Greetings and a Happy New Year to all!

2018 is now behind us and was a busy year for the Board. Thanks to all the committee chairs and members for accomplishing the tasks that were assigned to them.

Now we move into 2019 and with the start of the new year, there are a few changes within the Department and the board. First off, the department is welcoming a new commissioner, Ms. Nicole "Nikki" Fried, who replaces outgoing Commissioner Adam Putnam. The board would like to extend its gratitude towards Mr. Putnam for his service to the department over the past 8 years and is looking forward to the leadership of Ms. Fried in the upcoming months and years.

The Board will be welcoming Mr. Keith Fountain who is filling the public member position that was vacated by Mr. Pat Talbot when his term expired and will also be adding a new professional member to replace the outgoing and newly emeritus member, Mr. Robin Petzold. On behalf of the board, it has been a pleasure and wonderful learning experience to have had Robin on the board. His knowledge, leadership and humor will be missed.

The current outlook for the board does not appear to be as busy as it has been over the past few years with the completion of rule changes and updating the Florida Jurisdictional Exam to coincide with the updated rules. However, with the updated rules in place, there is sure to be occasional questions and possibly some minor revisions as we go forward.

Keep in mind that should you have any questions or concerns, check the Board's website (https://www.freshfromflorida.com/Business-Services/Surveyors-and-Mappers) to see if it can be answered there. If you do not find your answer there, then it is best to contact the department via email or phone.

Thanks, and I look forward to seeing you at one of the Board's meetings.

- Steve
License renewal season is here! The 2019-2021 biannual renewal period opened in early December 2018 and continues through February 28, 2019. If you have not already gone online to renew your individual or business license, please make sure to visit our website and take care of this today: www.freshfromflorida.com/psm.

Important renewal reminders:

- 24 hours of continuing education credit must be taken prior to renewing; you may not pay the renewal fee online until these credit hours are reported.
- It is the Continuing Education Provider’s responsibility to report your credit hours to the Department (board office). If you do not see your credits posted to your online account, please contact the Continuing Education Provider you used. The board office cannot upload credits to your account.
- Up to 12 continuing education credit hours may carryover to the next biennium, after you have taken the required 24 hours. These carryover hours will show on your online account the first week of March 2019, once the biennium has ended.
- The board office’s main communication is conducted via email. Please make sure you have an updated email address on file at all times.

I would like to thank you all for your patience as we have undergone many rule changes and updating of the standards of practice over the past several years. It is the intent of the Board office to hold an informational webinar, originally scheduled for last fall, to hopefully clear up many questions that have been posed. We are continuing to research several topics so that we may give thoughtful and informative responses. We will be sure to send out an email notification once a date has been determined.

Due to these latest round of rule changes that became effective July 2018, the board’s exam committee worked for several months over the summer to update and revise the Florida Jurisdictional exam. The exam item bank was reviewed, outdated questions were retired, and many questions were updated to reflect the new rule language. During this time the board office could not offer the exam, but I am pleased to say that as of September 2018 the updated exam was finalized, and exam administration dates started back up. Thank you so much to the members of the exam committee: Robin Petzold, Frank Conkling and Steven Hyde. Your time and attention to detail was very much appreciated!

As always, please know that we at the board office are always available to assist you with any questions or concerns you may have. Feel free to reach out to us at either 1-800-435-7352 or psm@freshfromflorida.com, or my direct contact: 850-410-3674, jenna.harper@freshfromflorida.com.

National Surveyors Week will be recognized throughout the country this year during March 17-23, 2019. The board office is once again planning to reach out to elementary, middle and high schools throughout the state in hopes of bringing surveying presentations into their classrooms. Last year nearly 700 Florida students, in 5 different schools, were educated on the profession of surveying and mapping. These students were introduced to surveying concepts they didn't even realize they were already learning in the classroom via math and science courses.

I know that many of you have been proactive in your area in years past, regarding national surveyors' week activities. If you or your business are in contact with any local representatives and can secure proclamations for your counties or cities this year, please share that information (and a picture!) with us and we will publish it in the fall newsletter.
Farewell Friend!

At the October 2018 meeting of the board we said goodbye to licensed member Robin Petzold. Robin served on the board for 8 years, chaired the board for many of those years, and brought leadership, expertise and knowledge that will be greatly missed. Robin was a great advocate for adopting the current standards of practice and encouraging all to use their professional judgement when surveying with the ever-expanding technology that is now available. If you’ve ever attended a board meeting you will know that Robin is famous for saying “there are no rules for tools”. We wish Robin well in all future endeavors and thank him for his willingness to serve!
INTERESTING STATISTICS ABOUT YOUR PROFESSION

Currently, there are 2,627 registered Professional Surveyors and Mappers in Florida

- 112 of these are female.
- 187 are 40 or younger.
- 1,273 are 60 and older.
- 56 new licenses have been issued in the past year (since February 1, 2018).

