

State of Ohio  
Board of Landscape  
Architect Examiners  
77 S. High St., 16th Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215-6108

Tel: 614/466-2316  
Fax: 614/644-9048

**Board Members**

**Walter H. Roch von Rochsburg**, President  
Worthington

**Timothy S. Schmalenberger**, Secretary  
Hilliard

**Scott Sonnenberg**

Plain City

**Dennis J. Mersky**

Akron

**Staff**

Amy M. Kobe, Exec. Director

Dee Karvois, Admin. Assistant

Chad B. Holland, Investigator

Cheryl L. Thaxton, Executive Secretary

Presort Standard  
U.S. Postage  
Paid  
Permit Number  
6965  
Columbus, Ohio



# OBLA NEWSLETTER

## President's Viewpoint - Walter "Rocky" Roch von Rochsburg



The last several years in Ohio have brought the greatest changes since the inception of licensing of landscape architecture in the state. Perhaps the most significant was the enactment of Ohio's landscape architecture practice act in 2002. The original statute enacted over 40 years ago was a title law, which limited the use of the title 'landscape architect'.

The new statute provides a broad definition of landscape architecture and laws stating that no individual can engage in the practice of landscape architecture or use the title of 'landscape architect' unless they register in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 4703 of the Ohio Revised Code.

On February 15, 2005, Governor Taft signed Sub. H. B. 322, which provides authority for the Board of Landscape Architect Examiners to adopt and enforce rules governing the standards of education, service, conduct, and practice to be followed in the practice of landscape architecture in Ohio.

The Board is developing rules that continuing education may be satisfied by activities dealing with technical, ethical, or managerial topics relevant to the practice of landscape architecture.

In general, the rules will follow model continuing education recommendations established by the Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Boards. In addition, the Board will review continuing education requirements of other States to improve activity reciprocity.

### 2005 L.A. Board Meeting/Event Schedule

June 13-14	LARE (Graphics only) 13430 Yarmouth Ln. Pickerington	September 30	Notice of Intent Submission Deadline
August 5	December Exam Application Deadline	October 13	Board Meeting 77 S. High St., Fl. 31 Columbus
August 12	Board Meeting 77 S. High St., Fl. 31 Columbus	December 1	Board Meeting 77 S. High St., Fl. 31 Columbus
September 8-10	CLARB Annual Meeting Los Angeles, CA	December 5-6	LARE (Graphics only) 13430 Yarmouth Ln. Pickerington

## Amy Kobe is the (new) Executive Director

of the Landscape Architect Examiners Board replacing William Wilcox, who retired in July 2004, after 27 years of service.



Kobe joins the Board from the Columbus Chapter of The American Institute of Architects, where she served as Executive Director for six years. She also serves as Executive Director of the Ohio Board of Examiners of Architects.

Kobe joined AIA Columbus as executive director in 1998. AIA Columbus represents 750 professional and associate architects. During her tenure, AIA Columbus received the AIA 2001 Continuing Education Systems Award of Excellence and 2003 National Associates Award.

Before joining AIA Columbus, Kobe worked for the Easter Seal Society and the American Red Cross in Newark. She also was a Social Program Developer for the Ohio Department of Public Welfare. She graduated from Miami University with a bachelor's degree in American Studies, and received a master's degree in political science with a certificate in public administration from Ohio University.

---

### Ohio to Require Continuing Education for Landscape Architects

Sub. House Bill 322, sponsored by Representative Chris Widener, FAIA, of Springfield, and signed by Governor Bob Taft, requires landscape architects to complete continuing education requirements in order to renew their certificate of qualification.

According to Walter "Rocky" Roch Von Rochsburg, ASLA, President of the Ohio Board of Landscape Architect Examiners, "Passage of this legislation validates efforts by the board to assure the continuing competence of the profession, while ensuring the safety of the citizens of Ohio." He went on to say that, "MCE will ensure that professionals maintain, improve and enhance the quality of their technical knowledge in a rapidly evolving industry." Also affected by the new law are architects, surveyors, and engineers.

