



## Structural Engineers... Don't Be Put Off By the "A" Word

Dave K. Adams, S.E.

Chairman, Students and Educators Subcommittee of the NCSEA  
Advocacy Committee

Structural engineers know what a roller-coaster ride this profession can be. After earning the right upon graduation to sit in the car, we slowly climb the steep hill of training, keeping our eyes fixed on the top – licensure! We roll over the crest with a feeling of immortality, but suddenly realize there is still much to learn. Excitedly, we race around seminars, loop into projects and twist through Codes and Standards until an unexpected event occurs: At a gathering, we are introduced as “Architects”! The car is derailed and we wonder what went wrong as we scramble for an appropriate response.

The Advocacy Committee of NCSEA seeks to improve the image of structural engineers and secure respect for this profession well into the future. Development of educational resources is an important task, but steps are also being taken to enhance personal involvement in many spheres of public influence. NCSEA’s new website will support the committee as a central clearinghouse of resources, freely accessible to structural engineers worldwide. In order to streamline operations, tasks have been divided into four target groups: (1) Students & Educators, (2) General Public & Media, (3) Regulators and (4) Clients & Prospects.

The *Students & Educators Subcommittee* is working to convince high school students that structural engineering is a rewarding career choice. Several projects are currently underway: Posters are being developed to illustrate how math and science are used to complete structural designs, highlighting projects across the nation in an exciting and professional way. PowerPoint presentations are being finalized for use at career days to showcase structural engineering and how students can prepare for future success. A database of photographs showing structures around the world is being assembled to give presentations flexibility. NCSEA’s website will also support a third activity: An assembly of information on structural engineering competitions and hands-on

programs to stimulate interest in the profession.

The *General Public & Media Subcommittee* is developing an effective press-release distribution system, which includes: (1) An electronic database of nationwide media contact information, (2) nationwide protocol to help coordinate spokespersons in the area of media relations, and (3) an electronic database of spokespersons and specialists who can be contacted by media agencies or other engineers working with the media who may need assistance in an area in which they do not specialize. These efforts will provide a more systematic method for NCSEA to respond effectively to media inquiries and to provide a support system for structural engineers.

The goal of the *Regulators Subcommittee* is to encourage greater participation of structural engineers in the code development process. To alert the profession on this need, a committee member wrote an article entitled “*Building Codes: How Structural Engineers Can Get Involved*”, published in the June 2003 Issue of STRUCTURE Magazine. The subcommittee is working towards developing a unified voice within standards development organizations (ACI, AISC, etc.) where a representative of NCSEA would participate in an official capacity on various committees within those groups.

The mission of the *Clients & Prospects Subcommittee* is to enhance the real and perceived value of structural engineers to their clients and contacts. Several objectives have been



developed: (1) Understand the needs of relationships between structural engineers and those who use their services, (2) educate owners and other design professionals about the appropriate role and work of structural engineers, and (3) encourage the negotiation of scope-of-services and compensation arrangements that are consistent with the value structural engineers add to a project. A survey was developed and made available online at NCSEA’s STRUCTURE magazine to gather data on important questions related to these objectives.

All subcommittees have generated lists of action items for short and long-term attention, so there is plenty of work to be done. One thing is certain: The world will always need structural engineers. The public will not always understand what a structural engineer does, nor what it is that keeps them excited about their careers, but the public will always understand the basic need for safe structures. NCSEA’s Advocacy Committee is working hard to educate the public in many different areas so that structural engineers can take their deserved, prominent position among the most essential people in the world, with the hope that someday we will no longer be labeled as architects. ■



NCSEA CODE ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
Special Inspection/Quality Assurance  
Subcommittee

Survey on Construction  
Inspection Practices in the US  
Now online at [www.structuremag.org](http://www.structuremag.org)

*Designing for the Coastal Environment*  
**Preliminary Program Highlights**

**Technical Presentations**

**A History of Driven Piles in New Orleans**

Lloyd A. Held, Jr., PE  
 This presentation will highlight the foundation designs of several New Orleans area buildings, particularly how the design approaches have evolved from the mid-1800's to the present.

**Designing Buildings for Floodplains: Recent Developments in Codes and Standards**

Christopher P. Jones, PE  
 This presentation will focus on flood-resistant design and construction in coastal and river flood hazard areas. Mr. Jones will discuss the applicable provisions of ASCE 7, ASCE 24, the flood provisions of the IBC and the IRC. The newly revised FEMA Coastal Construction Manual and the new Corp of Engineers Coastal Engineering Manual will also be discussed.

**Calculating Wind Loads using the Simplified Method of ASCE 7-02**

James M. Delahay, PE  
 Mr. Delahay, a member of the ASCE 7 committee, will explain the origins and applications of Method 1 - Simplified Provisions of the Wind Load section of ASCE 7-02. This method is applicable to a large family of buildings and reduces the solution time to a matter of minutes instead of hours.

**Hurricane Engineering**

Marc L. Levitan, PhD  
 Dr. Levitan is an expert in hurricane engineering and wind effects on structures. This presentation will provide insight regarding the meteorological aspects of hurricanes, their formation, and how they affect structures in the built environment.

**Marine Structures on Inland Waterways**

Clovis L. Morrison, PE  
 In his over 30 years of design experience, Mr. Morrison worked on design projects for a large number of the port and harbor facilities along the Mississippi River in Louisiana. This presentation will give a general overview of the design considerations for docks, piers, wharfs, bulkheads, and dolphins on inland waterways.

**Preservation of Structural Elements**

Ian R. Chin, PE, SE  
 Mr. Chin, the author of numerous publications on building claddings, will present a summary of the methods an engineer can use to protect structural members and systems in corrosive climates. Protection of steel and concrete will be discussed, and several case studies from Mr. Chin's experience will be presented.

*Hotel Monteleone*

214 Rue Royal, New Orleans, LA 70130-2201

**Reservations:** Call the Hotel Monteleone at 1-800-217-2033 or (504) 523-3341. Single or Double Room Rate: \$149

*This room rate is guaranteed only through September 1, 2004.*

Discounted airfares are available for travel to and from New Orleans on United or United Express between September 18 and September 29, 2004. To receive these special fares, you or your travel agent must call the United Airlines Meeting Reservations Center at 800-521-4041 and refer to Meeting ID 524AF.

**REGISTRATION FORM**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Companion \_\_\_\_\_  
 Firm \_\_\_\_\_ Phone ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_ Fax ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_  
 Delegate from \_\_\_\_\_  
 Member Organization \_\_\_\_\_

- Member Registration** - \$495 per person  
 Registration fee includes Thursday evening Welcoming Reception, Professional Program, Trade Exhibits, breakfast, lunch and refreshment breaks on Friday and Saturday, Friday evening dinner at the Musee Conti Wax Museum and Saturday evening dinner at the Closing Awards Banquet.
- Companion Registration** - \$225 per person  
 Companion fee includes Thursday evening Welcoming Reception, Friday continental breakfast, Friday evening dinner at the Musee Conti Wax Museum, Saturday continental breakfast, and Saturday evening dinner at the Closing Awards Banquet.

**Total Amount Enclosed** \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  Visa  MasterCard  American Express

Disability Requirements? \_\_\_\_\_

**If paying by check, mail check payable to NCSEA, with this completed Registration Form, to:  
 NCSEA • Suite 2010 • 203 North Wabash Avenue • Chicago, Illinois 60601.**

**If paying by credit card, fax this completed Registration Form to NCSEA at 312-372-5673.**

**Deadline is September 1st**  
**Exhibitor Workshops start Thursday at 1:00 pm**

