



LOUISIANA ARCHITECTURAL NEWS

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“TEENYS TALK”

Well, by the temperature, I can tell our short spring is almost over. Hope you are doing well and staying busy. We have also been very busy. Since the last newsletter, we did have our meeting with all of the educational coordinators from the five schools of architecture in the State. The meeting was held in New Orleans in conjunction with a board meeting. In the evening, we had our first presentation for the newly licensed architects. We were very pleased with the outcome of all three meetings.



New Board Member

J. David Brinson is from Baton Rouge and replaces Glenn Angelle for District 3. Mr. Brinson served as the State IDP (Intern Development Program) Coordinator for over 20 years.

This year we will continue the same process and meet again with educational coordinators and also have a small ceremony for the newly licensed architects at the beginning of the AIA/ LA annual meeting which will be held in Baton Rouge at the Sheraton on Thursday, September 30. Several of you attended our award ceremony last year and honored the new licensees. If you are interested in attending this year, please let me or one of the board members know when the event gets closer and we will give you the time and room in which the presentation will be held.

The terms of Glenn Angelle and E. Wallace Elberson expired December 31, 2003. We hated to say good by to two great friends and very hard workers who had been serving faithfully for the last six years. They both will be missed greatly by the board, its staff, SC/NCARB and NCARB. One of the benefits in serving on the board is the opportunity to meet, in many instances, lifelong friends from other state boards associated with the National Council of

“All fine Architectural Values Are Human Values Else not Valuable”

Frank Lloyd



New Board Member

Allen Bacqué is from Lafayette and replaces Edwin W. Elberson for District 4.

Architectural Registration Boards.

We'd like to welcome as official board members, both of whom attended the spring meeting of SC/NCARB held in Deadwood, South Dakota, J. David Brinson and Allen Bacqué. As most of you know, Dave Brinson has been our one and only IDP State Coordinator since his appointment in the early 80's. He regularly attended meetings to present IDP reports but now we would like to welcome him as your new board member from District Three. Also Allen, what can I say, we both have had many laughs remembering his days of going through the ARE. Of course, I must note that he passed the entire exam the first time. Yes, I had the privilege of licensing him and have gone from him saying, “yes ma'am” to me saying “yes sir”. We welcome Mr. Bacqué as your new board member from District Four. We are working on so many exciting things and, at the same time, trying to improve our service to you. Please feel free to let me know of any suggestions you have for improving our newsletter, website, or office practices.



Board Members

Seated: Teeny Simmons – Executive Director; Henry V. Stout – President; Julian White – Educator; J. David Brinson

Standing Left to Right: Paul Spaht, Board Attorney; Allen Bacqué; John F. Morton, Jr. – Secretary; Knox Tumlin; John Cardone – Public Member

A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD ATTORNEY

Possible violations of the licensing law and board rules:

For the past few years, the board has handled most of the complaints alleging violations of the licensing law or the board rules through an informal procedure. Rather than incur the expense and time involved with a formal hearing before the full board (where witnesses testify, lawyers or others cross-examine, and a transcript is made), the complaint has been handled by two board members (appointed by the president) who met with the respondent, explained the nature of the complaint, presented the evidence deemed appropriate, listened to the respondent's explanation, and considered any evidence presented by the respondent, all with the goal of reaching some sort of mutually satisfactory stipulation, settlement agreement, or consent order disposing of the matter.

- This informal procedure has worked well, and the board recently decided to codify the informal procedure that has been used. A Notice of Intent to amend Rule §1903-Violations was published in the April issue of [The Louisiana Register](#). The highlights of this proposed amendment are:
- Information provided to the board which, if established as being true, would constitute cause for some sort of discipline or punishment, may be handled by the board by either (i) investigating the matter, (ii) referring the matter to an investigator, (iii) referring the matter to a board committee consisting of at least two board members, or (iv) filing its own complaint.
- If the information or complaint is referred to the board committee (and it is anticipated that most such matters will be so referred), the committee will conduct whatever investigation or inquiry it deems appropriate to determine whether the matter should be dismissed or pursued further.
- If the investigation shows that no violation of the licensing law or board rules has occurred, the matter will be dropped. If the investigation suggests that a violation may have occurred, a complaint against the respondent may be made by the committee.

