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Summer 2005

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Message from the Board Chairman

Richard G. Stauffer, L.A., FASLA

Congratulations to all our new registrants for the year 2004, and to those who not only have taken the exam but also those who have been registered in Pennsylvania through reciprocity. Currently we have 870 registered landscape architects in the state of Pennsylvania.

I would like to welcome Dan DiMucci to the State Board of Landscape Architects who is replacing past board member Jim Pashek. Dan comes to us from the Philadelphia region. You can learn more of Dan's past by reading the article contained in this newsletter.

I would also like to recognize Daniel J. Dahlkemper for his three terms of service on the State Board of Landscape Architects. Dan has served as Chairman of the Board and also played a key role in the revisions to our registration regulations giving direction for the establishment of our continuing education regulations. We wish Dan well and thank him for his years' of service to the Board.

We are hopeful that everyone is becoming familiar with the new CEU regulations and are making plans to take those courses that qualify as continuing education courses in the future. The Board has taken steps to modify some of the problem areas within the regulations, and want to thank our registrants for their patience in dealing with some of the misinterpretations of the regulations as they pertain to CEU's. I would just reinforce that each of you read the regulations and become familiar with them so that when registering for courses you are certain they will be accepted as continuing education courses for registration. I would like to remind all of you who are contemplating taking the courses by satellite or electronic presentations that a maximum of 5 clock hours per biennium would be accepted.

I would also like to remind our registrants that the following information is required when hours spent on continuing education:

1. The date attended.
2. The clock hours claimed.
3. The title of the course.
4. The course provider.
5. The location of the course.

The above information is required in order to be considered as a CEU credit.

I would also like to recognize John S. Staph who has served on the Board for over 25 years representing the Bureau of Consumer Protection from the office of the Attorney General. John and his 25 years of service to the State Board of Landscape Architects has been a strong advocate of landscape architecture, and has assisted the Board in keeping continuity in interpretation of the regulations and giving oversight that pertains to consumer protection. We wish John and his wife Ann well and trust that they will enjoy many days in the sunny south and enjoy travels throughout the world. Replacing John will be Richard P. LeBlanc beginning his tenure on the State Board of Landscape Architects on December, 2004.

Right-to-Know Act and Home Addresses

The Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs is sensitive to its licensees' concerns about personal privacy. However, the Pennsylvania Right-to-Know Act, 65 P.S. § 66.1, mandates release of information contained in a "public record" stored by that agency if a member of the public requests it.

The Bureau wants you to know that it will take all reasonable steps to safeguard personal information contained in your licensure records. We realize that many of you use your home address on the licensure records maintained by the Bureau. However, given the uncertainty over what the Right-to-Know Act requires, neither the Bureau nor the board that issues your license can guarantee the confidentiality of the address shown on your licensing record. Therefore, we recommend that, if you have a personal security concern, you might want to consider what many of our licensees have already done: use a business address or box number as the official address on licensure records.

Also, with the arrival of the License 2000 computer system, you may indicate to the Board an address for release to the public that may be different from your home address.

To further protect your privacy and identity, the Bureau will only accept a request to change a licensee's address if it is submitted in writing and includes the licensee's social security number, license number and the old and new addresses.

2004 CLARB Meeting Report

by James W. Barnes, L.A.

CLARB held its 2004 annual meeting last September in Philadelphia. The first day was highlighted by presentations of educational sessions for the Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Boards (CLARB).

The education and accreditation session provided an overview to accreditation, the Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board (LAAB), LAAB's mission, and the LAAB accreditation process. Also discussed was CLARB's role in education, which is to establish minimum education standards for certification. These standards are tied to the minimum level required to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public.

The LABOK study (Landscape Architectural Body of Knowledge) session outlined the purpose of the study which was designed to address the fundamental body of knowledge expected of all L.A. graduates, and to define the core competencies shared by the profession in general.

Day two included a workshop on standards and continuing education. CLARB recognizes continuing education is a component of the model regulations that were adopted in September 2002. As such, CLARB is investigating ways to develop a cost-effective method of assisting member boards to monitor continuing education activities by evaluating and approving presenters and content of CE activities, and assisting licensees in compiling and reporting CE activities to member boards.

