

### Board History Continued – Concluding Chapter

In previous newsletters, we have glanced back and explored four major periods in our Board's history spanning from the initial enactment of our Electrical Contracting Licensing Act in 1937 to the date Mr. Oscar Greene, Jr. stepped down from the Board's Chairmanship June 30, 1986. These four periods are rightly known throughout the electrical industry as the eras of Nathaniel Ellis (N. E.) Cannady, Jr.; Richard Blair (Dick) Boyd, Jr.; Howard R. Pancoast; and Oscar Greene, Jr.

In the concluding chapter, we will look back and explore the period in the Board's history spanning from June 30, 1986 through June 30, 2007. A period which merits to be deemed as the "Era of Administrative Excellence" in the Board's history.

Continuing with the Board's history, upon the conclusion of Mr. Greene's Chairmanship, the Board members elected Professor William T. (Bill) Easter to succeed Mr. Greene as Board Chairman effective July 1, 1986. Professor Easter was the fifth member of the Greater University of North Carolina faculty appointed by the Governor to serve on the Board and the first and only one to date from that faculty to be elected Chairman of the Board. He was an outstanding Board leader having been elected by his fellow Board members to serve as Chairman for eight consecutive years from July 1, 1986 to June 30, 1994.

Some of the important events in the Board's history during Professor Easter's Chairmanship include:

- The resignation of Jeff Rodriquez as the Board's Examinations and Field Representative Coordinator effective February 1, 1987. Mr. Rodriquez was the successor to Mr. H. Lloyd Maynard who had rendered outstanding service for several years in this position. Mr. Maynard had left the Board's employment to join the faculty of Fayetteville Technical Community College;
- Employed Jerry Burch for the position of the Examinations and Field Representative Coordinator on the Board's staff effective January 11, 1988;

- Mr. Richard B. “Dick” Boyd, Jr. retired from his position with the NC Department of Insurance effective July 1, 1988 thus ending his more than twenty-one years of distinguished service as the NC Commissioner of Insurance’s appointee to the Board, effective June 30, 1988;
- Upon Mr. Boyd’s retirement, Commissioner Jim Long immediately appointed Mr. Alan Barringer to succeed Mr. Boyd as his appointee to the Board effective July 1, 1988;
- The Board entered into a reciprocal licensing agreement with the State of Georgia’s Contractors Licensing Board effective July 28, 1988;
- The Board entered into a reciprocal licensing agreement with the State of Alabama’s Contractors Licensing Board effective February 24, 1989;
- The Board cancelled the reciprocal agreement previously entered into with the State of Florida’s Electrical Contracting Licensing Board effective March 22, 1989;
- The Electrical Contracting Licensing Act was amended by the NC Legislature increasing the current project value limitation of the Limited License classification from \$10,000 to \$17,500 and increasing the current project value limitation of the Intermediate License classification from \$50,000 to \$75,000 effective August 1, 1989;
- The Electrical Contracting Licensing Act was amended to provide that the Governor’s appointee of the Electrical Contractor At-Large Board member must now be a member of the Carolinas Electrical Contractors Association (CECA) in good standing, holding a current unlimited license classification and recommended by the CECA Board of Directors effective October 1, 1990;
- The Electrical Contracting Licensing Act was amended authorizing the Board to establish continuing education requirements for all qualified persons listed on a license issued by the Board and to develop the necessary rules and regulations for the implementation of these requirements effective October 1, 1990;

- The Board began publishing in the Board's periodic newsletters the records of all criminal and civil court cases and all other disciplinary actions taken against licensees of the Board and non-licensees effective November, 1990;
- The Board implemented the continuing education requirements for all listed qualified individuals effective July 1, 1991;
- The Board cancelled the reciprocal licensing agreement previously entered into with the State of Virginia's Contractors Licensing Board effective July 16, 1992.

