

THE STANDARD



INSIDE: Community News and Enforcement News

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Front Cover:
Assorted Gears



INFORMATION

- BELS is comprised of nine members. Five professional engineers, two professional land surveyors, and two public members.
- All members are vetted by specific nominating committees. The committees then submit a list of three names to the Governor who makes the appointment.
- Board meetings are held every two months and are open to the public.

THE STANDARD

THE STANDARD is a publication of the Alabama Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors. Digital Editions are posted on our website.

Staff Contact Information can be found by using the following link:
<https://bels.alabama.gov/about/staff/>



NEED A SPEAKER?

We cover the following:

PDH / CEU topics include:

- Enforcement Case Studies
- Ethics
- Law and Rules

If interested please email:
michael.darden@bels.alabama.gov

OUR MISSION

The Alabama Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors was established by legislative action in 1935. Its charter is to protect the public by helping to safeguard life, health, and property, and to promote the public welfare by providing for the licensing and regulation of persons in the practices of engineering and land surveying.

This purpose is achieved through the establishment of minimum qualifications for entry into the professions of engineering and land surveying, through the adoption of rules defining and delineating unlawful or unethical conduct, and through discipline for those individuals or entities who violate the applicable laws or rules.

OFFICE CALENDAR

Nov 11th Holiday / Office Closed

Nov 27-28th Holiday / Office Closed

Dec 10th Board Meeting

Dec 25-26th Holiday / Office Closed

Jan 1st Holiday / Office Closed

Jan 19th Holiday / Office Closed

NCEES ACCOUNT NUMBER

Not sure if you have an NCEES account number?

NCEES is moving towards automating the license verification process for individuals with an NCEES account number. What this means is when you need to be licensed in another state your existing license(s) can automatically be verified to other participating states.

Anyone who has registered for an NCEES exam since October 2010 has a number. Just click [MyNCEES](#) to login to your account to locate your number.

Beginning in October when renewing your license, you will see a field that asks for your NCEES account number. Please take a minute and locate your NCEES account number from the NCEES website and place it in the field. For those licensed in multiple states this should greatly speed up the time it takes to have each state verify your license to the new State you're applying to.

In order for the Board to participate we need you to provide your NCEES account number. **Example: 00-000-00**

BOARD MEETING

On Tuesday, October 7, 2025, the BELS Board convened. This was Mr. Robinson's first meeting as Chair and he did a great job. Mr. Thomas W. Brooks Jr., was introduced as this was his first meeting since being appointed to the Board by Gov. Kay Ivey. During the meeting Mr. Robinson presented past Board member Mr. Nathan Johnson with a plaque from BELS and Commendation from the Alabama Senate for his dedication and years of service to the Board and citizens of Alabama.



BELS NEWS



The Board welcomes it's newest member Mr. Thomas W. Brooks, Jr.

On August 7th, 2025, Governor Ivey appointed Professional Land Surveyor Thomas W. Brooks, Jr. to the Board. Mr. Brooks will serve as a representative for the professional land surveyors in the seat previously held by Mr. Nathan Johnson and will serve on the Board until July 31, 2030.

Mr. Brooks is the son of a surveyor (Thomas W. Brooks, Sr.) and a lifelong resident of Alabama. He has been married to his wife (Jeanine) for forty-four years and they have two sons, Trey a surveyor in Kentucky and Alex a project manager in Birmingham.

He has thirty-four years of surveying experience and was first licensed in Alabama in January 1990. He is a Certified Inshore Hydrographic Surveyor and holds professional surveying licenses in nineteen (19) states.

Mr. Brooks is involved with several Professional Surveying Organizations such as the National Society of Professional Surveyors (NSPS), Fellow member and Past President (2000), current serving member of the ALTA/NSPS joint committee. Member NSPS/PAC; the Alabama Society of Professional Land Surveyors (ASPLS), Fellow Member and Past President (2013-2014) and the West Alabama Society of Professional Surveyors (District 4-WASPS), Founding Member and Past President.

CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORIZATION CHANGES

In hopes to make the firm certificates of authorization renewals a little less confusing the Board has returned the deadline for renewing certificates of authorization to **January 31st**. This will allow licensees with firms a little more time to finish the renewal process.

Problems arose during the last renewal cycle when individuals attempted to renew both their individual license and their firm certificate on December 31st. Since the system processes the renewals over-night the renewal is not finalized until the next day. The system was not recognizing that the individual had renewed their license prior to completing the certificate of authorization application.

Nathan G. Johnson P.L.S., P.E.



During the October 7, 2025, meeting the Board recognized Mr. Johnson for his eleven (11) years of service to the Board. He was appointed to the Board on August 1, 2014 and served until July 31, 2025.

