



# SEAI News

October 2016

### 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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## Message From the Board

By Joe Stippel, Treasurer



I know most of our constituents (yes - that means you, the Idaho structural engineer) wait every month for the moment they get that glorious email notification that your SEAI newsletter has arrived! You then stop everything you are doing, read every word on every page, and go on the rest of your month as well-informed and successful engineers, right? RIGHT? Ok, maybe that was a stretch. But, have you noticed the last page showing all of the various committee chairs and delegates? For example, have you noticed there are delegates for something called Western Council and the National Council? Have you wondered what Idaho does with either of these groups? Most from outside the state are excited to learn we *finally* have received electricity and the internet. Well, I am prepared to talk about our recent Western Council and the BIG changes coming to that organization. Further down the newsletter, Sarah McClendon is going to write about the National Council and the recent conference she attended.

Western Council Structural Engineers Association (WCSEA) - what is it? Well, besides being a ridiculously long name that is easier to abbreviate, it is a group of Western states that was developed almost 40 years ago to promote collaboration and networking. That's it. Its influence grew and soon developed things like the Western States Structural Engineering Exam (don't cringe). Each state had organizations that did not collaborate at the level we see today. WCSEA predates the National Council by many years. The west was the forgotten stepchild that

dealt with crazy stuff like earthquakes that the engineers on the East coast didn't want anything to do with. The council brought states together with common needs and common geography. Such states included California, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Hawaii, Utah, Nevada, Arizona and British Columbia.

Today, with great collaboration technology (emails and webinars) and a very strong National council that is nationally focused, the Western Council is at a crossroads. It has outlived its usefulness. Benefits that were once only attainable via the council are found on blogs, a national exam, and a multitude of other avenues - including the NCSEA. Simply put, WCSEA needs to adapt to stay relevant. Several states have withdrawn from WCSEA, including Utah, California, and Nevada. They did not see the value in financially supporting WCSEA. SEAI contemplated this last year and went to the recent WCSEA roundup prepared to withdraw our membership. Idaho has been taking a hard look at what exactly is the benefit of maintaining our WCSEA membership.

WCSEA is now a redundant organization with the Northwest Structural Engineers Association (NWSEA). NWSEA has roughly the same member states and provides a rotating conference. The same amount of collaboration is available and the dues are lower. WCSEA does not have defined leadership and there has been waning interest.

To complicate things further, WCSEA has a "roundup" (conference) every 3 years with a rotating schedule that does not align with NCSEA's yearly conference. There have been conflicts and confusion if this a conference year or a roundup year. There is the potential to have multiple conferences in the same region, though history shows the region can likely only support one major conference per year.

At the 2016 roundup, Jeff Hodson and I expressed these concerns. Several other states expressed displeasure at the thought of WCSEA becoming irrelevant.

We proposed a motion to remove the roundup

*(Continued on page 2)*



## Message From the Board (Continued)

from WCSEA, at least mitigating the confusion of conference versus roundup issues. The motion will go to vote in November 2016 and I will report back what the result is. We are not finished with transforming WCSEA into a more useful organization that actually provides benefits to member organizations. I believe this is a step in the right direction, but only the first step of many more to come.

If you would like more information on any of the organizations that SEAI belongs to, reach out to the delegate from that group and they are more than happy to provide information to you. 🇺🇸



## Committee Update – Sarah McClendon, PE, SE, SEAI Delegate and SEER Chair



The 2016 Structural Engineering Summit was held in Orlando, Florida, this past September and was hosted by the National Council of Structural Engineers (NCSEA). The Summit is a multi-day event that brings practicing Structural Engineers from across the country together to learn, network, and discuss relevant issues. Attendance is open to anyone but the conference definitely attracts the

leaders and dedicated SEA members in our profession, including business owners, SEA state board members, Delegates, and up-and-coming Young Members.

The first day of the Summit is filled with Committee Meetings. Often this is the only time during the year that the national committees have an opportunity to meet in person and discuss the year's activities and to try to recruit new members. Most of the NCSEA committees mirror the committees of the state SEA chapters. The NCSEA committees, to name a few, are: Communications, Advocacy, Code Advisory (with several sub-committees), Licensure, SEER, Basic Education, and Young Member Group Support. These committees offer a great way to get involved and to give back to the profession. If you are interested in joining any of these committees, there is more information on the NCSEA.com website or I would be happy to introduce you to the Committee Chairs.

