



*Structural Engineers Association of
Idaho*

NEWSLETTER

Winter 2000

1999-2000 Officers		Phone	E-mail
President	Riley Mahaffey	323-0199	rmahaffey@ahj.com
Vice President	Melissa Hennesy	342-3779	mhennes@hdrinc.com
Treasurer	Mike Johnson	334-8537	mjohnson@itd.state.id.us
Secretary	Greg Leishman	975-8240	greg_1@stapley.net
Director	Bruce Hess	364-3634	
Director	Steve Call	321-2656	
Past President	Bryce Stapley	875-8240	bryce_s@stapley.net
Newsletter Editor	Reed Figley	386-5132	reed_figley@mk.com
Secretary	Betty Bufford	345-5310	bbufford@ch2m.com
Committee Chairs			
Program	vacant		
Seminar	vacant		
Membership	Lisa Vernon	336-3166	lvernon@whpacific.com
Building Code	Bryce Stapley	375-8240	Bryce_s@stapley.net

President's Message

Happy New Year SEAI Members!

I trust this newsletter finds everyone in good health and good spirits after the past holiday season. The much anticipated change to Y2K is over (Whew!!) Hopefully everyone's transition went smoothly. Personally I am glad all of the hype is over and am looking forward to moving on into the New Year.

The past year for SEAI has been a hectic, yet rewarding one. We held the Annual SEA Northwest Conference in Sun Valley this past August. From all of the feedback that I have received, it sounds like the conference was a success. The Sun Valley Resort was a beautiful place to stay with spectacular amenities. The weather was great and the technical programs for the conference were very interesting and informative. I would like to thank all of our members that were on the conference committee. Each person put in a lot of time and effort to help put everything together and make the event a success. I would also like to thank the SEAI members that attended the conference. Your support is appreciated, I hope you enjoyed your stay in Sun Valley and that you benefited from all of the extended weekend's activities. Next year's conference is a Western States Round Up in San Antonio, Texas on September 14-16. I encourage everyone to attend. The activities and technical programs should be very entertaining and

President's Message – cont'd

educational. More information about this conference will be provided to our group this spring.

Our monthly dinner programs are still going on every second Tuesday of the month. The attendance has been great and I think the programs have been informative and enjoyable. Although we have not had a program director, I would like to thank Beth Shannon (ITD) and Anne Anderson (Stapley Engineering) for all of their efforts in helping me organize the speakers. They have been a great help. I would also like to thank Jan Welch (Stapley Engineering) for helping me get our Christmas Program organized. We have a wide variety of interesting programs scheduled for the upcoming months that I am sure our association will enjoy. I hope to see everyone at our future meetings.

We are in the process of trying to set up a seminar this spring. I have had several people suggest topics for a seminar, but nothing has been finalized. Our group currently does not have a Seminar Chairperson. If anyone is interested in helping out please let me know.

The next item I would like to talk about is the newsletter that you are reading now. Reed Figley (Morrison Knudsen) has been very instrumental in getting the information compiled into this document. I have greatly appreciated his work. Reed has also set up a list server for SEAI that has been very helpful in disbursing information. If you are interested in being added to the list, please contact Reed at 386-5132 or via e-mail at reed_figley@mk.com.

SEAI ballots for the elections for the upcoming year will be compiled soon. If you are interested in becoming more involved in this organization please let us know. There are a lot of interesting offices and chairperson positions available that are both challenging and rewarding.

In closing, I would like to say that this past year has been extremely busy for me, as I am sure it has been for you, professionally and personally. Trying to juggle my work responsibilities, SEAI obligations and stay competitive in the

mountain biking racing circuit has been quite a task. However, the outcomes from all three have been extremely rewarding. The future of structural engineering appears to be positive with a lot of work heading our way. Also in our future is a new International Building Code (IBC) that could have a major effect on our profession. This is why groups like SEAI are important forums for transferring information and educating engineers on topics like the latest code changes/revisions or updating us on the latest technologies being used. I encourage all of you to become more involved with the Structural Engineers Association of Idaho. The possibilities are endless.

