



The COUNCIL EXAMINER

Official Publication of the National Council of Building Designer Certification

WINTER 2010

Officers

Leonard J. Vogel, CPBD
President

John Fought, CPBD
Vice President

Bruce Yancey, CPBD
Secretary / Treasurer

Examiners

Phillip Forsyth, CPBD
North Central

Thomas Schmelter, CPBD
North East

Christy Santos, CPBD
North West

Bruce Yancey, CPBD
South Central

Donald Gore, CPBD
South Central

Lynn Pitts, CPBD
South Central

John Fought, CPBD
South East

Leonard J. Vogel, CPBD
North East

Mark Hoerner, CPBD
South West

Open
South West

David Kent, CPBD
North West

John Police, CPBD
North Central

Staff

Robert Juengert, CPBD
Administrator

Corporate Office

2962 Saklan Indian Dr.
Walnut Creek, CA 94595

888-726-7659 phone
925-287-8225 fax

www.ncbdc.com

President's Message

How many of us have looked forward, in 2010, for the coming of this year with the hope that it would bring a positive change to our industry? And while there have been ups and downs in the economy over the spring, with some new hopes and some new fears, if you look at the big picture, all the signs are pointing in the right direction. The stock market is up substantially from the depth of the recession. The rate of job loss is down, not great, but less bad is better than much worse. But, when it comes to housing and light construction, in particular, things are still pretty stagnant. I think we all feel a little helpless that no matter how good we are or how lean our operations are, we cannot individually change the market. So our goal is to remain as positive as we can be and realize that if we have held on this long, we have made it through the worst. If we can stick around and plan on coming through this, as the best designers we can be, we will be well positioned to be at the forefront of the upsurge in construction that is bound to be coming.

The one thing that the past two years have taught us is that nothing remains the same. The one constant is that things will change and we need to adapt to the new realities. Our challenge is that, as in previous periods of transition and flux, the path to the other side is not always clear cut. One way people have dealt with these unstable times has been to band together in groups to support and comfort each other. Just think how many of the Founding Fathers were Free Masons and how this organization united these men throughout the colonies into a trusted brotherhood. In the middle of the 19th century both civic and political organizations thrived and provided a backdrop for the social and political progress we made. During the Industrial Revolution when the trusts and cartels were over-reaching, the workers united into unions to gain strength in numbers. As you know there are many other

examples of this type of organizing to gain mutual support and strength.

While NCBDC is only a certifying organization, I must impress on all that the profession we are all involved in needs all the united powers that it can muster. All certified designers should belong to a professional organization, one that will reflect the needs and concerns of the profession of residential and building designers. All Certified Designers should take the lead, but at the same time not exclude those less qualified. We all need to work with all the members of our profession, help them hone their skills and make the best use of their talents, to bring them in and make us all better. As you all know, the one organization out there, that is positioned to serve our needs and the needs of our profession, is the American Institute of Building Design. NCBDC owes its very existence to AIBD, as the leaders then recognized the need for a method to show the public and many governmental authorities, the legitimacy of your training and your competency. We were initially set up as a committee within AIBD, and eventually grew into a council. It was approximately 15 years ago that, after long discussions and debates over several years, the AIBD Board of Directors agreed with the Council, that the certification of designers would be better served and better recognized, by being a separate independent organization. The National Council of Building Designer Certification was formed and incorporated for this reason. Since that time NCBDC has followed its mission of preparing and monitoring a certification exam for those designers that qualify and maintain that certification through continuing education.