Mr. Johnson was presented with a plaque and a Senate Commendation. A portion of the Senate Commendation read;

WHEREAS, throughout his service to the State of Alabama, he has been dedicated, working with fellow board members to craft laws, rules, and codified language to help improve the professions of engineering and land surveying; serving the Alabama Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors in the positions of Secretary,

Vice Chair, Chair, and Licensure Applications Chair; he has worked with fellow board members, society representatives, state agencies, and the professional community to craft language with the purpose of protecting public health, safety, and welfare; and

WHEREAS, he received his Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from Mississippi State University in 1986, his professional land surveyor license in 1988, and his professional engineering license in 1992; and

WHEREAS, he grew up in a family of engineers and land surveyors, working for his father and uncle on a survey crew as early as elementary school learning the principles of land surveying and boundary retracement; and

WHEREAS; he is active in his local community as well as state and national organizations to include, the Alabama Society of Professional Land Surveyors, American Society of Civil Engineers, National Society of Professional Engineers, Rotary International and Boy Scouts of America.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That we hereby extend highest commendations to Nathan Johnson, P.L.S., P.E., as well as extend him sincere best wishes for continued success in all future endeavors.

REQUIREMENT TO REPORT

The Board's Administrative Code, Rules of Professional Conduct (Code of Ethics) was amended December 10, 2024 and became effective February 14, 2025. It now includes the following:

Section 330-X-14-.06 Ethics (Canon V)

The engineer or land surveyor shall contribute to the maintenance, integrity, independence and competency of the engineering or land surveying profession as follows:

- (h) The engineer or land surveyor must provide written notification to the Board within **30 days** of a disciplinary action taken against them by other licensing boards.
- (i) The engineer or land surveyor must provide written notification to the Board within **30 days** of a conviction, a plea of guilty, or nolo contendere to any felony crime, or misdemeanor directly related to the practice of engineering or land surveying.

BOARD TECHNICAL ADVISORS

Professional Land Surveyors Needed

Board Technical Advisors (BTA) serve a vital role in the investigation of competency based complaints regarding professional engineers and land surveyors. Their expertise is a tremendous asset to the Board's investigative committee in determining if probable cause exists that a violation had occurred.

Understanding the amount of time necessary to provide an examination of documents submitted for review the Board limits the amount of reviews assigned to a BTA each year. If at all possible the BTA is also selected from a different geographical area of the State than where the violation occurred.

Also — Board Technical Advisors can earn up to ten (10) PDH's a year for their service to the Board in review of documents.

If you live in the State of Alabama and are interested, please contact Chief Special Investigator Bob Herbert via email at: robert.herbert@bels.alabama.gov.

CREDENTIALS

Between July 5, 2025 and September 30, 2025 the following were issued

Engineering C.A. - 40

Land Surveying C.A. - 4

New Licensed P.E. - 174

New Licensed P.L.S. - 8

New Certified Engineer Interns - 37

New Certified Land Surveyors - 3

REMOTE SUPERVISION POLICY

The Board has always reviewed applications that indicate experience was obtained via remote supervision carefully and determined on a case by case basis if the experience met the requirements for licensure. In 2022 the Board decided to formalize this requirement in a policy and make it available on the website in order for applicants to know its position on remote experience. The policy was updated in 2024 and the current policy is below.

EFFECTIVE MARCH 8, 2022 — REVISED OCTOBER 8, 2024

While it cannot be disputed that the benefits of face-to-face mentoring and supervision of engineer or land surveyor interns cannot be overemphasized; it is also recognized that a certain degree of benefit can be realized through mentoring and supervision by using electronic communication platforms.

With the need to conduct business not only in person, but virtual interaction with business clients becoming more acceptable and necessary in today's business climate, the use of technological communication tools have become a necessity in modern business interactions. This is true not only for client interactions, but it is also essential for employee communication and training.

The Board will recognize remote supervision of engineers and land surveyors on a case-by-case basis.

- ♦ An active formal training and supervision plan must be developed by a company wishing to employ remote supervision techniques, that describes, in detail, the methodologies to be employed for remote supervision, the frequency of in person face to face interaction, and the frequency of virtual contact between the engineer and/or land surveyor intern and the supervisor. **The Board does not preapprove Remote Supervision Plans.**
- ♦ The company will be responsible for implementing and maintaining a plan that is consistent for all interns, guides the intern towards progressive knowledge and responsibility, and shall include a requirement stating that a majority of the supervised training shall be in person face-to-face interaction.
- ♦ Documented evidence must be provided to the Board that clearly shows adherence to the remote supervision plan demonstrates increased responsibility. **(template available on Board website).** [Remote-Supervision-Board-Policy-Log-Template-1.pdf](#)

Experience gained while working at an active project site until the project is completed is not considered remote work for the purposes of this policy.

