

SEAI NEWSLETTER

December 2006



Structural Engineers Association of Idaho

P.O. Box 8733, Boise, ID 83707

www.seaidaho.org

SEAI Mission Statement:

"To promote and enhance the Structural Engineering profession in Idaho by educating the public about the activities of Structural Engineers and their benefit to society and by providing professional development and support to SEAI members that is relevant, reliable, and inspirational to modern engineering practices."

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NEXT SEAI MEETING — JAN 16TH



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 or by phone at 395-2458.

Meeting Location:

Murphy's Seafood & Steakhouse
1555 Broadway Ave.
Boise, ID 83705

Food Entrées:

- 1) Mushroom Ravioli
- 2) Whiskey Chicken
- 3) Beef Chop Burger

Meeting Focus:

Lessons Learned in Structural Engineering

Speaker:

Ron Reaveley (see www.seaidaho.org for more info)

Schedule:

Social:	11:45 am – 12:00 pm
Lunch:	12:00 pm – 1:00 pm
Program:	12:00 pm – 1:00 pm

Cost Per Person:

Member:	\$15
Non-Member:	\$20
Full Time Student:	\$10





ASK A CONSTRUCTION LAWYER

ATTORNEY FRANKLIN G. LEE

A LONG LIST OF STRUCTURAL NOTES

Question: The structural notes that I include with my plans and specifications are starting to become very long. In addition to things like material specifications, design loads and special inspections, I include general instruction notes for the contractor. These instruction notes include such things as "Contractor shall review the drawings prior to construction and notify the engineer immediately if any errors or omissions are discovered.", "Do not scale the drawings.", and "Specific details and notes take precedence over typical details and notes." These instruction notes are very generic and seem like obvious things that any qualified contractor would do anyway whether they are written on my drawings or not. From a legal perspective, is it prudent to keep these contractor instructions or can I delete them?

Answer: One of the primary purposes of general notes is to inform the contractor of the assumptions that you, as the engineer, have made in the preparation of your plans and specifications. Many engineers assume that contractors and their subcontractors have a certain level of competence or experience in the type of construction that they will undertake. Many engineers also assume that contractors are able to read their drawings and specifications in

the manner intended by the engineer. A few gullible engineers believe that contractors actually read all of the engineer's plans and specifications. Those assumptions are often wrong. When those assumptions are wrong, the finger of blame may be pointed back at the engineer for preparing a set of plans that confused the "poor innocent" contractor.

If an engineer prepares a set of plans that relies on an assumption, then the engineer should place a general note in the plans regarding that assumption. For example, if an engineer assumes that the contractor will have a particular level of competence or experience, then the general or specific notes on the plans should spell out the required level of competence or experience. If an engineer does not want the plans to be scaled, then the engineer should include that limitation in his or her general notes. If the engineer intends certain plans to take precedence over others, then the engineer's general notes should clearly indicate which plans take precedence.

Would an engineer fall below the standard of care if he or she omitted certain general notes because they "seem like obvious things that any qualified contractor would do anyway?" Not necessarily. Whether the omission of information is negligent depends on whether a reasonably prudent engineer exercising diligence and care under similar circumstances would have included that information. The danger is in assuming what is or is not obvious to a contractor.

Contractors and subcontractors have widely varying levels of skill and experience.

I subscribe to the general axiom that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. General notes are easy to place on a set of drawings and, if properly incorporated, can place obligations on a contractor that may reduce the likelihood of problems and reduce the engineer's legal exposure. In addition to those listed in the question, the following general sample notes may be appropriate for many projects:

1. Prior to commencing Work, Contractor shall carefully examine, review, compare and contrast each of the Contract Documents, and shall promptly notify Owner and Engineer in writing if Contractor discovers any conflict, ambiguity, inconsistency, error or omission.
2. Contractor shall have a continuing duty to read, examine, review, compare and contrast each of the Contract Documents, shop drawings and other documents related to the construction of the Project. Contractor shall promptly notify Owner and Engineer in writing of any conflict, ambiguity, error or omission discovered before proceeding with the affected Work.

