

The Board of Licensure Report
April 2021
James Ed Manning, Executive Director

COVID 19 UPDATE

As the Covid19 Pandemic enters its second year, the board of licensure continues to respond. The board office remains closed to walk-in customers. Licensees, applicants and citizens are urged to utilize online services and to attempt to have their issues resolved via email or telephone before considering an in person visit.

If an in person visit is the only alternative, an appointment can be arranged. All visitors are required to undergo a temperature check and answer Covid19 screening questions before entering, and if granted entry must wear a mask.

In-office staff is currently limited to 50% capacity. All staff members are reporting to the office on a part time, rotating basis to stay within capacity limits and are working from home the remainder of the time. Office hours continue to be Monday through Friday 8:00am thru 4:30pm.

Since April 2020 all board and committee meetings have been held virtually. Visitors are able to see and hear the meetings live via the Internet. We will return to in-person meetings as soon as it is safe to do so, but for now we will continue with virtual meetings. Instructions for public access are posted on the board website in advance of each meeting.

The spring 2020 meeting of the Southern Zone of NCEES member boards was cancelled. The August 2020 NCEES annual meeting was held virtually with an abbreviated agenda. The Southern Zone member boards met virtually in mid-April, 2021. Current plans for the July 2021 NCEES annual meeting in New Orleans are for an "in-person" meeting but with a reduced number of delegates from each state in order to stay within capacity limits at the meeting venue.

2020 saw numerous cancellations of NCEES license exams including both paper-based exams as well as computer based exams. Computer based testing venues are back open, but with reduced capacity. So far, venues in Kentucky seem to be meeting the demand for exam seats. The April and October 2021 paper based exams are being held but at reduced capacity. Here again, we are seeing no scheduling issues as our test venue is big enough to meet the demand while maintaining adequate social distancing.

License Renewals

If you are a licensed Professional Engineer (PE) and/or Professional Land Surveyor (PLS) and the first letter of your last name is within the range A thru K, your license will expire on June 30, 2021.

You can renew your license online. Just go to the board website www.kyboels.ky.gov then click "Already Licensed" and follow the prompts, or type this link in your browser: <https://kyboels.ky.gov/Renewals/Pages/default.aspx> Once you are there, just answer a few questions and pay with your credit card.

While we have made the renewal process easy. There are a few important tips to remember.

- Renew on time. All licenses expire on June 30 of the licensee's renewal year. Those who renew after that date will be charged a 10% late payment penalty for each month or part of a month that the renewal is late. Moreover, while the regulations permit a licensee to renew his or her license for up to a year after it expires, the licensee is not authorized to practice engineering or surveying on an expired license.
- Answer all renewal questions completely and honestly. This includes questions about compliance with CPD, disciplinary action by another licensing board, and criminal convictions. If there is an issue, board staff will work with you to resolve it. Providing false information on a renewal application can be grounds for disciplinary action against your license.
- Avoid a Late Renewal CPD Audit. Any licensee who renews on or after September 1 of his or her renewal year is subject to an automatic CPD audit. This is one more reason to renew on time!
- The board sends out a renewal notice to every active license holder at least 30 days prior to the expiration date to the address provided to the board by the licensee. This notice notwithstanding, each individual licensee is ultimately responsible for maintaining his or her license in current status. We therefore suggest that you set a reminder in whatever calendar or scheduling system you use to make sure you don't miss a renewal. Additionally it is a good idea to regularly update your contact information to the board, including mailing address, email address and telephone numbers.

Firm Renewals

All Business Entity Permits (aka Firm Permits) expire on December 31 every year. The rules regarding late renewal penalties and prohibition of practice while expired apply to Firm Permits in the same way as they apply to individual licenses.

The window for online renewal of Firm Permits will open about Mid-November. Please mark your calendars accordingly.

Exams

The transition to Computer Based Testing (CBT) is almost complete. With the exception of the Structural Engineering PE exams, all of the remaining paper based exams will be administered for the last time in paper based format in October 2021.

Beginning in 2022 the paper based Structural exams will be administered on a regional basis at approximately 16 locations across the country. NCEES has not yet announced those locations.

Calendar of Events 2021

April 22-23	NCEES Paper & Pencil Exams	Louisville
June 14	Registration for October Exams Opens	
July 21-23	KSPE Annual Convention	Lexington
July 29	Committee Meetings	Virtual
July 30	Board Meeting	Virtual
August 19-20	NCEES Annual Meeting	New Orleans
August 26	Registration for October Exams Closes	
Sept. 29-Oct 2	KAPS Annual Conference	Lexington
Oct. 21 & 22	NCEES Paper & Pencil Exams	Louisville
October 28	Committee Meetings	Virtual
October 29	Board Meeting	Virtual

For up to date information on the NCEES schedule for both paper based and computer based exams, visit <https://ncees.org/exams/schedule/>

For public access instructions for all board and committee meetings, visit <https://kyboels.ky.gov/Pages/Calendar.aspx>

ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS SUMMARY
For The Period
Jan. 1, 2021 – March 31, 2021
Kyle Elliott, Director of Enforcement

JOSEPH H. SIMMONS, JR., PLS

In late 2018, the Board of Licensure received a written complaint from a landowner in Daviess County, KY. The landowner alleged that Joseph Simmons' survey of his neighbor's property deviated from the Standards required by the Board. A subsequent investigation by the Board found multiple violations of the Standards of Practice (201 KAR 18:150) of a technical nature. A review of three recent survey plats also found the same violations of the Standards. To resolve these violations, Mr. Simmons entered into a Consent Decree with the Board of Licensure wherein he acknowledged the violations and agreed to: (1) receive a written reprimand; (2) pay an administrative fine of \$1,000; (3) complete a four-hour seminar in the Standards of Practice within six months; and (4) have his land surveying license placed on probation for 2 years with quarterly project reviews. The Board of Licensure approved this Consent Decree on April 9, 2021.