

Maryland Professional Engineer

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Maryland Society of Professional Engineers

A state society of the National Society of Professional Engineers

- Promoting the ethical, competent and licensed practice of engineering
- Enhancing the professional, social and economic well-being of our members

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State Board Fines Unlicensed Architect; He Signed Engineering Drawings As Well

Fomer MDSPE Member Had False Seal Produced

By Robert L. Mead
Executive Director, MDSPE

Darren D. Comedy must pay the State of Maryland \$20,000 for violating the state architecture practice statute. Although not licensed, he signed and sealed at least a dozen architectural and engineering drawings submitted to the Prince George's County building permits office. He did not deny the allegations.

The State Board of Architects levied the civil penalties after finding that Mr. Comedy violated these provisions of the act:

- Practicing without a license.
- Providing services without permit.
- Misrepresentation as authorized practitioner.
- Misrepresentation that business may provide service.

The fines were the highest ever levied by the architect board.

A former employee filed the complaint against Mr. Comedy. She had worked for him for two years without realizing he did not have a license. She decided to do an on-line check

of his licensing status while going through the permitting process for a new architectural firm she had formed.

"What I did was terrible," Mr. Comedy told the Board. He said he was thankful to the Complainant for filing the complaint with the Board. He also stated that after the complaint was filed, his firm applied for and received a permit from the Board.

Stan E. Wildesen, P.E., the P.G. County building code official, said in a telephone interview that it is not all that rare for an unlicensed person to misuse someone else's seal. In one recent case in that county, a man used his deceased father's seal. In another case, a local man used the seal of a professional engineer who had moved to Florida.

Mr. Wildesen said his office randomly checks license status with the state Boards. Usually, though, it is another licensed professional who blows the whistle.

Continued on page 9

Newly Licensed P.E.s To Be Honored At Fall Banquet Hosted by Baltimore Chapter

The Baltimore Chapter MDSPE/NSPE will host a banquet at the Engineers Club of Baltimore on Friday evening, Nov. 21. The club is located in the prestigious and historic Garrett-Jacobs Mansion at 11 West Mount Vernon Place in Baltimore. The banquet will give members an opportunity to meet with all of your state officers and directors, members of the Past Presidents Council and welcome the newly licensed engineers.

There will be a special, streamlined MDSPE Board of Directors meeting and a presentation of the Future Cities competition by Chris Moen, P.E., a bridge engineer with Parsons Transportation. Future Cities national director Carol Rieg will be a guest.

Order of the Engineer Link 59 will also conduct an induction ceremony for those who wish to participate.

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- October 22 & 23**
Professional Development Workshop
"River Geomorphology "
Montgomery College Rockville
8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
- October 23**
MDSPE Executive Committee Meeting
- October 24**
ESB "Boiler Blast" Fundraiser
Garrett-Jacobs Mansion, Baltimore
- November 5 & 6**
Professional Development Workshop
"Stream Classification Procedures "
Montgomery College, Rockville
8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
- November 13**
State Board for Prof. Engineers Meeting
500 N. Calvert St., Balto., MD
- November 21**
MDSPE Board of Directors Meeting & MDSPE
Fall Banquet
Hosted by Baltimore Chapter
The Engineers Club of Baltimore
- December 11**
MDSPE Executive Committee Meeting
- December 11**
State Board for Prof. Engineers Meeting
500 N. Calvert St., Balto., MD
- December 19**
Professional Development Workshop
"When & How to Write a CYA Letter"
KCI Technologies, Hunt Valley, MD
12 noon - 2:30 p.m.
- January 8, 2004**
State Board for Prof. Engineers Meeting
500 N. Calvert St., Balto., MD
- January 22, 2004**
MDSPE Executive Committee Meeting
- February 12, 2004**
State Board for Prof. Engineers Meeting
500 N. Calvert St., Balto., MD
- February 26, 2004**
MDSPE Executive Committee Meeting
- March 11, 2004**
State Board for Prof. Engineers Meeting
500 N. Calvert St., Balto., MD
- March 25, 2004**
MDSPE Executive Committee Meeting

Why You Need Both NSPE and Your Technical Society

James D. Lesikar, II, PhD., PE, F-NSPE
President



What is so unique about membership in the Maryland Society of Professional Engineers?

