



**FBPE**  
FLORIDA BOARD OF  
PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS

# Connection

*Linking You With the Florida Board's Latest Engineering News and Information*

January 2022

## From the Executive Director: 2022 Loading...

By **Zana Raybon**, FBPE Executive Director & FEMC President

Hopefully, here's to a better year than the last two have been. Even with all the challenges of COVID and handling a renewal period during a worldwide pandemic, the [Florida Engineers Management Corporation](#) survived and persevered.

We closed out renewal on Feb. 28, 2021, and started the continuing education audit shortly after that. We are nearly complete with all the auditing and hope to finish any outstanding cases in time to start renewal again in late fall 2022. Whew!

Just around the corner is the 2022 Legislative session, which will commence on Jan. 11. We are keeping our eyes on a couple of bills that have been filed and might affect engineers. We will keep you informed through email and the website if there is any cause for concern. We will have definite news by the time our next newsletter is published, and let you know if any of the bills passed. Check out Senate Bills 940, 942, 1118, and 1302. Also, check out House Bills 87, 375, and 565.

One of the best things to happen for us in 2021 was the appointment of five new [Board members](#). Along with four re-appointments, we welcomed Yassi Meyers, PE; Jeb Mulock, PE; John Pistorino, PE; and Denise Ramsey, PE. It's great to have an almost full Board. In December, the [Board elected](#) a new chair for 2022, Scott Drury, PE, and a new vice chair, Dylan Albergo, PE. We are looking forward to a productive year and being able to meet face-to-face.

FEMC is happy to report that our outreach to colleges and universities is picking back up. We continue to make licensure presentations via Zoom, but we have also made a few in-person presentations. We hope to be able to continue with our visits in 2022, and get the word out about PE licensure to our Florida students.

The big news, amid the pandemic and renewal, was that we accomplished moving our office to a new location. We are still in Tallahassee, but our mailing address has changed to 2400 Mahan Dr., Tallahassee, FL 32308.



The FEMC staff (above) wishes you all a happy, healthy 2022. Stay safe!

## Chair's Corner: Welcome Back to the New Normal

By Scott Drury, PE, FBPE Chair (2022)

Happy New Year from the Board! I hope you are looking forward to 2022 as much as I am. The past two years have been full of personal and professional challenges for everyone. We have all learned to adapt to things in ways we never thought we would have to do.

First, I would like to express my gratitude to Kevin Fleming, PE, for serving as chair of the Board for the past year. Mr. Fleming was appointed to FBPE in 2015, has served as the vice chair for three separate years, continues to chair and serve on various Board committees, and as Board chair, provided leadership through a second year of virtual meetings.



Second, I would like to thank the Board members for your continued service and dedication to the people of Florida. Even while we were at reduced capacity for several years, it never felt as if we slowed down, since we maintained the same active and productive schedule that we always did. Now that many of the vacant seats were filled this past year, our Board is almost back to full strength and has increased energy and efficiency to continue our service.

Third, I would like to thank everyone at Florida Engineering Management Corporation, under the leadership of Executive Director Zana Raybon. FEMC is the administrative and enforcement organization for the Florida Board of Professional Engineers and provides all the services to Florida-licensed engineers that the Department of Business and Professional Regulation provides to licensed professionals in other professions. FEMC continues to provide an exceptional level of service to licensees and the Board.

To everyone else, I know this new year will be full of challenges again, but I am hopeful that we will all persevere through these with determination, humility, and grace. For some of you, this new year may be a return to the “old normal.” For others, this could be another year of the “new normal.” Yet, for others, it could be a hybrid of the old and new. That’s why I greet you with a “Welcome back to the new normal!”

Speaking for myself, I am very excited about returning to in-person Board meetings. In December 2021, we had our first in-person meeting since February 2020. In 2022, all regularly scheduled Board meetings will be in person, with committee meetings to be held virtually.

While Zoom has been and will continue to be a resource, there is something about being able to converse back and forth with others in the same room. I am not just talking about discussions between Board members, but also being able to converse with you, the licensees.