The complaint (which the law requires be in the form of a sworn affidavit) will be provided

by: **Paul H. Spaht**

- The complaint (which the law requires be in the form of a sworn affidavit) will be provided to the respondent, who will be allowed a reasonable opportunity to respond and provide whatever information that he or she would like considered.
- At any time (even before a complaint is filed), the board, the committee, or the respondent may suggest an informal conference with the committee.
- The purpose of the informal conference is to attempt to resolve the matter via some sort of stipulation, agreement, or consent order satisfactory to both sides.
- The committee will recommend any proposed stipulation, agreement, or consent order to the full board for its consideration. The full board will decide whether the proposed resolution should be accepted, rejected, or amended.
- If the board accepts the proposed stipulation, agreement, or consent order, or proposes an amendment thereto which is acceptable to the respondent, the matter is concluded. This stipulation, agreement, or consent order may entail revocation, rescission, or suspension of license; probation; reprimand; admonishment, or a fine.
- If the board rejects the proposed stipulation, agreement, or consent order, or if the informal procedure is unsuccessful in resolving the matter, a full board hearing will be held.

The matters which come before the board concerning possible violations range from the frivolous to the most serious. The informal procedure provides the board the necessary flexibility to handle the various accusations and complaints, while at the same time providing full protection to the respondent.

Plan stamping:

The licensing law provides that an architect may affix his seal or stamp to a specification, drawing or other related document only if it was prepared by him or under his

responsible supervision. With advances in technology, affixing a seal or stamp is now simple and easy to do. Nonetheless, the requirement in the law that plans, specifications, and other such documents must be prepared by the architect or under the architect's responsible supervision has not changed. "Responsible supervision" is defined in Rule §1901.E.2.b. That definition is set forth on page 6 of this newsletter.

Emeritus architects:

Several questions have recently been asked concerning whether certain types of services disqualify a registrant from seeking emeritus status.

The performance of expert witness services alone does not disqualify a registrant from emeritus status; however, if serving as the expert witness also entails the practice of architecture as defined in the licensing law (La. R.S. 37:141.B.3), then that person would not be eligible for emeritus status, since that person would not be fully and completely retired from the practice of architecture.

The performance of "pro bono" services would disqualify a registrant from emeritus status, since such a registrant would not be fully and completely retired from the practice.

The performance of services not requiring registration may or may not disqualify a registrant from emeritus status. The key is whether the services performed constitute the practice of architecture as defined by the licensing law. See La. R.S. 37:141.B(3). If the services do not constitute the practice of architecture, as defined by this statute, the registrant would be eligible for emeritus status. Otherwise, the registrant would not be eligible.

IDP REPORT BY DAVID BRINSON – STATE IDP COORDINATOR

The IDP Coordinating Committee (IDPCC) meets again this month to consider issues related to developing policies for IDP. IDPCC only recommends policies to be implemented to the major stakeholders in the program. The committee is not itself an implementation authority. Both NCARB and AIA boards review any recommendations submitted by IDPCC and determine whether or not they will be incorporated in the program requirements or procedures. The Coordinating Committee is composed of representatives of the collateral organizations: AIA, NCARB, AIAS, CACE, and SDA as well as staff representatives from NCARB and AIA. Also on the committee are two IDP State Coordinators who are appointed by AIA. There are also two interns and a member of the National Associates Committee. Meetings and operations of IDPCC were interrupted for several years following the Intern Summit that was held in Louisville, Kentucky in 2000.

The issues that grew from the Intern Summit have altered not only the IDPCC's meeting schedule, but have resulted in changes to the IDP National Conference that is held annually. The conference now includes Educator Coordinators from the schools of architecture and representatives from NCARB member boards who are identified as "Member Board Liaisons".

Naturally, and unfortunately, not all the 55 jurisdictions, states or schools of architecture are represented at the annual conference. At this year's conference, the attendance increased over last year, but still only numbered about eighty participants. Not all the states, schools or jurisdictions are fortunate enough

to have their licensing boards, schools and AIA component as solidly behind IDP as Louisiana. Louisiana is recognized nationally as a leader in promoting and encouraging IDP. Since 1983, Louisiana has made completion of IDP through the NCARB record keeping process a pre-requisite for becoming licensed to practice architecture in Louisiana. The Louisiana State Board of Architectural Examiners assumed the responsibility for sponsoring the Intern Development Program in this state. The board determined that it would be one of only a few states at that time to accept IDP training as fulfillment of the state training requirement. Until that time and for a number of previous years, the training requirement for Louisiana licensure was three years training under the supervision of a registered architect. At the time Louisiana adopted the IDP requirement only Mississippi, Arkansas, Texas and Oregon were actively engaged in requiring IDP as a pre-requisite for the licensing examination.

