

# SEAI NEWSLETTER

August 2006



## Structural Engineers Association of Idaho

P.O. Box 8733, Boise, ID 83707

[www.seaidaho.org](http://www.seaidaho.org)

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS & AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Please feel free to contact our board members with ideas or suggestions for program/speaker topics or how SEAI can better represent the Structural Engineers of Idaho.

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### **Director**

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### **Past President**

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### **Building Code Chair**

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## NEXT SEAI MEETING — SEPT 19<sup>TH</sup>

SEAI does not have meetings over the summer months, but we will continue our regular meeting schedule of every third Tuesday of the month on September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2006.

The word on the street is that the next meeting will be a presentation by Sue Frey from CH2M HILL's Corvallis, OR office regarding Chapter 17 of the IBC. See next month's newsletter for more information.

### HAVE A SUGGESTION FOR A MEETING?

If you have any suggestions for future speakers, items of discussion or anything else that you think would be beneficial to the structural engineers attending SEAI meetings, please send your comments/ideas to Wilson Antoniuk by email at [antoniw@trusjoist.com](mailto:antoniw@trusjoist.com) or by phone at 395-2458.

### WISH TO PLACE AN AD IN THE NEWSLETTER?

If so, please contact our Treasurer, Brian Garner, at [bgarner@callengineering.com](mailto:bgarner@callengineering.com) or at 323-0199.

#### Monthly Rates for Advertising

Standard Business Card — \$50

Quarter Page — \$90

Half Page — \$120

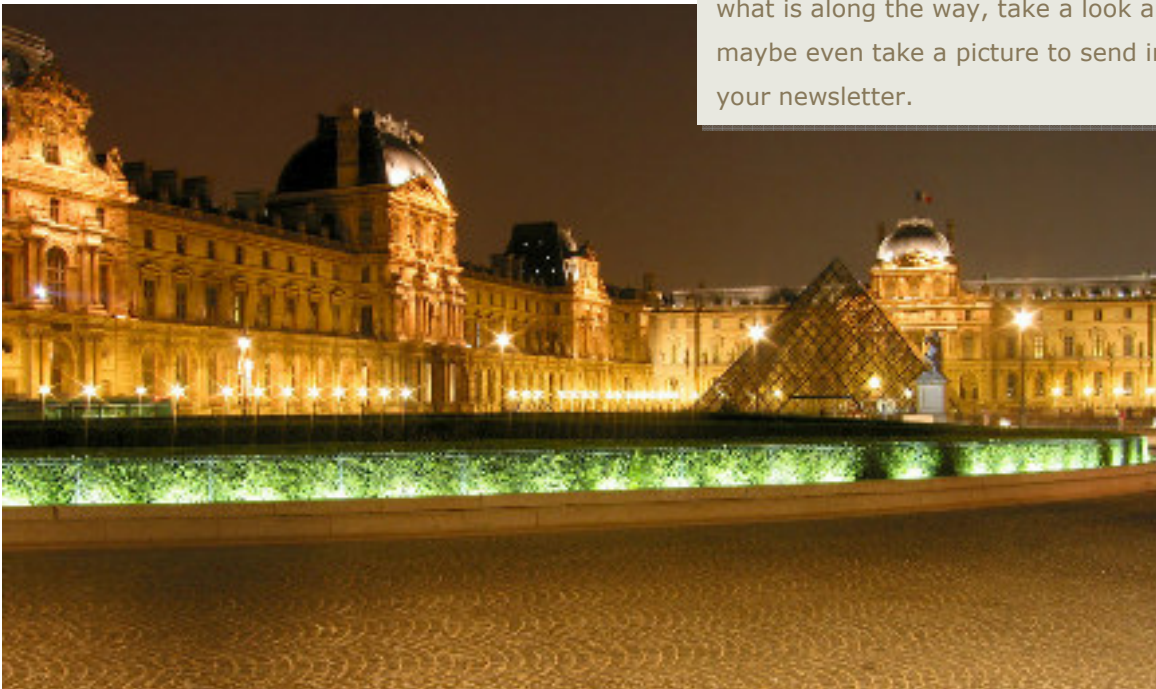
Full Page — \$150

*10% discount for ads running multiple months*

Check out this interesting link:

<http://www.engineeringsights.org/>

This site has a record of engineering sites located throughout the country. If you are going to be traveling and want to see what is along the way, take a look and maybe even take a picture to send into your newsletter.



## BY THE WAY... ENGINEERING NEWS AND GENERAL INTEREST

### **NEW MEMBER ALERT!!!**

Congratulations on joining such a fine organization! We are glad to have Aaron Heinrich from EHM Engineers, Inc. join the SEAI team! Way to go! With your help and participation we will continue to head down the right path and brighten the future of Structural Engineering.

