

Board Office

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Board Members

Kenneth Thiessen, RG,
CEG , Chair (*DEQ*)

Hans Feige, RG, Vice
Chair (*Feige & Associates*)

Brad Avy, RG, State
Geologist (*DOGAMI*)

Scott Burns, PhD, RG,
CEG (*Prof. Emeritus, PSU*)

Peter Stroud, RG, CEG,
(*Aspect Consulting*)

Stephen Tucker,
Public Member (*Cascade
Radon*)

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Registered Geologist Week

On October 16, 2017, the Honorable Governor of Oregon, Kate Brown and Honorable Oregon Secretary of State, Dennis Richardson issued the following proclamation in recognition of the National Association of State Boards of Geology (ASBOG) fall meeting, the Oregon State Board of Geologist Examiners 40th anniversary, and most importantly to recognize the contributions made by Oregon Registered Geologists to the State of Oregon.

Join us in celebrating the week!

STATE OF OREGON
PROCLAMATION
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS: The National Association of State Boards of Geology (ASBOG) serves as a connective link among the individual state geologic licensure boards for promotion of uniform procedures and standards, including the standardized, national examination for assessment of minimum competency for geologist licensure; and

WHEREAS: ASBOG shall hold its 2017 annual meeting and Council of Examiners in Portland, Oregon bringing together representatives of individual state geologic licensing boards and geologic practitioners from around the United States; and

WHEREAS: Oregon has long promoted the protection of public health, safety and welfare in relation to geologic practice through geologist licensure, with creation of the Oregon State Board of Geologists Examiners (OSBGE) 40 years ago (1977 Oregon Legislature); and

WHEREAS: OSBGE participates as a member of ASBOG, administering the national examination as the Oregon examination standard for geologist licensure since 1996; and

WHEREAS: Oregon continues to be shaped by active geologic forces and the need for Oregonians to have access to the services of licensed geologic professionals remains strong; and

WHEREAS: In recognition of the collective work of Oregon Registered Geologists, OSBGE and ASBOG to serve Oregonians through protection of public health, safety, and welfare.

NOW, THEREFORE: I, Kate Brown, Governor of the State of Oregon, hereby proclaim **October 30-November 3, 2017, to be REGISTERED GEOLOGIST WEEK** in Oregon and encourage all Oregonians to join in this observance.



The mission of the Board of Geologist Examiners is to help assure the safety, health, and welfare of Oregonians with regard to the public practice of geology.

New E-mail

Please make a note of the Board's new email address!

osbge.info@oregon.gov

Future Certified Engineering Geologists

Minimum licensure standards for Oregon Registered Geologists (RG) and Certified Engineering Geologists (CEG) are spelled out in state law, specifically Oregon Revised Statutes 672.555 and 672.565. The Board cannot adopt licensure standards that are inconsistent with statute. This has not presented any particular problems with respect to licensure standards for the RG. However, the Board has been increasingly hearing concerns from various sources about the statutory requirement for qualifying experience needed for the CEG specialty. The concerns relate to the requirement for experience to be gained under a “geologist who is certified in the specialty for which the applicant is seeking certification.” (ORS 672.565(2)(a)) The Board has been asked if this statutory requirement serves as a barrier to qualifying for the CEG specialty for RGs working in Oregon. The vast majority of RGs working in Oregon do not have another option for gaining qualifying work experience for the CEG specialty.

Without acceptable qualifying experience, RGs can neither sit for the engineering geology (EG) exam nor meet standards for the CEG. The Board knows that only about half of active CEGs are in Oregon so that limits the pool of CEGs that can supervise RGs working in state. While numbers fluctuate, this means there are likely less than 150 CEGs in Oregon, including those that are retired but holding licensure. Can RGs in Oregon readily gain the required experience? When these limits are considered along with the general aging of the CEG registrant pool, the Board sees increasing challenges for RGs working in Oregon to gain qualifying work experience under a CEG.

The Board has generally not received large numbers of applications to sit for the EG exam. But the last three years brought especially low numbers of EG exam candidates: 2 in 2015, 2 in 2016, and 3 in 2017. Is this due to there not being enough registered CEG's working in Oregon to supervise the next generation of RGs interested in pursuing the CEG specialty? In coming years, will there be enough CEGs working in Oregon to ensure protection of public health, safety, and welfare? These are just a few of the questions that the Board feels it needs to consider.

The Board would like to hear from both current CEGs and those aspiring towards the CEG specialty. Should there be more flexibility in how qualifying experience can be obtained? California and Washington are able to accept experience gained under a qualified civil or geotechnical engineer. Would experience under an engineer and passage of the EG exam demonstrate competency? Would you be likely to support or oppose legislation to change the status quo? Share your thoughts by email osbge.info@oregon.gov or letter.