Riley J. Mahaffey, P.E. – President

P.S. Attached in this newsletter is information regarding the National Council of Structural Engineers (NCSEA). Idaho is currently not a member. We have been asked by the NCSEA committee to join. We informed them that we would put it before our members for their approval/vote. Please review the information provided and fill out and return the attached ballot by the date shown. Thank you for your input.

UPDATE YOUR ADDRESS!

The new printed and online member directories will include e-mail and web page addresses.

Please send your e-mail and personal or company web page address to:

seidah_ad@hotmail.com

The SEAI Newsletter-Just One Way To Keep In Touch

This newsletter is coming to you as a service of the SEAI to keep you informed of the happenings of our organization. As most of you know, with today's technology, there are many other ways to communicate besides mail, fax and telephone. Sensing a need in this area, I volunteered to become newsletter editor because I am interested in exploring the new media and putting new methods to use for the SEAI.

In doing so, I've added several tools that will allow future newsletter editors to exploit the functionality of the Internet for the benefit of communication between members.

First, I set up the SEAI e-mail list. With the help of Shafat Qazi of the Structural Engineers Association – International (<http://www.seaint.org>), we have created a service that re-mails all correspondence sent to a certain address (seaidaho@seaint.org) to everyone signed up to the list. This saves you from having to maintain a huge list of addresses, which tend to change over time.

If you are interested in subscribing, send a message from your home or work computer to admin@seaint.org and in the body of the message (not the subject line) type: JOIN SEAIDAHO. That's all you have to do. You will get automatic notification of all meetings and when to RSVP

The other tool you'll be seeing soon is the SEAI web page. We've reserved the domain name <http://www.seaidaho.org> which will soon boast all the information you could possibly want to know about the SEAI. In fact, this newsletter will also be posted there in Adobe Acrobat format, so that members can download and print a version just like the one you get in the mail.

We will archive past newsletters and post schedules for meetings, seminars and conferences. There will also be an online member directory.

I encourage anyone interested in submitting articles or links to contact me. We also hope to help support the web site costs with

advertising . Parties interested in placing a banner ad on our page can contact me or our treasurer, Mike Johnson.

Reed Figley, P.E. – Newsletter Editor

What follows is a transcript of a talk given by Greg Schindler, Treasurer of the National Council of Structural Engineering Associations, at the SEA Northwest Conference held in Sun

What is the NCSEA?

Several years ago it was felt by a number of engineers that there was a need for a national group that would focus on the needs of the practicing structural engineers. Doctors have the AMA, architects have the AIA, and lawyers have the Bar Association.

Jim Cagley, then of CASE (Coalition of American Structural Engineers) began an effort to make CASE be that organization. However, CASE is a coalition within a larger organization, ACEC. ACEC's members are firms and their main focus is in the business of structural engineering. Jim Cagley wanted to be able to reach all structural engineers, not just the ones that worked for CASE member firms. It soon became clear that the rules that ACEC had would not allow CASE to be that organization.

In 1992, Jim started an effort to establish a new association that would focus on the needs and concerns of the practicing structural engineers. This group would draw on the resources of the existing structural engineers associations and would serve to facilitate communication among them.

An organizational meeting was held in Denver in early 1993 to organize the National Structural Engineers Council (NSEC). One of the things that was decided at that meeting was to change the name from NSEC to NCSEA, which was more in line with the mission of the organization to represent structural engineers associations.

The first annual meeting was held in September 1993 in Scottsdale, Arizona, and we have been having annual meetings in September ever since. At that time, there were about 20 organizations in the

What is the NCSEA? – cont'd

country and most elected to join the council. One of the activities of the council is to help start structural engineers associations in states that do not have them.

In fact, NCSEA has been instrumental in starting several new structural engineers associations in places like New York, Florida, Kentucky and Michigan. Initially, the only structural engineers organization in some areas were local CASE Chapters. These were firm-based business-related organizations. About two-thirds of the structural engineers associations had individual members and one-third were firm-based.

