



## Board Visits

NCSEA is striving to maintain closer contact with the member organizations. This will enable the national organization to better understand important issues in various regions of the nation, as well as to help provide assistance with programs that the individual member organizations undertake. As part of this program, the Board of Directors will make a concerted effort this year to visit the member associations. During these visits, the Board member will provide a report on activities at NCSEA and respond to any questions that may arise.

This program initiated in the fall, when Director Bob Paullus visited the Structural Engineers Association of Kentucky. NCSEA President, Ron Hamburger, attended the Kentucky association annual meeting on March 30 as a follow-up to this visit. President Hamburger also attended the Structural Engineers Association of California annual meeting last fall and provided an update of ongoing NCSEA programs.

In early January, Director Ed Huston (SEAW) attended a breakfast meeting of the Structural Engineers Association of CASE/Minnesota and provided an overview of recent and upcoming NCSEA activities, prior to the main topic which was an excellent presentation on the structural design of the additions to the Minneapolis Art Museum.

Vice President Vicki Arbitrio checked in with the Structural Engineers Association of Vermont (SEAVT) for their monthly dinner meeting at the Inn at Essex, just East of Burlington, on January 27. Mauro Scali, a petrographer with Simpson, Gumpertz & Heger, presented the results of a forensic investigation of the erosion damage to drilled shaft

bridge foundations for a brand new bridge in Southeastern Massachusetts.

On February 2, Vicki Arbitrio traveled to the Yankee Silversmith Inn in Wallingford, for the monthly meeting of the Structural Engineers' Coalition of Connecticut. Jim DeStefano, DeStefano Associates, presented IBC 2003 – Special Inspections and explained specific modifications anticipated for the 2005 Connecticut Building Code. DeStefano chairs both the Connecticut and CASE committees on Special Inspections.

In Rhode Island on March 15 and Boston on March 16, Arbitrio also provided a short summary of the NCSEA Winter Institute, along with an update on NCSEA activities.

Board member Greg Robinson traveled to the sunny city of Miami to meet with the Florida Structural Engineers Association in early March. During the same week, Davy Becker, NCSEA Treasurer, updated the Structural Engineering Association of New Mexico (SEANM) on NCSEA activities. Lively discussions about special inspection requirements, structural engineering licensing and the newly created Structural Engineers Certification Board followed. SEANM holds monthly meetings during lunch hour, on the second Tuesday of each month, at the offices of Dekker Perich Sabatini in Albuquerque. (See the article on the following page for the next SEANM event.)

By now, each member association should have been contacted by a Board member to schedule a visit. If this has not occurred and you would like to arrange for a visit from an NCSEA Board member, **please contact the Executive Director, Jeanne Vogelzang, at (312) 649-4600 ext. 201.**

## NIST World Trade Center Reviewers Needed

Early this year, many of us received an email from a person that advertised himself as leading an official peer review of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) report on the 9/11/2001 attacks on the World Trade Center. Many engineers responded to this email solicitation for reviewers. Shortly afterwards, NIST informed me that the person sending this solicitation was not in any way connected with the National Institute, nor was the review sanctioned by the institute in any way.

However, after several years of intense study, NIST is ready to publish a draft copy of their report on the twin towers for public review and comment. NIST has empanelled its own independent peer review team that includes some of our most distinguished structural engineers including Shankar Nair, Charles Thornton, John Barsom, and Robert Hanson. As a result, NIST does not currently plan to solicit comments from NCSEA or any other professional organizations representing design professionals. Nonetheless, given that this report will constitute the official U.S. Government position on why the twin towers collapsed and what this should mean for building design and construction practice, I believe it is important for the practicing structural engineer to have an opportunity to review this report and provide comment to NIST on its content. I would like NCSEA to provide the "official" opinion of structural engineers on this matter.

NIST currently plans to publish its report, in draft form, specifically for review and comment, some time in June of this year. At the NCSEA Board meeting held in New York on April 21, the Board discussed the appointment of an official review panel to coordinate NCSEA's efforts. Initially, NCSEA Member Organizations were asked to nominate official members of the review panel. The idea was for the review to be conducted by a broad cross section of the structural engineering profession. Nominations for panel members were requested from the member organizations prior to the April 21 Board Meeting.

Individual structural engineers wishing to perform their own reviews and offer comments are also asked to offer these comments to NCSEA. If individual reviewers and member organization review committees, conducting their

own independent reviews, coordinate their comments through the official NCSEA panel, then the profession can speak with one voice. In turn, every organization and individual who contributes to the review will receive recognition in the transmission of our comments.

