



SEAONews

Structural Engineers Association of Nebraska

November 2011

President's Message

Greetings. The focus of my message will be the NCSEA 19th Annual Conference. I had the privilege of serving as Nebraska's Delegate at the event held in Oklahoma City, Oct 20-22. Each year the SEAON Board of Director's considers sending the current President to this conference as the Delegate for our Member Organization (MO). SEAON funds not only the registration fee but also travel and lodging expenses. Last year we did not send a representative to the conference as we had joined the Professional Engineers Coalition, which was an unbudgeted expense. In the future, it is our hope to have at least one representative from SEAON attend the conference every year. It is important that each state MO send a Delegate to the conference not only to report what is going on in their state but also to listen to and learn from the Delegates of the other states and the National Board/Committee members. This year 39 of the 43 MO's were present.

For those of you who are unfamiliar with the conference, not only are there continuing education sessions but also business meetings for the National Board of Directors, National Committees and Member Organizations. There is also an awards banquet to honor outstanding members of NCSEA and recognize exceptional structural projects. I will do my best to synopsise my 3-day experience at the conference and pass along a few of my notes without taking up the entire newsletter. The theme for this year's conference was "Leadership"; most of the technical sessions were presented by past National presidents. Please see the following page for my report.

Sandi L. Davison, P.E.
SEAON President

Upcoming Dinner Meeting

Date: November 10, 2011

Presentation Title:

AISC Chapter N Quality Control and Quality Assurance

Speaker:

Patrick Newman, Senior Engineer, AISC

Schedule:

5:30 – 6:30 Social Hour

6:30 – 7:30 Dinner

7:30 – SEAON Mtg. and Presentation

Location:

Caniglia's Venice Inn

6920 Pacific St.

Omaha, NE

Price:

\$20 per person (SEAON Members)

\$25 per person (Non-Members)

\$10 per person (Students)

All money (cash or check) will be collected at the door or payment is accepted on the SEAON website

Menu Choices:

Roast beef with Gravy

Veal Parmesan

Fettuccine Alfredo

Reservations:

Please contact Gary L. Krause

(gkrause@mail.unomaha.edu) to make a reservation and a dinner selection no later than Monday November 8, 2011. If you would like to pay in advance please go to the SEAON website www.seaon.org.

NCSEA 19th Annual Conference Report

Sandi L. Davison, P.E.

Day 1 – Thursday, October 20th Committee Meetings & Educational Forums

I attended the Licensing Committee meeting. Susan Jorgensen, a SEAON past-President, is the current Chair of this committee. One of the issues facing separate structural licensure is gaining the support of non-structural engineering groups. The committee members brainstormed about who the top target groups might be. Another discussion item was what things the National Committee could do to help the state MO's during the separate licensure process, such as creating one page summaries of what is going on in each state and posting that information on the National website. Finally, the strategy for 2012 was discussed.

Ethics in Structural Engineering Forum, Barry Arnold

We discussed what ethics are, why ethics matter and what you need to know about them. Each one of us has a responsibility to our profession to act ethically; unethical actions make us *all* look bad. Your ethical "bar" can slide up or down depending on the situation, be aware of this so that you can keep your "bar" steady. Ethics is about transparency. Case Studies: Citi Corp Building, Ford Pinto.

Speaking to the Media Forum, Gerry Bond

How to deal with the media in a crisis. Dress in clothing that won't interfere with the microphone, wearing a jacket is key. Assume everything you say (even before and after the interview) may appear in print or on the air. Designate a response team or spokesman for your company. Never say "no comment". Don't lie.

Day 2 – Friday, October 21st NCSEA past President Presentations

I attended presentations titled: "Investigation, Design & Construction for Renovation Projects is NOT an Off-Shore Function" presented by Craig Barnes 3rd President of NCSEA and "Specialty Engineering – What I Learned After College" presented by Bill Bast, 17th President of NCSEA.

Day 3 – Saturday, October 22nd Committee & Business Reports, Licensing Policy Vote, Licensing Workshop

Along with reports from the Executive Director, Jeanne Vogelzang and Treasurer, Ben Nelson, we also heard reports from the committees listed below. Most of the committees are very active, in order to keep things brief; I'll just write a few words regarding each committee. The full committee reports should be available soon at www.ncsea.com.

Code Advisory – move structural requirements out of the building code into consensus standards.