Now, more than twenty years later, we are on the verge of having all 55 licensing jurisdictions adopt the IDP requirement. Virtually all of them have accepted the IDP as fulfillment of their own requirements for many years. IDP has also been encouraged, if not required in a number of jurisdictions as a voluntary appropriate route to completing training necessary for A.R.E. eligibility. Completion of IDP through the NCARB record keeping process also assures the emerging professional NCARB certification when they are licensed.

The AIA and NCARB are working collaboratively to ensure a seamless transition from education to the profession through a meaningful internship. The IDPCC is charged with the responsibility "to undertake a holistic

and transparent evaluation of the current Intern Development Program." Accordingly, this next IDPCC meeting will be an intense effort to work with AIA and NCARB staffs to comprehensively evaluate the IDP requirements. Stay tuned in!



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CANDIDATES WHO HAVE BEEN LICENSED FROM AUGUST 1, 2003 TO MARCH 31, 2004

Christopher P. Bankston
Samuel A. Bavido, Jr.
John F. Dalton, Jr.
Blaise M. Dufrene
Kirk B. Edwards
John Lawrence Gray
Rueishin Guo
W. Eirik Heintz
Jonathan M. Heltz
J. Brooks Jackson
Jeffrey M. Kudla
Michael A. McSwain
Kendal Wayne Perkins
Elizabeth Hardie Roth
Lyle E. Savant
Michael Harrison Stanage
Daniel Paul Weiner

Hammond, LA
New Orleans, LA
Marrero, LA
Thibodaux, LA
Baton Rouge, LA
Shreveport, LA
New Orleans, LA
Sharjah, UAE
Baton Rouge, LA
New Orleans, LA
Lake Charles, LA
Shreveport, LA
Livingston, LA
New Orleans, LA
Opelousas, LA
Ruston, LA
New Orleans, LA

Reciprocal Licenses issued by the State from August 1, 2003 to March 31, 2004

Mark J. Allen, Fort Wayne, IN
Sue L. Anderson, Billings, MT
Edward E. Arnold, Huntsville, AL
David B. Braird, Baton Rouge, LA
Nathan D. Baker, Jenks, OK
Donald W. Bataille, Pittsford, NY
John M. Beyer, Charlotte, NC
Steven D. Billingsley, Chattanooga, TN
Mark Boekenheide, Washington, DC
Jack W. Bray, Wildwood, MO
William C. Burjarski, White Plains, NY
Laura L. Caffey, Carrollton, TX
Lawrence A. Chan, Cambridge, MA
James B. Cloutman, III, Mandeville, LA
James L. Cohen, Miami, FL
Richard J. Dalton, Asheville, NC
Russell A. Dankert, Champaign, IL
Ralph DeLuca, Jr., Oakbrook Terrace, IL
Carlos G. DelValle, Jacksonville, FL
Gary S. Dunlap, Allen, TX
Daniel J. Durkee, Boston, MA
Michael B. Eubanks, Downers Grove, IL
Eduardo Garlindo, Pittsburgh, PA
Leslie Gartner, Atlanta, GA
Geoffrey H. Glazer, Baltimore, MD
Christopher B. Goble, Tulsa, OK

Guillermo R. Gonzalez, Miami, FL
Fred H. Goree, Jr., Bellaire, TX
Wayne Gregory, Charlotte, NC
Lawrence J. Grossman, Cambridge, MA
David E. Hardy, Greenville, SC
Bruce Heiberg, Houston, TX
Bobby L. Hendricks, Richardson, TX
Charles A. Herman, Dallas, TX
John C. Hoelscher, Colorado Springs, CO
R. Scott Holland, Pensacola, FL
John G. Howard, Jr., Overland Park, KS
Mark S. Hugeback, Creve Coeur, MO
Randall D. Huggins, Lewisville, TX
William D. Hurley, Roger, AR
R. Steven Husmann, Houston, TX
Dennis R. Jankiewicz, Baltimore, MD
Michael S. Johnson, Houston, TX
Frederick A. Kramer, Cambridge, MA
A. Stevens Krug, West Chester, PA
Drew Lang, New York, NY
James S. Langford, Memphis, TN
Dan E. Losee, Salt Lake City, UT
Michael E. Lynch, Orlando, FL
Terry R. Martell, Toledo, OH
Les McCormick, Seagrave Beach, FL
Michael E. Meinhardt, Dallas, TX
Dwight D. Miller, El Reno, OK

LOUISIANA IDP BREAKS NEW GROUND BRIDGING THE GAP BETWEEN EDUCATION AND PRACTICE

Making the process toward licensure and professional practice transparent and accessible to students and interns reduces anxiety about IDP, enables students to set goals, monitor their progress, and move efficiently into the professional community.