*Ron Hamburger  
President, NCSEA*



## NCSEA Diamond Review Program

The National Council of Structural Engineers Associations announces a new program to evaluate continuing education courses for structural engineers. Known as the **NCSEA Diamond Review Program**, it provides a recognized means for continuing education providers, structural engineers and state licensing boards to (1) identify continuing education programs that are relevant to the practice of structural engineering, and (2) affirm that the continuing education hours awarded are consistent with the content.

Continuing education for engineers is becoming a mandatory requirement for license renewal in more states every year; and for the first time a level of standardization has been brought to the table. The Diamond Review Program was developed as a direct response to vendors seeking some assurance that their programs provide meaningful and useful information and will more likely be accepted by state licensing boards. According to Benjamin Baer, developer of the program, state licensing boards also benefit because "they know upfront that a program has already been reviewed, relieving them of the task of checking individual programs."

The application process is meant to be simple enough that any provider can participate without expending significant resources. NCSEA reviewers will examine the goals and objectives of the program, a detailed outline of program content, the presentation materials, the qualifications of the individual(s) preparing and presenting the program, and the number of hours of continuing education credit to be awarded upon completion of the program. To be considered relevant to structural engineering, programs must address at least one of the following items: (i) analysis or design methods and techniques typically used by structural engineers, including the use and application of computer software; (ii) codes, standards and specifications for the design of structures; or (iii) use and application of products or services commonly specified by

structural engineers, or intended to be specified by structural engineers. Programs on proprietary products must include a discussion on product background, design basis, or other non-proprietary material. Other topics, as determined by the NCSEA Continuing Education Committee, may also be considered.

Upon a successful review, continuing education providers will have a preferred listing on the NCSEA website, with links to the provider's website, as well as use of the NCSEA continuing education "Diamond Logo" in marketing materials.

*For complete program information, including provider application forms, visit the NCSEA website at [www.ncsea.com](http://www.ncsea.com).*

### Call for Diamond Reviewers

As part of NCSEA's new Diamond Review Program, NCSEA is looking for consulting structural engineers interested in applying to review continuing education programs for structural engineers. The NCSEA Diamond Review Program provides a recognized means for continuing education providers, structural engineers and state licensing boards to (1) identify continuing education programs that are relevant to the practice of structural engineering, and (2) affirm that the continuing education hours awarded are consistent with the content.

Key to the program are qualified structural engineers who are willing to evaluate continuing education programs. A review is based on the material submitted by the continuing education provider and does not entail attending the program. Reviewers receive a nominal honorarium for their work but, subject to state requirements, they will generally not be able to use their review time to fulfill continuing education requirements.

*For complete program information, including reviewer application forms, visit the NCSEA website at [www.ncsea.com](http://www.ncsea.com).*

## SEANM Annual Meeting

SEA/New Mexico announces their annual meeting theme, **New Mexico's Planet of Concrete**. This is a joint venture with the New Mexico Chapter of the American Concrete Institute (ACI), scheduled in Albuquerque, New Mexico at the beautiful Hyatt Regency Tamaya Resort & Spa on June 17, 2005. The Tamaya boasts one of New Mexico's finest golf courses.

This planetary event will showcase the latest in concrete design, production, performance, and products. An impressive group of experts in the concrete field will share their knowledge

about production facilities and batch plants, the use and effects of chemical admixtures in concrete, concrete troubleshooting, basics of concrete design, and concrete performance in the 9/11 attacks. Featured speakers will include Ward Malisch, a former editor of Concrete Construction, and Attila Beres, Western U.S. Regional Engineer of the Portland Cement Association.

For the latest information, visit [www.seanm.org](http://www.seanm.org), or contact Kesselman-Jones, P.O. Box 30182, Albuquerque, NM 87190. Fax: 505-266-3461. Email: [SEANM@KessJones.com](mailto:SEANM@KessJones.com).



Milwaukee Art Museum Addition  
 Milwaukee, Wisconsin  
 Graßl, Anhalt & Schloemer  
 2005 Outstanding Project over \$30 Million

## Call For Entries NCSEA 2005 Excellence in Structural Engineering Awards Program

Entries are due on July 8, and awards will be presented at the Fairmont Hotel on October 29 at the conclusion of the NCSEA Annual Conference in Kansas City, Missouri. Winning projects will be featured in future issues of STRUCTURE magazine. For awards program rules, eligibility, and entry forms, see the Call For Entries on the NCSEA web site at [www.ncsea.com](http://www.ncsea.com).