A second workshop on examinations, task analysis and the C/LARE (Computerized Landscape Architecture Registration Examination) focused upon the August 2004 C/LARE and problems that candidates encountered at certain testing centers administered by the vendor, Lasergrade. As background, 1147 candidates took one or more sections of the test at a combined total of 252 test centers, with 163 (16%) candidates submitting complaints. Of those complaints, 75 (46%) complained about item-related issues, which are those administrative problems that prevented a candidate from responding to a specific examination item such as the lack of a chart or calculator. There were 19 (12%) complaints lodged about the test center facilities and 69 (42%) complaints about both item-related issues and the facilities.

To remedy the item-related problems, all examinees were credited with a correct response to all affected examination items. Any complaints concerning the testing environment, CLARB advised the candidate that they had the option to re-take the C/LARE in November, free of charge, if they felt that conditions impacted their ability to receive a valid examination score. Pennsylvania had one candidate opt for the re-test.

CLARB is working with the vendor to address the problems, and is also conducting a thorough review of the entire computer-testing process to ensure that future administration meet the standards for testing that CLARB requires for all candidates as it is CLARB's primary objective to provide a valid licensure examination score to every examination candidate and treat every candidate fairly.

The general business session concluded the final day of the meeting with Ms. Sandra Gonzalez ascending to the presidency of the organization. The 2005 annual meeting will be held September 8-10 in Los Angeles, California.

Disciplinary Actions

The following is a chronological listing of disciplinary actions taken by the Board from December 2003, through August 2004. Each entry includes the name, certificate or registration number (if any), and last known address of the respondent; the disciplinary sanction imposed; a brief description of the basis of the disciplinary sanction and the effective date of the disciplinary sanction.

Every effort has been made to ensure that the following information is correct. However, this information should not be relied on without verification from the Prothonotary's Office of the Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs. One may obtain verification of individual disciplinary action by writing or telephoning the Prothonotary's Office at P.O. Box 2649, Harrisburg, PA 17105-2649; (717) 772-2686. Please note that the names of persons listed below may be similar to the names of persons who have not been disciplined by the Board.

William T. Burnett, license no. **LA-001283-E** of Hobe Sound, FL was ordered to pay a civil penalty of One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00), because Burnett failed to furnish evidence of the completion of continuing education as requested by the Board. (12-9-04)

Kirsten A. Coffen, license no. **LA-001639-R** of Fork, MD was ordered to pay a civil penalty of One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00), because Coffen failed to furnish evidence of the completion of continuing education as required by the Board. (12-9-04)

Thomas D. Montgomery, license no. **LA-001599-R** of Wichita, KS was ordered to pay a civil penalty of One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00), because Montgomery failed to furnish evidence of the completion of continuing education as requested by the Board. (12-9-04)

John H. Pogue, license no. **LA-000973-E** of Lancaster, Lancaster County, was ordered to pay a civil penalty of One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00), because Pogue failed to furnish evidence of the completion of continuing education as requested by the Board. (12-9-04)

A Board Member's Perspective

by Dan Dahlkemper, L.A.

My tenure as a professional member of the State Board of Landscape Architects has been a rewarding experience in several aspects. Understanding the governmental process in protecting the profession and the public is the foremost. Current issues affecting our profession are the important topics. Legislative and regulatory actions create a better awareness of the legal implications of our practice. This has all created a feeling of connectedness to the profession beyond the boundaries of our office and region.

This connectedness has been extended by the board's membership in the Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Boards (CLARB) who works diligently on behalf of registrants nationally. I was fortunate to attend several meetings as a participant in regards to national issues in promotion of our profession.

This has led to an association with fellow landscape architects, which is pleasurable and enlightening. Also, these opportunities have allowed me to renew some old friendships and make new ones.

While in Harrisburg, I was invited by the Ridges to assist with the landscaping at the Governor's Residence. In the last nine years I have served as the Chairman of the Horticulture Committee for the Governor's Residence. Additionally, during this period I served for two years as a committee member of the Governor's Preservation Committee. The grounds were renovated during this time as a gift back to the residents of Pennsylvania.