### **HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR SEAI MEMBERSHIP YET?**

It is officially that time of the year and membership renewal forms have been sent out. Please remember that these forms are due with payment no later than September 1, 2006.

If you know some one who would like to submit a new member application form, please direct them to the "Forms, Etc." section of the SEAI website ([www.SEAIIdaho.org](http://www.SEAIIdaho.org)) or follow the link to the application below.

Along with membership renewal, SEAI is also offering an opportunity to get the word out about your company. You can have it listed in the 2006-2007 SEAI Business Directory which will be displayed on the website. Only one form needs to be filled out per company and the company must have at least one SEAI member to be eligible.

### **Membership Renewal Application:**

<http://www.seaidaho.org/Misc%20Downloads/Forms/SEAI%20Renewal%202006-2007.pdf>

### **New Membership Application:**

<http://www.seaidaho.org/Misc%20Downloads/Forms/SEAI%20App.pdf>

### **SEAI Business Directory Application:**

<http://www.seaidaho.org/Misc%20Downloads/Forms/SEAI%20Business%20Directory.pdf>

### **SEA NORTHWEST CONFERENCE & WCSEA MEETING – SUMMER 2008**

As you have probably noticed in the past few newsletters, we have been trying to round up volunteers for current committee openings. We have received a healthy response of volunteers and have filled some of the positions, but we still have a few to fill. Thank you to all of those who have volunteered and, if you have not yet considered volunteering, please look into the positions available.

The Structural Engineers Association Northwest Conference and Western States Roundup are to be hosted by the Idaho Chapter during the summer of 2008. This event will be a three day conference combining SEA Board Meetings, technical programs, vendor exhibits, social events, and recreational events all hosted by SEAI at a destination resort located here in Idaho. This is a well attended event that brings in structural engineers from Idaho, Washington, Oregon, and British Columbia.

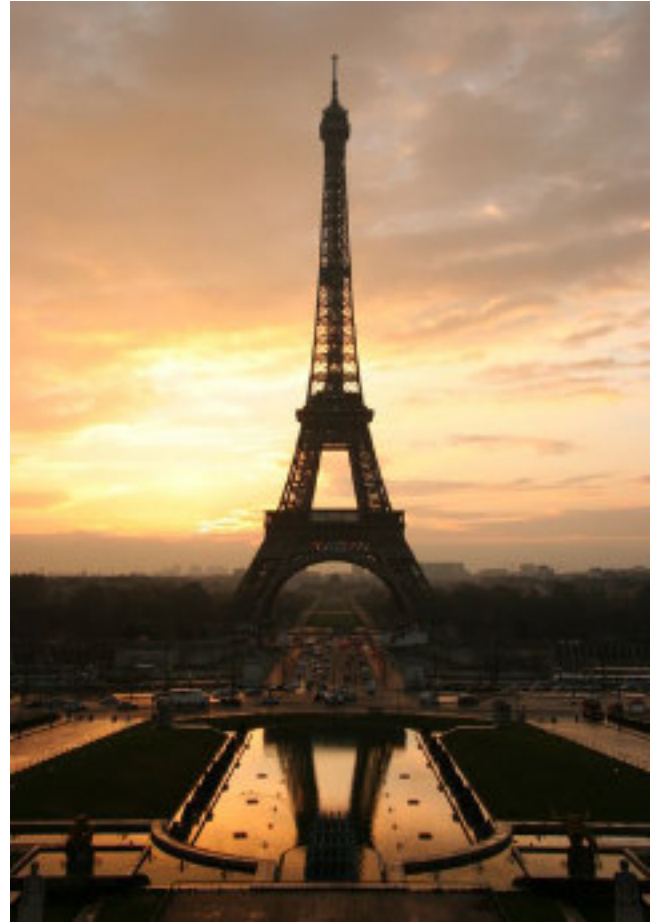
Different committee positions are available for volunteers and they will each require different time commitments and expertise. However, all

positions will provide an excellent opportunity to build networking connections with your peers and colleagues and give you the knowledge that you are actively encouraging the advancement of the structural engineering profession.

If any of the positions listed below interest you and you would like a brief description, or if you have any questions, please contact Sarah McClendon by phone at (342-4214) or email at [sarah.mcclendon@mcm-eng.com](mailto:sarah.mcclendon@mcm-eng.com) or Chris Holladay by phone at (323-0199) or email at [cholladay@ahjengineers.com](mailto:cholladay@ahjengineers.com), and they will help you.