It is possible for a list of general notes to become so long that creates other problems. For example, an inordinately long list of general notes may discourage contractors from bidding on a project. Also, an inordinately long list of general notes may cause the important notes to be lost in a sea of unimportant notes. Whether a

list of general notes is too long is a question of judgment. If the length of the list creates other problems, then it may need to be shortened or broken down into sublists. Ideally, the general notes should be sufficiently short and well organized to encourage contractors and subcontractors to read the entire list, but long enough to cover the important information you need to convey.

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.

DO YOU HAVE A LEGAL QUESTION THAT WOULD BE OF INTEREST TO THE STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING COMMUNITY?

Submit it to 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.

Announcements:

The 2008 Northwest Structural Engineers Association Conference will be held in beautiful Sun Valley, Idaho. The NW SEA Conference Committee has only one open position left: **Social Chair**. If you are interested in being part of the Conference Committee and you would like to be in charge of all social activities including planning the meals, night time entertainment, and daytime activities for family members please

contact Chris Holladay at cholladay@ahjengineers.com.

As part of your SEAI membership you should be receiving **STRUCTURE® magazine** in the mail every month. If you are not, please verify that you have paid your SEAI dues this year and then send your name and mailing address to Sarah McClendon at sarah.mcclendon@mcm-eng.com.

HAVE AN INTEREST IN STRUCTURAL ASSESSMENT AFTER DISASTERS?

SEAI has been asked to form a Structural Engineers Emergency Response (SEER) Committee Program. Volunteers will need to complete the SEER training program and then they will be placed on the national SEER committee data base. After successful completion of the training course you could be called to help in the structural assessment of buildings after earthquakes, hurricanes, terrorist attacks, etc. across the nation. If interested, please send your contact information to sarah.mcclendon@mcm-eng.com.

SEA NORTHWEST CONFERENCE & WCSEA MEETING – SUMMER 2008

Thank you to all of those who have volunteered and, if you have not yet considered volunteering, please look into the last position 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. This is a well attended event that brings in structural engineers from Idaho, Washington, Oregon, and British Columbia. Keep checking the Newsletter each month for updated information.

LET YOUR MEMBERSHIP WORK FOR YOU!

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.

GET 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 may be of interest to the newsletter readers, please email them to our newsletter editor, David Sansotta, at david.sansotta@ehmengineers.com



Founded in 1976, POWER Engineers Inc. is an employee-owned multi-disciplinary engineering design and consulting firm servicing the Energy, Facilities, and Communication Industries. We currently employ 750+ in 15 locations nationwide. Joining POWER Engineers allows you the opportunity to work with a team of excellent engineers, technical specialists, and support staff. POWER offers a competitive salary, full benefits package, growth potential, and a casual working environment.

Seeking Structural Engineer's to work in our Boise and Hailey, ID office.

Seeking Engineers with a BS in Civil/Structural Engineering and 5 to 10 years of structural engineering design experience in power generation, petro-chemical or food processing, or industrial facilities. The successful candidate should also have civil engineering PE or ability to obtain it within one year. Duties shall include structural design of concrete, masonry, steel structures and foundations; develop design budgets, work plans, schedules and deliverables. SE registration and MS degree are a plus. Learn about us at www.powereng.com and select Careers, then Employment Listings, to apply for Position #639.

Seeking entry level Structural Engineers with 1 to 5 years experience. Experience in structural design in concrete, masonry, steel structures and foundation designs. Area of work to include challenging generation and facilities type projects nationwide and throughout the world. BS degree in Civil/Structural Engineering required. Learn about us at www.powereng.com and select Careers, then Employment Listings, to apply for Position #412.

WISH TO PLACE AN AD IN THE NEWSLETTER?

If so, please contact our Treasurer, Brian Garner, at bgarner@callengineering.com or at 321-2656.