Why isn't membership in my engineering technical society sufficient?

In talks before various groups, I stress the need for engineering professionals to hold membership in both their technical society and in their one true professional society, the National Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE). Your technical society will keep you up to date in your specialty field, through

its magazines and newsletters, journals and conferences, and provides networking and leadership opportunities at the local, regional, national, and technical committee level. NSPE will keep you up-to-date on issues that affect your professional practice, across all engineering disciplines, through "Engineering Times," the state society and local newsletters, regional and national meetings. It also provides networking and leadership opportunities at the local, regional, and national level.

Clearly, membership in your technical society is mandatory – this will keep you up-to-the-minute in new developments in your field, and provides the all-important networking opportunities for career growth.

NSPE and its state and local partners will keep you current on the non-technical issues that affect your engineering practice – state engineering laws, legislative, judicial and regulatory concerns at all levels, contract and liability issues, licensure mobility, international practice, and ethics, among others.

Of course, there are areas of overlap between NSPE and the technical societies. Job boards, benefits (term life insurance, credit cards, rental car discounts, etc.), and some non-technical issues of concern. As an example of the latter, NSPE has the Board of Ethical Review, and the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) has the Board of Professional Practice and Ethics. The ASME BPPE is of course mainly interested in what affects mechanical engineers, but they do have a liaison to NSPE.

NSPE is also the right organization to be a member of if you are concerned about the international mobility of your license, international marketing of your engineering services, and offering of engineering services to America from outside the country. NSPE is one of only four member organizations that comprise

the United States Council for International Engineering Practice. The other member organizations are the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying, ABET, Inc., and the American Council of Engineering Companies.

Chances are, the only one of these that you can join as an individual is NSPE (ACEC is for companies, NCEES is for state PE licensing board members, and ABET membership is by a complicated nomination process). USCIEP has concerned itself with the Mutual Recognition Document with Mexico and Canada under NAFTA, and participates with other organizations including the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Engineer Coordinating Committee, the Engineers Mobility Forum, and the Transatlantic Economic Partnership.

Most organizations participate in some legislative activities, usually limited to visiting the offices of state and national delegates/representatives/senators and providing an educational service, information packages on the Society, or a list of concerns affecting constituents of the office being visited. The prime goal is to let a staff member of the office (on rare occasions the office-holder is also in attendance) know about the assistance that the technical society can provide to them, such as policy papers and some research services. The goal is to be a trusted impartial resource to the office.

I attended a CVD with the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA) earlier this year, and found the experience to be quite rewarding, but it could not be construed as lobbying.