At the 2003 AIA Louisiana-ASID Annual Design Conference, held in New Orleans, Louisiana, the Intern Development Program (IDP) Educator Coordinators for the five schools of architecture in Louisiana and the State IDP Coordinator met with the Louisiana State Board of Architectural Examiners Board to discuss a strategy for developing a comprehensive Louisiana Intern Development Program to improve students' education about the profession. Three months later, in December 2003, the Coordinators met again to discuss the efforts in place at their schools, and initiate the process of developing a common strategy for Louisiana schools to "bridge the gap" between education and practice in architecture. The outcome of this meeting, championed by J. David Brinson, AIA, NCARB, State IDP Coordinator, was a decision to hold a Louisiana IDP Educator Coordinator Summit to advance the collaborative efforts already underway and gather input from stakeholders in the academic and professional community.

The two day Summit, held on February 13 - 14, 2004, was sponsored by the Louisiana State Board of Architectural Examiners and held at their headquarters in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The Summit consisted of five sessions facilitated by Jill Ellen Bambury (Southern University), Edward Cazayoux (University of Louisiana Lafayette), William T. Willoughby (Louisiana Tech University), Elizabeth Burns Gamard (Tulane University), and Marsha R. Cuddeback (Louisiana State University). The Summit brought together a broad constituency of invited participants to reflect on current Intern Development Program practices and discuss strategies for improving the efficacy of the Louisiana Intern Development Program.



Developing a best practice model where the Intern Development Program becomes a working platform for exploring channels to bridge the gap between education and practice in architecture is an issue of national concern and was incentive to hold the 2004 Louisiana IDP Educator Coordinator Summit.

The findings of the Summit confirm early suspicions that creating a structure where collaboration and evaluation become symbiotic partners in effecting meaningful change will ultimately strengthen the efficacy of the Intern Development Program.

The outcome of the Louisiana IDP Educator Coordinator Summit was a comprehensive report to the Louisiana State Board of Architectural Examiners advocating a collaborative process for achieving immediate and long-range goals and establishing a best practice model for implementation at all of Louisiana's architecture programs. In addition, the team of IDP Coordinators, led by Marsha R. Cuddeback, Louisiana State University IDP Educator Coordinator, were invited to participate in the Best Practice Panel Discussion at the national IDP Coordinator Conference held in Washington, D.C., in March 2004, to present a summary of the Summit which offers a framework for other states to engage in similar programs. **The Louisiana State Board of Architectural Examiners** and **AIA Louisiana** provided the resources for all Coordinators to participate in this important event that positioned Louisiana as a leader in IDP development.

For more information or access to the Louisiana IDP Educator Coordinator Summit report and IDP Conference Best Practice Presentation, please contact Marsha R. Cuddeback, AIA, Louisiana State University, School of Architecture (mcuddeb@lsu.edu).



Pictured above: Elizabeth Burns Gammard (Tulane University) speaking to core group and several IDP Interns and practitioners.

Pictured Left: Education Coordinators, Board President, and Board's Executive Director

Seated: Edward Cazayoux (University of Louisiana Lafayette), David Brinson (State IDP Coordinator and newly elected Board member), William Willoughby (Louisiana Tech University)

Standing: Marsha R. Cuddeback (Louisiana State University), Jill Bambury (Southern University) Henry V. Stout (President of the Board), Teeny Simmons (Executive Director) of the Board

**POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT and DESCRIPTION
for
LOUISIANA STATE IDP COORDINATOR**

The Louisiana State Board of Architectural Examiners is seeking an individual willing to volunteer his or her time and talents to serve Louisiana's architectural profession as the State IDP Coordinator. This state program is part of a national program of NCARB and AIA.

