



Report on Structural Certification

In early 2004, after three years of consideration, NCSEA established the Structural Engineering Certification Board (SECB) as an independent, autonomous body. A 7-member board that includes 4 structural engineers and 3 public members governs the SECB. Public members include an architect from California, a code adoption official from New York State and an insurance industry representative from Utah. All engineer-directors are current or past-NCSEA Presidents; however, as these members retire, beginning next year, it is likely that SEI and CASE will be asked to nominate directors.

The board met twice, established a definition of structural engineering as well as the criteria for certification through experience and practice (grand-parenting), and appointed a series of committees including:

- **Examination:** Responsible for identifying the appropriate form and content of examinations. Will recommend a provider of examination services.
- **Education:** Responsible for identifying appropriate minimum education requirements. Will develop a program of continuing education requirements.
- **Credentialing:** Responsible for review of the qualifications submitted by applicants for certification.
- **Marketing:** Responsible for publicizing the benefit to the public of retaining certified structural engineers to provide structural engineering services.

SECB is accepting pre-applications for certification through the grand-parenting process. Grand-parenting is available to all professional engineers (i) who are legally entitled to act in responsible charge of structural engineering projects in at least one U.S. jurisdiction and (ii) who have been engaged in the practice of structural engineering as their primary occupation for a continuous period of at least three years, immediately prior to the date of application.

At this time, approximately 200 individuals have submitted pre-applications for certification through experience and practice. In addition, the SECB has raised approximately 75% of the funds projected in the implementation plan as necessary, in order to bring the program on line and begin to issue certifications. It is anticipated that the first certifications will be issued mid-year of 2005.

Applications can be obtained at www.secrtboard.org.

Member Organization Development

NCSEA expects to welcome its 40th member organization this year, with the formation of a structural engineers association in Montana and startup efforts in both North Carolina and South Carolina. Carol Pivonka led the effort in Montana and attended the NCSEA Annual Conference in New Orleans on behalf of the Structural Engineers Association of Montana, in preparation for their impending membership in NCSEA. Montana engineers reading this, who have not already joined this group, can contact Carol at pivonka@aisc.org.

Structural engineers in South Carolina are organizing through the efforts of Dr. Tim Mays at the Citadel. Engineers interested in joining this effort are encouraged to contact Dr. Mays at timothy.mays@citadel.edu. An organizational meeting will be held early next year.

Almost simultaneously with the effort in South Carolina, engineers in North Carolina started organizing. This effort is being led by Ron Hiatt. North Carolina engineers interested in helping Ron can email him at hiatt@aisc.org.

NCSEA started providing assistance to groups of structural engineers interested in forming structural engineers associations approximately 4 years ago. Since that time, eight new associations have joined NCSEA and eight new areas of the country are represented by NCSEA in activities such as code development, emergency response, engineering education reform, and the promotion of the structural engineering profession to students. NCSEA provides the structural engineering profession with an autonomous organization dedicated to the betterment of the profession. Engineers in states without associations are encouraged to contact NCSEA at development@ncsea.com. Those in states with associations are encouraged to contact NCSEA at the same email address, to volunteer their time and talents. There is always a need for interested and dedicated people, both at the state and national level.▪

NCSEA Office Move January 2, 2005

The NCSEA offices will be relocating, from 203 N. Wabash to the following address:
 645 N. Michigan Avenue, Suite 540
 Chicago, IL 60611
 P-312-649-4600 F-312-649-5840

Coming Soon - "The 2005 NCSEA Winter Institute"



NCSEA Winter Institute, February 18-19, 2005

If Only I'd Known -- for Engineering Firm Owners

Friday, February 18, Program:

8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Keeping Up With the Law

Justin L. Weisberg, JD, Schuyler, Roche & Zwirner, PC, will discuss recent rulings affecting engineering firms.

10:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Lowering Your Insurance Premiums

Mark Blankenship, CPCU, AIC, Vice President, Hobbs Group/AVA Insurance Agency, will advise owners on how they might lower their insurance premiums.

1:15 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.

Implementing Value-Based Compensation

Jon Magnusson, Chairman/CEO of Magnusson Klemencic Associates, a 140-person structural and civil engineering firm based in Seattle, will explore business practices in other industries to illustrate how engineers can develop a deeper understanding of pricing philosophies for their services.

3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Round Table Discussion

Michael J. Tylk, Principal, TGRWA, LLC, Chicago, Illinois, will lead a round table discussion on the day's presentations.

6:00 p.m. **Dinner**

(7.5 Continuing Education Hours Per Day)

Saturday, February 19, Program:

8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Foreseeing the Testimony of an Expert Witness

Dr. W. Gene Corley, Senior Vice President, CTL Group, Inc., will talk about what a designer needs to do, to keep experts from abusing a design.

10:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. Selecting Your Successor

Sandy Blaha, Owner, Sandy Blaha Performance Consulting, will describe how to identify and develop an effective key employee group, including entrepreneurs, client managers, business managers, mentors, teachers and visionaries.

1:15 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.

Recognizing and Preventing Embezzlement

Maria Kieras Vedral, President, SilverEdge Systems Software, Inc., will describe the tell-tale signs of embezzlement and will recommend procedures and tools that have proved to be critical in its prevention.

3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Round Table Discussion

6:00 p.m. **Reception**



7401 North Scottsdale Road, Scottsdale, Arizona 85253-3548

Reservations: Call the hotel directly at (800) 243-1332 or (480) 948-5050.

Single or Double Room Rate: \$149 plus 11.92% tax. Mention NCSEA to receive this special room rate. This room rate is guaranteed only through January 28, 2005.



Discounted airfares are available for travel to and from Phoenix on United or United Express between February 13 and February 23, 2005. Receive 5% off the lowest applicable discount fare, or 10% off the unrestricted coach fare. Purchase your airline tickets through the Meeting Reservations Center at least 30 days before your departure date and save an additional 5% on your airfare. 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 Number 529CB.

REGISTRATION FORM

Name: _____ Badge Name: _____

Companion: _____ Badge Name: _____

Company: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP Code: _____

Telephone: _____ Fax: _____

E-mail: _____

Registration - \$695 per person
 Registration includes all presentations, program notes, continental breakfasts, lunches, breaks Friday evening dinner, and Saturday evening reception.

Companion Registration - \$95 per person
 Companion registration includes continental breakfasts, Friday evening dinner, and Saturday evening reception.

Friday Registration - \$395 per person _____ **Saturday Registration - \$395 per person** _____

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 • 645 North Michigan Avenue, Suite 540 • Chicago, Illinois 60611.**

If paying by credit card, fax this completed Registration Form to NCSEA at 312-649-5840.