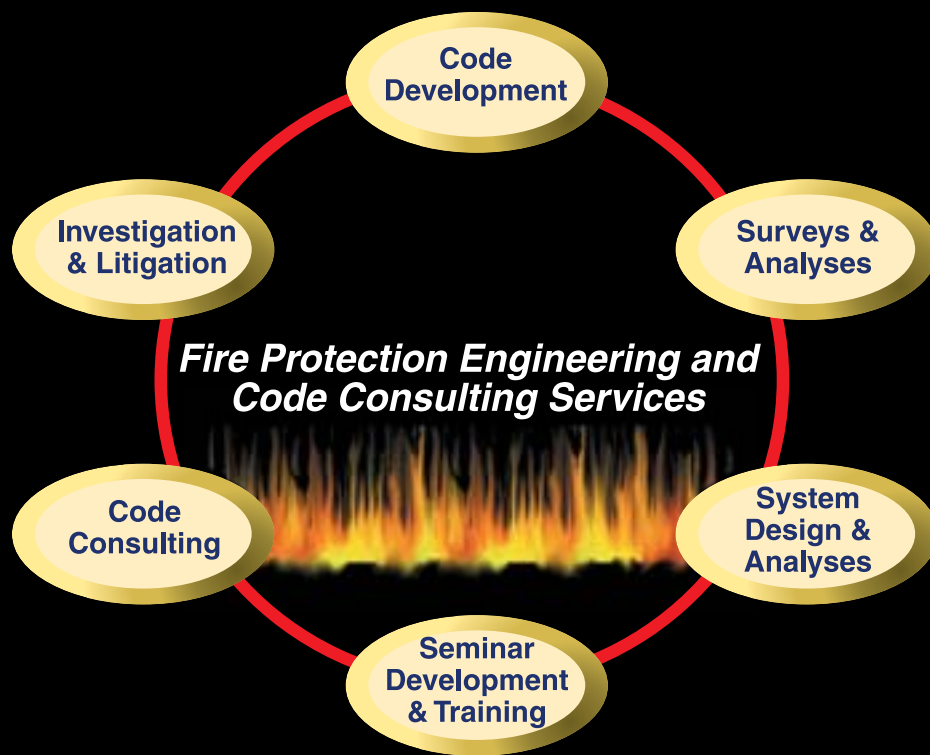
Of course, any society can encourage its members to write their representatives about their individual concerns and opinions on pending legislation. In actuality, the technical societies are usually organized as IRS 501 (c) (3) entities, so they can educate, they can monitor, and can encourage constituent members to write their congressman, but they are barred from lobbying! NSPE and your state society, MDSPE, are organized as 301 (c) (6), so lobbying is permitted. The only other organization that I have mentioned in this letter that does lobbying is ACEC.

MDSPE lobbyists can approach all Maryland delegates and Senators and influence the introduction of new legislation, or the advocacy or rejection of pending legislation. MDSPE dues pay for these activities, which are for the benefit of all Maryland Professional Engineers, not just those who are MDSPE members. For those of you who are not yet members, we are working on your behalf anyway, please join us and support our efforts. For those who are current members, I hope this will help you appreciate the value of your membership, and we can expect you to be a member for many years to come!



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State High Court Grants MDSPE “Amicus” Status In Appeal of Eastern Shore Easement Case

By Robert L. Mead
Executive Director, MDSPE

Maryland’s Court of Appeals has granted MDSPE amicus curiae (friend of the court) status and accepted our brief in a curious case involving access to a land-locked parcel of property in Dorchester County owned by long-time MDSPE member Harold “Skip” Miller and his wife Bride.

While the Society routinely intervenes in legislative and administrative matters, this is the first time in recent memory that we have sought to intervene in an appellate court case. The case is to be decided by the State’s highest court in its September 2003 term.

The Maryland Association of Realtors, Inc., also filed an amicus brief in the case seeking a reversal of the rulings of lower courts.

“Engineers are often called upon to design and participate in the construction of various sorts of improvements to realty,” wrote Baltimore attorney Jack L.B. Gohn in the MDSPE brief. “All such improvements must be situated in the buildable area of a parcel, as defined by the rights of the owner or easement holder established in the parcel’s deed history. If the lower court rulings in this case are upheld, they will render largely unknowable what portion of an easement for ingress and egress is truly buildable.

“Easements for ingress and egress, in particular, are frequently paved to the very margins of the easement. If the holder of the servient tenement can unilaterally decide, years into the existence of the easement, to render 40 per cent of the physical extent of the easement effectively off limits to the dominant user on the grounds that the full extent is not “reasonably necessary to the dominant user’s use, the engineer can neither intelligently plan nor safely participate in any particular design or construction on the easement.

“Effectively all design and construction of access roads and structures would be chilled, or at best rendered far more expensive, as a lawyer’s opinion would be required before any improvement could be assayed.”

Gohn urged the court on behalf of MDSPE to adopt a per se rule that an easement for ingress and egress includes the right of unfettered physical access up to the boundaries of the easement, and to construct improvements consistent with the purpose of the easement up to those boundaries.