The State IDP Coordinator is appointed by the Louisiana State Board of Architectural Examiners, from nominations and applications it receives from individuals or AIA components, for a term established by the Board. It is important to note that the Board retains the right to terminate the appointment at any time the appointee is unable to perform or is found to be unsatisfactorily carrying out the position's responsibilities and duties. Additionally, the Board provides the State IDP Coordinator with an annual allowance to cover expenses such as postage, telephone, clerical and travel.

RESPONSIBILITIES and DUTIES

- Maintain a thorough understanding of IDP requirements, objectives and resources.
- Maintain familiarity with state registration requirements and examination application procedures.
- Make quarterly reports to LSBAE on IDP activities.
- Prepare articles on IDP for AIA/LA and LSBAE newsletters.
- Maintain communication with local IDP and educator coordinators, member Board liaison, AIA's chapter presidents, and intern or AIA associate groups; and organize and facilitate at least one annual meeting between them.
- Establish and maintain a system for the prompt delivery of program information to students, educator coordinators, interns, local IDP coordinators, practitioners and firms.
- Make at least one presentation annually at each school of architecture within the state utilizing the educator coordinator, local IDP coordinator and LSBAE Board member in the presentation, if appropriate.
- Work with local AIA component leaders and schools of architecture to establish and maintain a list of potential individuals willing to serve as IDP mentors to interns.
- Inform the AIA and member Board liaison representative on the National IDP Coordinating Committee of problems, concerns and successful activities.

- Assist local AIA components and intern groups in developing activities directed toward and individual's completion of the Intern Development Program.
- Promote a positive image for IDP through a unified message that utilizes a standard terminology to clearly articulate its benefits.
- Promote IDP and facilitate its activities at the Louisiana Design Conference, and Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture regional meetings held within the state.
- Develop and make IDP presentations at architectural firms that explain IDP guidelines and the benefits gained by a firm's active participation.
- Maintain a current roster of IDP participants within the state through interaction with NCARB.
- Attend and represent Louisiana at the annual IDP Coordinators' Conference.
- Submit an annual written report to the National IDP Coordinating Committee, AIA/LA and LSBAE.

QUALIFICATIONS

Applicants and nominees must be either a licensed architect, an IDP graduate, or an intern enrolled in IDP. The successful applicant or nominee must have a demonstrated commitment to interns, and a record of active involvement in professional activities at the local and/or state level.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Individuals interested in applying for the position are asked, or nominees will be asked, to send a letter of interest and curriculum vitae/resume to the Louisiana State Board of Architectural Examiners; c/o Ms. Teeny Simmons; 9625 Fenway Avenue, Suite B; Baton Rouge, LA 70809 by May 26, 2004. The letter of interest and curriculum vitae/resume may also be faxed to the Louisiana State Board of Architectural Examiners at (225) 925-4804.

The Board hopes to develop a short list of candidates shortly after May 26st and invite all the short-listed candidates to the Board's June meeting for interviews. Appointment would commence in September.



Rule §1901.E.2.b.

b. "Responsible supervision" shall be that amount of supervision over and detailed professional knowledge of the content of technical submissions during their preparation as is ordinarily exercised by architects applying the required professional standard of care. Reviewing, or reviewing and correcting, technical submissions after they have been prepared by others does not constitute the exercise of responsible supervision because the reviewer has neither supervision over nor detailed knowledge of the content of such submissions throughout their preparation. Any registered architect signing or sealing technical submissions not prepared by that architect but prepared under the architect's responsible supervision by persons not regularly employed in the office where the architect is resident shall maintain and make available to the board upon request for the prescriptive period applicable to claims against the architect which may arise from his or her involvement in the project adequate and complete records demonstrating the nature and extent of the architect's supervision over and detailed knowledge of such technical submissions throughout their preparation.

COMMENTARY – This provision reflects current practice by which the architect's final construction documents may comprise the work of other architects as well as that of the architect who signs and seals professional submissions. The architect is permitted to apply his or her seal to work over which the architect has both control detailed special knowledge, and also to work prepared under the direct supervision of another architect whom he or she employs when the architect has both coordinated and reviewed the work.

Architectural Registration Examination Update as of April 19, 2004

They're on their way. After a near three month interlude, you should soon be receiving multiple choice score reports that had been delayed by the ARE Cut Score Study.

Beginning the week of April 26, 2004, the Chauncey Group International is scheduled to start mailing ARE multiple choice score reports. The multiple choice score report mailing will cover the testing period beginning February 2, 2004. As previously reported, the Cut Score Study did not affect the reporting of scores for the ARE graphics divisions.

