

# AELS Administrator's Report

By Nancy Hemenway

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## Administrator's narrative:

### Technology Update

We are currently working with the Data Processing programmer, Larry Kemp, to develop the web-based renewal project and anticipate on-line renewals for the upcoming individual and corporate renewal cycle 12/31/01. As we gear up for this, we have met regularly with data processing. It has been an interesting process to learn how to build in safeguards and anticipate the actual renewal. For example, duplicate payments can happen because of problems a registrant may experience in working with the ecommerce web site. Lag times occur, data transfer errors can happen, servers can be down, the user can hit the back button and resubmit a request to process. Additionally, figuring how to link information in the Oracle data base so that a corporation has access to the current designee in responsible charge as they renew, has been challenging to the programmer and to me. While automation should be convenient to the registrants, the start up cycle generally translates into a higher volume of calls and emails as people learn the new system.

### Staff Changes and Updates

I'm gaining skills in the hiring process! I completed training in Workplace Alaska this quarter and team interviewed with Carol Whelan in hiring Francine Pegues, for our part-time clerical position. Francine was promoted from within the agency and has been with us a very short time since her position will be absorbed by the division once our new Licensing Examiner is hired.

Ginger Morton completed her first year as the AELS Licensing Examiner on May 30<sup>th</sup> and decided to laterally transfer to another position, as the Public Accountancy and Psychologist Licensing Examiner. It was a difficult decision for Ginger because she really likes our Board. I'm sure her skills will transfer well. She is efficient, thorough, and independent and everyone at O.L. is glad she is staying within the division, including me. She also has kept all forms, the website, and applications up to date. There is no backlog pending, which I think is a great accomplishment for AELS staff.

The Division is also hiring an additional Medical Licensing Examiner, so Judy Weske and I have teamed up to interview what was a good pool of applicants. We have hired three examiners to fill the division new positions and vacancy. The AELS examiners are Kevin Glaesman and Sue Frederick, who will begin in early August.

Our new staff will have time to get some basic familiarity with AELS policies, O.L. policies and procedures, the general processing of exam applicants and comity applicants, and have participated in an exam cycle, all prior to the November board meeting. November will bring the beginning of the renewal cycle that will take us through January.

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**Board Travel:**

It has been through legislative funding, and strong Division of Occupational Licensing (O.L.) support that Board members have been able to attend national and regional meetings. Daphne Brown, Patricia Peirsol, Kathy Gardner and I attended the architects NCARB annual meeting in Seattle, WA in June; and Don Iverson, Pat Kalen, Lance Mearig, and staff, Ginger Morton, attended the recent NCEES annual meeting in Little Rock, AR.

The Board and its professional registrants are well served by keeping abreast of current trends and emerging issues. Architect by comity paths to licensure, and national and international mobility are topics we are currently addressing which also have national attention by the respective organizations.

**Legislation:**

The legislature passed SB 9, the AELS sunset legislation, and the Governor signed the bill on June 25th, which includes the extension of the landscape architect temporary, non-voting member, along with a letter of intent. The two issues the Legislature has asked the Board to address are continuing education and architect by comity licensure. Both matters are on the August agenda for consideration.

The House and Senate introduced legislation last session that could mandate land surveyor standards of practice. The House version (HB 227) had a hearing in House Labor and Commerce Committee. Standards of practice are generally determined by the professional societies. The bill was held over during the legislative interim for work by professional land surveyor societies.

**Registered Professional License Statistics:**

As of	6/30/98	6/30/99	6/30/00	6/30/01
Professional Architects	495	511	495	526
Professional Engineers:				
Civil	3,603	3,833	3,718	3,927
Chemical	2,360	2,491	2,434	2,557
Electrical	73	84	78	85
Mechanical	490	534	505	535
Mining	553	594	574	616
Petroleum	38	39	35	35
Land Surveyors	89	91	92	97
Landscape Architects	618	635	587	608
<b>Total Registered</b>	0	0	6	12
<b>Total:</b>	<b>1/15/01</b>	<b>5/01/01</b>	<b>7/01/01</b>	
Corporate	298	305	325	
LLC	1	1	8	
LLP	0	0	0	

In closing, we will be further challenged since we will have two new staff to train on all aspects of the licensure process.

I will continue to strive for AELS staff to provide good service to our clients and the O.L. by providing timely, accurate information to design professionals, and the public, and welcome any and all suggestions how we may better assist them.

The Division of Occupational Licensing is in the process of a reclassification study of its staff. The outcome will likely help to provide stability for the AELS staff.