“The Court should reject any contention that the physical extent of an easement may be unilaterally narrowed by the holder of the servient tenement merely because the physical extent of the easement may not be, or may not be perceived to be, required for the purpose granted,” he wrote. “Instead, once an easement has been granted in a certain-sized area for a use, the whole area should remain available for that use.”

Lower Court Record

The case had its roots nearly 50 years ago when Thomas and Ethel Galbreath Jr. subdivided their Travers Farm into two parcels. Their survey platted a 20-foot wide right-of-way as a means of unrestricted access to and from the waterfront parcel and the public road.

The Galbreaths deeded the waterfront parcel now owned by the Millers to Stanton and Ruth Davis in 1958. The deed stated that the conveyance was subject to the right-of-way, and the survey was recorded in the land records. It is undisputed that there were no fences in the right-of-way when it was created. In 1966 Roger and Elsie Kirkpatrick acquired the roadside parcel, which is now owned by two of their children.

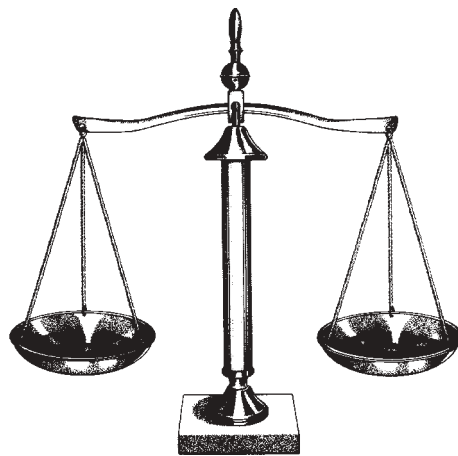
In July 2000, one of the Kirkpatricks erected parallel barbed wire fences along each side of the road, narrowing the roadway to approximately 12 feet. The Millers filed suit, seeking removal of the fence.

At the conclusion of the Dorchester County Circuit Court trial, the judge declared that the Millers hold a 20-foot easement across the Kirkpatrick property. Nevertheless, the jury found no interference by the Kirkpatricks and declined to award compensatory damages to the Millers. And the judge refused to order removal of the fences from the right-of-way.

A three-judge panel of the Court of Special Appeals upheld the circuit court rulings, and the full court refused to hear an appeal.

At that point, the Millers filed an appeal with the Court of Appeals and both MDSPE and the Realtors association asked the court to accept the appeal and accept our briefs. The Court accepted the case in July and heard verbal arguments in early September.

Easton Attorney Michael J. Jacobs represented the Millers in the case.



In Future Cities Competition, Students Design for Seniors

Among the many concerns of American seventh- and eighth-graders, add a new one to the mix: Make the world a better place for senior citizens. For more than 30,000 middle school students participating in the 2004 National Engineers Week Future City Competition, designing ways to improve the health and safety of the nation's seniors will be a number one priority.

Baltimore schools now participate in the Washington area competition, which has 35 schools this year. Baltimore's Roland Park School was one of the winners.

Each year, Future City invites young people across the United States to create a city of tomorrow.

What began in 1992 as a modest outreach program by the nation's engineering community to encourage interest in math and science has grown ten-fold to become one of the most popular educational programs of its kind. More than 1,000 middle schools will field teams at one of 36 regional competitions in January. First place regional winners receive an all-expense-paid trip to national finals in Washington, D.C., during National Engineers Week, February 22-28, 2004. Grand prize is a trip to U.S. Space Camp in Huntsville, Alabama.

Working with a teacher and volunteer engineer mentor, students first design a city on computer using Sim City 3000 software, donated to each school by Maxis, based in Walnut Creek, Calif., and then build a three-dimensional scale model. This year, they must also write an essay on improving the lives of senior citizens through the use of plastic products or services.

Competition organizers say the needs of seniors are an especially timely theme since the over-60 population is the nation's fastest growing demographic.

