



NCSEA Annual Meeting to Include Strategic Planning Session

The NCSEA annual business meeting will be held on October 29th at the Fairmont Hotel in Kansas City, Missouri. This year's meeting will feature a workshop session, intended to help NCSEA develop a strategic plan for the next five years.

NCSEA is undertaking this strategic planning activity to assist the organization in successfully addressing the needs of its Member Organizations. The workshop will involve a plenary session led by Ron Hamburger, splitting up into three groups to brainstorm development of ideas for strategic initiatives, and re-assembly in the plenary session for reports from each of the three groups. It will be the first step in a longer process. The workshop is intended to provide NCSEA with Member Organization feedback on the most important programs and services that NCSEA can and should provide. Then, in December, the NCSEA Board, together with past NCSEA Presidents, will meet in a professionally facilitated session, to convert the information and ideas obtained at the annual meeting into a cogent and useful strategic plan.

Member Organization Goals

Two Member Organizations reports had been submitted at the beginning of September, one from Minnesota and one from California. Thoughts about what our NCSEA Member Organizations consider worth pursuing may be gleaned from these reports:

CASE/MN

Recommended Activities for 2005-06

- Continue monthly meetings and May seminar with appropriate topics
- Present a "brown bag" seminar to AIA Minnesota
- Maintain representation with NCSEA, State Code Advisory Committee, Construction Industry Cooperative Council and other appropriate organizations
- Continue a strong presence with CASE National and NCSEA
- Increase our ties to the University of Minnesota Department of Civil Engineering. Encourage professors and students to become involved in our organization
- Increase the number of associate members by targeting licensed professional engineers that are employed by vendors

SEAOC

Background

The Structural Engineers Association of California (SEAOC) is a federation of four autonomous regional associations within the state—Northern California (SEAONC), Central California (SEAOCC), Southern California (SEAOSC), and San Diego (SEAOSD). Three of the regional associations have full-time paid staff. One regional is managed by association

member volunteers. Each regional holds monthly meetings, commonly with a formal program segment on a current topic of interest. Each produces its own monthly newsletter and has a wide range of technical and business-related committees, which coordinate activities through the State Association. Each has and maintains its own Web site. All members of regional associations automatically belong to the state association through the payment of one dues amount. All associations are incorporated, not-for-profit, tax exempt entities organized under Section 501(C)(6) of the Internal Revenue Code. The current membership statewide stands at around 3,800, including all categories of membership. About 2800 are structural or civil engineer members.

Plan for the Future

In June of 2003, SEAOC conducted another long-range strategic planning session and produced an updated long-range plan for the next five years. The primary objectives of the plan are:

1. Provide educational opportunities, including technical and professional development seminars, and a publications program designed to meet member needs.
2. Develop a public relations program focused on enhancing the image of structural engineers in the eyes of all publics.
3. Maintain a high level of involvement in NCSEA programs and activities.
4. Strengthen SEAOC's influence in the government relations arena.
5. Conduct a membership development program aimed at adding value of association programs to members.
6. Influence code and standards development at the state and national level.
7. Maintain the highest level of design standards in delivery of professional services to assure public safety.
8. Develop and maintain an organizational structure at the state and regional association levels that provides maximum coordination and effectiveness of programs and activities.
9. Expand upon current program to improve management business practices and strategies.

Each objective has specific goals and strategies with timetables and designation of those groups/persons responsible to achieve those goals in fulfillment of the objective. Progress on the plan is reviewed at each Board meeting.

The Thirteenth Annual Conference in Kansas City will be your opportunity to provide the NCSEA Board with direction on where/how you would like to see the organization evolve. Don't miss the opportunity.■

Ron Hamburger, President, NCSEA

3rd Annual SEAOI Midwest Bridge Symposium

Call for Abstracts

SEAOI's 3rd Annual Midwest Bridge Symposium is being held on April 27, 2006 in downtown Chicago at Maggiano's, 111 W. Grand Avenue. The symposium will include presentations from consultants on various aspects of bridge design and construction. Government agencies will be on the program as well. Approximately 175 people are expected to attend.

Abstracts of projects or topics that are of general interest

to the bridge engineering community are now being solicited. Authors of the abstracts selected for the symposium can prepare a full paper that will be eligible for publication in STRUCTURE magazine.

Electronic copies of 500 word abstracts should be emailed to Jan Diepstra, jan@seaoi.org, by November 15th, 2005. Authors will be notified regarding acceptance by January 15th, 2006.■

ICC Seeks Structural Engineer Members for Code Committees

The International Code Council (ICC) is concluding the process of developing and publishing the 2006 series of International Codes, including the *International Building Code* and *International Existing Buildings Code*. Concurrent with this process, ICC is accepting nominations for its several code committees. These committees are key to the building code development process. Members of the committees review code change proposals, together with staff analyses and arguments in support of and against the proposed changes. They hold public meetings to obtain input on the proposals and then vote for adoption or rejection.

In the past, NCSEA has had the privilege of nominating structural engineers to the Structural Committee and to the Existing Buildings Committee. Current NCSEA delegates to

the Structural Committee include James Robinson (SEAOG), Dominic Kelly (BASE), and the current committee chair, John Hooper (SEAW). John Hooper will be retiring from service on the ICC this year, after a number of years of service. Mel Green (SEAOC) is our delegate to the Existing Buildings Committee.

If you are interested in serving on one of these committees or would like to nominate another engineer for service, **please contact the NCSEA office**. Nominees should have a broad understanding of structural engineering design issues as well as past experience with the code development process, an ability to work well with the public and in a committee setting, and an ability to spend the time necessary to become familiar with the various proposals and to attend hearings. ■



National Council of Structural Engineers Associations

Thirteenth Annual Conference • Kansas City, Missouri • October 27 - 29,
ENGINEERING THE WORLD FROM THE HEART OF AMERICA
Preliminary Program Highlights

The Fairmont Kansas City at the Plaza
 401 Ward Parkway
 Kansas City, Missouri 64112

Reservations: Call Fairmont Reservations at 1-800-441-1414 or the Fairmont Kansas City directly at (816) 756-1500. Reservations can also be made online at <http://www.fairmont.com/kansascity/> using Promotional Code GRNCS1.

Staying in comfort and elegance

Discounted airfares are available for travel to and from Kansas City on United, United Express or Ted between October 22 and November 2, 2005. Receive 5% off the lowest applicable discount fare, or 10% off the unrestricted coach fare. **An additional 5% discount will apply when tickets are purchased at least 30 days in advance of your travel date.** 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 530CG.



REGISTRATION FORM

Name _____
 Firm _____
 Address _____

Companion _____
 Phone (_____) _____
 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 in The Club at Plaza III 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 in The Club at Plaza III, 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 • 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.

