

NCSEA ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2007

Delegate Report

Delegate: William Freese

Thursday, 10 October 2007

A series of forums were held on Thursday afternoon. Delegates are free to attend any of the forums. I attended the Licensure forum. Other forums included Ethics, Education, and SEER.

The following is an outline of my notes from the Licensure Forum.

1. Licensure forum presented by Susan Jorgensen, committee chair person
 - 1.1. Why is separate licensure important?
 - 1.2. the committee will put together guidelines for licensure law
 - 1.3. the committee will assemble a list of examples of practice acts
 - 1.4. Susan believes that practice acts should be state specific and they should be clear on purpose for buildings and/or bridges
 - 1.5. NCSEA does not take the position of pushing licensure on each state – it is up to the state to do the work if they wish
 - 1.6. the goal of the committee is to keep a narrow focus on licensure keeping away from education requirements and continuing education requirements
2. Robert Bourdages (from Washington state) spoke next
 - 2.1. Robert read a short list of states with practice acts (title rules)
 - 2.2. a problem exists in defining what is considered to be a structural engineer
 - 2.2.1. a short discuss erupts: Arizona has a practice act, no it doesn't, yes it does, no it doesn't (John Schmidt says it is not a true practice act) according to Gene Corley (current president of NCEES) it is a practice act
3. The discussion went back to Susan
 - 3.1. Question: **Is our state receptive to hearing a speaker about licensure from the national level?**
 - 3.2. Gene Corley: NSPE has a panel considering SE licensure, reference to recent meeting between organizations
 - 3.2.1. the interests of the organization is to protect the public
 - 3.2.2. "ROSTER DESIGNATION" is, in other words, a title act
4. A poll was taken from the audience
 - 4.1. everyone in the audience is in favor of separate licensure (about 20 attendees); nobody opposes
5. Susan: we are trying to protect the people
6. A member of the audience thinks we need a list of real world examples, i.e., case studies
 - 6.1. Susan suggests that it is often difficult to obtain information on case studies since they are generally legal matters
7. NSPE meeting (as referenced to by Gene Corley earlier) overview from Ed Huston

- 7.1. SEI, CASE, NCSEA all have activities in separate licensure and are working together, moving forward with respective portions
8. NCSEA cannot legally regulate state organizations
9. The next topic is OPPOSITION
 - 9.1. Who opposes licensure? Answer: most often ASCE and NSPE (the big ones)
 - 9.2. ask why they oppose
 - 9.3. How can they be influenced to change?
 - 9.4. How can they be silenced?
 - 9.5. AIA can oppose as they did in Oregon
 - 9.6. Manufacturing engineer, do all types from large companies, can sometimes oppose
 - 9.7. building officials should be in agreement to separate law
 - 9.8. get structural engineers to serve on committee boards of opposing organizations
 - 9.9. send structural engineers to meetings of opposing organizations
 - 9.9.1. important to build trust and confidence in board activities
 - 9.10. Show them who we are, what we do, and why we do structural engineering
 - 9.11. a practice act is better for buildings, it shows designers understand the complex code issues, and it protects the public
10. This committee is new and needs help
 - 10.1. Susan would like to have 3 or 4 new people serve on the committee
 - 10.2. obligations to serving on the committee
 - 10.2.1. once a month conference call
 - 10.2.2. distributing information
 - 10.2.3. no travel
 - 10.2.4. as you have time to help
11. SEAU (Utah) is in the process of passing a practice act
 - 11.1. NCSEA & SEI paid to send a speaker to SEAU
 - 11.2. Barry said this was a positive experience for their members

Thursday ended with registration and a welcome reception with exhibitors.

Friday, 11 October 2007

After a brief breakfast and presentation by Dr. Luttrell, from Pneuteck, on diaphragm design, roll call was taken. Thirty four delegates were present. Brief introductions were given by each delegate. This conference registered 180 people and is the largest to date for NCSEA.

Next was a motivational presentation by Richard Weingardt. Richard has six points to being successful:

1. continue education even in a non-engineering capacity
2. maximize communication, get professional help if need be
3. become an expert in something other than engineering (not to become rich and famous)

4. be active in committee groups
5. be familiar with our government, serve in the government, be an advisor to the government
6. find mentor and roll models

Richard says, "Be a leader!" here is how: be the prime designer on a project, put a sign on the job site STRUCTURAL ENGINEER -----. Being the prime designer on a project is a little odd. **This may be a topic for future presentations.**

For the remainder of the day, various continuing education tracks were offered. I attended working with historic buildings and what to survey when working with older structures. In Pennsylvania, older means, OLD. I also attended other seminars composite steel joists, quality assurance, and masonry design. The last seminar for the day was continuing education and registration.

Saturday, 12 October 2007

The annual business meeting began on Saturday morning with roll call and member organization (MO) reports.

See the following link for Power Point slides of committee presentations:
<http://www.ncsea.com/AnnualConferences/2007.aspx>

Each state gave a brief description of last years activities. Their reports are bound in book format. I have a copy. See me if you would like to review the reports.

Following the delegate reports, each of the committees presented an overview of current activities.

Code Advisory Committee:

This committee is intended to act as a shield for what goes into the next code revision.