Beyond my Harrisburg experiences I have a number of interests that help me to live a full life. In 1997, Kathleen (my wife of 22 years) and I started a community effort to build an arboretum in Erie. Implementation started in 1998 and was dedicated in September 2001 and is still growing. Kath and I also have been leading marriage encounter retreats for the last 11 years. We have a family of five children and currently a foreign exchange student. We compete annually in the Erie Quad Games, a combination of cross country skiing, swimming, biking and running races that are scheduled quarterly to promote fitness.

I also enjoy Friday night skiing at the local ski resort and playing guitar and bass in a Celtic band called Ischabaha

(Ischabaha.com). In the summer we enjoy our cottage on Lake Erie, especially sailing on our Hobie Cat.

We enjoy entertaining our large family and friends. Recently, I was particularly rewarded when I organized a 25-year reunion of my landscape architecture class of 1979. I am fortunate to work with many family members in our business, Dahlkemper Landscape Architects & Contractors, which will be celebrating 50 years of business in 2005.

Landscape Architecture is a profession with many unique, well-rounded and contributing members of society. We are stewards of the land and a fun group of people. I am proud to be one of these special people representing you on the State Board of Landscape Architects.

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Dan Dahlkemper receives proclamation from Chairman, Richard Stauffer

New Board Member – Daniel S. DiMucci, L.A.

Daniel S. DiMucci, L.A., is Senior Vice President and Principal Landscape Architect for Pennoni Associates Inc., a multi-disciplined consulting engineering firm headquartered in Philadelphia. He serves on Pennoni's Board of Directors, and has been a Principal of the firm for more than 18 years.

Mr. DiMucci grew up near Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He has a B.S. from the Pennsylvania State University in Landscape Architecture, as well as a Masters of Urban and Regional Planning from the University of Pittsburgh. With more than 30 years experience in landscape architecture and site planning from conceptual design through project development, he has worked on projects throughout Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware and Virginia. His project experience includes revitalization of central business districts, parks and recreation facilities, campus facilities, corporate office centers, industrial parks and sports complexes. Mr. DiMucci has provided design work for many prominent projects that are associated nation-wide with the Philadelphia region, including the Avenue of the Arts, the Manayunk Canal Restoration and numerous projects throughout Fairmount Park. He has also contributed to several projects for major sports teams, including the Philadelphia Eagles NovaCare Training Facility and the Pittsburgh Steelers Practice Facility.

Mr. DiMucci has been an active member of the American Society of Landscape Architects since 1976, and is also active in the American Planning Association and the Central Philadelphia Development Corporation. He has taught Site Design at Carnegie Mellon University and West Virginia University, and is currently an adjunct professor in the Pennoni Honors College of Drexel University. Mr. DiMucci serves on the Board of Directors of the PENNJERDEL Council, the Arts and Architecture Board at the Pennsylvania State University, and the Advisory Board for the Charter School of Architecture and Design in Philadelphia. In August 2004, Mr. DiMucci was nominated by Governor Edward G. Rendell to the Pennsylvania State Board of Landscape Architects, and was confirmed unanimously in November 2004 by the State Senate. He is currently serving a three-year term on the Board.

Listed among Mr. DiMucci's hobbies are music, golf, and reading science fiction novels. His favorite pastime, however, is ballroom dancing with his wife of 36 years, Gigi, who is a fellow Penn State graduate. The couple has two daughters, Laurie and Jennie, who like their parents are graduates of Penn State. The DiMucci family resides in West Chester, Pennsylvania.

2005 Board Member Photo

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Front row: L to R - Lisa K. Holman, Daniel S. DiMucci, L.A., James W. Barnes, L.A., Herbert Abramson, Esq.
Back row: L to R - Ric LeBlanc, Shirley Klinger, Richard G. Stauffer, L.A., Daniel J. Dahlkemper, L.A., Edward J. Rak

State Board of
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Remaining 2005 Meeting Dates

June 9

September 1

November 10