This brings us back to the present and my points earlier that in these trying times things are changing. Many organizations are reacting and trying to determine how best to adjust. AIBD has been one of these organizations that has been reviewing and examining its very core so as to main focus and purpose as to how best to position itself for the greatest good



and most stable position for the future. The AIBD Board (formally the Executive Committee) has been tossing around ideas for the past several months. One of those ideas was the possibility and advisability of re-uniting or re-merging NCBDC back under the umbrella of AIBD. The officers of NCBDC met with the President and Past President of AIBD this past January, during its winter meeting in Las Vegas. They explained some of the pros and cons regarding this idea and how they wanted to open the matter up for general discussion to both organizations. At the full NCBDC Council meeting the next day, a motion was presented to "enter into discussions about the possibility of re-merger NCBDC into AIBD." It was passed unanimously. An identical motion was presented and passed by the AIBD Board of Directors. Since then the President and Vice President of both organizations have held several conference calls to lay the ground work for future discussions. As President Dan Sater and I have agreed, we will both be looking out for the best interest of our respective organizations. We also understand there are pros and cons to either outcome. The best answer will be one where there is a win-win for both parties. We will all strive for that outcome.

After several more phone conferences, personal and group meetings, it became more obvious than ever that we were all striving for the same results, the betterment of our profession. It also became obvious that a merger could enhance the operations of both organizations so that both could benefit. Therefore, at the August meeting of NCBDC, the Board of Examiners will review a proposal for a broad outline of a merger between AIBD and NCBDC. After their review and approval, it will be presented to the full Council for review and approval. The outline that will be presented will set in motion the merger, with the actual

language and corporate business structures to be worked out and approved, hopefully, at the next meeting. As those in AIBD have seen with the re-incorporation of AIBD in the District of Columbia, these things cannot be done with a stroke of a pen or a simple vote. But, with this vote we can proceed knowing that the outcome will be assured.

At this meeting, I will present the following: NCBDC will request of the AIBD Board that the organizations merge with NCBDC becoming an independent Council within AIBD. It will retain its name and its independent officers. It will retain its independent fee structure for administering the exam and maintaining its database and CE credits. It will contract with AIBD to provide the administrative needs of NCBDC and will coordinate and cooperate with AIBD in marketing and promoting NCBDC, its mission and its visibility. We will be asking that the President of NCBDC be given a seat on the AIBD Board of Directors so that the Council can be fully informed and involved in coordinating our goals and needs. In addition all Certified Designers will be under the supervision and authority of the Council, be they members of AIBD or not. The Council will be independently assessing the fee structure and determining the greater cost for non-AIBD members.

All in all, I believe, we have achieved the win-win situation that we all wanted. With this passes we will be able to better to serve the needs of our profession in general and AIBD in particular. In addition, through these discussions, we have come up with several new and exciting ideas that will benefit both organizations. With the merger we will be able to tap into each other's network of human resources. More on this later. Suffice it to say, many of these ideas may not be able to be achieved without the combined strength and resources of both

teams.

I look forward to discussions that I am sure will take place. But, mostly, I am looking forward to the new, stronger, and more adaptable Council that will be better able to serve the needs of our profession.

Finally, let me thank all the parties involved in these discussions, especially Dan Sater, John Fought, and Alan Kent. We all went into these discussions not really sure of any outcome at all, never mind a successful one. But, through hard work, open minds and the gaining of a truly deep and meaningful sense of trust among us, we were able to achieve a goal that will serve all of us well.

**Leonard J. Vogel, CPBD
President**

The COUCIL EXAMINER

Is the official newsletter of the
National Council of Building
Designer Certification

Editor-In-Chief
Robert Juengert

Published By
NCBDC

2962 Saklan Indian Dr.
Walnut Creek, CA 94595
www.ncbdc.com

**Submissions / Letters to
the Editor**

Robert Juengert
bofla1@aol.com

Opinions expressed are those of the authors or persons quoted and are not necessarily those of the NCBDC. For address changes, please write to the above address or call the NCBDC national office.

© 2009 National Council of Building
Designer Certification

Annual Report
Bob Juengert CPBD, AIBD,
AIA, FISP, NCARB
NCBDC Administrator

I encourage you to renew your NCBDC certification. Without question, this past year has been one of the most challenging in recent memory. This is exactly the time when we most need the collective strength of our professional community. Our organization is working to provide the unequalled knowledge, resources, and networking opportunities so crucial to our professional development and ability to bring the power of design to our clients.

