



## Structural Engineers Association of Idaho

P.O. Box 8733, Boise, ID 83707

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

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS & AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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## SEAI MEETING — MAR 18<sup>TH</sup> — THURSDAY



Please RSVP to Soren Jensen at [sjensen@redbuilt.com](mailto:sjensen@redbuilt.com) by noon the Monday before the meeting with your entrée selection. 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.**

Murphy's will be sponsoring a monthly drawing for a complimentary Sunday Brunch Pass for 2 (\$32.00 value). Everyone who attends will have their name entered from the sign up sheet, and the prize will be awarded at the end of the luncheon. All you have to do is show up for a chance to win!

### Meeting Location:

Murphy's Seafood & Steakhouse  
1555 Broadway Ave.  
Boise, ID 83706  
[www.primedime.com](http://www.primedime.com)

### Food Entrées:

- 1) Chicken Caesar Salad
- 2) Whiskey Chicken
- 3) Beef Chop Burger
- 4) Chicken Stir-Fry w/ Noodles

**Meeting Focus:** NCSEA

**Speaker:** Brad Moyes  
KPFF

### 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 |

## Announcements:

### SEAI LUNCHEON PRESENTATION

*Brad Moyes, P.E., S.E., KPFF Consulting Engineers*

This month's presentation by Brad will include the history, mission, and functions of NCSEA as well as its relationship with partnering organizations (SEI and CASE). Also, he will be discussing the committee structure of NCSEA licensure throughout the US, the new NCEES exam, and NCSEA's strategic plan for the next 5 years.

### PROGRAM/SEMINAR CHAIR

We are in need of a new Program/Seminar Chair as Soren Jensen will be exiting this position. This job is crucial in regards to the success of our monthly luncheons; by acquiring good speakers with interesting and beneficial topics we will ensure that there will be continued interest and attendance from the SEAI membership. If you or anyone you know is, or might be, interested in this chair position, please contact any of the board members for more information.

### ATC TRAINING: MAY 20<sup>TH</sup>

SEAI and the Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security are hosting ATC 20 training – Post Earthquake Safety Evaluations of Buildings. Training will be provided at no cost to attendees, and is open to engineers, architects, building officials, etc. Exact dates and locations will be announced in the near future:

ATC 20 Training Schedule:

Boise, ID – May 2010

Idaho Falls, ID – Fall 2010

For additional information please contact Sarah McClendon at [sarah@McClendonEngineering.com](mailto:sarah@McClendonEngineering.com) or 208-342-2919.

## A WORD FROM THE SEAI BOARD

### “WHAT IS GOOD ENGINEERING”

*A Commentary by: Scott Soule, SE: SEAI President & QBS Representative:*

I recently had the opportunity to be subjected to someone's opinion of my engineering skill. It wasn't the first time it's happened, nor will it be the last I hope. I would like to think that I am always willing listen to the ideas and viewpoints of others for there is usually something to learn, but the circumstance and language that was used in this instance had my blood boiling.

I was participating in a discussion with a plans examiner; it was an informational meeting to make sure we understood the information that would be required for successful completion of the project. I brought with me a set of un-stamped, preliminary, “hand drawn” plans which we were discussing. After looking at the plans, the examiner exclaimed, “I don't have confidence you have the skill to do this.” “I'm not sure you understand what you're doing.” My initial reaction was...well, let's just say I was most perturbed. This person had struck a blow to one of my most sensitive spots...my ego. I let it get under my skin; I was defensive and I left the meeting seething.

This yahoo had just inferred that my engineering skills were lacking and I pride myself on being a good engineer. So being the introspective sort and perhaps a bit insecure, I had to ask myself... “What is a good engineer? And what constitutes good engineering?”

Perhaps it is the tangible product we produce?

- A set of beautifully drafted plans in four colors with poche on our details

- A set of well organized calculations run with the latest and greatest software program; footnoted, paginated, and collated

Perhaps it's not the physical manifestation of the work, but the results that matter?