The second and third days of the Summit are filled with technical sessions, the trade show, and networking events. The technical sessions were split into two tracks to cater toward young engineers or business leaders. This year, each session was approximately 75 minutes and the topics included code changes and standards, existing structures, communication, lessons learned, and even a case study from Florida's SE Licensure process. One of the speakers, Michelle Kam-Biron, who presented on the new code changes for seismic provisions for wood construction, will be coming to Idaho next month to give SEAI a full day seminar on the subject. After having seen a preview of her presentation at the Summit, her full day seminar in Idaho should be a not-to-miss event!

There were two award ceremonies at the Summit. The first was held at the beginning of the conference and recognized the outstanding Young Members. Eight Young Members from across the country were awarded with scholarships that helped to pay their way to the Summit. Idaho was an NCSEA finalist for the Young Member Group of the Year Award for 2015/2016, and with that recognition SEAI won \$250 toward travel expenses to help an SEAI Young Member attend the next Summit! The last day of technical sessions was capped with a black tie (yes, tuxedos and full length gowns!) awards ceremony that honored outstanding Structural Engineering projects in several categories including new buildings, new bridge and transportation structures, forensic / renovation / retrofit / rehabilitation structures, and special use structures. There were also service awards given to individuals who have shown incredible passion and dedication of time toward the betterment of the profession or their SEA chapter organizations. These winners are listed in Structure Magazine and the NCSEA.com web-

site. SEAI Idaho has been asked by NCSEA to be the judge for next year's outstanding Structural Engineering project awards. If anyone is interested in being a part of the judging committee, please let me know as this will be a fantastic opportunity.

The other significant event that happened at the Summit was the Delegate Workshops. There were Delegate specific activities on three of the four conference days. There was a Delegate Interactive Breakfast where the Delegates from each state chapter got to meet the other Delegates through a team building activity. Then there was a Delegate Collaboration Session where the Delegates broke into four small groups and discussed common challenges at each state chapter. Finally there was the NCSEA Business Meeting, where the NCSEA board presented to the state Delegates the new NCSEA resources, membership benefits, and the overall organization's status. A couple of notable items that came from this meeting: Jeanne Vogelzang, who has been NCSEA's Executive Director for 20 years, has retired and the new Executive Director, Al Spada, was introduced. And SEAI Idaho now has a new NCSEA Board Liaison, Chun Lau. Chun is a Director on the NCSEA Board and he is from Seattle, Washington. He is looking forward to an opportunity to visit SEAI Idaho during one of our meetings in the next few months to meet SEAI's board and to answer any questions that our members have regarding NCSEA.

Something you may have noticed is that this event was previously known as the NCSEA Annual Conference. The conference, now known as the Summit, has gone through a lot of changes over the past couple of years, including the rebranding. A lot of these changes have been including the full immersion of the Young Member Groups and (finally) offering support and resources to the state chapters and Delegates. I see more good changes in the future with the new Executive Director and the new progressive President, Tom Grogan from Florida. I'm excited for Idaho's opportunity to judge the Outstanding Projects for next year, our \$250 scholarship to send a Young Member to the next Summit, and our new passionate NCSEA Board Liaison. I hope that we can get some of you to join the NCSEA Committees and help Idaho have a stronger voice in what happens to our profession. I also hope to see more SEAI board members, young members, and members participate at next year's Summit as attendees or speakers. Mark your calendars now for the next Structural Engineering Summit:

**The 2017 Structural Engineering Summit will be held in Washington, DC, on October 11th-14th**

## SEAI MONTHLY LUNCHEON

- Topic:** Noah's Ark Project
- Date:** Thursday, 10/20/16
- Time:** Social—11:45 pm  
Lunch & program—12 pm
- Location:** Cottonwood Grille  
913 W. River St.  
Boise, ID 83702
- Cost:** Member—\$20  
Non-member—\$25
- Speaker:** Brian Sielaff

**RSVP TO MATT BLAKE**  
[mblake@axiompllc.com](mailto:mblake@axiompllc.com)

## Noah's Ark Project—by Brian Sielaff

### Presenter Biography:



Brian Sielaff started TAMARACK GROVE ENGINEERING, PLLC in May of 2007. He brought twelve years of prior experience in the structural engineering field to TGE. He specializes in building design, design development, investigative/forensic engineering, project management, and construction administration. He currently oversees all work, production, and client relationships.

Areas of his experience include building design of steel structures, concrete design, heavy timber and log home construction design, reinforced masonry design, light gauge metal framing design, and lateral element design.