We understand that appearing before the Board is a big deal, especially when it comes to a matter that affects your livelihood. Whether your appearance before the Board is related to a licensure application, a disciplinary hearing, or concerns you have related to the practice of engineering in Florida, we take each individual matter seriously and believe interacting with you in person at a Board meeting is the best way to provide this individual attention without the distractions and technical challenges.

In the coming year, the Board will continue to serve you to the best of our abilities. We will continue to create meaningful rule language to remove unnecessary or overly restrictive rules, review the

qualifications of applicants for licensure, and protect the health and safety of Florida’s residents and visitors.

## Special Inspector Application: Do’s and Don’ts

By Babu Varghese, PE, SI, CGC, CCC

Applicants for [Special Inspector of Threshold Buildings](#) certification — both SI and [SI \(Limited\)](#) — may find the application process somewhat overwhelming. Here are some common SI application mistakes, and how to avoid them.

The Special Inspector of Threshold Buildings is a certification created by [Chapter 553, Florida Statutes](#). It is not uncommon for various Authorities Having Jurisdiction, such as county building departments, to use the term “special inspector” for various things *that are not included in the Chapter 553 Threshold Building statutory scheme*. The Board only certifies SIs of Threshold Buildings, which is a statewide listing; the Board has no jurisdiction over the locally created “special inspectors.”

### Overlapping Months of Experience

The most common reason for delaying the approval of the application is overlapping months of experience.

Experience for SI certification is calculated differently than the experience for a Professional Engineer license. For a PE license, the experience is calculated for the length of full time worked under a Professional Engineer performing engineering services. There is a start date, end date, and the number of months of experience is automatically calculated. It is not that easy determining SI work experience. Here’s why:

There is an engineering rule — Rule 61G15-35.003(b), Florida Administrative Code — that establishes criteria for acceptable experience.

The applicant is supposed to list the months of experience for each threshold building project the applicant worked on during any time period. If an applicant worked full time on only one project, start and stop dates would be simple. However, most practicing engineers work on multiple projects in any given month.

For example, an applicant’s time sheet summary (assuming all threshold buildings) may show the following:

- January: Started the design of Project A (80 percent); designed revisions on Project B (20 percent)
- February: Completed permit package for Project A (85 percent); inspection of Project C (15 percent)
- March: Revisions on Project A (10 percent); inspection of Project C (85 percent).

In the above scenario, the Board accepts **two** months of design experience for Project A and **one** month of inspection experience for Project C, based on what project the applicant claims to have spent the majority of the time on during each month. (Please note that each inspection is verified, which is a separate issue.)

It is better to use the applicant’s judgement in providing this time since we are counting months. Fractional accuracy is not expected, but should not exceed 100 percent, since none of us can work more than the number of hours in a month, despite (some) of our boss’s demands.

Again, using the above scenario, the overlapping months of experience issue happens when the applicant claims the following:

Project A, three months + Project B, one month (total four months of design)

Project C, two months (total two months of inspection).

In other words, instead of correctly claiming two months of design experience and one month of inspection experience (in fact, one's billable time in this example will be three months only), the applicant claims four months of design and two months of inspection experience resulting in overlapping months of experience (double dipping), which significantly delays the approval process. For this reason, some applicants will list only design projects in some months, other months with only inspections, depending on what the majority of time was spent.

To assist the applicant with avoiding overlapping months, the Board provides a simple Experience Calculator spreadsheet on the FBPE website. The spreadsheet will show the overlapping months highlighted immediately when dates are entered.

The Board's intent is that the applicant will notice the highlighted months and make the required corrections before sending the application to the Board. So, please *do* submit applications without overlapping months.

Remember, the Board understands PEs work on multiple projects, some threshold and some not, some design and some inspections. The key is to make sure the application clearly identifies design months vs. inspection months, and doesn't attempt to claim the same month's credit for both types of experience.

