



The COUNCIL EXAMINER

Official Publication of the National Council of Building Designer Certification

WINTER 2006

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Donald M. Gore, FAIBD, NCBDC

Having ridden the wave of progress previously as National President of AIBD behind such notables as Bill Hefner and Doug Bowman, I find myself in the same spot ten years later as the new president of NCBDC. I've been holding-on for dear life the last few months following Steve Mickley's administration. Steve began so many tasks and opened so many doors that I sometimes have to stop to catch my breath. Moving NCBDC through this era of great progress and growth has not only been a real challenge, it's also helped us understand how far we have to go.

Our new director, Bob Juengert, has, or has attempted, to communicate with each of you so that he can determine how best to serve you. Many of you weren't even aware that he or his position even existed. Bob has been a real asset to the council with his organizational skills and personality. Handling the lion's share of the complaints and requests have become second nature to him as he handles the day to day operations of the council. We are truly blessed to have someone of Bob's stature (a licensed architect) and abilities running things at the national office.

Due to the tremendous efforts of Henry Souza, President of the Washington State Association of Building Designers, NCBDC can point to five new certified building designers from the state of Washington. Formerly known as the WSABD, the association has requested to be merged with AIBD. At our last business meeting in July of this year the Board of Examiners recommended the council approve the WSABD request for reciprocity subject to limitations mainly related to the Design Portion of the exam.

I'd like to extend my heartiest congratulations to Henry for his major contribution to the National Council of Building Designer Certification.

In these uncertain times, one thing remains quite certain, change. How we handle change says a great deal about our character as human beings. I have always embraced most change as it is usually for the better. However, hurricane Katrina has taught us here on the gulf coast that we must prepare better for change. Because, sometimes, it can literally swallow you up. As New Orleans struggles with improving levy protection, the NCBDC is similarly challenged with the professional opportunities and major implications of a national building code. Our responsibility as the National Council of Building Designer Certification is to certify design professionals to the best of our ability and that is a responsibility I do not take lightly.

In the wake of the devastation left behind by Hurricane Katrina, the International Code Council Foundation (ICCF) has established a relief fund that will go towards the rebuilding efforts for victims of this disaster.

To make a tax deductible donation to the ICCF Hurricane Relief Fund, visit www.iccf-foundation.org, or you can mail donations to: Accounts Receivable, 4051 W. Flossmoor Road, Country Club Hills, IL 60478-5795. Checks should show a notation for the "ICCF Katrina Relief Fund."

ANNUAL REPORT

The limiting factor in growth is the ability to process and disperse information, and provide customer service. Thanks to the efforts of an entirely new Executive Committee, President Don Gore (LA), Vice-President Len Vogel (NC), and Secretary/Treasurer John Fought (FL), 2005 has shown measurable and sustainable growth.

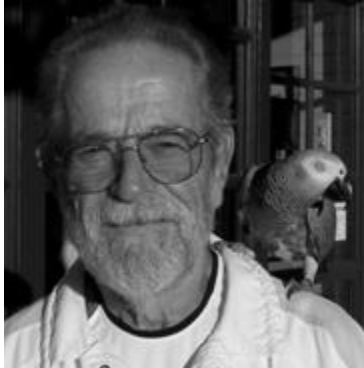
Immediately following the relocation of the national office from Virginia to California, I began working immediately to update the Council's equipment, organize the files, and process old applications. In addition, I personally contacted over three hundred certificate holders and updated their information. In the process, I handled the sources of complaints. When satisfaction was unattainable, I removed them from the active roster.

Personal contact accomplishes much more than mailings. By handling the inevitable complaints, we were able to get to know a good cross section of the membership. Responsiveness and timely action on problem solving is improving our public relations. This progress has brought with it an increased level of activity as it relates to interest in the Council and submitted exam applications. This continuous contact, in addition to the prompt dispensation of Council information, has restored the NCBDC image to many with reciprocal apathy.

Much of our growth is due to the publication of our Web Site. The site informs the reader about NCBDC, the benefits of certification, the certification process, provides a sample exam, and offers training materials and displays award winning designs. A directory of Certified

Professional Building Designers is included, through which the reader can find a designer by state. All pertinent contact information is included. The response is most encouraging; the past twelve months have yielded over one hundred and fifty inquiries.

Our current membership roll is over five hundred. We have one hundred and eighteen applications for certification pending. We have certified twenty five new applicants. We have issued one hundred and thirty five Study Guides, twelve electronically and our income is 165% of what was budgeted for 2005.



