



## ALABAMA BOARD OF LICENSURE FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS & LAND SURVEYORS

May 2009

# The Board's Bulletin

## News and Information

### Governor Appoints New Board Member

During the past year Governor Riley appointed Mr. C. Michael Arnold, Professional Land Surveyor, to the Board. Mr. Arnold has more than 30 years experience in the land surveying field, primarily in the Baldwin County, Alabama area. The majority of Mr. Arnold's experience has been with boundary surveys, topography, mortgage loan closing surveys, subdivision development, land development, title research, elevation certificates, etc. He has served as President, Vice-President, and District Director for the Alabama Society of Professional Land Surveyors. Mr. Arnold has also been an instructor for the National Business Institute on several occasions teaching Land Surveying and Boundary Law in the State of Alabama. He has also been an instructor for the Muscle Shoals Community College at the State of Alabama Highway Department, 9th Division, Mobile, Alabama, teaching Basic Surveying.

Mr. Arnold replaces Mr. Veston Bush who served the Board with distinction for 10 years. The Board expresses its gratitude and heartfelt appreciation to Mr. Bush for his service to the State of Alabama and the Engineering and Land Surveying communities.



#### 2008 & 2009 Legislative General Session

Many times the board has been asked about its role in monitoring legislation. The Board does not have a paid lobbyist. Regina Dinger, as the Board's Executive Director, is the Board's lobbyist. Ms. Dinger has the authority to monitor pending legislation and to represent the Board when necessary. It is her responsibility to monitor pending legislation that affects the day to day administration of the board's office as well as bills that may affect the regulation of the engineering

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and surveying professions. Ms. Dinger does not lobby on business related issues. It is the professional societies' and individual licensees' responsibility to let the legislature know their comments on that type of pending legislation.

Any legislative session is a busy time. Hundreds of bills may be introduced on any given day. Legislation needs to be reviewed, amendments may need to be prepared and there may be a need to testify at a committee.

In 2008, at the Board's request, a bill was introduced that increased the composition of the Board by 1 PE and 1 PLS. The bill also changed the comity licensing application process without decreasing licensure requirements. The bill successfully passed through both the Senate and House of Representatives Committees. Due to the significant backlog in the legislative bodies, the bill never made it to a vote by the entire legislature. Similar bills have been introduced in the 2009 Legislative Session. The House and Senate bills are both moving through the legislative process. We are optimistic for passage of the bill.

Also introduced in the legislature was a bill that would have created a rural land surveyor classification. The bill sponsors explained that the bill was designed to provide additional ways by which individuals in the state's rural areas could get surveying services. The proposed language would have created a separate surveying classification with less licensing requirements. A concerted effort was made by the Board, the professional societies, and individual licensees to explain to the legislature why the proposed bill was bad for the citizens of Alabama. It is the Board's belief that all areas of Alabama should be held to the same standard and that all property owners should expect the same service. Due to those efforts, the bills were never considered at the committee level.

The 2009 General Session began in February 2009. The Board is once again being vigilant to bills that are introduced. Remember, the Board *still needs each of you to take an active role.*



## Social Security Number Requirements

Title 30, Section 30-3-194(a) of the *Alabama State Code*, 1975 states:

"Any agency charged with the administration of any law concerning the issuance or renewal of a license, certificate, permit, or other authorization to drive a private or commercial motor vehicle or to engage in a profession, occupation, or recreational, sporting, or commercial activity shall require all applicants for issuance or renewal of the license, certificate, permit, or other authorization to provide the applicant's Social Security number to the agency, which agency shall record the Social Security number on the application and related records maintained by the agency." In keeping with this provision of the Alabama State Code, any application submitted to the Board must list the applicant's US Social Security Number. This applies to all original, renewal and/or reinstatement applications for:

FE, FLS, PE, PLS, ALLS, or Certificate of Authorization. Those foreign nationals making application must have a valid US Social Security Number. The Canadian Social Insurance Number cannot be used in lieu of the US Social Security Number.

## Exam Cheating ...

In last year's bulletin we republished an article titled "Cheating on Exams is Serious Business." This was a repeat of an article published by NCEES. Based on the comments and questions that the board staff has received on this issue, we realize that there is some confusion.

Let me first say that the Board takes seriously any falsification of an application and will take serious action on anyone proven to have cheated on an examination. To date NO individual has been found to have cheated on any of the exams administered in Alabama.