



The COUNCIL EXAMINER

Official Publication of the National Council of Building Designer Certification

WINTER 2008

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President's Message

Moving NCBDC through this era of great progress and growth has not only been a real challenge, it also helped us understand how far we have to go. I wrote these words back in my 2005 President's message, right after hurricane Katrina ravaged the city of New Orleans and the Mississippi Gulf Coast region. It was my belief then, and still is now, that NCBDC certified professional building designers will be challenged to step-up in the design community to truly become the experts in residential and light frame construction in the decades to come. Since this great natural disaster, and others like it, in Florida and Texas, codes, as they relate to design issues, have been "overhauled" in order to make it tougher to build structurally inferior houses and light framed buildings.

As I step down as your president for the last three years, I am reminded of the words I once heard: "God gives us many opportunities in life. It is up to us to recognize these opportunities and use them to our advantage". As simple as this statement is, many people for whatever reason, do not act on opportunity when it is presented to them. It can actually be the defining point in many people's profession. Sadly, many building designers will not recognize the opportunity to move their careers forward by becoming certified through NCBDC. I believe that Certified Professional Building Designers have a unique opportunity to reach a level in this profession that takes a backseat to no one. My vision has always been to elevate our profession to heights never before thought possible. Well ladies and gentlemen, this apparition is waiting to be accomplished many years sooner than once imagined.

In order for the profession of building design to evolve, we must recognize the need for young and for new talent. Encourage the development of this talent and support these young

designers as they move our organization through the times ahead.

The Board of Examiners will be considering many items in the next few months that will affect the direction of NCBDC. None of these issues will be more vital to our future than the development of student design technicians. We must reach-out to these young individuals to support them in their quest to become CPBD's. I will recommend that we do just this at our next Board meeting and support Bruce Yancey's effort to create a new student design technician certification division to the Council.

Programs promoting this effort must be placed at the top of our plans for the future. Our very existence is dependant upon it.



Allow me to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has made my time as your president a labor of love. First of all, Steve Mickley of AIBD who has been there for me since day one and who is "single-handedly" responsible for me taking the position to begin with. Bob Juengert with his daily encouragement, calming nature and wisdom, was a blessing for me. I consider him to be one of my closest

friends. And, finally, the Board of Examiners who have time and time again proven their dedication to NCBDC. I have truly been blessed having such hard working and dedicated individuals around me the last three years.

My only goal when I accepted the responsibility of taking over NCBDC was to carry-on the ideals and goals of the council in the footsteps of founder Bill Hefner, my very close personal friend and mentor. I hope that, in some small way, I have succeeded.

**Donald M. Gore, FAIBD, NCBDC
President,
National Council of Building
Designer Certification**

ANNUAL REPORT

**Bob Juengert CPBD, AIBD,
AIA, FISP, NCARB
NCBDC Administrator**

NCBDC continues to mature and follow a positive course. We have experienced meaningful growth thanks in no small part to a change in the requirements in the Woodlands, Texas construction documents filing requirements. We have certified nineteen designers from the Texas Society. We have certified a total of sixty three designers nationwide. We currently have one hundred and forty four applications for examination pending and have forty four members on our retired roster. Our total roster now totals five hundred and ninety nine. This represents approximately a ten percent growth for 2007.

We have had three hundred and sixty inquiries from our web site. This number represents a one hundred percent increase over last year. We have issued eighty three Study Guides, twenty seven electronically, which represents an increase of twenty two percent over last year.

The Council now offers an electronic seal for convenient inclusion on our electronically generated drawings. This seal is available at a cost of \$40.00. Just send us a check in that amount with a written request and this innovation is yours.

Our alliance with the San Francisco Institute of Architecture offers excellent Continuing Education courses. The Institute has offered a fifty percent tuition reduction for designers

certified by our Council. Visit www.sfia.net for detailed information as to courses offered and tuition costs. When applying, send evidence of your certification in order to reduce the tuition costs.

Working with Harry Strout, our computer consultant, we have significantly improved the structure, integrity and maintainability of our CPBD database. Proper administration of this crucial information has cut down on errors in mailings and has resulted in improved efficiency in our operations.



The single most challenging process in the administration of this Council is the tracking and continued service for a constantly moving

target of certified designers and their contact information. In an effort to alleviate this problem, we have added contact information from our database on the reverse side of our 2008 renewal invoices that were sent to all members on January 15th. Please correct any erroneous data we have and return the form with your 2008 renewal payment.

We have made a major functional improvement to our web site whereby CPBD members can verify and correct contact information as listed on our web site.

As a footnote to Don Gore's farewell message, we should note that under his leadership our rolls of certified designers went from five hundred and six in 2004 to our present count of five hundred and ninety nine. Our applicant roster went from ninety two to one hundred and forty four. This dramatic growth in our council could not have been realized without his effort. Thank you Don.