Monthly Rates for Advertising

Standard Business Card.....	\$50
Quarter Page.....	\$90
Half Page.....	\$120
Full Page.....	\$150

10% discount for ads running multiple months

President's Report By Sarah McClendon

I have been asked one question in particular many times. It is a complicated question that once confused me. I have since done a fair amount of research, attended conferences, and conducted several interviews to discover the answer. I will now attempt to give the answer to all of you.

The question: *What is the difference between all of those SEA organizations?*

National Council of Structural Engineers Associations (NC SEA) www.ncsea.com

The National Council of Structural Engineers Associations is the umbrella that covers all participating Structural Engineer Association chapters including; all 50 states, 5 US territories, Washington DC, British Columbia, Canada, and the

Students of Penn State. (See already it's not so simple!) The participating chapters are referred to as Member Organizations, or MOs.

NC SEA has Board meetings approximately four times a year with at least one annual conference. Each MO is allowed to have one delegate represent them. The delegate is responsible for providing annual written and oral reports stating the current goals and achievements of their member organization. In addition, the delegate is allowed to cast a vote during the board member election or to any amendments to the national bylaws. The location of the board meetings and annual conferences rotate on a three year cycle between the eastern states, the western states, and the middle states.

Structural Engineers Association International (SEA INT) www.seaint.org

The Structural Engineers Association of California (SEAOC) is one of the first statewide organizations to form in the early 1930's and has since been considered an ideal model for other state organizations to follow. Today the organization is divided into 4 regional organizations: SEA OCC (Central California), SEA ONC (Northern California), SEA OSC (Southern California), SEA SD (San Diego) and one statewide organization that is now referred to as: SEAI NT.

Yes, it is not necessarily intuitive, but SEA International is managed and promoted by the State of California, and www.seaint.org is specifically the web site address for the Southern California regional association. However, don't rule out their website as a valuable resource for information! The site offers links to some of the best technical references, job opportunities, conferences, and national and international structural engineering organizations.

Western States Council of Structural Engineers Associations (WSC SEA)

The Western States Council currently includes all the Western States except California. So to clarify, the WSC SEA members are: Idaho, Washington, Oregon, Nevada, British Columbia, Arizona, and Hawaii.

California was originally the founding member of WC SEA. This group was formed in 1963 upon the realization by officers from SEA of California that the technical interests of California, Oregon, and Washington were, in large part, remarkably similar especially with reference to their legislative interests and the technical programs of the annual convention hosted by SEA of California. WC SEA was formed to help ensure communication between the western states to help reduce repetitive efforts in their common interests. Idaho, Nevada, and Arizona were then immediately invited to join. Hawaii and British Columbia joined at a later date. Over time the internal politics of the group started to change and California eventually withdrew thus initiating California's transition to and formation of SEA INT.

The remaining states of WSC SEA have continued to have board member meetings once a year. Each member state is allowed to have up to three voting delegates at the board meetings. The location of the board meetings rotate each year to a different hosting member state.

Northwest Council of Structural Engineers Associations (NW SEA)

The chapter members of this organization are probably the most intuitive as they include Idaho, Washington, Oregon and British Columbia. The Northwest Council only exists to sponsor the annual technical conference. (This conference is the same conference that has been advertised in the SEAI newsletter and that Idaho will be hosting in 2008.)

The council members share similar agendas as with the Western States Council the only difference is that the sub regions of each state are invited to bring their own voting delegates. At this time, the only state with sub regions is Washington which has four

regions represented: Seattle, South Central, Southwest, and Spokane. NW SEA has board meetings once a year and each member is allowed to have up to two voting delegates.

Structural Engineers Association of Idaho (SEAI) www.seaidaho.org

This is us! SEAI was formed in 1978 and currently has one statewide chapter. SEAI was formed to promote the Structural Engineering profession in the state of Idaho through positive awareness to the public, our clients; and by providing professional development opportunities to our members.

SEAI currently has 66 professional and affiliate members. We have member meetings once a month for the months September through May and we have board meetings once a month year round. All individual members of SEAI are allowed to vote during the annual board member election. Also, all individual members are allowed to vote regarding any changes to the SEAI bylaws.

As a member of SEAI you are automatically a member of NW SEA, WSC SEA, and NC SEA.