### *Excessive Time*

The Board may question an applicant's claim of, say, 30 months of design or inspection for a four-story hotel building. In this event, the time taken appears excessive on its face, and it is better to explain in detail in advance to avoid delay. Be honest, and do not exaggerate.

### *Assembly Building*

Chapter 553.71 (12), F.S., defines "threshold building" as any building that is greater than three stories or 50 feet in height, or that has an *assembly occupancy classification* as defined in the Florida Building Code that exceeds 5,000 square feet in area and an occupant content of greater than 500 persons.

No one generally makes a mistake on the first part of the threshold building definition (building with four stories or 50 feet in height). But many applicants mistakenly consider large one- or two-story buildings as threshold buildings by noting the *occupant capacity* or load.

A one-story, 1-million-square-foot warehouse or retail building may have an occupant capacity of more than 500 people. But, because this type of structure is not classified as an assembly occupancy, it is not a threshold building. Applicants mistakenly claim months of threshold building experience for non-threshold building, which will cause the application to be rejected. Again, it is not the complexity of the structure; a threshold building (and the special inspectors thereof) is a concept established by Florida law, not engineering practicalities.

### *Type of Experience*

Though it is written in bold letters and underlined on every single experience form that "Structural Design experience is only recognized for projects where the designs are all components of complete

threshold buildings and shall not be limited to structural components only,” a few applicants still describe their projects like “concrete column, concrete beam, shoring, and post tension floors.” Please *do not* make cryptic descriptions of the project as described, requiring the reviewer to have to guess whether it is a new construction or repair project, or if the applicant only performed design of a few components, no matter how complex. Please *do* provide a detailed narrative of the project, for example: “Designed the new construction of the building from foundation to roof, including all load-bearing components such as columns, beams, floors... .”

Please *do not* include detailed explanations of accomplishments, awards received, serving on national technical committees, or contributions to engineering community. While these are certainly laudable, the review committee is not permitted to substitute any other qualification to compensate for the lack of threshold building experience.

### *Documenting Experience*

In evaluating your application, the Board’s experience committee must determine whether your experience qualifies you for licensure. That means, the committee must be able to verify, understand, and evaluate the facts you have presented. Do not assume that the summary you provided will be obvious to the committee.

A specific, detailed summary of your engineering experience will greatly speed approval of your application. You should write a draft of your experience and run it by your supervising Special Inspector of Threshold Buildings, a Professional Engineer, or someone who is familiar with the SI licensure process to review it, before sending it to the Board. Be honest. It is better to wait until you have sufficient experience to qualify you for approval.

Florida needs more Special Inspectors, and the Board is ready and eager to license qualified applicants. The approval process will be a lot smoother and faster if you craft your application to avoid the pit falls mentioned above.

### *About the Author*

*Babu Varghese, PE, SI, CGC, CCC, is the president and principal engineer of Abtech Engineering Inc., a multi-disciplinary engineering firm, which he founded in 1988, in Fort Lauderdale. He has served on the Board since 2015, and was its vice chair in 2019 and chair in 2020.*

## **Drury, Albergo Selected FBPE Chair, Vice Chair for 2022**

The [Florida Board of Professional Engineers](#) elected for 2022 Scott Drury, PE, as its chair, and Dylan Albergo, PE as its vice chair. Mr. Drury succeeds C. Kevin Fleming, PE, who served as chair in 2021.

The appointments were made at the Board’s December meeting.

Mr. Drury has over 19 years of experience in the field of engineering, since graduating from Auburn University with a B.S. in mechanical engineering in 2002. Mr. Drury joined H2Engineering in 2007 and later became a principal owner in 2016. His initiative, attention to detail, and affinity for solving technical problems made him a natural fit to quickly become the firm’s leader of the commissioning department. In addition to being a licensed Professional Engineer in both mechanical and fire protection engineering, Mr. Drury is also a commissioning authority, certified firestop inspector, and LEED-accredited professional.