The rules require that landscape architects earn a minimum of 24 contact hours of relevant continuing education prior to the end of each two year renewal period, keep records of the courses or programs they have attended, and be subject to audit by the board.

The requirement goes into effect with the renewal period beginning on November 1, 2005 and ending on October 31, 2007. Watch for additional information on how the new requirement will work in your license renewal mailing this fall.

---

### Noteworthy

Email your address update to Cheryl at [cthax@mail.peps.state.oh.us](mailto:cthax@mail.peps.state.oh.us) or change it online at <http://www.arc.ohio.gov/lae/addrchng.htm> or Fax us at (614) 644-9048.

By the end of 2006, the newsletter will be electronic. Be sure to complete the E-mail address line on your license renewal form.

## Study Materials Available for L.A.R.E.

To help candidates preparing for the Landscape Architect Registration Examination (L.A.R.E.), the Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Boards (CLARB) now offers online practice exams for multiple-choice sections A, B and D. Each practice exam also includes diagnostic information to help examinees determine how prepared they are to take the actual exam.

The cost for each practice exam is \$45. After purchasing a practice exam, examinees have 24 hours to take the exam one time online from a personal computer. To access the practice exams, log on to (or create) a free account at [www.C2Ed.com](http://www.C2Ed.com) and click on the Program Catalog tab. Select "Courses Approved for Landscape Architects" and enroll for each practice exam needed. Current CLARB Council Record holders can save \$10 on each practice exam by entering their Council Record discount code (available online by accessing their Council Record account at [www.clarb.org](http://www.clarb.org)) in the "CLARB Council Record Holders" partner catalog.

CLARB recently reduced the price of *The Road to Licensure and Beyond (including Understanding the L.A.R.E. 5th Edition)* by almost 30%. Previously \$134.95, examinees can now purchase the handbook for \$95 (\$85 if purchased online at [www.clarb.org](http://www.clarb.org)). Current CLARB Council Record holders will save another \$40 off the list price and pay only \$55 for the handbook. *The Road to Licensure and Beyond* explains the exam format, content, scoring, score reporting, and feedback processes.

For examinees preparing for the two graphic sections of the L.A.R.E., CLARB also offers *Diagnostic Vignettes* - graphic practice problems that examinees complete at home and mail back to CLARB for a personalized, red-line review. *Diagnostic Vignettes* are an excellent way to practice the graphic exam format and receive recommendations for areas of improvement. The practice problems are available for purchase individually (\$45) and in sets of three (\$110) or six (\$175). Current CLARB Council Record holders will save 10% on their purchase of *Diagnostic Vignettes*.

## Bill Wilcox Retires

After 27 years of service to the Ohio Board of Examiners of Architects and the Ohio Board of Landscape Architect Examiners, Bill Wilcox retired as Executive Director on July 9, 2004.



Wilcox is a registered architect and graduate of the University of Cincinnati, College of Design, Architecture, Art and Planning, with a Bachelor of Architecture.

While in college, he worked for Knowlton Construction Company and W. Howard Manor, an architect in Bellefontaine where he grew up. About a year after graduation, worked for the firm of Ballard H. T. Kirk and Associates for over 12 years before accepting the job with the Board. He succeeded Bert Stephens as Executive Director.

Wilcox served on numerous NCARB and CLARB committees during his tenure and received the NCARB President's Award for his distinguished service. The Council of Landscape Architect Registration Boards at their 2004 annual meeting recognized him.

His plans include travel with his wife, Charlotte and to use his recently received commission as a certified lay pastor in the Presbyterian Church.