Remote Supervision experience is typically credited at half credit. If the company policy and documentation/log are not provided, no credit will be given for the Remote Supervision Experience until the policy and log are provided.

FY 2024-2025 CREDENTIALS ISSUED BY QUARTER

Credential	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter	<u>Total</u>
Engineer Intern	64	76	89	38	267
Surveyor Intern	3	4	0	3	10
Professional Engineer	341	288	257	235	1121
Initial	46	40	59	25	170
Comity	295	248	198	210	951
Professional Land Surveyor	5	12	11	937	37
Initial	1	2	2	1	6
Comity	4	10	5	3	22
Engineering Company	85	69	74	56	284
Land Surveying Company	10	10	7	5	32

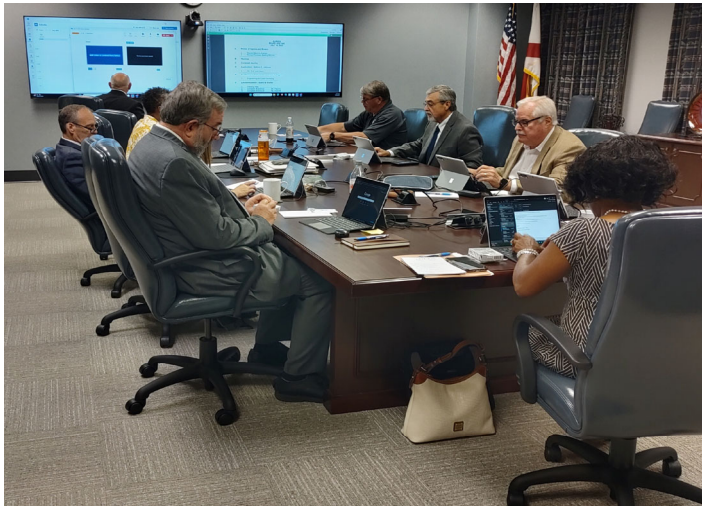
NEED ASSISTANCE

If you have questions about how to fill out a new licensure application, register as a new firm, print your pocket card, reset your password or email address...etc. You can visit our website at www.bels.alabama.gov and click the “**How To**” icon. Under this section you will find step by step instructions that will address many of your questions and help you with the online process.

If you still have questions please call our office at 334-242-5568 and speak to a BELS Staff member. We will be glad to assist.

BOARD MEETING

On July 16, 2025, the Board convened and discussed items brought before the Board. The Board approved licenses for new PE, PLS, Interns and Certificate of Authorizations for firms. The Board works diligently to ensure applicants for licensure have all the education, experience and examination qualifications required.



ASCE CONFERENCE

The Alabama Society of Civil Engineers 2025 Summer Conference was held in Orange Beach July 17-19, 2025. The conference was hosted by ASCE and APWA (American Public Works Association). On Friday, July 18, 2025, BELS Staff member Bill Hamil gave a one hour presentation to the attendees. The presentation consisted of updates from the Board and ethics training related to the Alabama Administrative Code.

FIRE COLLEGE



On July 24, and October 9, 2025, BELS Staff members Bob Herbert, Bill Hamil and Michael Darden gave a one and half hour presentation to the professionals attending the Alabama Fire College Plans Examiners course. The presentation informed the students of BELS functions and procedures, examples of cases involving rules and law violations, and how to use resources available to assist them in their duties.

AARB CONFERENCE

On Wednesday, October 8, 2025, BELS Staff members (Bonnie Kelly, Bill Hamil and Michael Darden) attended the Alabama Association of Regulatory Boards conference held in Montgomery, Alabama. The speakers provided Legislative updates, information on how AI is being used, issues that consistently arise at the Contract Review Board (such as sole source contracts), Board Member travel, Purchasing Requirements, and Consumer Protection Enforcement in Alabama.



FUN FACT:

Aviation pioneers, Wilbur and Orville Wright, opened the nation's first civilian flying school in 1910 on the outskirts of Montgomery, Alabama. However, mechanical and weather related problems forced the brothers to close the facility earlier than anticipated. The school only lasted three months. Afterwards, the location was later used for aircraft repair during WW I. On November 8, 1922, the installation became Maxwell Field, which evolved into what is now Maxwell Air Force Base.

Do you any fun fact ideas?

If so, email me at michael.darden@bels.alabama.gov

ENFORCEMENT NEWS

Our investigators are available to answer your questions concerning routine issues that occur and relate to compliance with the Code of Alabama and/or the Board's Administrative Code. Please feel free to send them an email or give them a call with your questions or concerns.