After serving eight years as Board Chairman, Professor Easter chose to step down from his chairmanship effective July 1, 1994. During Professor Easter's eight years of Chairmanship, he was privileged to serve with other Board members, in the order of their appointments, Messrs. Oscar Greene, Jr.; Richard B. (Dick) Boyd, Jr.; Larry L. Woodall, Jr.; J. Harold Garland; Robert L. Linton; William H. (Bill) Roberts; J. Alan Barringer; J. Michael Silver; George T. Glenn; and Thomas P. Beattie.

Professor Easter retired from the Board effective April 15, 1995 after having rendered thirteen years of distinguished Board service.

Mr. Alan Barringer was elected by his fellow Board members to succeed Professor Easter as Board Chairman effective July 1, 1994. Some of the important events in the Board's history during Mr. Barringer's chairmanship include:

- Mrs. Hattie Saleeby retired from her position as Office Manager after completing more than twenty-four years continuous service as a member of the Board's staff effective September 1, 1994;
- Mrs. Epsie Stevens was hired for the position of Administrative Assistant on the Board's staff on May 1, 1995;

- Mrs. Jackie Young retired from her position as License Coordinator after having served on the Board's staff for more than twenty years effective July 1, 1995;
- The Electrical Contracting Licensing Act was amended to increase the current project value limitation of the Limited License classification from \$17,500 to \$25,000 and to reduce the current project value limitation of the Special Restricted Single Family Detached Residential (SP-SFD) License classification from unlimited dollar value to \$25,000, the same as the Limited License classification effective July 1, 1995;
- The Electrical Contracting Act was amended authorizing the Board to assess civil penalties not to exceed \$1,000 against violators of the licensing laws and/or the Board's rules and regulations effective December 1, 1995;
- Mrs. Christine Lewis retired from her position as Administrative Assistant after serving on the Board's staff for more than twenty-five years effective March 1, 1996;
- One of the important events occurring during Mr. Barringer's chairmanship was the occurrence of efforts to place the Board's staff under the North Carolina State Employees Personnel Act. The Board was successful in putting down any thoughts or efforts in this direction. Had this threat become a reality and/or success, this certainly could have been the dawning of the sun setting of the Occupational Licensing Board's all over again and could have led to the demise of the autonomy of the Boards as now exist. Overcoming this threat was a landmark event under Mr. Barringer's leadership as Chairman.

Due to an unfortunate back injury suffered by Mr. Barringer while he was on official duty as a state employee, it became necessary for him to take disability leave from his position with the Department of Insurance. His injury subsequently necessitated his retirement from the Department.

During Mr. Barringer's Chairmanship, he was privileged to serve with other Board members, in the order of their appointments, Professor William T. (Bill) Easter; Messrs. Garfield Gwyn; J. Michael Silver; Joseph E. Guill; H. Dan Southerland, Sr.; Thomas B. Beattie; Professor Gary L. Leiby; Messrs. T. Gray Brant; and Julian R. Burns.

Upon Mr. Barringer's retirement from the Department of Insurance, it became necessary for Insurance Commissioner Jim Long to appoint a successor to fulfill Mr. Barringer's unexpired term on the Board. Commissioner Long appointed his Deputy, Mr. J. Lee Hauser to succeed Mr. Barringer as his official appointee to the Board effective July 1, 1996.

Upon Mr. Barringer's retirement and the appointment of his successor, the Board members elected Mr. Thomas P. Beattie to succeed Mr. Barringer as Chairman of the Board effective July 1, 1996. Mr. Beattie was the first Board member representing the public to be elected to serve as the Board's Chairman effective July 1, 1996. Some of the important events occurring during Mr. Beattie's chairmanship were:

- The Board and the electrical industry as a whole were saddened by the death of Mr. Joseph E. Guill, who had retired from the electrical industry and was appointed by the Governor to serve as a public member on the Board. Mr. Guill passed away September 13, 1996 leaving the public member position on the Board vacant.
- The Electrical Contracting Licensing Act was amended to provide for a staggered term system for Board members and when this system is fully implemented, all Board members' term will be seven year terms with only one Board member's term expiring each year effective January 1, 1997;
- The Board's rules applicable to examinations were amended by changing the current time limit for taking an examination in the regular classification from 8 hours to 6 hours; and by adding

business questions to the examination specifications, these questions based on the National Association of State Contractors Licensing Agencies' (NASCLA) Business Management Publication; and by adding questions on fire alarm systems to the Board's examinations, these questions based on the National Fire Protection Association's (NFPA) Publication NFPA 72 effective September 1997;