- A factor of safety of ten on all primary and secondary members.
- A structure that performs flawlessly under all conceivable and inconceivable loading
- Zero building department review comments and a letter from the Mayor commending you on a perfect submittal
- Zero RFI's from the contractor and a check for a portion of the money they saved because of your superior skills
- A smile on your client's face
- Lack of death?

Perhaps good engineering can't be judged merely by product or results, but instead is the culmination of thought, training, experience, communication, and creativity; combined so the manifestation of those efforts solves the needs of the initial problem. To be good engineers we must do so many things well:

- We need to communicate clearly
- We need to understand forces and materials
- We need to know the underlying principals of the science we are practicing
- We need to think both linearly and laterally (literally)
- We need to be creative enough to solve problems in new better ways.
- We must continue to learn from others and subject ourselves to new experiences
- We must realize that as long as humans are a part of the process, it will be imperfect and messy, and sometimes irritating.

Ultimately, I should thank my building official buddy; for his lack of tact caused me to think about the services I provide and the kind of engineer I aspire to be. Now indulge me while I bring this topic to a pointed conclusion... SEAI is **your** organization - made up of people - like you - who are learning and growing and trying to be good engineers. We meet once a month to become better engineers and to share our experiences and knowledge with one another. In this spirit, I encourage you all to attend our next meeting and share.

### LET YOUR MEMBERSHIP WORK FOR YOU!

We are looking for more speakers for our SEAI luncheon meetings. 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 and ideas to Soren Jensen at [soren.w.jensen@gmail.com](mailto:soren.w.jensen@gmail.com) or by phone at 426-2026.

#### 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@core-engineering.net](mailto:david.sansotta@core-engineering.net)

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

If so, please contact our Treasurer, Wilson Antoniuk, at [wantoniuk@redbuilt.com](mailto:wantoniuk@redbuilt.com) or at 395-2458.

**Monthly Rates for Advertising**

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

*10% discount for ads running multiple months*

**STRUCTURES MAGAZINE!**

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@mcclendonengineering.com](mailto:sarah@mcclendonengineering.com)



**EVENT CALENDAR**

**Mar. 18, 2010** Brad Moyes, NCSEA

**PAST EVENTS**

- Feb. 18, 2010** Bob Warner, Cold Formed Steel Truss Design & Mfr.
- Jan. 21, 2010** Dave Jackson, Seismic Retrofits
- Nov. 19, 2009** Sarah McClendon, SEA Conferences
- Oct. 15, 2009** Tony Peterson, PNA Construction Technologies
- Sept. 17, 2009** Joel Levenberg, Structural Group – Strengthening Div.
- May 21, 2009** Larry Boyer, Vulcraft, Steel Joists
- Apr. 16, 2009** Eric Pugmire, Simpson Strong-Tie, New Products
- Mar. 19, 2009** Michael Mulnix, Hardy Frames, New Products
- Feb. 19, 2009** Holly Schaubert – Verco Steel Decking

JOIN US FOR OUR  
FAMOUS  
**2-FOR-1**  
HAPPY HOUR!

*Sunday–Friday: 4–7pm*  
*Saturday: Noon–7pm*

Featuring Drafts and House Wine & Well Drinks  
Plus 2-for-1 Appetizers

**MURPHY'S**  
SEAFOOD & STEAKHOUSE

## STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING LINKS

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**FEATURED LINK:** *New San Francisco Bay Bridge to be Earthquake-Ready*  
[http://news.cnet.com/8301-30252\\_3-10462758-246.html?part=rss&subj=news&tag=2547-1\\_3-0-20](http://news.cnet.com/8301-30252_3-10462758-246.html?part=rss&subj=news&tag=2547-1_3-0-20)

Applied Technology Council - <http://www.atccouncil.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](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.seaidaho.org>

Design Load Guidelines – <http://www.idabo.org/loads.htm>