## CURRENT COMMITTEE OPENINGS

- **Committee Director**
- **Treasurer/Secretary**
- **Delegates Dues Chair**
- **Registration Chair**
- **Program/Speakers Chair**
- **Social Events Coordinator**
- **Recreation Coordinator**
- **Water Event Chair**
- **Vendors/Displays Chair**
- **Publicity Chair**
- **Local Arrangements Coordinator**
- **Transportation Coordinator**





**ASK A  
CONSTRUCTION  
LAWYER  
ATTORNEY FRANKLIN G. LEE**

**– How Much Detail Is Enough? –**

**Reader's Question:** A contractor recently threatened me for having incomplete drawings that were holding up his construction schedule. According to the contractor, I did not provide a detailed drawing showing the nailed attachment of a basic wall stud to the sill plate. It is not practical to show every single detail on our construction drawings. How do you know if, as a legal matter, you have shown enough detail? Can we leave certain details off our construction drawings with the assumption that the contractor has a basic knowledge of construction practices and the building code?

**Frank's Answer:** No rule of law sets forth exactly how much detail design professionals must include in construction documents. Instead, this is a matter of professional judgment. Different circumstances may require different levels of detail, so design professionals must provide enough detail for the particular circumstances of the project. Of course, this begs the question – how much detail is enough detail for each particular circumstance?

As with other professional malpractice issues, a court would likely resolve this question by applying the ordinary negligence standard for design professionals. In Idaho, design

professionals have a "duty to exercise such reasonable care, technical skill and ability, and diligence as are ordinarily required of [design professionals] in the course of their plans, inspections and supervisions." (*Stephens v. Stearns*, 106 Idaho 249, 678 P.2d 41 (1984)). Accordingly, an Idaho court would ask whether or not a design professional using ordinary and reasonable care, skill, ability and diligence would have provided the additional detail.

As the questioner points out, it is generally impractical for design professionals to detail everything necessary to construct a project. Even when possible, most clients would not want to pay the fees it would take to prepare such a detailed set of drawings. Generally, design professionals prepare construction documents with the assumption that the contractor will not be an ignorant stranger to customary construction practices and building code requirements. Instead, most design professionals assume that the contractor and its subcontractors will be skilled and knowledgeable about the applicable construction practices and building code requirements.

Those assumptions, however, can be dangerous. Not all contractors have a basic understanding of construction practices and building code requirements. Further, a contractor may assume or be told that the project drawings are detailed when they are not. A contractor who believes that he has or will suffer a financial loss because the drawings were insufficiently detailed may sue the owner, design professional or both to recover his loss.

In my opinion, it is wise to conspicuously place a notice on all construction documents outlining the expectation of knowledge and experience for the contractor. The following notice may be appropriate for some circumstances:

“These drawings and specifications have been prepared by the Engineer with the assumption that the contractor will have a thorough knowledge of the applicable building codes and methods of construction. Accordingly, these drawings and specifications do not describe all materials, methods, connections and other information necessary for the proper and efficient construction of the Project. The contractor shall be responsible for identifying and supplying the materials, methods, connections and other information necessary for the proper and efficient construction of the Project. If the contractor discovers or suspects any errors, omissions or defects in the drawings and specifications, the contractor shall immediately notify Engineer of such error, omission or defect in writing.”

*Frank Lee is an attorney and partner at the local law firm of Givens Pursley LLP who focuses his practice on real estate, construction and land use law.*

**NOTE:** THIS COLUMN ADDRESSES GENERAL LEGAL ISSUES ONLY. IT WILL NOT BE LEGAL ADVICE TO YOU AND SHOULD NOT BE RELIED ON AS SUCH. IF YOU WANT LEGAL ADVICE, YOU WILL NEED TO HAVE A DIRECT CONSULTATION WITH A LAWYER. THE COLUMN IS NOT INTENDED TO CREATE, AND DOES NOT CREATE, A LAWYER-CLIENT RELATIONSHIP. YOU SHOULD NOT ACT UPON ANYTHING IN THIS COLUMN WITHOUT SEEKING PROFESSIONAL COUNSEL.



### **Do you have a legal question that would be of interest to the structural engineering community?**

Submit your question to [sarah.mcclendon@mcm-eng.com](mailto:sarah.mcclendon@mcm-eng.com) with “Ask a Construction Lawyer (c/o Sarah McClendon)” in the subject line or by fax to (208) 342-4216. Although you will not receive a personal reply, your question may be addressed and published as part of this column. All questions will be anonymous, unless specifically directed otherwise.



## AISC SEMINAR — AUG 31<sup>ST</sup>

### Title:

“Design Steel Your Way with the 2005 AISC Specification/Manual”



### Speaker/Presenter:



Michael A. West, PE, Vice President,  
Computerized Structural Design, S. C.