- The Board re-established a reciprocal licensing agreement with the State of Florida's Electrical Contracting Licensing Board effective December 1997;
- Mrs. Epsie Stevens was promoted to the position of Office Manager on the Board's staff effective April 1, 1998;
- The Board launched it's website – [www.ncbeec.org](http://www.ncbeec.org) effective June, 1998;
- This writer was appointed by Governor Jim Hunt to the Board effective June 15, 1998 as a public member to complete the remainder of the unexpired term left vacant by Mr. Guill's death, term expiring April 15, 2000;
- The Board and a host of others across the legal profession were saddened by the untimely death of Attorney William (Bill) Hoke, who had rendered outstanding service as the Board's legal counselor continuously from 1970 until his death on November 12, 1998;
- The Board was fortunate to obtain the services of Mr. John N. (Nick) Fountain as the Board's legal counselor January 1, 1999. Mr. Fountain, a well versed lawyer in Occupational Licensing Board matters was the right person at the right time to fill this important legal position with the Board.
- The Board, after reviewing several different drafts, unanimously adopted a submittal by Mr. Julian Burns for the Board's first official mission statement as follows:

*To protect the life, health and property of the public through examination of applicants, education of licensees and discipline of individuals to promote quality electrical contracting in accordance with the North Carolina General Statutes Chapter 87-Article 4.*

*Effective March 1999*

- The Board's rules and regulations applicable to the minimum experience requirements for examination applicants were amended by increasing the minimum primary experience required of applicants for the Limited classification from two years to four years; and for applicants for the Intermediate classification from four years to six years and for applicants for the Unlimited classification from five years to seven years; and for applicants in the Special Restricted Single Family Detached Residential Dwelling (SP-SFD) classification from two years to three years effective March 1999;
- On June 30, 1999, Mr. Beattie chose to step down from the Board chairmanship after having served three years as Chairman. During Mr. Beattie's chairmanship, he had the privilege of serving with other Board members, in the order of their appointments, Messrs. Joseph Guill; Dan Southerland; Julian Burns; Gray Bryant; Dr. Garry Leiby; Lee Hauser; Curtis Kennedy; and Tim Bradley.

Mr. Beattie completed his seven year term and retired from the Board June 30, 2000. Dr. Jim Clark was appointed by Governor Easley to succeed Mr. Beattie as a public member on the Board effective July 1, 2000.

Upon the closure of Mr. Beattie's tenure as Chairman, the Board unanimously elected Mr. Julian Burns to succeed him as Board Chairman effective July 1, 1999. Mr. Burns was the ninth person appointed to the Board by the North Carolina Association of Electrical Contractors and the second to serve as Chairman since the Licensing Law was enacted in

1937. Some of the important events occurring in the Board's history during Mr. Burn's chairmanship were:

- The Board entered into a reciprocal licensing agreement with the State of Mississippi's Contractors Licensing Board effective January 1, 2000;
- Mr. Curtis Max Thompson was employed for the position of Field Representative joining the other two Field Representatives, Jesse Skinner and Robert (Gus) Lawson on the Board's staff effective June 1, 2000;
- The Board entered into a reciprocal licensing agreement with the State of West Virginia's Contractors Licensing Board effective August 2000;
- One of the most important events in the Board's history occurred when the Board, after much study and evaluation, adopted a major change in the Board's examination procedures. This change involved converting the Board's long standing pencil-paper type of examination to a computer based examination system. Under the pencil-paper examinations, it took several weeks to grade, evaluate and develop an analysis of the examination results before examinees could receive their examination grades. Also examinations were administered on a semi-annual basis in limited geographical locations in North Carolina. Under the new computer based examination system, examinations are made available to eligible applicants on an almost daily basis in numerous locations within North Carolina and in other states as well effective May 1, 2001;
- The Board pursued and obtained an amendment to the Electrical Contracting Licensing Act authorizing the Board to (1) purchase property for the Board's office in lieu of leasing office space; (2) to implement a staggered license renewal system whereby license renewals are spread throughout the year on a daily basis, speeding up the renewal process; and (3) to increase the fee schedule. The last change in fees took place in 1979. All three authorizations became effective July 1, 2001. In the matter of authority for the Board to purchase office space in lieu of leasing, the Board, after a thorough study of the proposition of owning versus leasing office space, concluded at this time that the Board could