Since the start of NCSEA, several groups have changed. Colorado was a firm-based group and now SEAC is individual based. CASE is now encouraging its local chapters to become structural engineers associations. For instance, CASE-AL is now SEAOAL.

There are now about 31 organizations scattered around the US. 28 of them are now members of NCSEA.

To our knowledge, there are 3 existing groups in the United States that have not yet elected to join NCSEA. These are Alaska, Rhode Island and Idaho. Most of the associations represent an individual state. A few represent the engineers in a local region, such as DVASE, SEA/CASE/MW, West Tennessee, and Southern Nevada.

In the early years, there was some debate and confusion over the issue of how CASE would fit with NCSEA. Also, in the middle 1990s, ASCE decided to start a new organization that would concentrate on structural engineers. That is the Structural Engineering Institute (SEI).

One might wonder why we need three national organizations to represent structural engineers. The 3 groups have different membership and focus. The goal is to avoid redundancy and allow each group to focus on the areas where they can best serve the profession.

SEI, CASE and NCSEA have adopted a partnering agreement between the three organizations. None are a member of the other 2

What is the NCSEA? – cont'd

groups; however, each has a representative at the other group's board meetings.

At the last NCSEA board meeting, the CASE representative made a proposal that the 3 organizations establish an executive committee of 3 board members of each group. This group of 9 people would help facilitate the interaction and coordination the activities of the 3 organizations. NCSEA endorses this concept.

CASE membership is engineering firms. Its focus is on business practices. It has developed some excellent documents and contracts for use by structural engineering firms. One of the best is the National Practice Guidelines for the Structural Engineer-of-Record. With the Partnering Agreement, all members of all 3 organizations may purchase the CASE documents at member prices. So if SEAI becomes a member of NCSEA, your members can buy the documents even if their firm is not a member of CASE.

SEI is the structural institute under ASCE. As such, its membership is individuals that pay dues directly to SEI. SEI has 3 segments—the Codes and Standards Division which produces documents like ASCE-7; the Technical Division which focuses mostly on academics and produces the ASCE Technical Journals. The new segment of ASCE / SEI is the Business and Professional Activities Division (BPAD), which is the segment that is most like the structural engineers associations and it will concentrate on practical structural engineering issues. One of the things they are focusing on is doing trial designs to test the validity of code provisions.

NCSEA's membership is SE Associations, which, in turn, have individuals or firms as members. NCSEA's focus is on fostering communication among the

structural engineers associations and to get involved with broad national issues such as licensing and reciprocity, code advisory functions, and sharing of information and publications that structural engineers associations develop. Probably the biggest function is to publish the STRUCTURE magazine, which will be

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OFFICIAL BALLOT

NCSEA MEMBERSHIP QUESTION

PLEASE FILL OUT AND FAX TO RILEY MAHAFFEY AT ATWOOD-HINZMAN-JONES. FAX: (208) 375-5251 or mail to address below.

Please read accompanying financial and organizational information prior to voting. Questions may be addressed to Riley Mahaffey at (208) 323-0199 or rmahaffey@ahj.com

Shall the Idaho Structural Engineers Association become a member of the National Council of Structural Engineering Associations?

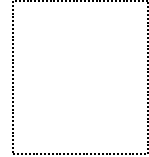
YES

NO

Name _____ (Optional)

PLEASE VOTE ONLY ONCE

To mail, fold in half and staple



PLEASE AFFIX
APPROPRIATE POSTAGE

STRUCTURAL ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION OF IDAHO
PO BOX 8733
BOISE, ID 83707

What is the NCSEA? – cont'd

discussed below. Speaking of the magazine, the last Winter issue had an article outlining how NSCEA, CASE and SEI will interact.

