

Table 1

Issue or Activity	CASE	NCSEA	SEI
Public & Media Relations "Enhancing the Image of Structural Engineers"	Exist Coop. Effort	Exist Coop. & Independent Efforts	
Standards Development, Maintenance & Promotion			Exist Activity (CSAD)
Code Development		Exist Committees (IBC/NFPA)	Exist Activity (ISO)
SE Licensure as a Practice Act		Exist Coop. Effort	
SE Certification	Exist Effort Independent of the Three Organizations		
Continuing Education	Exist Coop. & Independent Efforts		
Basic Education		Exist Committee	Some Exist Activity (BPAD)
Business Practices/ Operations	Exist Committees	Some Exist Activity	Some Exist Activity (BPAD)
Coordination with ABET & University Curriculum	Some Exist Activity	Some Exist Activity	Exist Activity
Contracts	Exist Committees		
Risk Management	Exist Activity		Some Exist Activity
Technical Peer Reviews	Some Exist Activity		Some Exist Activity
Trial Designs	Some Exist Coop. Activity		Exist Committee (BPAD)
Emergency Response (Hazard Identification)		SEERP Program	
Building Performance Assessment			Exist Activity
National Meeting of Structural Engineers	Annual Meeting	Annual Meeting & Winter Institute	Structures Congress
Quality Based Selection	Exist Activity		Some Exist Activity (BPAD)
Policing the Profession		Under Discussion	
National Awards Program	Projects (ACEC)	Projects	Individuals
Practical Engineering Publications		Exist Activity	Exist Activity
Design Guidelines		Exist Activity	Under Discussion
Reviewed Journal Publication			Exist Activity
Coordination with Research		Some at Local Levels	Exist Activity (TAD)
Construction Quality Assurance	Exist Documents	Some Exist Activity	
Shop Drawing Review	Exist Documents	Some Exist Activity	

Forward omissions and/or corrections to the *Summary of Issues and Activities* table (Table 1) to publisher@structuremag.org. Items will be forwarded to the appropriate staff at the three organizations.

Cooperation 2006

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In 1998 the Council of American Structural Engineers (CASE), the National Council of Structural Engineers Associations (NCSEA) and the Structural Engineering Institute of ASCE (SEI) joined together to publish STRUCTURE® magazine. The success of the magazine is one example of the spirit of cooperation between organizations serving the structural engineering profession.

Cooperation sounded like a good idea then and now. While each organization directly serves different elements of the structural engineering profession primarily at a national level, there is an overlap in membership and responsibilities. The members of CASE are structural engineering firms, the members of NCSEA are the members of structural engineering associations (SEAs) of states or regions and the members of SEI are individuals, who are sometimes also ASCE members and others having any interest in structural design, education, research, construction or related areas. All of us fit into at least one type of membership, and many are members of all three organizations.

Many of the issues facing the structural engineering profession cross the membership and orientation lines of the three organizations. For example, licensing of practicing engineers is a state issue affecting individuals. Yet, it is also a national issue (comity) and has major impact on firms and their practice. Another example is building codes. Codes have become national (the International Building Codes). Code provisions have a significant effect on the technical and business aspects of engineering and, obviously, affect individuals doing the design. These are only two examples; generally, most issues have some elements crossing the membership and orientation lines.

From the above descriptions, the reader should have sensed that not all issues could be effectively addressed by any one of these three existing national organizations. Wasteful duplication of effort should be avoided. A balance is necessary — some cooperation and some independent work, and even the occasional competition among ideas. Members of each organization met in St Louis during the SEI Structures Congress in May of this year. *Table 1* summarizes some of the current activities in our profession, and each organization's involvement is reflected.

Joint activities, other than those indicated above, are under discussion. Many will be described in future issues of STRUCTURE®. Omissions or corrections reported to the Publisher will be reflected in a revised table published in a future issue.

It is important to realize the significant efforts occurring to enhance the structural engineering profession. CASE, NCSEA and SEI have identified the structural engineering profession as a unique and distinct discipline. All three organizations firmly believe we should be doing more to remove duplication and enhance cooperation. Each organization has the desire to work together on common issues while maintaining their individual areas of expertise. Their collective efforts should lead to a brighter future for structural engineers. ■