There are important dates for engineers to pay attention to for the IBC 2009 code edition:

- November 17 is MO input period; visit www.iccsafe.org to view staff analysis
- January 17-19 is the Code Advisory Committee meeting; develop positions on proposals some states send delegates
- February 15-25 is the code hearings
- July 18 is the change period
- August 18 is a meeting date
- September 18-20 is the final hearing

The committee has accomplished the adoption of standards into the code (ASCE 7). This is good as standards tend to have a five year change cycle. However, there is a group from Utah that is pushing to put the "structure" portion of code back in IBC.

ASCE 7-2010 (just a few highlights in this revision cycle)

- Non performance standards
- Structural integrity (progressive collapse)
- New seismic maps (some regions of US will have lower seismic coefficients)
- New structural systems

The code advisory committee is looking for **volunteers**.

SEAMT needs to make sure our Building Code Committee has contact to NCSEA Code Advisory Committee.

Joint Industry Committee on Structural Integrity Community Response to the NIST WTC Progressive Collapse Recommendations:

A power point presentation was given by Ronald Hamburger. The presentation will be posted on the web site.

Advocacy Committee:

The NCSEA website is new and updated. Five subcommittees work to improve the image of structural engineers and the profession.

Basic Education:

Two positions are open for people interested in committee work. Education articles have been published in previous editions of STRUCTURE magazine. This committee is looking for **volunteers**.

Continuing Education:

Austin Texas will host the Structural Engineering Winter Institute on February 29 and March 1, 2008.

Diamond Review Program is struggling only having 4 approved seminars.

Web seminars are being offered by NCSEA. See the website for topics. The price is \$250 per connection. A CD is available for viewing the presentations.

Ad Hoc Joint Industry Committee on Structural Integrity Report

Two code change proposals will be submitted to the ICC for the 2009 code cycle. One deals with risk assessments for large buildings and the other relates to minimum ties and continuity in structures 4 stories or greater in height.

Ethics Committee:

This is a new committee as of last year.

Ethics Committee has developed a [code of ethics](#) for structural engineers.

The code of ethics will be presented and voted on by MO's next year.

See the Code of Ethics draft at the following link:

http://www.ncsea.com/downloads/NCSEA_CodeofEthics_30Nov2007.pdf

Licensing Committee:

Susan will develop a list of reasons why separate licensure is important.

The committee will demonstrate how to develop SE licensure by offering a set of guidelines for each state.

Speakers are available to come to our MO and discuss separate licensure.

It is said that most states do not oppose separate licensure once everyone understands the issues and reasons behind the effort.

Publications Committee:

This committee will be printing a Diaphragm Design Guide. The design guide is said to be "detailed" to include examples with complex building geometry, not just the simple box example. The publication is scheduled to print in July 2008.

Spreadsheets are available from www.seaofsc.org. These are free for download at Alex's Corner. (Alex is a former HP calculator developer).

SEER Committee:

Available training sessions on ATC 20 and ATC 45.

Treasurer's Report:

The membership costs will stay the same this year (\$15 per person).

Report on the NCSEA Strategic Plan:

There will be a power point slide available on the website.

Certification Report:

SECB currently has about 900 certified structural engineers. Stricter continuing education requirements appear to prevent renewals.

A benefit to being certified is potentially a reduced insurance premium.

The grandfather period is ending in July 2008. After July the NCEES SE II exam will be required to be certified.

SECB will send a representative to SEAMT conference if we request it.

Taking your association to the next level:

A series of workshops on Saturday afternoon designed to give delegates the opportunity to see what other MO's are working on.

1. Moving Outside Your Comfort Zone
2. How Gray is Your Association
3. One on One
4. Let's Meet
5. More Bang for your Buck

Miscellaneous Stuff:

Any news or items worth discussing can be submitted to STRUCTURE magazine. Any news pertaining to our member organization is content for **NCSEA NEWS**, a two page section within STRUCTURE magazine.

Structural Connection, a newsletter from NCSEA is perfect for membership news. Any news from our newsletter can be sent to **Structural Connection**.

The Advocacy, Basic Education, Code Advisory, Continuing Education, Licensing, Membership, Membership Organization Development, Publications, and SEER are active committees within NCSEA. **Volunteers** are needed to help keep these committees functioning.

The **STEEL JOIST INSTITUTE** is available to give a presentation at one of our SEAMT meetings. I have a form from SJI. The course covers steel joist, joist girders, and steel deck design for a total of 7.5 PDHs.

Announcement: **North West Engineering Conference to be held in Sun Valley Idaho, July 2008.**

NCSEA MISSION STATEMENT:

NCSEA serves to advance the practice of structural engineering and, as the national voice for practicing structural engineers, protect the public's right to safe, sustainable and cost effective buildings, bridges and other structures.

NCSEA Strategic Plan 2006-2010:

- Strengthen profession
- Promote separate licensure
- Work toward formal degree program
- Improve practice of SE's
- Improve building codes
- Establish a code of ethics
- Establish SEER network
- Develop a policy for technical role of SE in construction QA

Some benefits of being a member of SEAMT and NCSEA:

- Seminars addressing the needs of practicing SE's
- The opportunity for increased knowledge of technical and professional practice issues through participation on committees
- Interaction with industry and professional groups
- The opportunity to network with structural engineers
- Complimentary subscription to STRUCTURE magazine
- Notice of activities, technical topics, membership news, and seminar and conference announcements through monthly newsletters and websites