better affect leasing space in lieu of owning property thus continuing with the leasing arrangements the Board has with the Davidson-Jones Northside Properties, a company from which the Board has leased office space for them for more than fifty years;

- After thoroughly considering versions of proposals for a Board Employee Evaluation System, the Board unanimously adopted a version submitted by Mr. Burns. Under this system, the Executive Director is evaluated by the Board Chairman and the Board's Finance and Personnel Committee Chairman on an annual basis. The Executive Director evaluates each staff member in a semi-annual basis with assistance from the Board's Disciplinary Committee in the evaluation of the Board's Field Representatives. The Board considered this system to be a fair and equitable way to determine employee performance and salary merits at the end of each fiscal year effective March 2002;
- The Board re-established the reciprocal licensing agreement, previously cancelled, with the State of Georgia's Contracting Licensing Board effective April 1, 2002.

On June 30, 2002, Mr. Burns' seven year term as the NCAEC's appointee came to a close. The NCAEC appointed Mr. Larry L. Woodall, III to succeed Mr. Burns effective July 1, 2002.

During Mr. Burns' tenure as Board Chairman, he was privileged to have served with other Board members, in the order of their appointments: Mr. Dan Southerland, Dr. Gary Leiby, Messrs. Gray Bryant, Curtis Kennedy, Tim Bradley, Dr. Jim Clark and Mr. Jerry Tucker.

Upon Mr. Burns' retirement from the Board, the Board members unanimously elected Mr. Gray Bryant to succeed Mr. Burns as the Board's Chairman. Mr. Bryant was the first and only Electrical Inspector member of the Board to have served as Chairman

of the Board to date. Some of the most important events occurring in the Board's history during Mr. Bryant's chairmanship included:

- The Board held a public hearing for the purpose of updating the Board's rules and regulations and procedures for establishing licensing reciprocity agreements with other states and for the adoption of new rules applicable to responsibility requirements of licensees and qualified individuals in November 2002;
- The Board granted a hearing for the National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA) to present their request for the Board to do whatever was necessary to have a contractor member of NECA added to the Board member structure in order for NECA to have representation on the Board equivalent to the North Carolina Association of Electrical Contractors (NCAEC) and the Carolinas Electrical Contractors Association (CECA). After receiving and considering NECA's presentation, the Board determined that this was a Legislative matter for others and took no action on NECA's request in December 2006;
- The Board, after receiving and considering NECA's request, voted unanimously to add a link [www.accneca.org](http://www.accneca.org) to the Board's website in December 2002; and
- After a thorough review of the Board's schedule for the "Retention and Disposition" of the Board's records, the Board voted unanimously to update the schedule as recommended by the Executive Director in 2002; and
- The NC Council of State approved the Board's proposal to relocate the Board's office from 1200 Front Street, Raleigh, NC to 3101 Industrial Drive, Raleigh, NC. The Board approved the lease agreement for this new location worked out by the Executive Director and the Davidson-Jones Northside Properties in June 2003.

Mr. Bryant's term as the Electrical Inspector member on the Board expired June 30, 2003. During Mr. Bryant's chairmanship, he was privileged to have served

with other Board members, in the order of their appointments: Dr. Gary Lebby; Messrs. Curtis Kennedy; Tim Bradley; Dr. Jim Clark; Messrs. Jerry Tucker; and Larry Woodall, III.