In addition to associations being members, there are some other membership categories also. Commercial, such as AISC and Non-commercial Associates, such as ICBO are non-voting members. Affiliate members are others such as product vendors. Individuals can become Sustaining members. This is for those that live in areas that don't have an SEA to attend. This is also a category for individuals and firm to join NCSEA directly to help financially support it's activities.

Each member organization or MO has a delegate to NCSEA. These delegates are the main point of contact to the local associations. The delegates are expected to attend the annual meetings, which are held in September. This meeting is a combination of conference with technical and structural engineering business-related speakers, as well as a council meeting of the delegates.

So far there have been 6 annual meetings and we try to geographically spread them around the country to help even out the attendance cost to all the associations. This year, the 7th annual meeting will be held in Seattle on September 23 through the 25, 1999. The theme for this conference is the IBC 2000. We have several good speakers from the Seattle area, as well as other parts of the United States.

STRUCTURE Magazine is growing to be THE magazine for the practicing structural engineer. It is owned and published quarterly by NCSEA. With the Partnering Agreement, it is also the official magazine for the news of SEI and CASE. Current circulation is to over 22,000 individuals in the 3 organizations. As a member of NCSEA your members will each receive a copy of the magazine quarterly. I hope you would agree that it is a no-nonsense practical magazine for structural engineers. In the near future, it will be even better. NCSEA has just entered into an agreement

What is the NCSEA? – cont'd

with Black Squirrel Communications to take over the administration and publishing of the magazine. Black Squirrel are the publishers of Modern Steel Construction. I think you would agree that Modern Steel Construction is a very good publication. With their advertising knowledge, Black Squirrel will be able to attract even more appropriate advertising which, in turn, will allow more pages of engineering-related content. This agreement will also free up the NCSEA main office and Executive Director to concentrate on other vital NCSEA functions. STRUCTURE magazine is one avenue for the local SEAs to communicate to the others, offer publications, etc.

The names that each SEA turns into NCSEA for the magazine subscriptions, makes up the individual MO's membership list in NCSEA. It is that list that determines the dues the MO pays to NCSEA.

Speaking of dues, the membership costs to the associations vary based on their size and reported membership list. The dues are a flat \$500 per year, plus \$3 per individual on the list. The smallest MO has about 40 members and the largest California has approximately 2,700 members on the list. We run about a \$190,000 annual budget, which includes the magazine expenses and the annual meeting, both of which are self funding and do not come out of the membership dues. The membership dues total about \$38,000, which is not a lot of money on which to operate a national organization. In fact, all the members of the board of directors donate their time and their firm's money to attend board meeting.

The other publication of NCSEA is the Monthly Moments. This is a periodic, usually monthly, 2-page newsletter from the President and Board of Directors. It has announcements and news of the activities of the Board and Committees. You should be receiving the Monthly Moments also. It is to be distributed by the local associations. SEAW includes it in our newsletter. I assume Oregon does also.

What is the NCSEA? – cont'd

NCSEA also maintains a web site (NCSEA.com) that we hope will become a focal point for structural engineers on the web. It has STRUCTURE Magazine articles and Monthly Moments links to the web sites of the local MOs, as well as over 200 links to other sites—both structural engineering-related and general sites. I hope you will check it out and submit suggestions.

In addition to the web site, there are e-mail servers that will automatically connect you to the NCSEA Board of Directors' e-mail addresses, as well as the delegates. If you want to send a message to the Board the e-mail address is ncseaboard@seaint.org. To send a message to all the Council delegates in the United States the e-mail address is ncseadelegates@seaint.org.

NCSEA holds a national awards competition in which firms are invited to submit projects for judging in three categories—under \$2 million, \$2 million to \$10 million, and over \$10 million. The preliminary judging just occurred at the start of this month at the August board meeting. The awards will be presented at the Seattle Conference. I would urge your firm to submit an entry next year. It is a win-win situation. If your project wins you will be recognized among your peers. And, it is good for your clients too if their project is recognized on a national basis.

