

SEAI NEWSLETTER

October 2006



Structural Engineers Association of Idaho

P.O. Box 8733, Boise, ID 83707

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.

President

Sarah McClendon – McMillen Engineering
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NEXT SEAI MEETING — OCT 17TH

SEAI holds regular meetings every third Tuesday of the months September thru June. Shown below are the meetings scheduled for upcoming dates.

October 17: Ron Sack – Ground/Roof Snow Loads Idaho

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

Please RSVP with entrée selection to Wilson Antoniuk at antoniw@trusjoist.com or 395-2458 by noon the Friday before the meeting.

We will turn no one away at the door, but if we do not receive your RSVP on time we cannot guarantee that there will be any food for you to eat! Please note that, regardless of whether you eat or not, you will still need to pay meeting fees, so get those RSVP's in! Also, if you RSVP and decided not to show, Murphy's will still charge SEAI for your lunch and SEAI will politely pass this charge on to you.

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:

Ground/Roof Snow Loads in Idaho

Speaker:

Ronald Sack from the Civil and Environmental Engineering Department of Washington State University (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

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.



ASK A CONSTRUCTION LAWYER

ATTORNEY FRANKLIN G. LEE

In this month's edition of "Ask a Construction Lawyer" two questions have been answered.

AM I LIABLE IF I DON'T STAMP DRAWINGS?

Reader's Question: I am a licensed professional engineer. I don't stamp any of my own drawings or calculations due to my company's office policy. If something goes wrong on a project I worked on but didn't stamp, what is my liability?

Frank's Answer: This question raises three independent issues. The first issue is the responsibility of an engineer for his or her own errors. The second issue is the responsibility of an engineer who supervises the work of others, but does not actually "stamp" the other's work. The third issue is the responsibility of a "stamping" engineer. As you will see from the discussion below, an engineer's liability under the law generally follows practical responsibility.

An engineer is generally liable for his or her own errors and omissions, whether or not another engineer stamps his or her work. An engineer's error is not excused because another engineer failed to discover it.

An engineer who works on a project, but does not stamp the project drawings or calculations, would ordinarily be responsible for his or her own errors and omissions, unless the engineer

supervised (or was otherwise responsible for) the person who made the error or omission. For example, an engineer who supervises others would likely be responsible for the errors or omissions of the people under his or her supervision, even if another engineer in the firm (e.g., the senior partner) stamps the drawings and calculations.

An engineer who stamps a set of drawings or calculations adopts those drawings or calculations as his or her own work product. Accordingly, the engineer would ordinarily be responsible for any error or omission in the drawings or calculations, whether or not the engineer actually made the error or omission.

I recommend that engineering firms have sufficient professional liability insurance coverage to protect everyone in the firm, which moots questions about which engineer(s) bears responsibility for an alleged error or omission.

AM I LIABLE FOR ERRORS MADE AFTER I LEAVE MY FIRM?

Reader's Question: I stamped the drawings for a project that is about to be constructed. My current firm holds the contract with the owner, so the project will stay with the firm if I leave. Am I still liable for the project if I leave the firm? For example, could I be dragged into litigation if the engineer that takes over the project makes an error or omission in answering a future RFI?

Frank's Answer: As discussed in the answer to the previous question, an engineer who stamps a set of drawings adopts those drawings as his or

her own work product. Accordingly, that engineer would ordinarily be responsible for any professional engineering errors or omissions in the drawings that were stamped, whether or not the engineer actually made the error or omission. This liability is personal to the engineer and stays with the engineer whether or not the engineer changes firms. However, if an engineer stamps a set of drawings for a project and then ceases working on the project, that engineer would ordinarily not be responsible for errors or omissions that occurred after his or her involvement in the project.

If an engineer makes an error or omission in answering an RFI, it is easy to see how the first engineer may be dragged into litigation over the second engineer's mistakes. An owner (i) may not always be able to determine which engineer made the error, or (ii) may argue that first engineer's stamped drawings contributed to the circumstances that cause the erroneous RFI.

Finally, when an engineer leaves a firm, he or she should make sure the firm's professional liability insurance continues to provide coverage for any errors and omissions that occurred while the engineer was with the firm.

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



Roggenkamp Erickson & Associates, P.C., a structural engineering firm in Vancouver, WA, is seeking a structural engineer with a minimum of 3 years of professional experience - seismic rehabilitation experience and PE registration preferred. We offer a competitive salary, a fully paid employee medical, dental, and vision benefits package, a 401k plan with matching, paid training, quarterly profit sharing, paid holidays and vacation time, an annual business Coscto membership, Trailblazer tickets, and an opportunity to play an integral role in our growing firm. To apply, please submit a cover letter, resume, references, and salary history.

www.REAstructuralengineers.com

Roggenkamp Erickson & Associates, P.C.
10000 NE 7th Ave., Suite 150
Vancouver, WA 98685

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.

BY THE WAY... ENGINEERING NEWS AND GENERAL INTEREST

WANT TO HELP GRADE THE SE EXAM?

There are two spots available and reserved for SEAI members to join the NCEES SE Exam II grading committee. If you are interested in volunteering, please send your contact information to 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

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.

WISH TO PLACE AN AD IN THE NEWSLETTER?

If so, please contact our Treasurer, Brian Garner, at 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

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 or Chris Holladay by phone at (323-0199) or email at cholladay@ahjengineers.com, and they will help you.

CURRENT 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**

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.



GET INVOLVED WITH YOUR NEWSLETTER!

The newsletter will be changing hands once again. Next month's newsletter will be compiled by David Sansotta. 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, David Sansotta, at david.sansotta@ehmengineers.com



Engineering problems are under-defined; there are many solutions, good, bad and indifferent. The art is to arrive at a good solution. This is a creative activity, involving imagination, intuition and deliberate choice.

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EVENT CALENDAR

(EVENTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

- October 17:** Ron Sack – Ground/Roof Snow Loads Idaho
- 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
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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

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>