Our challenge for next year is to reduce the number of applicants for examination. This will be attacked by personal contact with the candidates and encouraging the examiners to participate in this effort. The next challenge is the accomplishment of CEU work by our Certified Designers. This will be accomplished by a similar approach we developed for tracking and improving the renewal payments by our Certified Designers. The challenge is to make our Designers aware of their status and finding more at home study programs for their use in accomplishing our minimal requirements of eight hours per annum.

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Opinions expressed are those of the authors or persons quoted and are not necessarily those of the NCBDC. For address changes, please write to the above address or call the NCBDC national office.

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Professional Liability Program

NCBDC makes available to its members this program designed to insure against acts, errors or omissions of a member while rendering or failing to render professional services to their clients. Call **1-800-726-7659** or email information@ncbdc.com.

Or contact:

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Web Site Revision Instructions

All CPBD members should check the online directory to verify that you are listed and that your contact information is correct. If you are not listed in the directory, please contact the national office. You will be added to the online system within 48 hours.

In order to use the online directory system, you must have your correct email address listed so that your login information can be emailed to you. If you do not have a valid email address, please forward your updated contact information to the national office.

To retrieve your login Information, perform the following: From the NCBDC home page, single left click on the link titled "CPBD Log In," which is located at the lower right of the screen. Enter your email address into the field titled "Enter your E-Mail Address or Username," then click on the button below titled "Get Password."

Your login information will be immediately emailed to you, provided your email address is correct and already in the system. Retrieve your email and follow the screen prompts from

the NCBDC web site home page. If you cannot receive email at the address listed in the directory, contact the national office.

To login, do the following: From the NCBDC home page, click on the link titled "CPBD Log In," which is located at the lower right of the screen. Enter your username and password into the appropriate fields then click on the button below titled "Login."

To update your contact Information, log into the system then click on the link titled "click here to edit your profile." On the profile update screen, update information as necessary. Make sure that you click the "UPDATE PROFILE" button at the bottom of the page. That will return you to the member page.

To log out, click on the link titled "Please Click Here To Log Out."

It is important for you to maintain the most recent contact information with us so that we do not lose contact with you when you either move or change where you are working.

CertainTeed CEU information

Through innovation and creative product design, CertainTeed has helped shape the building products industry for more than 100 years. Founded in 1904 as General Roofing Company, the firm made its slogan "Quality Made Certain, Satisfaction Guaranteed," which quickly inspired the name CertainTeed. Today, CertainTeed is North America's leading brand of exterior and interior building products, including roofing, siding, windows, fence, decking, railing, trim, foundations, pipe, insulation, walls, ceilings, and access covers.

Headquartered in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, CertainTeed and its affiliates have approximately 9,000 employees and 70 manufacturing facilities throughout the United States and Canada. In 2006 the group had

consolidated sales approaching \$4 billion. Contact them at their web site (www.certainteed.com) to get more information on their course offerings. Their courses contain the following feature:

- Each course qualifies for 1.5LU AIA/CES (HSW) credit
- Complete the course as your time permits. Even if you have to take a break, the system automatically bookmarks your place so you can resume where you left off
- Your credit is automatically reported to the AIA upon completion of the course
- You can print a Certificate of Completion for your records
- System maintains a secure record of all your completed course work

Why Renew?

The Council is tireless in its pursuit of recognition with local and state building authorities with regard to recognition of our certified designers. We have had positive results in communities such as Slidell, LA, Kansas City Mo, and HUD.

We have implemented a web site at www.ncbdc.com. Our efforts are listed there and potential clients will find your contact information in the national directory.

Recently, in Florida, a potential client who was checking references online learned her designer was no longer certified. In a phone call she stated, "She would NOT do business with a practitioner who misrepresented himself."

You can help our efforts. Your voice is heard by contacting us through the web site or by attending our semi annual conferences - dates published online.

NCBDC - Winter 2008

Officers Elected

The Council met and voted for a new slate of officers for this year at our February 14, 2008 general meeting. John Police headed the nominating committee and presented the following slate:

President, Leonard Vogel, Vice President, John Fought and Secretary Treasurer, Bruce Yancey.

The vote was unanimous for the election of all officers. Having worked with these men for the past three years, I can attest to their dedication and zeal for the Council and its needs. We can all look forward to another year of positive happenings for the good ship NCBDC.

Study Materials Now Available Electronically

The NCBDC Exam study material, including the Structural Study Guide and the History of Architecture, has received a face-lift. Each guide is published in professionally printed three ring binders with section dividers. The study materials are available for \$45. In addition, all study material is available in electronic format. (PDF) The full guide is delivered via email for the reduced price of \$35.



Why Copyright?

The copyright laws are being put to good use by several of our certified designers. We are told that the procedure of obtaining a copyright is as simple as filling out an application for a building permit. The filing fee is \$30.00 and the protection you get is very valuable. Several of our certified designers have realized thousands of dollars by threatening a lawsuit over copyright infringement. So check it out the reward can be significant. For a Copyright Manual or a notification stamp that can help protect your rights, contact the AIBD at 1-800-366-AIBD (2423).

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