As NCBDC's Administrator, I can promise that in the coming year, the Council will continue to focus our leaders and staff to maximize the professional support you need from us. From your local component through the national component, we are working to provide excellent member value. The challenges of difficult economic times can bring our members together in a supportive manner—locally, statewide, nationally, and internationally. The Council is your voice to what you need for your business to grow. Now, more than ever, is the time to invest in your future by renewing your membership in the National Council for Building Designer Certification.

NCBDC continues to grow and looks to progress this year. We have certified a total of twelve designers this year. We currently have ninety-six applications for examination pending and have forty four members on our retired roster. Our roster now totals six hundred and fifteen. We averaged twenty inquiries per month from our web site in 2009. We are keeping up this pace this year. We have issued forty Study Guides this year. The interesting statistic is that they are almost half electronic and half printed. We now automatically issue electronic Study Guides to new applicants. This strategy is a tremendous cost savings to the Council.

In an effort to stimulate Council growth, a new mentoring program has been launched to promote current NCBDC Certified Professionals to sponsor new certification candidates. With ninety seven candidates who are interested in becoming certified, NCBDC needs your help to get them to complete pre-exam training and take the certification exam. Your encouragement can help identify and resolve a candidate's reluctance and motivate them to take the exam. While mentoring can sound daunting for some, it is really about communication. Listening to what an exam candidate's concerns are and provid-



ing reassurance that they can achieve their goals, if they will simply try, will go a long way in helping them successfully complete the exam.

Mentoring doesn't have to involve taking on the training of a candidate. NCBDC is looking into web based training courses for that. You just need to be able to direct them to resources and encourage them to press on to their goal.

As an incentive to participate in the program, the CPBD will receive continuing education unit (CEU) credit with increasing rewards for various situations. A CPBD member who mentors a candidate will receive 1 CEU hour for starting with the candidate and 1 CEU hour when the candidate is certified. If a CPBD member sponsors a new candidate, the mentor receives 2 CEU hours upon ap-

proval of application and 2 CEU hours when the candidate is certified. If you are a CPBD that believes in the importance of NCBDC certification and wants to help us in becoming more recognized in the design community, then NCBDC needs your help in mentoring our candidates. What greater message can be sent to those who are considering certification than by the encouragement and support from those who are certified themselves. Your encouragement may be all that someone needs to achieve their goal.

Our challenge for this year is to continue to increase the number of applicants for examination. This can be greatly assisted by personal contact with candidates and by encouraging the examiners to participate in this effort.

The next challenge is the completion of CEU work by our Certified Designers. This will be accomplished by a similar approach we developed for tracking and improving the renewal payments by our Certified Designers. The challenge is to make our Designers aware of their status and finding more at home study programs for their use in accomplishing our minimal requirements of eight hours per annum.

A/E UNIVERSITY for CONTINUING EDUCATION



Learn the world's greatest solutions to the most crucial problems of Design practice

- **A/E University** is a registered provider for the **American Institute of Architects** and meets state license renewal standards for distance learning continuing education.
 - **A/E University** self-study courses focus on the latest and best tools of practice and project management. Earn units as you apply course work to day-to-day practice. Or use courses as office manuals and earn units later.
 - Most **A/E University** courses qualify for Health/Safety/Welfare credit. (See "HSW" after course titles.)
 - **Earn 8, 12, or 18 AIA continuing education units per course**, by reading course materials and answering essay questions. (Note: Video courses earn 3 units each.)
 - Except for video courses, all courses come in convenient, three-ring binder syllabus format and will be valued office reference handbooks for years to come.
 - NCBDC accepts all AIA and AIBD granted Educational Credits
-


National Council of Building Designer Certification
2962 Saklan Indian Dr.
Walnut Creek, CA 94595