Robert Juengert, AIBD, AIA
NCBDC Administrator

Growth of the Council was enhanced in 2005 by the application of the Washington State Association of Building Designers to merge with NCBDC and AIBD. The board of Directors voted to pursue this application and the process of partial reciprocal certification is underway. Special consideration was given to applicants from this organization allowing them credit for the written examination they took for certification in Washington State and a \$100 reduction in exam fees. Each applicant will still be required to successfully complete the twelve hour long practical portion of the NCBDC exam.

Through it all, we have dropped thirty-five members either for non-payment of renewal fees or due to their request. In addition, we have moved eighteen members to retired status. The sum total of which represents 8% of our total roll, a figure well below the national average of 14% reported by the American Society of Association Executives.

In an effort to encourage dropouts to reinstate, we will continue to distribute our newsletters to them. The Winter2005 Newsletter published was very well received by

the membership as informative and comprehensive. Future newsletters will follow the same format. In addition, the AIBD has offered to provide complimentary copies of the Design Lines magazine, a publication in which the NCBDC maintains advertisement space.

It takes a tremendous amount of energy to correct the course of an organization. This change is similar to turning a large ocean liner. Despite rapidly turning the wheel of the ship, the movement of the vessel is not immediately apparent. Therefore, much more work needs to be done. I have influenced the budget to represent additional hours added to my workweek and in the future and we will soon need to investigate an affordable office space. In the mean time, I am satisfied with the results this year has shown and anticipate that next year will display continued growth for our Council.

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Building Designers Support Single Code

Recently, the Louisiana legislature debated the adoption of a statewide building code. A coalition made up of thirty five organizations lobbied for its approval. Thanks to the efforts of Don Gore, Mike Landry and other members of the Louisiana Society, the building design industry was represented within the coalition. Just before Thanksgiving, the International Codes were adopted as the base for a new statewide building code.

The following is an excerpt of a letter composed and sent to each of the representatives in the legislative body.

"The American Institute of Building Design and the National Council of Building Designer Certification collectively support the Louisiana Legislature in its efforts to establish a statewide uniform building code.

The requirements of numerous building codes in use throughout the state, even in adjacent jurisdictions, vary greatly. It is difficult examining competency or varied building code requirements between each jurisdiction. Design and construction of buildings throughout Louisiana could be more easily facilitated by means of one, single, complete set of integrated and comprehensive building codes, resulting in stronger, safer, and more sustainable homes and businesses.

A single, complete set of integrated and comprehensive building codes, including a stand-alone residential code, would be advantageous to all involved in the design and construction process. Most importantly, the use of prescriptive materials, methods and procedures will provide sufficient protection for the health, safety, and welfare of Louisiana citizens and businesses.

The AIBD and NCBDC have historically supported the concept of a single code. In regions that have previously adopted the International

Building Code and International Residential code, research has shown those impacted by intense storms have had minimal damage and no citizens displaced.

New homes and businesses constructed with attention to established and proven standards in the construction process will be an improved source of protection for inhabitants while also better protecting our natural resources."

AIBD & Hanley Wood Provide CPBD Classes

Beginning the first week of November, 2005, and continuing through 2006, the American Institute of Building Design will be hosting Building Designer Certification training at Hanley Wood Exhibition's JLC LIVE Residential Building Shows.

AIBD Executive Director, Steve Mickley and Pacific Northwest Examiner, George Deasy presented the inaugural class at the Portland Convention Center. Thirteen designers from three states pre-registered and attended the six hour preparatory class for the NCBDC certification which covered each of the ten components that comprise the exam: Ethics, Building Materials, Architectural History, Structures, Specifications, Administrative Procedures, Design, Building, Electrical and Mechanical Systems.

The next course is scheduled to be presented at the JLC LIVE New England show in Providence, Rhode Island. This time lead by Mickley and the North Eastern Examiner, Tom Schmelter, the full day intensive training will be held March 22, 2006 from 9am to 5pm.

For more information, visit www.jlclive.com. The full 2005/2006 schedule is as follows:

- Nov. 28, 2005 - Portland, OR
- March 22, 2006 - Providence, RI
- May 16, 2006 - Anaheim, CA
- Sep. 12, 2006 - Minneapolis, MN (Tentative)
- Nov. 7, 2006 -Seattle, WA (Tentative)

Council History

Since 1950, the American Institute of Building Design (AIBD) has provided building designers with educational resources, and has developed nationwide design standards, as well as, a code of ethics for the building design profession. The NCBDC certification exam is the only test provided in America that addresses the areas of competency in residential design, construction methods, specifications, structure, building codes, business administration, electrical, mechanical, architectural history and ethics.

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Why Renew?

The Council is tireless in it's 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.

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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