EXAMINATIONS

The Fundamentals (FS) exam and the Principles and Practice (PS) exam are both now offered year round thru computer-based testing (CBT). The National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying (NCEES) is responsible for the administration of both the FS and PS exams, and you may direct all of your questions regarding exam registration and procedures to NCEES. Find out more by visiting www.ncces.org.

The Florida Jurisdictional exam is administered thru the Board Office, and we offer the paper and pencil, 100 question multiple choice exam 4-6 times a year, in different locations throughout the state. Please visit our website often to view the specific exam dates and locations.

In the last year the Board Office has administered the Florida Jurisdictional exam to 47 applicants. A huge thank you is in order for Regenia Lee for administering each of these exams!

Please note: In order to register for any of the exams (FS, PS and Florida Jurisdictional) you must be first have submitted a registration application and been approved by the Board.

CONTACT THE BOARD STAFF

Email: psm@freshfromflorida.com

Consumer Services Hotline:
1-800-HELP-FLA (435-7352) - Florida only
1-800-FL-AYUDA (352-9832) - En Español
850-488-2221 - Calling from outside of Florida

Mail:
Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Board of Professional Surveyors and Mappers
Terry Lee Rhodes Building
2005 Apalachee Parkway
Tallahassee, FL 32399-6500

UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

April 29-May 1, 2019
Tampa, Florida

July 22-24, 2019
Orlando, Florida

October 28-30, 2019
Hilton St. Augustine Historic Bayfront
32 Avenida Menendez
Saint Augustine, Florida 32084
(904)829-2277

All meeting dates and locations are subject to change. Please visit our website prior to meetings to view possible changes.

ADDRESS AND CHANGE REQUIREMENTS

Remember Section 472.0204, Florida Statutes, requires each licensee to be solely responsible for notifying the department in writing of the licensee’s current mailing address and place of practice. A failure to notify the department of a change in address may result in disciplinary action against the license.

Additionally, pursuant to Section 472.021(4), Florida Statutes, and Rule 5J-17.063(9), Florida Administrative Code, business entities shall notify the Board within one (1) month of any changes in the business entity’s location of offices, its licensed surveyors and mappers in residence, and the names of its principals, along with proof to demonstrate the change in principals.

EXAMINATIONS

- February 2018: 7 examinees
- March 2018: 10 examinees
- May 2018: 6 examinees
- October 2018: 12 examinees
- November 2018: 9 examinees
- December 2018: 14 examinees
DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

The Board of Professional Surveyors and Mappers has taken disciplinary action against the following licensees during 2018. Although every effort has been made to ensure that this information is correct, check with the Board Office before making any specific decision based upon this information. This listing may not reflect disciplinary actions occurring near or following the publication date. Further, this listing does not reflect pending appeals or requests for rehearing. Each order listed as follows, with the name, the case number, the license number, and the terms of the Final Order. To see the Final Order, the Administrative Complaint, and the violations which were found please visit our website where you may view each document individually.

Board Orders

Vincent Ballantoni  
LB 5498  
Case #1707-27543  
Final Order Filed: August 30, 2018  
Terms of Final Order: Voluntary Relinquishment

Poole Engineering & Surveying, Inc.  
LB 6745  
Case #1705-17779  
Final Order Filed: February 22, 2018  
Terms of Final Order: Fine of $1,750 and costs of $225.47 to be paid within 90 days of the date the Final Order is filed.

Ralph Swerdloff  
LS 3411  
Case #: 1608-32335  
Final Order Filed: March 1, 2018  
Terms of Final Order: Voluntary Relinquishment

Ralph H. Whisler, IV  
LS 7031  
Case #: 1712-50295  
Final Order Filed: August 30, 2018  
Terms of Final Order: A 30-day suspension of surveying license, effective from the date of entry of the Final Order. Fine of $2,250 and costs of $101.42 to be paid within 90 days of the date of entry of the Final Order. Probation terms which include: completion of a continuing education course in Standards of Practice within 120-days from the date the suspension ends, completion of a continuing education course in professionalism and ethics within 120-days from the date the suspension ends, submission of proof of professional liability insurance, or a statement that professional liability insurance is not required.

Whisler & Associates, P.A.  
LB 8138  
Case # 1710-39024  
Final Order Filed: August 30, 2018  
Terms of Final Order: Fine of $2,250 and administrative costs of $95.98 to be paid within 90 days of the date the Final Order is filed.

Donald T. Ramsay  
LS 5851  
Case # 1709-37110  
Final Order Filed: May 15, 2018  
Terms of Final Order: License Revoked

If you would like to report a violation of Chapter 472, Florida Statutes, or Rule 5J-17, Florida Administrative Code or to report unlicensed activity click the following link: Complaint Form