

# DELEGATE REPORT

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## NCSEA National Conference 2008 Cleveland, Ohio

*October 28, 2008*

Submitted by William Freese P.E.

*36 of 41 Delegates attending*

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### General Announcements

A topic that has spurred interest is SEAMT's recent teaming with MSU to further develop the snow load web calculator. Delegates from Colorado, Utah, and New Mexico are interested in developing something similar. Although it has not yet been determined, the various SEA's may form a committee under the hat of NCSEA to combine efforts and build a snow load calculator for the western United States. SEAMT should be the leader in the development of such a tool! SEAMT's first step is to begin the conversation with relevant players, set up a strategy, determine costs and align resources.

Ed Huston the current president of NCSEA has invited SEAMT to join the Western Council of Structural Engineers Associations. The Western Council meets during the NCSEA national conference to discuss such items as sending delegates to Applied Technology Council (ATC) and discussing exam activities of NCEES. The Western Council also offers various resources provided by other state members such as British Columbia, Hawaii, Arizona, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and Utah. Membership fees for SEAMT are \$100 per year and 20 cents per person. The money is used for conference seed money and the registered agent's fees. The Western Council SEA only meets every three years. The meeting is typically during the NCSEA conference when held in the west or Midwest to reduce travel expenses for delegates. According to the balance sheet for September, 2007, WCSEA currently has \$3,502 of total liabilities and equity.

Don't forget to register for the Winter Institute. This year the topic will be wind engineering including a field trip to one of the wind testing facilities. The institute will be held in Miami Florida on January 23 and 24, 2009.

### Ethics Forum

NCSEA has recently developed a "template" code of ethics for state MO's to use, adopt or amend. The code of ethics is not mandatory. The code was developed from ASCE's code of ethics but was enhanced to directly relate to the practice of structural engineering.

Bill Warren, the delegate from California, believes the code of ethics is too lengthy. He thinks a simpler code would be better (similar to that which is used in California).

Enforcement of the code of ethics should be handled by each state in which they are adopted.

## Licensing Forum

Barry Arnold gave a presentation on how Utah legislature just passed a practice act. Barry is the delegate for Utah. Barry discussed the following bullets in great detail:

- What is the reason – it is one more tool to uphold the safety of the public.
- Make the case – do we have a history of problems (300 in Utah).
- The most important question – do you know the credentials of the PE that designed your building?
- The legislature – propose the bill on its own merits because it is the right thing to do.
- The bill –write the bill ourselves with content that can be negotiated out.
- Transition clause – open the door wide (this is the most important aspect) and grandfather the experienced senior engineers.
- The truth – trust no one and understand what is going on with the legislature.
- The negotiations – work with the players, those who oppose and those in support.
- Getting the support –I fully and completely support . . . the bill as it is written.
- Defend the bill – the ugly legislature process
- I don't want to count the bodies! Take the moral high ground.

Washington State has adopted a practice act. The practice act is limited and requires *important* buildings to have a structural engineer. The Washington act will grandfather for 30 months, ending December 31, 2010.

## Continuing Education Forum

NCSEA hosts many web seminars in a smattering of subjects. If you have a topic you are interested in or would like to give a presentation contact your local delegate.

Some past web seminars have been made available on CD. Availability is restricted based on copy rights granted. To see a list of available web seminars go to [ncsea.com](http://ncsea.com).

## Protect Your Liability

*Don't take on a project without a geotechnical report.*

*Don't take the risk of only doing partial services on a project.*

*Only work with a well defined scope of services.*

*Keep site observations in the scope of services; a site visit will help reduce exposure. Some companies won't offer engineering services if they can't do site observations.*

*Engineers provide a service not a product; we should not distribute calculations and internal documents on a whim.*

*Rank clients and increase fees to those that are more risky.*

*The most important – always work with a signed, written contract that addresses the following: delays, insurance (for all parties), a clear scope, and an authorization to proceed.*

## *Business Meeting Saturday, October 25, 2008*

### **8:00 am Roll Call and MO reports and Announcements**

- Membership dues are directly related to what an MO can do for group functions and activities.
- Washington has a YOUNG MEMBERS organization.
- New York hired an Executive Director, increased membership dues by 50% and witnessed an increase in membership. Ironic!
- In order to have more meetings and better participation, some larger states, such as Texas, have developed SEA chapters.
- Utah legislature recently passed an SE practice act.
- Funds are available for NCSEA board members to come to MO meetings.
- Next year the Saturday portion will be centered on the topic of leadership.
- NCSEA distributed written reports from each of the state MO's. A copy of the report can be made upon request.