Upon Mr. Bryant's retirement from the Board, Governor Easley appointed Mr. Roy Wilson, Sampson County Inspections Department to succeed Mr. Bryant as the Electrical Inspector appointment to the Board. Mr. Wilson's appointment was for a three year period completing the implementation of the Board member staggered term system.

Dr. Jim Clark was elected to succeed Mr. Bryant as Chairman of the Board effective July 1, 2003. Dr. Clark was the second public member to serve as the Board's Chairman.

Some of the important events occurring in the Board's history during Dr. Clark's chairmanship included:

- The Board established the "Continuing Education Instructor of the Year" award and developed the criteria for selecting the instructor most deserving of this award effective November 2003;
- Mr. Jerry Burch resigned from his position of Examinations and Field Representative Supervisor on the Board's staff effective February 17, 2004;
- The Board approved the design of an official "Qualified Individual" patch. These patches were made available to all qualified individuals on record at no cost provided written requests were filed with the Board no later than June 30, 2004. After this date, these patches are available at no cost to each person taking and passing a qualifying examination. Additional patches may be purchased by qualified individuals at a cost of \$6.00 each effective March 30 2003;

- Mr. William A. (Al) Parris was employed for the position of Examinations-Field Representative Supervisor succeeding Mr. Jerry Burch on the Board's staff effective June 12, 2004;
- The Board entered into a licensing reciprocity agreement with the State of Louisiana's Contracting Licensing Board effective September 24, 2004;
- The Board and a host of others throughout the electrical industry were saddened by the death of Mr. Richard B. (Dick) Boyd, Jr., long standing former member and Chairman of the Board on April 10, 2005.

On June 30, 2005, Dr. Clark chose to step down from the Board's chairmanship. During Dr. Clark's tenure as Chairman, he was privileged to serve with other Board members in the order of their appointments: Dr. Gary Lebby; Messrs. Curtis Kennedy; Tim Bradley; Larry Woodall, III; Jerry Tucker; Roy Wilson; and Dr. Tony Mitchell.

At the closure of Dr. Clark's tenure as Chairman, the Board unanimously elected this writer to serve as Board Chairman effective July 1, 2004.

Some of the important events occurring during this writer's tenure as Chairman included:

- The North Carolina Association of Electrical Contractors appointed Mr. Julian Burns to succeed Mr. Larry Woodall, III as that Association's appointee to the Board effective July 1, 2005;
- Mr. Burns is the first person ever to have a second tenure as a Board member, having retired from the Board and after a period of elapsed time, received another appointment to the Board;
- The North Carolina School Board's Association suit to recover from State Licensing Boards any late filing and penalty fees collected and retained by these Boards was settled by the NC State Supreme Court's ruling that these fees were not defined as fees or penalties under the NC State Constitution effective July 1, 2005;

- The Board held a rulemaking public hearing to receive public input into the Board's proposed amendments to the Board's rules and regulations applicable to authorized legal action by the Board's staff; to the waiting periods between examinations; to the duties of listed qualified individuals; and to continuing education requirements on September 15, 2005;
- The Board officially adopted all of the amendments as proposed at the September 2004 public hearing effective November 14, 2005;
- Mr. Roy Wilson resigned as the Governor's Electrical Inspector Board member appointee and was immediately employed by the Board for the position of Field Representative on the Board's staff effective December 1, 2005. Mr. Wilson was the second person in the Board's history to serve as a Board member and subsequently employed by the Board as a member of the Board's staff;
- The Board accepted a report that the National Association of State Contractors Licensing Agencies' Business and Law manual, currently being utilized with the Board's examinations, will be republished in partnership with CASA/Fenix Enterprises effective February 1, 2006. The Board voted to continue utilizing this manual after republication on December 15, 2005;
- Mr. Gray Bryant was appointed by the Governor to fulfill the unexpired term on the Board left vacant by the resignation of Mr. Roy Wilson as the Governor's Electrical Inspector appointee effective December 2005.
- Mr. Bryant was the second person in the history of the Board to receive another appointment to the Board after being off the Board for an elapsed period of time;
- The Board's rule applicable to the waiting period between examinations was amended by reducing the waiting period for examinees making a failing grade from 74 to 65 from 6 months to 3 months effective January 1, 2006.