Another thing that NCSEA is involved with on the national scene is the code process. It has long been felt that there is a need for the engineering profession to have a more active role in the code writing process. For the first time ever, there are now practicing engineers in voting positions on code committees. NCSEA was instrumental in making this happen and has 3 members on the 12-

person Structural Subcommittee of the ICC. In addition, the Code Advisory Committee was effective in representing structural engineers from the floor at the recent code hearings. I think this is one of the biggest areas where NCSEA can effect the lives of all structural engineers.

What is the NCSEA? – cont'd

NCSEA maintains several standing committees. These are manned by members of local the associations.

- The Code Advisory Committee
- Professional Practice
- Licensing and Continuing Education
- Professional Forum
- Administrative Committees

In summary, NCSEA is involved in a lot of things. Our hope is that as the Member Organizations get more involved and interconnected to each other that there will be a distinct benefit to the profession and that the stature and recognition of the structural engineer will be enhanced in the eyes of the public, our clients and governmental agencies.

Greg Schindler – NCSEA Treasurer

NCSEA FINANCIALS

Approximate cost for SEAI to join NCSEA

- \$500 + \$3 per member per year \cong \$850
- Cost to send delagate to annual meeting \cong \$1200
- Total yearly cost \cong \$2050

Increase in members' SEAI dues to cover NCSEA membership \cong **\$20 per member**

Obviously, smaller chapters have to spread the \$500 among fewer members, which raises the cost per member. A chapter like Illinois, with 900 members, only has to raise dues by \$3.56.

BUILDING CODE COMMITTEE NEWS

SEAI has a committee on Building Codes. SEAI members are Steve Call, Lionel Brightwell and George Anderson. Mr. Jack Rayne, Building Programs Manager with the State of Idaho Division of Building Safety is also a member. For at least the last 12 months the committee has been doing an excellent job of keeping the four members off of other committees. However, afraid that someone will notice, and nominate a member for a real office, we hereby solicit the opinions of the membership about what purpose they would like this committee to serve.

As a starting point for your thinking, consider the following. According to 1999 State of Idaho Building Bureau Survey of Building Code Programs in Idaho, 14 of Idaho's 44 counties have no building code. The legally adapted code for two cities is the 1973 UBC. For these reasons some advocate the state should assume some level of jurisdiction over all building in Idaho. The Building Committee could be the study arm and voice of SEAI on this issue.

SEAI members have expressed concern over the basic design loads, particularly snow loads, that local building officials set as minimums for their location. Many design professionals believe that these loads need review, and that SEAI would be an excellent vehicle to undertake that chore. SEAI could make recommendations to these building officials. Again, if you think this type of project would be appropriate for the SEAI BUILDING CODE COMMITTEE please let the committee members know.

Submitted by George Anderson , J-U-B Engineers gma@jub.com

FEBRUARY MEETING

February's meeting will feature a presentation by Eric Hone, an attorney with the law firm of Hawley Troxell Ennis & Hawley LLP. He will speak about engineering and construction liability law and other related legal issues.

Date: Tuesday, February 8th, 2000

Place: Noodles Restaurant Downtown
800 W. Idaho St., Boise

Time: *Social:* 6:00 – 6:30 p.m.

Dinner: 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Program: 7:30 p.m.

RSVP: Betty Bufford

345-5314 ext. 258

bbufford@ch2m.com

Cost: *Member:* \$12.00

Non-Member: \$15.00

Student: \$5.00

NEW MEMBERS

The SEAI would like to welcome the following new members.

<i>Name</i>	<i>Employer</i>
Chris Boyd	HDR Engineers
Greg Clark	Stapley Engineering
Karl Fritz	Treasure Valley Engineers
Dennis Keierleber	Bouiss & Associates
Travis Mechling	Treasure Valley Engineers
Kim Miller	Trus Joist MacMillan
David Rice	Trus Joist MacMillan
Art Schultz	Treasure Valley Engineers
Brian Sielaff	CSHQA Engineers



STRUCTURAL ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION OF IDAHO

**PO Box 8733
Boise, Idaho 83707**