---

**Congratulations**, the following landscape architects receiving licensure, via examination, since the last publication of the OBLA Newsletter:

- |                             |                           |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1017 Cody, Johnathan E.     | 1050 Schneider, Daniel P. |
| 1018 Dziatkowicz, Joseph    | 1051 Thornton, Brian      |
| 1019 Ferbrache, Jonathan I. | 1052 Toland, Timothy R.   |
| 1020 Kowalski, Matthew A.   | 1053 Tooker, Joshua W.    |
| 1021 Oates-Campbell, Lisa   | 1054 Wysocki, Richard T.  |
| 1022 Richmond, Craig A.     | 1055 Kerby, Thomas J.     |
| 1023 Wallace, Caroline J.   | 1063 Meyer, Darren        |
| 1024 Wheeler, Benjamin      | 1071 Hice, Christopher M. |
| 1025 Whittaker, David P.    | 1072 Kocarek, Don Jr.     |
| 1026 Woods, John T.         | 1073 Nicolaus, Kyle C.    |
| 1040 Angus, Donn B.         | 1074 Okimi, Kevin         |
| 1041 Day, Ryan C.           | 1075 Weilnau, Heather M.  |
| 1042 Dicke, Kevin J.        | 1079 Driskell, Cynthia    |
| 1043 Fair, Daryn            | 1080 O'Dea, Kenneth       |
| 1044 Fryman, Thomas K.      | 1081 Saurer, Todd         |
| 1045 Gluntz, Katherine      | 1082 Zuik, Zachary B.     |
| 1046 Karagory, Laura P.     | 1092 Matisko, Matthew G.  |
| 1047 Lossing, Jimmi         | 1093 Melchior, Gregory A. |
| 1048 Pongonis, Jeffrey J.   | 1100 Simpson, Matthew B.  |
| 1049 Sambuco, Maria H.      | 1101 Phillips, Richard H. |

## Does your LA Firm Have a Certificate of Authorization?

Every landscape architecture firm in the state of Ohio must obtain a license, known as a Certificate of Authorization, to provide landscape architecture services. It makes no difference whether the firm is a corporation, partnership, or limited liability company, or is located in Ohio or another state. The only exceptions to this law are a sole proprietor, a general corporation formed before August 14, 1947 or a partnership or corporation legally doing business in Ohio prior to November 15, 1982.

To obtain a Certificate of Authorization, more than half of the shareholders, partners, or managers must hold a current license in Ohio as a landscape architect, architect, engineer, or surveyor. The board of directors of a corporation must meet the same requirements.

There also must be at least one landscape architect designated as being in responsible charge of the firm's landscape architectural activities and decisions. At least one designated landscape architect must be a member of the board of directors.

Certificates of Authorization renew annually and expire on the last day of June each year. The initial application fee is \$100 and annual renewals are \$50. Copies of the firm's articles of incorporation or partnership agreement must be included with the application, along with a notarized affidavit of responsibility. Obtain application materials by visiting the board's website at <http://arc.ohio.gov/lae/>.

---

## OSU Professor Finalist To Design Flight 93 Memorial

An Ohio State University landscape architecture professor is a finalist in an international design competition. The entry is one of five finalists for a national memorial at the site of the Flight 93 crash in Pennsylvania, which occurred during the September 11 terrorist attack.

Laurel McSherry is section head of OSU's landscape architecture program. She submitted the entry with Terry Surjan, a professor from Arizona State University. Their plan and four others were picked from 1,045 entries. The winning design will be announced on September 11. They received \$25,000 and an invitation to participate in Stage II. Jurors for the competition were: Paul Friedberg, FASLA; Donna Graves; Richard Haag, FASLA, Hon AIA; David Hollenberg; Michael Rotondi, FAIA; Carole O'Hare; W. Cecil Steward, FAIA; Susan Szenasy; Sarah Waino.

The Surjan-McSherry design is called "Fields, Forests, Fences" and consists of four elements: a ribbon of hemlock and white birch trees leading to the site. Nearby urns would contain mulch from the trees that burned as a result of the crash. A fence would be built where visitors could attach aluminum tags with messages and small stones around the area would list each victim's birthday and hometown. Online exhibits with the five winning entries, as well as all entries, are online at <http://www.flight93memorialproject.com>.