- The Board approved a draft for legislation increasing the project value limitations for the Limited and Intermediate license classifications on February 21, 2006; and
- The Board authorized the assembling of Industry Advisory Committees to study and make recommendations regarding financial requirements for licensees; and the need, if any, for the enactment of laws and rules and regulations governing residential elevators. February 23, 2006.

On June 30, 2006, this writer stepped down from the Board's chairmanship. During his chairmanship, he was privileged to have served with other Board members in the order of their appointments: Mr. Tim Bradley; Dr. Jim Clark; Mr. Roy Wilson, Dr. Tony Mitchell; Mr. Jerry Tucker; Mr. Julian Burns; and Mr. Gray Bryant.

At the closure of this writer's chairmanship, the Board elected Dr. Jim Clark to chair the Board effective July 1, 2006. Dr. Clark was the first Board member in the history of the Board to be elected Chairman for a second tenure after having served a previous tenure as Chairman.

Some of the important events in the Board's history during Dr. Clark's second tenure as Chairman included:

- The Board approved the Board's Rules Committee's formulation of advisory committees to assist the Board regarding financial requirements for licensees and requirements governing residential elevator installations. These advisory committees were to be structured as follows:

Licensee Financial Requirements:

One member representing the Carolina Electrical Contractors Association (CECA);

One member representing the North Carolina Association of Electrical Contractors (NCAEC);

One member representing the International Association of Electrical Inspectors (NCIAEI);

One member representing the banking industry;

One member representing the insurance industry;

One member representing the electrical material suppliers;

One Unlimited licensee;

One Intermediate licensee;

One Limited licensee;

Residential Elevator Requirements:

One NECA representative;

One NCAEC representative;

One NCIAEI representative;

One representative from the NC Department of Labor (NCDPL) Elevator Division;

Kevin Leonard, Legal Counsel, Elevator Industry Workforce Preservation Fund; and

Two Special Restricted Elevator (SP-EL) licensees.

Subsequently the following persons representing the above entities were assembled for a meeting with the Board's Rules Committee:

Mr. Tim Bradley, Chairman, Rules Committee; Curtis Kennedy, Member, Rules Committee; Dr. Tony Mitchell, Member, Rules Committee, Dr. Jim Clark, Board Chairman; Nick Fountain, Board Counsel; Robbie Brooks, Executive Director; Al Parris, Board staff; Henry Jenkins, NCIAEI, Wake County Inspections; Rob Blackmon, CECA, Tech Electric; Hoyt Stephens, Supplier, Farmer Electrical Sales; John Turnage, Education, Contractor Education Services; Don Henderson, Financial, Henderson & Co., PA; Alan Tilley, Intermediate Licensee, Northern Electric of Durham; Kipp Whitley, Insurance, Federated Insurance; Mike Wilson, Limited Licensee, Mike Wilson Electric; Steve Finch, Unlimited Licensee, Finch Electrical Service, Inc.; Ricky Rouse, NCAEC, Triple

R Electric; Suzanne Taylor, NC Dept. of Insurance; Mickey Shuskey, NCIAEI, Greensboro Inspections Department; Steve Pendergraph, CECA, Pendergraph Electric; Larry Woodall, NCAEC, Woodall Electric; John Godwin, SP-EL Licensee, Southeast Elevator; Mike Mebane, SP-EL Licensee, Thyssenkrupp Elevator; Greg Rodgers, Elevator Industry Workforce Preservation Fund; Jack Cozort, Legal Counsel, Elevator Industry Workforce Preservation Fund; Kenneth Pekrun, Atlantic Elevators; Bruce Austin, Atlantic Elevators; Jeff Malarnoy, Legal Counsel, Atlantic Elevators; John Hoomani, Legal Counsel, NC Dept. of Labor; Art Britt, NCDOL, Thomas Chambers, NCDOL; Reed Fountain, Board Counsel; Barry Gupton, NC Dept. of Insurance; Jonathan Brooks, NCDOL, Kevin Leonard, Legal Counsel, Elevator Industry Workforce Preservation Fund.