Prior to joining H2Engineering, Mr. Drury served as a mechanical engineering intern at Engineering Ministries International, a non-profit organization that provides free architectural and design services for ministries in third-world countries. In 2003, Mr. Drury became an application engineer for Motion Reality Inc. in Marietta, Ga., where he developed, tested, and commissioned motion-capture technology systems and managed the installation processes world-wide.

His personal experience spans a variety of both design and commissioning projects for institutional, commercial, educational, and medical clients. These projects include both large- and small-scale projects, new construction, additions, renovations, and historic preservation. His experience also includes the design and testing of complex mechanical and fire protection systems (including smoke control systems).

Outside the office, Mr. Drury is an accomplished songwriter who enjoys volunteering at his church and spending time with his wife and two daughters.

Appointed to the Board in 2018, Mr. Drury has previously served as its vice chair in 2021, as chair for both its mechanical rules and fire protection rules committees, and was on its probable cause panel.

Mr. Albergo specializes in bridge design. As a part of WGI, he is responsible for providing project management, technical expertise, and delivering on complex infrastructure projects.

Appointed to the Board in 2018, Mr. Albergo holds several Board committee positions and enjoys seeing people flourish in their calling. Mr. Albergo resides in Tampa with his wife, Grace, and is an active member at the First Baptist Church of Tampa. He sits on the boards of Walking With Warriors, which supports high-risk public servants, and the Faith Action Ministry Alliance, which serves the local community. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in civil engineering from the Florida State University, and a Master's in structural engineering from the University of Florida.

### *FEMC Chair, Vice Chair for 2022*

At its December meeting, the directors of the [Florida Engineers Management Corporation](#) re-elected for 2022 Art Nordlinger, PE, as chair, and Satya Lory, PE, as vice chair.

The FEMC board of directors oversees operations for the corporation, which provides administrative, investigative, and prosecutorial services to the Florida Board of Professional Engineers.

Mr. Nordlinger is the manager, transmission tariff and contracts for Tampa Electric Company. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in electrical engineering from Northwestern University in Evanston, Ill., in 1979. After several years in industry, he returned to graduate school and earned his master's degree in electric power engineering in 1988 from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, N.Y.



*Scott Drury, PE*



*Dylan Albergo, PE*

Mr. Nordlinger then went to work for Florida Power Corporation, starting as a project engineer in its Energy Control Center. He held several engineering and management positions in the generation and integrated resource planning, cogeneration, and regulatory areas during his 13 years with Florida Power.

Mr. Nordlinger joined Tampa Electric in 2002 where he has held the positions of manager, grid planning and operations support, and manager, generator interconnection services, in addition to his current position.

He has taught graduate courses at the University of South Florida in power system analysis and advanced energy management systems. He is a senior member of IEEE and the IEEE Florida Council's representative to the Florida Board of Professional Engineers. He was appointed a corporate director for FEMC in 2018.



*Art Nordlinger, PE*

Ms. Lory is division vice president and operations leader at Jacobs Engineering Group Inc. She received her bachelor's in civil engineering from National Institute of Technology (Calicut, India), a master's in civil engineering from the University of South Florida, and an MBA from the University of Tampa. She started her career in bridge design before moving into project management and program management positions. Over her 28-year career, Ms. Lory has been involved in a variety of projects and programs, including being the design manager for Jacobs for the \$2.3-billion Interstate 4 Ultimate public-private partnership.



*Satya Lory, PE*

Ms. Lory is very passionate about the engineering profession, and has held several leadership positions in the American Society of Civil Engineers, including west coast branch president, vice president – district 2, and president of Florida Section ASCE. Ms. Lory is a member of ASCE, the Florida Engineering Society, and ACEC Florida's transportation committee. She also holds a Project Management Professional certification.

She was appointed a corporate director for FEMC in 2018.

### **3 Things to Do Now to Prepare for License Renewal**

We're about halfway between the close of the previous license renewal period for Florida Professional Engineers and the start of the next one. Here are three things you can do now to make sure your renewal goes smoothly.