LOUISIANA CANDIDATES PERCENT OF PASSING OF THE ARCHITECT REGISTRATION EXAMINATION FOR THE YEAR 2003

Please note that "other" refers to candidates beginning the exam before direct registration became available.

	DIVISION	# CANDIDATES	# PASSING	% PASSING	
Pre-Design	Direct Registration	26	22	87%	
	Other	8	7	87%	
	All Boards	3910	3002	77%	
	Southern Conference States	745	574	77%	
Site Planning	Direct Registration	26	19	73%	
	Other	8	4	50%	
	All Boards	3809	2653	70%	
	Southern Conference States	750	524	70%	
Building Planning	Direct Registration	22	13	59%	
	Other	8	4	50%	
	All Boards	3878	2656	68%	
	Southern Conference States	755	518	69%	
Building Technology	Direct Registration	29	21	72%	
	Other	11	7	64%	
	All Boards	3857	2515	65%	
	Southern Conference States	775	520	67%	
General Structures	Direct Registration	17	16	94%	
	Other	11	7	64%	
	All Boards	3530	2587	73%	
	Southern Conference States	758	499	66%	
Lateral Forces	Direct Registration	18	18	100%	
	Other	9	8	89%	
	All Boards	3124	2862	92%	
	Southern Conference States	649	574	88%	
Mechanical & Electrical Systems	Direct Registration	21	10	67%	
	Other	10	10	100%	
	All Boards	3643	2698	74%	
	Southern Conference States	717	515	72%	
Materials & Methods	Direct Registration	26	24	92%	
	Other	3	3	100%	
	All Boards	4094	3529	86%	
	Southern Conference States	768	664	86%	
Construction Documents & Services	Direct Registration	21	19	90%	
	Other		4	3	75%
	All Boards	3851	3291	85%	
	Southern Conference States	783	668	85%	

Reciprocal Licenses (continued from page 3)

James Moorkamp, St. Louis, MO
 Daniel T. Moriarity, Indianapolis, IN
 William T. Morris, Jacksonville, FL
 John K. Mott, Potomac, MD
 Taylor M. Muniz, Richmond, VA
 Dominic L. Muscara, Churchville, PA
 Daniel T. Muzquiz, San Antonio, TX
 Mark P. Nasrallah, Winter Park, FL
 Jonathan C. Nehmer, Rockville, MD
 Dennis J. O'Beirne, Canton, MI
 Robert M. Payan, Newport Beach, CA
 Kevin T. Perry, Paducah, KY
 David C. Ports, Cleveland, OH
 William M. Powell, Ellisville, MS
 Johnstone N. Reid, Jr., Ocoee, FL
 Michael J. Remesi, Charlotte, NC
 David L. Rhodes, Costa Mesa, CA
 William J. Ripley, Norfolk, VA
 James T. Robinson, Charlotte, NC
 Jeffrey H. Rolland, Neptune Beach, FL
 James A. Schellinger, Indianapolis, IN
 Ned E. Stacy, Palm Harbor, FL

Jeffrey Scherer, Minneapolis, MN
 David L. Schrader, West Chester, PA
 D. Bennett Shuman, Pensacola, FL
 Thomas M. Sieniewicz, Cambridge, MA
 Owen F. Slagle, III, Kittanning, PA
 Scott A. Slaughter, Dallas, TX
 George F. Small, Zionsville, IN
 Jose F. Solis, Woodstock, GA
 Scott K. Stalcup, Kansas City, MO
 Robert A. Stephenson, Great Neck, NY
 Christopher D. Stine, Fort Wayne, IN
 Scott Stirton, Atlanta, GA
 Kenneth A. Sweeney, Tallahassee, FL
 Barry Thalden, St. Louis, MO
 Donald N. Tippet, Morton, IL
 Yin B. Tomm, Nutley, NJ
 Patrick S. Valent, Miami Lakes, FL
 Kevin L. Wallace, Dallas, TX
 Christian C. Westerman, IV, New Orleans, LA
 David G. Wolterstorff, St. Paul, MN
 Timothy S. Yelvington, Little Rock, AR
 Herbert G. Zeller, Boston, MA

Fire Marshal Liaison Committee Meeting
March 30, 2004 by: Henry Fry, OSFM

Inquiries from a number of professional architects and engineers around the state have encouraged the reinstatement of the A & E Liaison Committee for the Office of State Fire Marshal. The purpose of this committee is to provide a forum for communication between representative professionals from Louisiana and the Fire Marshal's Office as a means to keep the activities and operations of the Fire Marshal as effective and meaningful as possible.