SEER (Structural Engineers Emergency Response) – publish an updated SEER manual

Basic Education – send national survey to schools

Continuing Education – SE exam review webinar

Licensing – developed NCSEA policy on structural licensure, states with newly formed licensing committees: SC, OK, CT, ME, MN, states developing proposed law changes: FL, CA, NE, TX

Publications – completed 3rd book titled "Inspection, Testing and Monitoring of Buildings and Bridges"

Advocacy – power point presentations that MO's can use when speaking to middle & high school students.

Following the committee reports, the proposed NCSEA policy on separate licensure was presented to the state MO's for a vote and was accepted unanimously. See page 3 for the policy verbiage.

After the vote, a separate licensure workshop was initiated. Some of the topics discussed were: How to establish a MO Licensing Committee, How to Gain Support outside the Engineering Community, and How to Work with Legislators.

The conference concluded with an awards banquet. The recipients of the NCSEA Service, Delahay and Cornforth Awards were recognized. Next, the finalists for the Excellence in Structural Engineering Awards were honored. These projects are typically featured in the December issue of *Structure*.

Separate Structural Licensing Policy

The National Council of Structural Engineers Associations (NCSEA) supports separate licensure for structural engineers to protect the safety, health, and welfare of the public due to the potential loss of life and property in improperly designed and constructed structures such as buildings and bridges.

NCSEA encourages all jurisdictions to adopt a Structural Engineering Practice Act that defines the practice of structural engineering and restricts it to those who have demonstrated competence by means of education, experience, and examination. In particular, NCSEA endorses the 16-hour Structural examination developed by the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying (NCEES) and administered for the first time in April 2011, as well as the NCEES Model Law Structural Engineer qualifications as the standard for licensure of structural engineers.

NCSEA also encourages jurisdictions to include in their new legislation and equitable transitioning clause for engineers currently practicing structural engineering.

Scheduled SEAON Meetings

November 10th, 2011 SEAON Dinner Meeting

Topic: AISC Chapter N

Location: Venice Inn

6920 Pacific Street

Omaha, NE

January 2012– Final Date TBD SEAON Dinner Meeting

Topic: Efficient Steel Connections

Presenters: Derrick Fitton and Mike Naccarato

Location: TBD

March 8th, 2012 SEAON Dinner Meeting

Topic: Accelerated Bridge Construction Scheduling

Presenter: Phil Rossbach, HDR

Location: Misty's Restaurant & Lounge

6235 Havelock Ave.

Lincoln, NE

May 1st, 2012 Full Day Spring Seminar

Topic: AISC Construction Manual, 14th Edition

Location: Scott Conference Center

6450 Pine Street

Omaha, NE

Website Changes for Event Sign-ups

It has been about one year now that we have been using an online sign-up format on the SEAON website. The initial format that we've used has included a two-part sign up system. A shopping cart is included on the SEAON website which allows our membership to choose the event, number of persons, and membership status of persons signing up. It then takes you to a separate PayPal website which allows the actual purchase to occur using a credit card.

However, over the course of our recent events, it is apparent that this format has some drawbacks.

1. It requires the use of two separate websites
2. Some people successfully complete the SEAON shopping cart only to fail in the purchase through PayPal. This is usually due to firewalls, company policies that prohibit online shopping, or other computer glitches.
3. When failing at the PayPal site, some believe they have been successful when in actuality they have not.
4. The reports generated by the SEAON website and the PayPal website do not always align and are cumbersome to combine into a proper event sign-up list.

With these issues we have proceeded to revise our website sign-up system and this new format should be up and running either right before our next November meeting or right after. Please be patient with us as we try to develop the shopping cart sign-up system to be easy and clear to users. We may still end up with a two-site sign up system but hopefully we can keep it as simple as possible.

Jeff Ehler, S.E.
SEAON Treasurer

Save the Date!

ANNUAL E-WEEK BANQUET THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2012

Sponsored by the Engineer's Roundtable

0.1 Continuing Education Units (CEU) or

1.0 Professional Development Hours (PDH) available

Banquet Location:

Strategic Air and Space Museum
28210 West Park Highway
Ashland, NE 68003

6:00 PM – Social Hour (Cash Bar)

7:00 PM – Banquet & Speaker

**LOOK FOR THE SIGN-UP FLYER WITH
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION SOON!**

**Engineers Roundtable website:
<http://engineerroundtable.org/>**



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