We're One, But We're Not The Same...

So why is it important to know about the different associations and what does it mean to you? These are all different organizations that are involved in changing or protecting your profession. These are also all different ways in which you can get involved and influence your profession.

It is easy to stay informed once you know who to listen to. All of these organizations essentially have the same goal: To Promote Structural Engineering. All of the organizations have been divided into committees that focus on different aspects of that goal. The only real difference is the regional scale at which the organizations have jurisdiction and therefore specialized interest.

Each association has, or has the ability to have, the following board members to represent the individual members.

Board Members:

President
Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer
Director
Past President

Each association has, or has the ability to have; the following committee members represent itself.

Committee Members:

Advocacy
Awards
Code Advisory
 Existing Buildings
 General engineering
 Seismic Design
 Wind Design
 Snow Design
 Special Inspections
 Structural Integrity
Continuing Education
 Seminars
 Conferences
Licensing/Exams
Membership
Publications
Emergency Response
Student Mentoring

So now you can sit back, relax, and enjoy the knowledge of knowing the difference between all of the different SEA organizations. What you do with your new knowledge is up to you, but if you want my advice I would suggest getting involved! Feel free to ask any SEAI board member to help you choose a committee at either the national, regional, or state level and then you can start being proactive in your profession. Yes, it really is that simple.

Code Committee Report: Recruitment

By Mike Brown

It's that time of year again, the holiday season and end of year. As we approach the end of the year, many of us start to look at what we accomplished this year and how that compares to our goals at the beginning of the year. We also start to look at next year as we contemplate our New Year Resolutions. I ask you to think of a new resolution: what can you do for the Structural Engineers Association of Idaho and in turn for the community in general?

The code committee can be a great opportunity to make a difference in our profession. There are many issues regarding the code where our association can make a difference: through education, recommendations to building jurisdictions within Idaho, and even writing portions of the code for review by the ICC.

As many of you know, the 2006 IBC will be adopted by the state of Idaho by the middle of 2007. Due to some past legislation, all other jurisdictions will adopt this code as well. Code enforcement agencies along with other associations are meeting on a regular basis to discuss items in the code that will or will not be adopted along with any addendums. If you have any code issues that you believe should be adopted, please let me know as soon as possible.

The following items are issues that SEAI wants to start addressing:

- Snow Loads throughout the state of Idaho. A report was done in the past, but it has not been 'formally' adopted by the jurisdictions.
- Educating building officials, architects, engineers, contractors, owners, etc on the code requirements regarding the code's required quality assurance plan and structural observations.
- Other code issues that are brought to our attention.

2007 looks to be another busy year. New Year's resolutions will be made. I hope that you consider

becoming an active code committee member. Together, we can make a difference and contribute to our profession.

Legislation: Unlimited Engineering Practice

By Mike Brown

Did you know that in the state of Idaho Architects can practice engineering, but engineers cannot practice architecture? Did you know that a professional engineer in the state of Idaho can practice engineering in any discipline, regardless of the exam he/she passed?

If the above concerns you or doesn't concern you, please let me know. SEAI is considering action to address the above issues. These will not be easy items to change, but if there is enough interest amongst our members, we can create a task force with the Idaho Society of Professional Engineers (ISPE) and American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE).

The items up for discussion are as follows:

1. Should Architects be allowed to practice engineering?
2. Should Engineers be allowed to practice architecture?
3. Should Engineers be restricted to practice in only the disciplines where they have proved to be competent through education, experience, and testing?
4. If Engineers should be restricted as stated in item 2 above, should certain structure types be restricted to licensed structural engineers as is the practice in California, Nevada, Oregon, and Washington? What about just restrictions for certain building types within certain seismic categories?

Please provide your opinions to any SEAI board member or myself. I look forward to hearing what you have to say.