Ronald Boutte, President of John J. Guth Associates, Inc, has described the initial focus of the committee, as follows:

"...the committee should serve primarily as a forum for the design professionals (Architects and Engineers) to discuss design/construction concerns and matters that fall under the purview of the Office of the State Fire Marshal and affect the design community as a whole."

"Since the Office of the Fire Marshal has such a huge impact on every design project, it is imperative that design professionals who are responsible for the designs have an avenue through which they can easily communicate with the Fire Marshal that is outside of the review process. Architects and Engineers who serve on the committee should understand that they are representing their respective professions and not their firms."

The first meeting was conducted on March 30th at the new Fire Marshal Building in Baton Rouge. The following individuals participated:

V. J. Bella
State Fire Marshal - State Fire Marshal

Felicia Cooper
DSFM Administrator - Office of State Fire Marshal

Lynn David
Executive Director - AIA Louisiana

Henry Fry
Deputy Assistant Secretary - Office of State Fire Marshal

Brenda Gajan
Executive Director - Louisiana Engineering Society

Ben Harrison
Acting Director - LA Professional Eng. & Land Surveying

Jerry Hebert
President - Grace & Hebert Architects, Inc.

Robert Huval
Deputy Executive Secretary - LA Professional Eng. & Land Surveying

Lawrence LeBlanc
Vice President - Linfield, Hunter & Junius, Inc.

Mark Moses
Senior Manager - Office of Facility Planning and Control
(representing Jerry Jones)

Ken McLaughlin
President - IMC

Teeny Simmons
Executive Director - LA State Board Of Architectural Examiners

Warren Wilder
Executive Director - Amer. Council of Eng. Co. of LA

Don Zeringue
Chief Architect - Office of State Fire Marshal

The agenda of this first meeting primarily involved discussion of the purpose of the committee, some of the things the committee could accomplish, and how it could be effective. The intent of the process will be to keep the committee accessible and flexible, to be able to remain responsive. One key issue will be advise as many professionals throughout the state of the availability of this resource, and to encourage participation of any professional that has a concern about any issue that could be improved through this collaboration.

A few specific topics were raised and discussed, including: the possibility of changes to energy review and heightened enforcement (the Fire Marshal's Office is not aware of any change); the need for good communication and accessibility involving FM plan review and inspection (last minute problems can cause delays and be frustrating to the professional and owner); the importance of clarity on forms used by the Office of Fire Marshal, particularly the Certificate of Completion (who can authorize completion); and the affect of lengthy "boiler plate" notations on the plan review response letter to the professional of record and owner.

The committee will meet quarterly, on the 1st Wednesday of every quarter. Process of communication from the general community is encouraged, and should be addressed through a professional's respective representative, or may be submitted directly to Henry Fry, Deputy Assistant Secretary.

Violations

This past year at least twenty (20) letters were written to unlicensed individuals and/or firms who had improperly used a form of the word "architect" or "architectural" to describe themselves or their services. Reports of these possible violations of the licensing law have come from many of you, and we appreciate your help. Reports have also come from the Fire Marshal's Office. We have tried to keep those who have reported these matters to us up to date on our actions.

In response to our letters, many have reported that they were unaware of any violation of the architects licensing law. Others blamed the yellow pages company or magazine/newspaper writers. Regardless, the board has required corrective action.

During 1998-2000, sixty-three architects/engineers were investigated for possible plan stamping or incompetent practice. In the years 2001-present, thirty-two design professionals were investigated. Depending upon the severity of the violation and other factors, different disciplines have been imposed by the Board, including revocations, suspensions, fines, letters of reprimand, and consent orders. Instead of a full board hearing to dispose of complaints, in a few cases the individual was asked to meet informally with a committee composed of two board members. This committee has then reported to the board. This informal procedure has worked well.

I will include in future newsletters articles from the board investigator, Office of State Fire Marshal and our architect who regularly visits the State Fire Marshal's Office and reviews actual plans for possible licensing law violators. It may give each of you a better understanding of the actions that are being done to enforce the licensing law and the board rules.

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