After a thorough exchange of ideas and thoughts, the Financial Advisory Committee could find no fault with the Board's current financial requirements for licensees and had no recommendations for changes in the present requirements.

The Committee did suggest that the Rules Committee and the Board consider adding some financial requirements for examination applicants and that the Continuing Education Committee consider adding more business related classes to the continuing education program.

The consensus of the Residential Elevator Advisory Committee was that this should be a matter handled by the North Carolina Department of Labor.

The Rules Committee reported the results of these meetings with the two Advisory Committees and the concluding consensus of the members on the committees and recommended the Board's approval as reported by the Rules Committee. The Board concurred with the Rules Committee's report, September 2006;

- The Board's staff developed and implemented an email system of communications making available to inspection departments and

continuing education providers updated information on the Board's website, September 2006;

- Due to family necessities, Mrs. Epsie Stevens resigned from her position as Office Manager on the Board's staff after eight years of outstanding service in this position. The Executive Director successfully negotiated with Mrs. Stevens to remain on the Board's staff in a part time arrangement to meet the Board's and her needs. Effective October 13, 2006;
- Mrs. Mary Higgins was employed for the position of Office Manager on the Board's staff effective January 1, 2007 succeeding Mrs. Stevens. Mrs. Higgins was formally employed as Administrative Assistant with the NC Department of Insurance;
- The new North Carolina State Government Ethics Act became effective January 1, 2007 clarifying the standards of ethics required of NC State Government officials including members of the State's Occupational Licensing Boards. Effective January 1, 2007;
- Due to threats of identity theft and other security concerns, the Board amended the continuing education requirements by eliminating the provisions requiring full social security numbers. Effective January 1, 2007;
- The Board approved the Rules Committee's proposed amendments to the Board's Rule .0209 applicable to Examination Fees; to Rule .0303 applicable to Project Value Limitations; and to Rule .0404 applicable to License Fees and scheduled a public hearing to be held September 12, 2007 for the purpose of receiving public input to the Board's proposed rules changes. June 30, 2007; and
- The Board approved proposed revisions to the Board's Records Retention and Disposition Schedule. June 30, 2007.

Dr. Clark chose to step down from his second tenure as Board Chairman effective June 30, 2007. During his second tenure as Chairman, Dr. Clark was privileged to have served with other Board members in the order of their appointment: Messrs. Curtis Kennedy; Tim Bradley; Jerry Tucker; Dr. Tony Mitchell; Messrs. Gray Bryant and Julian Burns.

The Board elected Mr. Jerry Tucker to succeed Dr. Clark as Chairman effective July 1, 2007. Mr. Tucker is the first person representing the Carolina's Electrical Contractor's Association (CECA) or a member of the Carolina's Chapter of the National Association of Electrical Contractors (NECA) (the Electrical Contractors Association succeeded by CECA) appointed by the Governor to have ever been elected to serve as the Board's Chairman.

In this concluding Chapter, we have glanced back into the immediate past 21 years from June 30, 1986, the date Mr. Oscar Greene, Jr. stepped down from the Board's chairmanship, to June 30, 2007. These 21 years of Board history, we defined in the beginning of this chapter as the period of "Administrative Excellence". Because of his outstanding management of the Board's every day operation during this 21 year period, the manner in which he has executed the Board's policies and directives throughout this period; the manner in which he has lifted the Board's respectability and reputation to the highest level throughout our state and nation; his excellent handling of his duties as the Board's Secretary-Treasurer throughout this period; the outstanding manner in which he has carried out the Board's responsibilities as co-sponsor of our nation's greatest and most respected electrical industry meeting, our own annual North Carolina Electrical Institute meeting; his development and maintenance of a proficient staff throughout this period; the outstanding manner in which he, together with the Board's attorney, has chaperoned the Board's desired legislation through the Legislature and the Board's desired rules and amendments to the Board's rules through the North Carolina Rules Review Commission for rulemaking; his superior representation of the Board through his participation in the National