Creating solutions that make life better for older people is already a major concern of engineers, one likely to become only more pressing with the graying of America.

To answer the competition's essay question, "How can plastics be used to help senior citizens in the future?" the students must work within the parameters of current trends. Lower crime rates, improved living conditions, and higher education levels will result in an ever-increasing population of citizens who live longer. To deal with that reality, Future City teams must develop

a product or a service using a plastic product that increases flexibility, provides additional functionality, or otherwise enhances senior citizen health and safety. The American Plastics Council, sponsors of this year's Future City essay question, notes that plastics have a wide diversity of uses and include such well-known names as Bakelite, cellophane, nylon, polyethylene, PVC, rayon, saran, Teflon and Velcro.

Wrestling with such a challenge is typical of Future City, according to Carol Rieg, the program's National Director. "Future City has plenty of room for imagination and fun, and this is what draws the students in," says Rieg, "but it's the program's academic difficulty that keeps them involved. Students who might otherwise feel there's no purpose in learning math and science end up spending hours using those very subjects to find solutions for their city. They have a stake in their city and they'll do whatever work is required to achieve their goals."



Learn More About Future Cities At Our Nov. 21 Banquet In Balto.

You can learn more about the Future Cities Competition and how you may participate in it at the Nov. 21 MDSPE Banquet at the Engineers Club in Baltimore.

Schools need engineers as mentors for this program. Retired P.E.s are particularly sought. Learn how you help guide a local school's team through next year's competition.

Contact the MDSPE office to make your reservation.

Future City fosters that kind of determination, Rieg adds, since the essence of engineering is solving problems. "Students who understand the importance of math and science and the value of working together as a team have the foundation for a career in engineering and many other professions," she says.

Helping senior citizens is in keeping with the way Future City forces students to deal with all the realities of a functioning city. Students must build their city with a balanced budget while fighting crime, pollution and traffic jams and providing jobs, schools and leisure activities.

If it sounds difficult, it is. But as one student remarked last year, "It's one of the hardest things I've ever done, and one of the most fun."

Are Municipal Employees Exempt from P.E. License Requirement?

An anonymous letter and a Frederick newspaper article were the topic of discussion at a recent meeting of the P.E. Board. The issue: appointment of an interim-director of someone not licensed as a Professional Engineer to head the city's engineering department.

It was not first time the Board has discussed the issue.

"Upon researching the law," wrote the anonymous correspondent, "it would appear that the person referenced in the article is in responsible charge of the referenced municipal engineering department and that his duties constitute the practice of Engineering as defined in the Business Occupations and Profession volume of the Annotated Code of Maryland, Section 14-101.

"It appears clear that there is no exception which allows this." Actually, it's not all that clear.

The P.E. Board discussed the Frederick issue a year ago, responding to a letter raising issues related to what the writer asserted to be the practice of engineering by employees not licensed as professional engineers.

Responding for the Board, Assistant Attorney General Milena Y. Trust wrote that "in some instances employees of a municipality may be exempt from licensing requirements that would otherwise be applicable if services were rendered by individuals employed by private entities."

Ms. Trust wrote:

"Licensing requirements under Maryland law apply to a 'person' as defined in the Business Regulations Article, Annotated Code of Maryland. In *Mayor and City Council vs. Baltimore Gas Co.*, 212 Md123, the Maryland Court of Appeals stated that '[t]he State and its creature, a municipal corporation, generally are not included within the class meant by the words person, corporation or body corporate in a statute, although they may be . . .'. Therefore, unless the City of Frederick has a local law in place in the form of an ordinance, resolution, etc., that specifically requires certain positions to be filled by a professional engineer, the City of Frederick employees may perform engineering services without a professional engineer's license as long as they are supervised by a licensed professional engineer.'

DGS Procedural Manual Now Posted on Web

The Maryland Department of General Services Procedure Manual for Professional Services, July 2003 edition, is now available on the DGS internet website at www.dgs.state.md.us, according to William R. Gluck, P.E., chief of the Project Management & Design Division in the Office of Facilities Planning, Design & Construction.