### Location:

Doubletree Hotel Boise – Riverside  
2900 Chinden Boulevard, Boise, ID 83714

### Schedule:

Sign-in is at 7:30 am and the seminar will from 8:00 am - 5:00 pm. Breakfast, refreshments and lunch will be provided.

### You will receive:

- 13<sup>th</sup> Edition AISC Steel Construction Manual
- CD of Design Examples
- A set of laminated Basic Design Values Cards (two 5"x8" cards that distill the most widely needed and often used Specification provisions)
- If you “Bring a Buddy”, he/she will also receive all of the above.

This is the new seminar on the 2005 AISC Specification and Manual that will accelerate your ability to design steel buildings according to the 2005 AISC Specification. **It Doesn't Matter Whether You Design in ASD or LRFD!**

If you haven't registered yet, I really encourage you to do so as soon as possible as space is limited. To be guaranteed that you will receive the 13<sup>th</sup> Edition *Manual of Steel Construction* and other handout materials at the seminar, you must register early. If you register within 3 days of the seminar - you may receive the book and handouts by mail. A Continuing Education Certificate for 0.8 CEUs/8.0PDHs will be given to each attendee at the end of the seminar

**If you are a member of SEAI, you may register at the AISC Member Price – just write "SEAI" in place of the AISC member number when you register.**

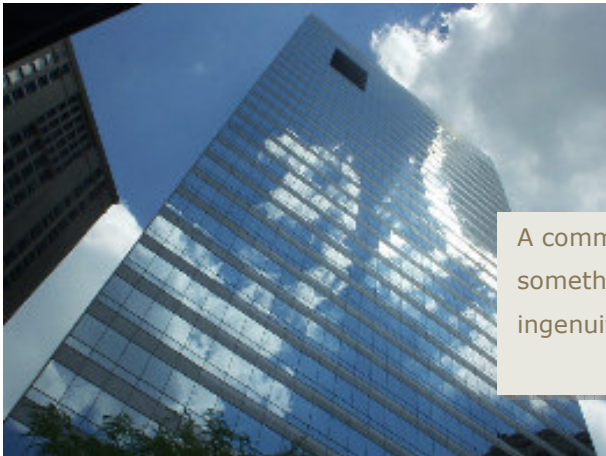
Go to [www.aisc.org/seminars](http://www.aisc.org/seminars) for complete information on this seminar and other AISC 2006 seminars and visit [www.aisc.org/2006seminars](http://www.aisc.org/2006seminars) to register online.



**Don't forget to bring your business card for a chance to win a 2 GB Apple iPod Nano, courtesy AISC Certification – one is given away at every seminar!**

### BE INVOLVED WITH YOUR NEWSLETTER!

The SEAI Newsletter is a monthly publication. Newsletter submissions are encouraged from the SEAI community. If you have a suggestion, feature, link, product review or anything else that maybe of interest to the newsletter readers, please email them to our newsletter editor, Tyler Haney at [thaney@tveinc.com](mailto:thaney@tveinc.com)



A common mistake that people make when trying to design something completely foolproof is to underestimate the ingenuity of complete fools.

- Douglas Adams

## EVENT CALENDAR

(EVENTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

- August 31:** New AISC Specification/Manual Seminar in Boise, ID. "Design Steel Your Way with the 2005 AISC Specification." For more information visit our website, [www.seaidaho.org](http://www.seaidaho.org) and look under "Events".
- Sept. 1:** Deadline for Membership Renewal Applications to be submitted with payment.
- Sept. 16:** Next SEAI Meeting – For more information, visit our website, [www.seaidaho.org](http://www.seaidaho.org)
- October:** History Channel scheduled to present a two-hour special on EGYPT: ENGINEERING AN EMPIRE.. For a link to more information, visit our website, [www.seaidaho.org](http://www.seaidaho.org)

## STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING LINKS

**FEATURED LINK:** *"Structures are held up by both luck and skill"* By Ken Carper  
<http://www.djc.com/special/const97/10023874.htm>

Applied Technology Council - <http://www.atcouncil.org>

Board of Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors - <http://www2.state.id.us/ipels/>

City of Boise Sp. Insp. Checklist – [http://www.cityofboise.org/pds/applications/Building/Special\\_Inspections.pdf](http://www.cityofboise.org/pds/applications/Building/Special_Inspections.pdf)

Design Build Magazine (McGraw-Hill) - <http://www.designbuildmag.com/>

Engineering & (Bi-Weekly Newsletter) - <http://www.engineeringand.com>

Engineering Forum - <http://www.eng-tips.com/>

Structural Engineers Association International - <http://www.seaint.org/>

Structural Engineers Association of Utah - <http://www.seau.org/>

Structural Engineers Association of Washington - <http://www.seaw.org/>

Structural Engineers of Oregon - <http://www.seao.org/main.htm>