EVENT CALENDAR

(EVENTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

- November 21:** Ed Houston – Katrina Damage
- December:** No Meeting
- January 16:** Ron Reaveley – Lessons Learned in Structural Engineering
- February 20:** Ron Hamburger – Progressive Collapse: Steel Structures
- March 20:** Tony Young – NWCMA Masonry Code Update
- April 17:** **Full Day Seminar: S.K. Ghosh – Transitioning from the 2003 IBC to the 2006 IBC**
- May 15:** Dave Curtis - Responsible Charge

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.





Structural Engineers Association of Idaho

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Continuing Education Requirements for Professional Engineers in Various US Jurisdictions

PDH = Professional Development Hour, PDU = Professional Development Unit, CE = Continuing Education
CPC = Continuing Professional Competency, Education, CPD = Continuing Professional Development
PE = Professional Engineer, SE = Structural Engineer

US State (Note 1)	License Renewal Cycle	PDH's Required	Allowed Max. PDH Carryover	License Renewal Deadline [Special CE Requirements]
Alabama	Annual	15	15	December 31
Arkansas	Annual	15	15	December 31
Florida	Biennial	8	None	February 28, Odd Year [Courses must be taken from Approved Providers] For PE: 4 PDH's must be on Florida Board Law and Rules
Georgia	Biennial	30 for PE	15 for PE	December 31, Even Year
Illinois	Biennial	30 for PE 30 for SE	None	November 30, Odd Year for PE, Even Year for SE
Iowa	Biennial	30	15	December 31, Odd or Even Year
Kansas	Biennial	30	30	Based on the first letter of last name: A-L by April 30 (March 31 for LS), Even Year; M-Z by April 30 (March 31 for LS), Odd Year.
Louisiana	Biennial	30	15	Varies. [The Board pre-approves sponsors of CPD activities] For PE: Min. 1 PDH must be in ethics and 8 PDH's in ADA, life safety or building code for PE's in building design & construction.
Maine	Biennial	30 for PE	15 for PE	December 31, Odd Year for PE
Minnesota	Biennial	24	12	June 30, Even Year
Mississippi	Annual	15	15	December 31 [Must obtain 2 PDH's in ethics training every 3 years.]
Missouri	Biennial	30 for PE	30 for PE	PE: December 31, Even or Odd Year
Montana	Biennial	30	15	June 30, Even Year
Nebraska	Biennial	30	15	Based on the first letter of last name: A-K by December 31, Odd Year; L-Z December 31, Even Year
Nevada	Biennial	30	15	Based on the first letter of last name: A-E by December 31, Even Year; F-K June 30, Odd Year; L-R December 31, Odd Year and S-Z June 30, Even Year.
New Hampshire	Biennial	30	15	Varies

New Mexico	Biennial	30	15	December 31, Odd Year for odd number licenses and December 31, Even Year for even number licenses. [Min. 4 PDH's must be in ethics training. Max. 10 PDH's may be obtained through self-directed study.]
New York	Triennial	36 for PE	None	Varies. [Courses must be taken from Approved Providers in Acceptable Subject Areas] For PE: Min. 18 PDH's must be from live courses.
North Carolina	Annual	15	15	December 31 [The Board pre-approves sponsors of CPC activities]
Ohio	Annual	15	15	December 31 (Starting 2007)
Oklahoma	Biennial	30	15	Varies
Oregon	Biennial	30	15	Based on the first letter of last name: A-F December 31, Odd Year; G-K June 30, Odd Year; L-R December 31, Even Year; S-Z June 30, Even Year.
South Carolina	Biennial	30	15	June 30, Even Year
South Dakota	Biennial	30	15	Varies. [At least 20 PDH's must be in technical subjects which directly safeguard the public's health, safety and welfare.]
Tennessee	Biennial	24	12	Varies. [Majority of the PDH's earned must be in health, safety & welfare (HSW) aspects or in technical areas.]
Texas	Annual	15 for PE	14 for PE	Varies for PE [For PE: Min. 1 PDH must be in ethics training or board laws and rules.]
West Virginia	Annual	15 for PE	8 for PE	June 30
Wyoming	Biennial	30	15	December 31, Even or Odd Year

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>

Idaho 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

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>

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

National Council of Structural Engineers Association - <http://www.ncsea.com>