The manual can be accessed by clicking on the 'Facilities Planning, Design & Construction' link. On the right side of the screen, scroll down to the 'Professional Services' heading. There are two documents under that heading.

First is the July 1998 Procedure Manual currently in use on a

number of on-going projects. When those projects are completed, the document will be removed from the website. There are three parts to the document: Part I consisting of Divisions I, II and III; Part II consisting of Attachments 1 through 14; and an Errata Sheet.

These documents are in pdf format, and can be opened, printed and downloaded with Adobe Acrobat Reader.

Second is the new July 2003 Procedure Manual. This manual will govern all A/E professional services contracts currently under selection and in the future. There are three parts to this document as well: Part I consisting of Chapters I through VII; Part II consisting of Appendices A through G; and Part III consisting of Attachments 1 through 14. These documents are in pdf format, and can be opened, printed and downloaded with Adobe Acrobat Reader.

As future changes are made to the July 2003 Procedure Manual, notices will be posted on the DGS Office of Facilities Planning, Design and Construction website. It will be the users' responsibility to check periodically for updates. It is anticipated that updates will be posted no more frequently than semiannually. If you have any questions or comments, call Bill Gluck at 410-767-4439 or at Bill.Gluck@dgs.state.md.us.

STATE P.E. BOARD NEWS

"Skip" Herclerode Named to P.E. Board

H.C. "Skip" Harclerode, P.E., succeeds George Szego, P.E., Ph.D., as the chemical engineer member of the Maryland State Board of Professional Engineers. Gov. Robert Erlich appointed him to a five-year term starting July 1. He earned his bachelor's and master's degrees in Chemical Engineering at the University of Maryland College Park and is a registered Professional Engineer in Maryland, Delaware, Virginia and the District of Columbia.

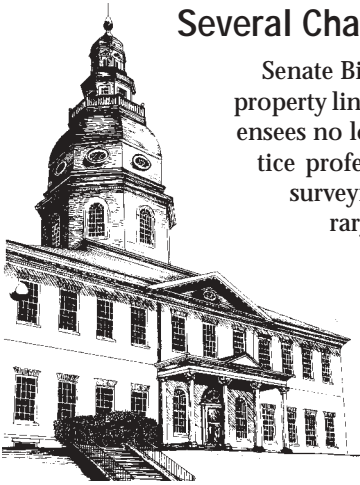
Skip has been a member of MDSPE since 1980 and is a consultant with KBD Engineering Company in Phoenix, Md.

He has worked in the environmental and chemical engineering field at Lever Brothers, Allied Chemical and W.R. Grace. He is a past treasurer of MDSPE and was an NSPE Congressional Scholar in 1981-82, serving on the staff of Senator Pete Domenici.

Mel Hotz Reelected to Chair Board

Mel Hotz, P.E., has been reelected to chair the Maryland State Board for Professional Engineers and Eugene Harvey, P.E., has been reelected vice chair. Sallye Perrin, P.E., was chosen to replace George Szego as secretary of the Board. Mel has completed his term as vice president of NCEES. He was the recipient of MDSPE's Distinguished Service Award in 2002.

New Laws Affect Design Professionals



Several Changes to Surveyor Law

Senate Bill 476 creates a retired land or property line surveyor status for certain licensees no longer wishing to actively practice professional land or property line surveying. It also eliminates temporary and limited licenses and repeals a statutory waiting period for reexamination after two failures and provides for reexamination upon submittal of updated experience. This act is effective Oct. 1.

Continuing Education for Architects

Senate Bill 614 requires a licensed architect seeking renewal or reinstatement of a license to complete 12 hours of continuing education credits per year, including 8 hours that relate to the health, safety, and welfare of the general public. The continuing education work must have a clear purpose to maintain, improve, or expand relevant skills and knowledge; be presented in a well-organized and sequential manner; provide evidence of pre-planning which must include the opportunity for input by the group to be served; be conducted by persons who are well-qualified based on education or experience; and provide for documentation of an individual's participation. The act is effective on Oct. 1. The program is modeled on AIA's national program.