#### ***Log Into the Licensure Portal***

Head over to the Department of Business and Professional Regulation's website, [myfloridalicense.com](http://myfloridalicense.com), log into your account, and confirm that your PE license is linked to your account. If it isn't, follow the instructions on [our PE License Renewal: Step-by-Step page](#).



You will need access to your account to renew your PE license, as well as to request a printable copy of your license. If you discover that you have misplaced your password or that your account or license is associated with a different email address, contact the Board at [\(850\) 521-0500](tel:850-521-0500) for assistance.

### **Update Your Contact Information**

While you are logged into your account, check that your contact information is up to date.

Florida statutes require that PEs licensed in the state keep their contact information up to date with the Board. This includes your email address, mailing address, and place of practice. (See [Section 455.275\(1\), Florida Statutes](#).)

You can update your contact information in the licensure portal [by following these steps](#). Or, you can fill out [the Change Contact Information form](#) on our website.

If you haven't been receiving emails from FBPE, including the quarterly Connection newsletter, you may have unsubscribed. Visit [our Resubscribe to FBPE Emails page](#) to fill out and submit the form to ensure that you receive important information regarding your Florida PE license.

### **Complete Your Continuing Education**

You must have [completed 18 hours of continuing education](#) by the time the next licensure renewal period closes, at midnight Feb. 28, 2023. You have just over a year left to do that.

Keep in mind that of those 18 hours, one hour must relate to the Florida laws and rules of Professional Engineers from a Board-approved provider, and one hour must relate to professional ethics. Four hours must relate to area of practice. The remaining 12 hours may be related to any topic pertinent to the practice of engineering.

After each renewal period closes, just over 3 percent of PEs licensed in Florida will be audited to verify that they have completed their continuing education. (The [current CE audit](#) is underway.) Under [Rule 61G15-19.004, Florida Administrative Code](#), penalties for a first violation for failing to complete your CE courses, in addition to the costs of the investigation, can range from a Reprimand and a \$1,000 fine, to a one-year suspension, a two-year probation, and a \$5,000 fine.

Taking care of these three items now will stand you in good stead for the upcoming license renewal period.

## **Special Recognition: Congratulations, Examinees**

FBPE applauds everyone who passed engineering exams in the past quarter. We wish them much success as they move towards the next step in their engineering careers. [See the complete list online.](#)

## **Legal Department: Latest Engineer Discipline**

Pursuant to Rule 61G15-37.001(11), Florida Administrative Code, the Florida Engineers Management Corporation is required to post all Final Orders involving active disciplinary cases to the website until the terms of the final order are completed, or until the licensee becomes inactive, retires, relinquishes the license, or permits the license to become null and void. Included in this section are the most recent cases in which final action has been taken by the Board, a brief description of the licensee's violation and discipline as well as a link to the final order. [View actions.](#)

## Mark Your Calendar

We regularly update our calendar to ensure you stay up to date with the latest FBPE and FEMC events. [Check out the calendar on our website.](#)

## FBPE Board Members & FEMC Directors

### FBPE Board Members

*Scott Drury, PE; Chair (2022)*  
*Dylan Albergo, PE; Vice Chair (2022)*  
*C. Kevin Fleming, PE*  
*Jeb Mulock, PE*  
*Yassi Myers, PE*  
*John Pistorino, PE*  
*Denise Ramsey, PE*  
*Pankaj (PJ) Shah, PE*  
*Babu Varghese, PE, SI, CGC, CCC*  
*Vacancy*  
*Vacancy*  
*Zana Raybon; Executive Director*

### FEMC Directors

*Art Nordlinger, PE; Chair (2022)*  
*Satya Lory, PE; Vice Chair (2022)*  
*Barney T. Bishop III*  
*Safiya Brea, PE*  
*Stephen Kowkabany, PE*  
*John Stewart*  
*Dr. Mark Tumeo, PE*  
*Zana Raybon; FEMC President*  
*John Rimes, Esq.; FEMC Vice President*  
*Rebecca Sammons; FEMC Secretary*  
*Michele Morris; FEMC Treasurer*