Mr. Sielaff works with clients, owners, architects, building officials, and general contractors on a daily basis. He is married to his wife Bonnie and together they share in their joy of raising their five children: Hayden, Landon, Dawson, Ella, and Olson.

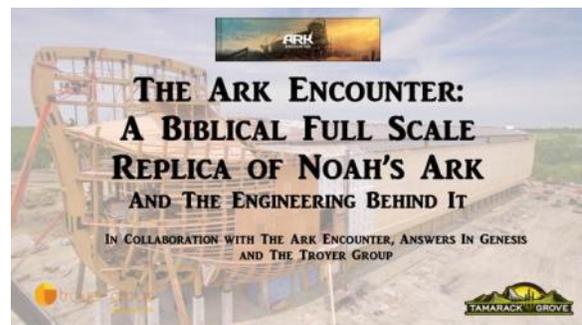


Doug Hardin has been with Tamarack Grove since early spring of 2011. Doug started as an intern and continued working with the company after his graduation from Boise State University in May 2012 with his Bachelors of Science in Civil Engineering. Doug has worked on a wide variety of projects, including both residential and commercial projects. He has experience in

structural design and analysis, construction administration, and project management. Doug has experience and knowledge designing with materials such as masonry, concrete, steel, timber, and cold formed steel. He works directly with project owners, architects, building officials, and other engineers on a regular basis.

Doug is happily married to his wife Jo, and together they have the recent joy of a son, Mason. Doug is an avid outdoorsman who is out fishing, camping, or hunting every chance he gets.

### Presentation Overview:



## Code Corner

### 1607.5 Partition Loads

**CHANGE TYPE:** Modification

**CHANGE SUMMARY:** In office buildings and in other buildings where the location of partitions is subject to change, partition loads are to be considered unless the floor is designed for an 80-psf or greater live load.

**2015 CODE:** In office buildings and in other buildings where partition locations are subject to change, provisions for partition weight shall be made, whether or not partitions are shown on the construction documents, unless the specified live load is 80 psf (3.83 kN/m<sup>2</sup>) or greater. The partition load shall not be less than a uniformly distributed live load of 15 psf (0.72 kN/m<sup>2</sup>).



**CHANGE SIGNIFICANCE:** The IBC has previously required floors in office buildings and other buildings where partition locations are subject to change to be designed to include the partition live load unless the floor was designed for a live load that exceeds 80 psf. Item 22 of Table 1607.1 establishes a minimum live load of 80 psf for corridors above the first story. Even though office floors have a minimum required live load of 50 psf, it is a common practice to design the entire upper floors for a live load of 80 psf so there is no concern about future changes in the locations of the corridors. In the 2012

IBC, a floor would have to be designed for a live load *greater than 80 psf* to take advantage of the exception in regard to ignoring partition loads. Otherwise, one would have to include a 15-psf partition live load in addition to the 80-psf corridor live load. Due to the new modification, the additional partition load need not be included if the floor is designed for 80 psf or greater. With this change, the IBC is no longer consistent with Section 4.3.2 of ASCE 7-10, which has an exception stating that the partition live load is not required where the live load *exceeds* 80 psf. In addition, Section 12.7.2 of ASCE 7 requires the effective seismic weight, *W*, to include 10 psf where the partition load of Section 4.2.2 applies. With this change to Section 1607.5, the IBC no longer requires the partition load if the floor is designed for 80 psf, which could be interpreted to mean the effective seismic weight need not include the additional 10 psf because the partition gravity load is not required. 📌



*This excerpt is from the Significant Changes to the International Building Code, authored by John Henry, PE, Jay Woodward and Doug Thornburg, AIA. The book is available at [shop.iccsafe.org](http://shop.iccsafe.org).*

## Employment Opportunities:



Structural Engineers  
Association of Idaho  
P.O. Box 8733,  
Boise, ID 83707

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

Contact our Treasurer, Joe Stippel ,  
at [jstippel@idahopower.com](mailto:jstippel@idahopower.com)  
or (208) 287-0205.

### Monthly Rates for Advertising

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

*10% discount for ads running  
multiple months*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- **November 17, 2016 (Thursday)**  
SEAI monthly luncheon at Cottonwood Grill
- **September 21-23, 2017**  
2017 IABSE Symposium  
Location: Vancouver, BC, Canada



For more information, visit [Seaidaho.org](http://Seaidaho.org)

## SEAI Board and Chairs

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