PSC Must Hire Pipeline Engineer

House Bill 794 requires the Public Service Commission (PSC), in collaboration with the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, to establish and adopt by regulation methods and best practices for intrastate pipeline facilities used for the transportation of hazardous liquids. The methods must include quantitative criteria to determine whether a wrinkle or other deformity may remain in a pipeline or should be remedied. The bill also requires intrastate pipeline operators to make certain notifications to PSC and the National Response Center, the PSC to notify the National Response Center when certain errors or new information are discovered and certain annual reports from intrastate pipeline operators to PSC and owners of real property on which pipelines are located or adjacent or contiguous to real property on which pipelines are located. The bill also requires PSC to hire an engineer who specializes in the storage of and transportation of hazardous liquid materials by pipeline and provide training for its current staff members who deal with hazardous liquid pipelines. The act was effective July 1, 2003.

Interior Designer Board Extended

Senate Bill 267 extends the State Board of Certified Interior Designers until 2014 and restricts the number of consecutive years an officer may serve. The bill also requires a joint meeting of the chairmen of design professional licensing boards and a joint newsletter, and requires reports of the design professionals licensing boards. These provisions took effect July 1, 2003. This bill also created the State Occupational and Professional Licensing Design Boards' Fund and alters fee setting authority for five design professional licensing boards, all of which will become special funded boards. These provisions took effect June 1.

MDSPE PEOPLE

Mark Andrews Moves Up At Martin/Wright

Mark C. Andrews, P.E., is now Director of the Wealth Management group of Martin/Wright & Company, LLC, of Springfield, Mass. Mark's office is in Hunt Valley, Md. Mark is president of MDSPE's Chesapeake/Susquehanna Chapter and chair of our Order of the Engineer link.

Robert Gagnon Honored By Fire Protection Society

Robert M. Gagnon was awarded the 2003 Harold E. Nelson Service Award by the Society of Fire Protection Engineers. The award recognizes dedicated and inspired service to the ideals and goals of the society.

Robert has a long history of service to SFPE, both at the Chesapeake chapter as a long-standing board member and past

president. More recently he has served as the founding member and chair of the SFPE Careers Task Force that has spearheaded the Society's efforts to inform high school students about fire protection engineering.

He also serves as co-chair of the Engineering Licensing Committee, which is responsible for the development of the P.E. exam in fire protection engineering. He is an adjunct professor at the University of Maryland and author of three texts on fire protection systems and a chapter in the NFPA Fire Protection Handbook.

Correction

In our most recent edition, we incorrectly identified new member Ernest Addo as a mechanical engineer and we misspelled his surname. Our apologies. Ernest is an electrical engineer and is an associate engineer at PEPCO.

State Board Fines Unlicensed Architect from page 1

Comedy Had Seal Made

Mr. Comedy didn't use anyone else's seal. He told the Board that he had the seal made and just picked the number 1960.

The number he randomly selected happened to belong to a licensed architect who lives out of state and who did not know Mr. Comedy nor at any time authorize the use of that number.

Mr. Comedy was and continues to be a principal of Cedar Design. The firm's web site lists him as "president, architectural & interior design." He testified that he had studied architecture at Howard University but didn't receive a degree. He also studied at Tidewater Community College. He said that he took an architectural licensing examination in the District of Columbia, and that he had received a certificate from the Maryland Board of Certified Interior Designers.

Cedar Design was founded in 1990, according to the web site, as "an architectural firm specializing in residential dwellings, office planning, church design and interior design." A number of staff members listed on the web site are currently licensed as architect or professional engineer.

The complainant, Sharon D. Graeber, testified that Mr. Comedy represented to her during her employment at Cedar that he is a licensed Maryland architect. She said that various submissions made by Cedar to individual clients, as well as to permitting agencies, bore an architectural seal with his name and number 1960-A on them.