Association of State Contractors Licensing Agencies (NASCLA) serving as NASCLA's President and Chairman of several NASCLA committees; his leadership in the International Association of Electrical Inspectors while representing our Board; his longstanding representation of the Board as a voting member of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA); his representation of the Board through his service as Treasurer and Planning Committee Member on the NC Electrical Apprentice Contest Committee since its inception; his efficient direction of processing 69,487 applications for examinations, administering 48,840 qualifying examinations and issuance of 15,889 new licenses during this 21 year period; the proficient manner in which he has directed the Board's disciplinary matters; the proficient manner in which he has managed the Board's reciprocal licensing agreements with other states; the highly respectable manner in which he has represented the Board in his relationship with administrators of other licensing agencies and commissions in our state and other states across the nation; his receipt of the Honorary Member Award from the National Association of State Contractors Licensing Agencies, two Distinguished Service Awards from the NC Ellis Cannady Chapter of the IAEI, and the prestigious Richard B. "Dick" Boyd, Jr. Award, all depicting his leadership abilities and representation of the Board and his many other attributes as the Board's Executive Director, it is fitting and most appropriate to proclaim that 21 year period of "Administrative Excellence" to be better known as the Robert Lee (Robbie) Brooks, Jr." Era. This important Era takes its rightful place along with the "Nathaniel Ellis (N.E.) Cannady, Sr."; "Richard B. (Dick) Boyd, Jr."; "Howard R. Pancoast", and "Oscar Greene, Jr." Eras in the Board's history. May the "Robert Lee (Robbie) Brooks, Jr." Era extend far into the Board's future.

In the beginning of this exploration into our Board's history, we stated that sometimes a look back into history is helpful in better understanding the present and planning for the future. If this glance back into our Board's history has brought more enlightenment to those of interest as to the purpose for which the initial enactment of our state's Electrical Contracting Licensing Act was enacted

and for which our Board was established in 1937 and for which our Licensing Act was re-written and re-enacted in 1969; and if it will in any way be helpful in the Board's planning for the future, then this effort has not been in vain.

In concluding this glance back into our Board's history, it is my privilege to close on a personal note. I am extremely grateful for having had the opportunity to be associated with a great, if not the greatest, government regulatory licensing board anywhere, either directly or indirectly for 58 of the 70 years of our Board's existence. First, as a recipient of the Board's invaluable assistance when I was engaged in local governmental electrical inspections in our mutual efforts to provide our fellow citizens in North Carolina with the safest possible electrical environment, protecting life and property from the hazards of electricity, then as an employee of the Board serving as the Board's Executive Director and after a period of retirement from the Board's staff, I was appointed by Governor James B. Hunt, Jr. to the Board as a public member and ultimately honored by my fellow Board members electing me to serve as the Board's Chairman. This association with our Board has played a major role in my life's journey.

June 30, 2007 brought to a close my tenure as a member of our Board and as I drift off into the latter part of my life's journey, I depart paying my highest tribute to all in the electrical industry with whom I have had the opportunity to be associated with over the years; and to all the Board members for whom I had the privilege to work; and to all of the Board members with whom I had the honor to serve; and to all the staff members with whom I had the privilege to serve and to Robbie Brooks and his staff, past and present; and to an outstanding group of Board attorneys, Messrs. John Jordan, Charlie Morris, Eugene Hafer; and William (Bill) Hoke, whose invaluable legal counsel helped me in carrying out my duties as the Board's Executive Director; and to the incomparable John N. (Nick) Fountain and his son Reid, who during my 9 year tenure as a member of our Board, provided legal counsel to our Board of a caliber unsurpassed and finally to

all I say with deep appreciation and a grateful heart – **“THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES”**.

Respectfully,

Curtis Kennedy