Their Contact Information:

Chief Special Investigator Bob Herbert: robert.herbert@bels.alabama.gov, or 334-242-5089

Special Investigator Bill Hamil: william.hamill@bels.alabama.gov, or 334-242-5049

Special Investigator Michael Darden: michael.darden@bels.alabama.gov, or 334-353-1047

Jerry Dowdy, PLS18979 - Complaint 2025-23

The investigation determined Jerry Dowdy, PLS provided a survey that contained errors. A Board Technical Advisor's review of the survey determined the survey contained violations of the Standards of Practice for Land Surveying. Mr. Dowdy agreed to a consent order that required him to pay a \$1,500 fine to the Board, and the Consent and Final Order to be a public record.

Jade Engineering and Inspection, ECA 1002 - Complaint 2025-39

The investigation determined Jade Engineering and Inspection offered engineering services during a period of time it did not hold a current certificate of authorization for engineering (CA) issued by the Board. The PE for the firm stated he thought he did not need a certificate of authorization if he only offered engineering services under his name. However, when offering services he continued to use the firm's name and logo on documents he provided to his clients. The firm agreed to a Consent Order that required it to pay a \$5,000 civil penalty to the State General Fund, to pay \$205 to the Board for the cost of the investigation and the Consent Order and Final Order to be public record.

Gregory Engineering, Inc, ECA51464 - Complaint 2025-40

The investigation determined Gregory Engineering, Inc. offered engineering services without being issued a certificate of authorization (CA) by the Board. The firm provided engineering plans for one project in Alabama before obtaining a CA. The Engineer of Record advised he failed to determine the specific requirements for the State of Alabama with respect to corporate registration prior to starting and completing the project. Gregory Engineering, Inc. agreed to a Consent Order that required the firm to pay a \$500 civil penalty to the State General Fund, to pay \$95 for the cost of the investigation and the Final Order to be public record.

Lowe Structures Inc., ECA51456 - Complaint 2025-42

The investigation determined Lowe Structures Inc. failed to obtain a certificate of authorization (CA) from the Board before providing engineering plans for one project in Alabama. The Engineer of Record informed it was an oversight on the firm failing to obtain a CA. Lowe Structures Inc. agreed to a Consent Order that required the firm to pay a \$500 civil penalty to the State General Fund, pay \$99 for the cost of the investigation and the Final Order to be public record.

Shaffer Engineering Group, LLC., ECA51482 - Complaint 2025-43

The investigation determined Shaffer Engineering Group, LLC failed to obtain a certificate of

ENFORCEMENT NEWS

Continued from previous page.

authorization (CA) from the Board before providing engineering services for two projects in Alabama. The Shaffer Engineering Group, LLC firm agreed to a Consent Order that required the firm to pay a \$1,500 civil penalty to the State General Fund, to pay \$88 to the Board for the cost of the investigation, and the Final Order be public record.

Steven Kruyne, PE55381 - Complaint 2025-44

The investigation determined Steven Kruyne received felony convictions for Invasion of Privacy and Peeping Tom on June 17, 2025 and is currently in jail. Mr. Kruyne admitted these offenses were committed while he was attending a manufacturer's sales trip during the time he worked for an engineering firm as an electrical engineer. Mr. Kruyne agreed to a Consent Order that required the Surrender of his PE license, that he cannot request reissuance of his PE license for a period of 2 years, and the Final Order to be public record.

Steven Schaub, PE 25922 - Complaint 2025-45

The investigation determined when Steven Schaub, PE submitted his Alabama PE license renewal application on October 27, 2023, he answered "No" to the question "Have you been subject to disciplinary action by any other licensing board since your last renewal?", when he had received a disciplinary action of his PE license by another Board. Mr. Schaub signed two consent orders with the other Board. One against his PE license and one against his firm for offering services without obtaining a CA. Mr. Schaub disclosed the disciplinary action against his firm, but did not disclose the disciplinary action taken against his PE license. He agreed to a consent order that required him to pay a \$500 fine to the Board and the Consent Order and Final Order will be a public record.

Enforcement Action Orders can be viewed using licensee or firm search on the home page of our website.

ASK OUR STAFF

SEND QUESTIONS ABOUT

- ♦ **PE & PLS Applications, Structural Roster Designation Requests, and the ALSS Exam** to Bonnie Kelly at bonnie.kelly@bels.alabama.gov
- ♦ **Public Records Request, Renewals & Reinstatements** to Rick Huett at rick.huett@bels.alabama.gov
- ♦ **Certificates of Authorization - Applications, Amendments, or Renewals, and Engineer Intern and Land Surveyor Intern Applications** to Pam Faison at pamela.faison@bels.alabama.gov
- ♦ **License Verification Requests.** The vast majority of states use the electronic verification system available on the NCEES website. Just login to your MYNCEES account and request the verification. If the jurisdiction requires a paper verification contact Rick Huett at rick.huett@bels.alabama.gov.