She attached to her complaint copies of portions of site plan drawings and cover sheet drawings prepared by Cedar Design in connection with various projects. All of the attached drawings contain the fraudulent seal.

Ms. Graeber testified that Mr. Comedy has been continuously identified as a Maryland licensed architect and a member of Cedar's key staff in a Statement of Qualifications book that was routinely presented by Cedar Design to potential clients.

She testified that a number of projects listed as "completed projects" on the Cedar web page were in fact either not completed or were completed by someone other than Cedar Design. She also stated that the sets of construction documents for the following projects contained Mr. Comedy's alleged seal:

- Mt. Calvary Baptist Church, Lanham
- Walker Mill Lot No. 2, District Heights
- New Life Rock of Ages Christian Fellowship, Forestville

Behdad Kashanian, section head of the Permits & Review Division at P.G. County Department of Environmental Resources, testified that between 1999 and 2001 his office received docu-

ments containing Mr. Comedy's seal in connection with the following projects:

- Triumphant Baptist Church, Hyattsville
- Devereaux Corporation Demolition Plan, Greenbelt
- Williams Auto Repair, District Heights
- New Vision Baptist Church, Lanham
- Church of the Lord's Disciples, District Heights
- River of Life Church, Marlow Heights
- Eagle's Nest Life General Church, Temple Hills
- Metro Paving Corporation, Hyattsville

He testified that Mr. Comedy's purported seal appeared on engineering documents as well as architectural documents in connection with some of the projects. These included, for example, Eagle's Nest Life General Church.

"Fraught with Deceit"

In its Memorandum and Order in the case, the Architect Board stated:

"The Respondent's actions are fraught with deceit and misrepresentation. He worked on projects that included day care centers and numerous houses of worship. He totally misled unsuspecting private clients, as well as the Prince George's County permit officials who issued permits partially relying on the Respondent's seal."

The Board noted that Mr. Comedy, by placing his seal on engineering drawings, might be in direct violation of the professional engineer statute, and that it does not believe his statement to the effect that he is relieved that this matter has come to life.

"The Board is particularly concerned that many of the projects that the Respondent worked on were intended for use by large groups of people, churches and day care centers," they state in their

Memorandum and Order.

"The potential risk to these individuals of visiting buildings designed by an unlicensed, unqualified person is staggering. The Respondent harmed children, parents, parishioners, as well as many other members of the public, who thought that the buildings that they had been using were constructed pursuant to drawings prepared by a responsible, competent architect. Instead, an individual who deceived them and misrepresented himself as a licensed architect prepared those drawings."

Was MDSPE Member

Mr. Comedy was a member of MDSPE from September 1991 until August 2001. He claimed to have earned a degree in architectural engineering from Howard University in 1981. Two other employees of the Cedar firm are also members. The firm has also been an associated member of the Potomac Valley Chapter of AIA.





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The NSPE Job Board is your resource for professional engineering employment, offering employers immediate posting and job seekers a robust search capability. NSPE's Job Board takes employers step-by-step through the job-posting process, and job seekers can search by discipline or region/state. Visit <http://www.nspe.org/em1-clas.asp> for details.

WISE Internships Available for Summer

WISE (Washington Internships for Students of Engineering) offers a unique opportunity to 3rd and 4th year engineering students to spend the summer of 2004 in Washington, DC. Recent graduates, beginning study in an engineering policy-related Master's program, will also be considered. During their internship they will learn how government officials make decisions on complex technological issues and how engineers can contribute to legislative and regulatory public policy decisions.

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The Interns will be under the guidance of a nationally prominent engineering professor. A \$2,100 stipend is provided. Lodging will also be covered.

Each student in the 2004 WISE program will be sponsored by one of seven participating organizations, which include NSPE.

Visit the WISE home page at <http://www.wise-intern.org> for more information and a downloadable application form.

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