Participate in Website Survey

The Board is working to migrate its website to a new, more modern website template. By leveraging the new template, the Board can make its website mobile responsive and more accessible than ever before. The overarching goal is to create a website that is designed with public users in mind. Board staff will be evaluating existing website content with goals of clearing clutter, better organizing information based on tasks that bring people to the website, and identifying areas where new content should be developed.

The Board asks registrants and others to weigh in on website design by **participating in an online survey**. Click [here](#) (or visit <http://ows.io/os/20cd6yw6>) to provide feedback on website organization and content **now through November 8, 2017**. The Board anticipates the survey will take you 10 to 15 minutes. Recognizing how busy life can be, the Board thanks all that participate! A second opportunity for input will be provided in the coming months to help test the new website prototype.

Christine's Corner— Notes from the Administrator

All registrants of the Board are subject to a Code of Professional Conduct. First adopted in state rule in 1984, the Code has been updated several times over the years and covers the registrant's responsibilities to the profession, employers, and the Board. A violation of the Code of Conduct is misconduct and grounds for disciplinary action by the Board. For registrants that have not read through the Code of Conduct in a while, I highly recommend that you take a few minutes to refresh your memory. See [Oregon Administrative Rule Chapter 809 Division 20](#).



All registrants are required to protect public health, safety and welfare through their work. Geologic work is to be "guided by the highest standards of ethics, honesty, integrity, fairness, personal honor, and professional conduct."(804-020-0001(1)). In addition, registrants are required to help police the profession, with responsibility to notify the Board of possible violations of state registration laws or rules by either unlicensed individuals or other Board registrants.

In recent years, the Board's complaint case load has been low. The Board would like to think this is a reflection of everyone behaving, and registrants meeting the highest ethical standards in their work. If it is instead more a reflection of registrants choosing to not notify the Board of potential violations, then that is a problem! Please remember the 3 "Rs" of the Code: Read, Remember, and Report when needed.

Feedback? Questions?

Contact Board Staff:

**Christine Valentine,
Administrator &
Marilou Arrobang,
Registration Specialist**

New Board Officers Elected

At its Sept. 29, 2017 meeting, the Board elected new officers. Kenneth Thiessen, RG/CEG moved from the Vice Chair position to become Chair. Hans Feige, RG, moved into the Vice Chair position. Congratulations to them!

The Board and staff thanked Peter Stroud, RG/CEG, for his service as Board Chair from December 2013 through Sept. 2017. Peter put in many hours of extra time as Chair helping to guide the Board, oversee business operations, and work with staff. He completes his second term on the Board this December. Board members are limited to serving two, consecutive 3 year terms.

Welcome New Registrants!



The Board welcomed the following new registrants since the last newsletter publication. (Data as of 10/25/17.)

RG by Passing Exam

Weirup, Luke G2451 10/20/2017

RG by Cooperative Registration:

McClure, Seann G2573 09/13/2017

GIT by Passing Exam

Lindsey, Cassandra T2571 09/14/2017

Utevsky, Elinor T2572 09/12/2017

A NOTE ABOUT GEOLOGY EXAMS:

Exams were last held on 10/06/17. Results from that administration are not yet available. Exams will next be held on 03/16/2018. See Calendar of Events at the end of this newsletter for exam application deadlines.



Oregon State Board of Geologist Examiners

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New E-mail

We're on the Web at

<http://www.oregon.gov/OSBGE/Pages/index.aspx>

Lapsed Registrations

Name, Regis. #, Expiry

Renewals due 07/01/2017 to 09/30/2017 (Data as 10/25/2017).

Bangsund, William, G1202, 08/31/2017

Bet, James, G2222, 07/31/2017

Garcia, Brenda, G1580, 08/31/2017

Gloss II, George, E0101, 09/30/2017

Graham, James, G1142, 07/31/2017

Jones, Adam, G2535, 09/30/2017

McCarley, Justin, T2534, 09/30/2017

Norton, Mark, G0892, 08/31/2017

Wells, Rick, G2352, 07/31/2017

Contact the Board office for assistance with restoration of registration.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

10/30- **Oregon RG Week**
11/02/17

10/31- ASBOG events, incl.
11/04/17 mtg. & exam review

11/16/17 Applications due for
ASBOG exam

12/08/17 Board Quarterly Mtg.

01/02/18 Applications due for EG
exam & ASBOG retakes

Holidays/Office Closed
11/10/17, 11/23-11/24/17, 12/25/17,
01/01/18

*Due to limited staffing at the
Board office, it is always advisable
to call ahead if planning to visit.*

Enjoy the Fall!