## CLARB Spring Meeting

Reported by: Dennis Mersky, CLARB Region IV Director

Four Ohioans were in attendance at the annual Spring meeting of CLARB (Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Boards) in Denver. Dennis Mersky, ASLA, Ohio Landscape Architects Examining Board member, was present in his capacity as CLARB's Region 2 Director. Board President Walter "Rocky" Roch Von Rochsburg, ASLA, Vice-President, Tim Schmalenberger, ASLA, and Executive Director Amy Kobe, CAE also represented Ohio.

The meeting provides members of state registration boards the opportunity to guide the development of national standards related to the regulation of the practice of landscape architecture. Without this representation, Ohio's landscape architects would lose a valuable opportunity to provide input.

The first workshop was on evaluating candidates for CLARB certification. Board members had the opportunity to review mock applications and to gain an understanding of the criteria involved. One of the samples was from Ohio!

The second workshop was on Continuing Education record keeping. There have been suggestions that CLARB become the 'official' keeper of records for landscape architects. No official decision has been made at this time, but there was spirited discussion of the pros and cons. At this time, about half of the states require continuing education for licensure renewal.

The third workshop was on conflict resolution through effective communication. The group learned how to apply the phrase, "Say what you mean and mean what you say without being mean when you say it."

The 'hot topics forum' provided board members with insight and updates on current issues on the regulation of landscape architecture. Topics included reciprocity, use of title, an update on Thompson Prometric (the new L.A.R.E. provider) the task analysis survey (see related story), the duties of regional directors, and specialty certification.

There was also a demonstration of the C2Ed program. Initially conceived as an online vehicle for continuing education self-study courses, it can also be used as an online meeting tool. Accessed through the website, [www.C2Ed.com](http://www.C2Ed.com), landscape architects can take continuing education courses 24 hours a day at a cost of less than \$20 per hour. There are over 90 hours of coursework available. Check it out if you have not tried it yet!

The meeting concluded with a meeting of the states that make up Region 2, including Kentucky, Wisconsin, Ohio, Missouri, Minnesota, Iowa, and Indiana. Each state board made a brief report about their current issues. Michigan, Illinois, and West Virginia were not in attendance; it was reported that financial difficulties prevented their attendance. Regional representatives continued their discussion of the topics presented at the Spring meeting and gave Region 2 Director Mersky their point of view for sharing with the CLARB national board.

## New Members Appointed to LA Board

Three new board members have joined the Ohio Board of Landscape Architect Examiners since the last newsletter.



*Merelyn Bates-Mims*, appointed by Governor Bob Taft in February 2005, serves as the public member on the board. Ms. Bates-Mims, who is from Cincinnati, has previously served as deputy director of the Ohio Department of Administrative Services and as a consultant mediator for the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission in Cincinnati and Columbus.

She is a past trustee of Wilmington College and received her doctorate from the University of Cincinnati. She replaced Diann Johnson, of Columbus, whose term had expired to this a five-year appointment.

*Tim Schmalenberger*, ASLA, Hilliard, recently appointed by Governor Taft replaces Alan McKnight, whose term expired. He is a registered landscape architect and a landscape architecture graduate of The Ohio State University. Schmalenberger is co-founder and principal of Myers-Schmalenberger, Inc. He will serve a five-year term until 2008. Schmalenberger is a member of the American Society of Landscape Architects and the Construction Specifications Institute.



*Scott Sonnenberg*, Plain City, appointment fulfills the unexpired term of Timothy Alexander. That term ends in February 2006. Sonnenberg serves as the Allied Professional member to the board. He is both a registered professional engineer and landscape architect and is President of Eco-Design and Engineering, Ltd. Sonnenberg holds a B.S. in

landscape architecture from The Ohio State University and a M.S. in civil engineering from Clemson University. He also serves as a member of the Jerome Township board of zoning appeals. He is a member of the American Society of Landscape Architects and the American Society of Civil Engineers.