### **9:00 am Code Advisory Committee Report**

- The purpose of the Code Advisory Committee is to have a single unifying voice for the code change cycles of ICC. Active subcommittees include General Requirements Committee, Seismic Committee, Special Inspections Committee, Existing Buildings Committee, and the defunct Ad Hoc JIC on Structural Integrity.
- This committee works to impact the IBC, IRC, and Existing Buildings Code. They also work with ASCE/SEI, ACI and AISC to develop updates for standards.
- Due to be added in IBC 09, the General Requirements Sub-Committee has impacted the development of Simplified Wind Provisions, reorganization of Chapter 18 Foundations, and removed masonry redundancies and disagreements with the standard. ASCE 7 will develop a similar simplified method for the 2010 edition of the standard.
- The Existing Buildings Sub-Committee has submitted proposals to improve structural upgrade requirements for damaged buildings or alterations, modernization or repairs.
- The Special Inspections Sub-Committee has submitted a proposal to clarify that the engineer of record may serve as the special inspector without having a conflict of interest.
- The new Evaluation Services Sub-Committee was established this last year to collaborate with ICC Evaluation Service reports. Manufacturing companies are developing products that function as the proprietary lateral force resisting system in buildings. Companies such as SIMPSON STONG WALL and HARDY FRAME.
- IBC 09 will require structural observations for wind resisting systems.
- IBC 09 will only have one method for calculating live load reductions.

**9:40 am Basic Education Update**

- The plan is to establish a liaison with engineering schools.
- Advertising for the schools – high school guidance counselor.
- Break the mold and educate people on what it is that structural engineers do.

**10:00 am Continuing Education Update**

- Webinars: 9 have been scheduled for 2009, 6 of which will be about masonry.
- The Diamond Review Program was created to certify that seminars will be worth education credits to be recognized by state boards.
- Winter Institute will be held in Florida and involve wind topics.
- NCEES is adopting a *16 hour structural exam*; NCSEA would like to be a leader in the creation of the exam. The hope is that states like California, Washington, and Oregon will begin to accept this exam in place of their state specific exam.
- A publication from NCSEA, the Diaphragm Design Guide, will be published later this year.

**10:30 am Ethics Committee Report**

See comments from the forum on page 1.

**10:40 am Licensing Committee Report**

- Speakers are available to visit state MO's. Montana, Alaska, Ohio, South Carolina, New York and Missouri have discussed separate licensure.
- More articles about licensure will appear in STRUCTURE magazine.

**10: 50 am Publications Committee Report**

**11:00 am SEER Committee Report**

- Provide a contact person to NCSEA.

**11:10 am Treasurer's Report**

- NCSEA has money in the bank. Income: \$676,800.81. Expenses: \$568,996.45. Net: \$107,804.36

**11:20 am Report on the NCSEA Strategic Plan**

**11:40 am Certification Report (SECB)**

- 1700 participants
- Membership renewal appears to be hindered by the strict continuing education requirements.
- Grandfathering is now closed. The Structure II exam is now required.

**1:30 pm          Plenary Session on NCSEA Code Advisory Committee Activities**

**2:00 pm          Breakout Session 1 – Seismic Provisions**

- The group suggests a flow chart be printed that will indicate seismic requirements and provide a guide to the design engineer.
- With the current code revisions, it is often difficult to be correct and compliant.
- If you think of a seismic code change, send it to your delegate and it will be forwarded to the Seismic Committee chair person.
- Code changes must be diplomatic, win some, and lose some.
- Some discussion of R-value selection and how this impacts building costs.

**2:45 pm          Breakout Session 2 – Special Inspection**

- Independent inspectors should not be the contractor.
- Special inspections for wood and light steel framing should be required.
- Old UBC stuff is in the SI chapter.
- There will be an editorial change for the 2012 code change and 2010 supplement.
- Require structural observations for buildings under 75 ft. in high wind or seismic.
- CASE has a special inspection form.
- WE NEED TO EDUCATION BUILDING OFFICIALS ON SPECIAL INSPECTION/OBSERVATIONS.
- Quality Assurance went away with IBC 06.
- IEBC (Existing Building Code): SEAMT should develop a committee for existing buildings to provide input to NCSEA and impact the IEBC. IEBC is a new code.

**4:30 pm          Adjourn**

*End of Report*