



TALKING POINTS: Governance

Message from SEI President Jeremy Isenberg



Background

In November, the ASCE Board of Direction accepted a proposed constitutional amendment that would alter the governance structure of the Society. The proposed restructuring focuses on three issues: 1) a smaller Board of Direction, 2) alternate paths to membership on the Board, and 3) the creation of Regional Boards to bring more of the Society's governance closer to our members. This is a very important opportunity for SEI members to influence the governance of the Society. You will receive your ballot in the June issue of ASCE News and the balloting will close August 13. Please be sure to mark your ballot and return it promptly. The SEI Board of Governors strongly urges you to vote YES on these issues.

The new governance proposal would reduce the size of the national Board of Direction, currently 28 members, representing 15 geographic districts, an international director, and the president-elect, president and past president. The new Board would have 17 members, including the three presidential officers, 10 directors representing geographic regions, two directors elected by Institutes, and two at-large directors.

The proposal will also create eleven regional boards (ten geographic and one that includes the Institutes), comprised of a board of regional governors and led by the national director representing the region. Many of the current responsibilities of the district councils and Zone Vice Presidents would become the responsibility of the regional boards.

If approved, elections for the newly created Board positions would be held in 2005. The proposal is budget neutral.

Benefits include:

- ✓ Increased opportunities for leadership through newly-created Regional Boards.
- ✓ Two Directors elected at-large, providing a path to national leadership for those who do not have a geographical base of support because their professional pursuits caused them to move frequently.
- ✓ More responsive leadership, as more decisions are made at the regional level.

✓ The opportunity for enhanced communication and more effective partnerships among Geographic Units, ASCE National and Institutes, by engaging active leaders from all levels of the Society's membership.

Message Points

- The proposed model strengthens the traditional geographic leadership base of the Society by creating Regional Boards that offer more opportunities for leadership.
- With increased opportunities for leadership through the Regional Boards, ASCE members will benefit from more effective leadership development.
- Recognizing that our members are increasingly mobile, the proposed model will provide our members with opportunities to serve, even as they move to pursue professional opportunities.
- The strong leadership at the Regional level will also help build more productive local technical groups as partnerships between Institutes and Sections and Branches.
- A smaller national board will be more conducive to policy discussions.
- Direct representation on the national Board for Institute leaders will allow us to benefit from the leadership of members who have primarily served the Society through the technical track.
- At-large nomination of the President will allow the Society to elect the individual with the background, expertise and leadership skills needed to confront current challenges, including those individuals whose contributions have primarily been through technical activities or an Institute.

I believe that the proposed governance restructuring is important for the future of SEI, and I hope you will support it by VOTING YES.

Wind Research Legislation Introduced in House



Reps. Randy Neugebauer (R-TX) and Dennis Moore (D-KS) this week introduced The National Windstorm Impact Reduction Act of 2004 (H.R. 3980), legislation that would establish a federal program aimed at mitigating damage to structures from windstorms such as tornadoes and hurricanes. The legislation is similar to H.R. 2020, the Hurricane, Tornado and Related Hazards Research Act of 2003, introduced last year by Rep. Moore and Rep. Mario Diaz-Balart (R-FL).

The bill would establish the *National Windstorm Impact Reduction Program*, which would coordinate federal research efforts related to building structures that better withstand the effects of tornadoes and hurricanes.

ASCE, together with partners in the Wind Hazard Reduction Coalition, helped to draft the legislation. For more information visit the Coalition's website at <http://www.windhazards.org>

Security Engineering Workshop

June 7-12, 2004, Norfolk, Virginia

Sponsored by the American Society of Civil Engineers Norfolk Branch (ASCE) and the Virginia Society of Professional Engineers Tidewater Chapter

Monday am (1/2 day) - DoD Minimum Antiterrorism Standards for Buildings - intended for a multi-discipline audience, and will provide information on updates and a general overview of the DoD minimum antiterrorism standards.

Monday pm and Tuesday (1.5 days) *Security Engineering: Design of Blast Resistant Windows and Doors* - intended for engineers or others interested in the design of windows and doors to resist blast loads.

Wednesday to Friday (3 days) *Security Engineering: Design of Buildings to Resist Progressive Collapse* - intended for engineers or others interested in the

NEW DoD (Army, Navy, Air Force) requirements for design to prevent progressive collapse.

The 3-part workshop is an event that is directed towards all engineers and architects in the United States and other countries who perform work for the US Department of Defense.

For the latest information, visit the website at: www.vspe.org/atfp or contact Bernard Deneke, PE at denekebj@efdlant.navfac.navy.mil

Utilization of High-Strength/High Performance Concrete

The Seventh International Symposium

Washington, DC June 20 to 24, 2005

The symposium is sponsored by the American Concrete Institute, and cosponsored by the Structural Engineering Institute of the American Society of Civil Engineers and over 40 other organizations from 16 countries around the world.

Approximately 100 presentations on various aspects of the design and application of HPC will be available.

The symposium Steering Committee is chaired by Henry G. Russell, Chicago, Illinois and has representatives from

Australia, Belgium, Canada, China, France, Japan, India, and the United States.

For more information, contact Thomas H. Adams, Symposium Secretary, at thomas.adams@concrete.org, or (248)848-3742.

Full Day

Masonry Design & Detailing Seminar

Tuesday, May 18th, 2004; Livonia, Michigan

Seminar Includes:

- Reinforced masonry walls based on ACI 530/ASCE 5/TMS 402 (non-load bearing, load bearing and shear walls)
- Movement joints and masonry tolerances
- Lintels and beams
- Two examples showing the design and detailing of load bearing buildings
- Proper use of commercial computer programs
- Handouts with design examples
- Open question and answer session

Seminar Presenters:

David Biggs, P.E. and H.R. (Trey) Hamilton, P.E., PhD

Registration Details:

Fee: By May 11th
 \$185 Member SEI/ASCE/SEAMI
 \$235 Non-Member
 After May 11th
 \$235 Member SEI/ASCE/SEAMI
 \$285 Non-Member
 (Registration fee includes coffee breaks and lunch)
 Location: Laurel Manor 39000 Schoolcraft Road, Livonia, MI 48150
 Class Hours: Sign-in at 7:30am, class runs from 8:00am until 5:00pm
 PDHs: Course provides 8 PDHs

Register on-line at www.seinstitute.org or by phone at 1-800-548-2723. For more information, contact Sue Richardson at 703-295-6054 or suerichardson@asce.org

