to have a full-time responsible charge engineer in charge of the existing Kentucky branch office and failure to designate a responsible charge engineer and land surveyor for the new Kentucky branch office - 1

Case Closed with an Educational Letter – 1

PE licensed in Ohio using an Ohio PE stamp on a Kentucky project and using the post-nominal PE designation on a Kentucky project – 1

Case Closed with No Action – 5

PE – placed PE license in “retired” status during random CPD audit – 1

Unlicensed practice of engineering (individual) – no violation found – 2

Unlicensed practice of engineering (firm) – no violation found 1

Unlicensed practice of land surveying (firm) – no violation found – 1