



CONNECTIONS

January 2010 Volume 10 Issue 4

Newsletter of the
Structural Engineers
Association of Oregon

SE Licensing, Reciprocity, New OR Requirements, and Upcoming Changes Wednesday, January 27, 2010

Location:

Governor Hotel Billiard Room
614 SW 11th Ave, Portland OR

Time:

Check in: 11:30 AM, **Program:** Noon

Cost:

Lunch & Program
\$32.00 Pre-paid Member
\$40.00 Pre-paid Non Member
\$18.00 Students

NOTE THIS IS A LUNCH MEETING

PDH CREDIT:

1 PDH has been recommended for this program

RESERVATIONS:

*Call or email Jane Ellsworth before 5:00 PM, Friday, January 22, Ph (503) 753-3075,
Email: jane@seao.org.*

PDH CREDIT:

One PDH has been recommended for this program

You can now register and pay online at www.seao.org

About the Program: Sue Frey will present three topics currently of interest to structural engineers in the Western States. Sue, a past president of SEAO, is currently the SEAO delegate to NWCC, WCSEA and the alternate/second state delegate to NCSEA. She is a member of the NCSEA SE licensing committee, the NCSEA SE continuing education committee and monitors their special inspection committee. She is a grader for the WA/OR SE III exam. She is a contributing member to the SEAO Special Inspection, Observation and Testing QA Committee.

One topic will outline and explain the relationships between SEAO (state member organization) to NCSEA (National Council of Structural Engineers) and to the WCSEA (Western Council of Structural Engineers). The Northwest SEA Conference will also be discussed. As a member of SEAO, each member is also provided membership in WCSEA and NCSEA.

Secondly, Sue will present information, background, and path forward on the new 16 hour NCEES national SE Exam that will go into effect in 2011, including its relationships to the current SE III exams given in Oregon, Washington, and California.

The other topic of discussion will include a detailed look at all US states' and territories' SE licensing requirements as applied to currently adopted state SE practice acts, title acts and practice rules. Additionally 10 other states are now pursuing or at least seriously investigating the promotion of some type of new SE license requirement in their state.

If time allows, a discussion on multi-state continuing education requirements will be presented as well.

About the Speaker: Ms. Frey is a project and design manager, principal structural engineer and technology leader, and quality assurance reviewer and manager, in CH2M Hill's West Coast Design Group's structural engineering department. She is registered as a E and an SE in multiple states. Sue has served as President of the Structural Engineers of Oregon (SEAO) and is currently their permanent delegate to the Western Council of Structural Engineer Associations and the NWSEA organization. She is alternate delegate to NCSEA in which she sits on the SE licensing and the continuing education committees. She has served on the SEAO QA Committee to develop the current IBC's QA Plan templates for contract documents.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By: Jennifer Carlson



A belated Happy New Year to all of our members on behalf of the SEAO board. As the majority of us look back on a somewhat dismal 2009 for our business, we are all wary of what 2010 will bring. I am optimistic 2010 will be a better year,

but recovery from the recession is going to be a slow process. Taking the "glass half-full" point of view, we can look at these slow times as an opportunity to invest our time and effort in the future of our profession. Continuing our own education, mentoring less experienced engineers, and generally commingling with our peers are the seeds with which we develop our professional community. We plan for this to be an enjoyable and productive year for members of our association and hope every member considers lending their time so we can accomplish our goals.

At the top of my wish list of goals in 2010 for SEAO is a new and improved website. Aaron Burkhardt maintains and updates our website. A HUGE thank you to Aaron for his valiant efforts of voluntarily updating and maintaining our site. There is only so much that can be done with outdated software the site was set up with. The board is currently seeking proposals from vendors to revamp the website. We will include as many options as our budget will allow. I am pretty sure there are many members out there who love to play with computers and the web. Your skills would be very welcome as we go through this process and especially helpful for Aaron in maintaining the new site once it is up and running. Please contact me or Aaron if you would like to lend a hand.

As you read this newsletter, can you envision improvements in the content and presentation? Another of our goals this year is to enhance our newsletter so it offers more value to our members. We have identified the need for more technical articles. Updates on code changes and the latest tidbits from OSBEELS could also be included.

Perhaps a column just for construction horror stories? Have you ever stripped the forms off a wall and revealed a hole big enough to walk through? How did you correct it? Membership input is critical to the success of the newsletter and the whole association. Input and ideas for the newsletter can be forwarded to our distinguished editor, Dominic Webber, or Jane Ellsworth. We want to hear from you right now!

Another service we are exploring in hopes of adding more value to the members who live away from the Portland metropolitan area is providing webcasts for the seminars and monthly meetings we put on throughout the year. Webcasts can be costly to produce, so we are approaching this slowly, one step at a time. Our first efforts may be low tech and limited in scope so we can test the waters. If you are in a location remote to Portland and interested in coordinating a host site, please contact me or Jane. Evaluating the costs, quality, and usefulness of the webinars is going to take volunteer effort. Again, I know there are members out there with knowledge and/or interest in pursuing producing webinars. I would love to hear from you.

We will be trying something a bit different at our next dinner-time meeting in April. A printed name tag in a plastic case will be prepared showing your name, company, and any SEAO position you may have for each person who signs up for the meeting ahead of time. If you don't sign up ahead of time, blanks will be available for you to fill in at the meeting. Everyone will turn in their tags as they leave the meeting. Any hand written tags will be converted to a printed tag. The tags will be kept and brought to all subsequent meetings, adding attendee tags as needed. RedBuilt has very generously offered to supply lanyards for all the name tags. We hope this will encourage socializing and especially help new or even not so new members to get to know one another.

Sue Frey's presentation at our lunch meeting this month will be very informative. Many of our members are caught in this changing world of licensing exams and pdh requirements in different states. I hope to see many of you on the 27th and would be happy to talk with people interested in helping out with the website, newsletter or webcasts.

CONNECTIONS is a monthly publication of the Structural Engineers Association of Oregon, published to disseminate current news to our membership and others involved in the profession of structural engineering. The opinions expressed reflect those of the author and, except where noted, do not represent a position of SEAO.

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SEAO CALENDAR

January 27 - SE Licensing, Reciprocity, new OR requirements, and upcoming changes Lunch Meeting

Location: Governor Hotel

February 25 - Tradeshow

Location: Monarch Hotel

March - No Meeting - Spring Break

April 28 - Port of Portland speaking on recent projects Dinner Meeting

Location: Governor Hotel

May 26 - Sustainability

Location: Governor Hotel
Lunch meeting

MEMBER OF THE MONTH

The SEAO Board of Directors has nominated Jim Riemenschneider as Member of the Month for his work on both our Wind Committee and Building Code Committee. As the Chair of our Wind Load Committee, Jim worked with our SEA members from neighboring states to author code provisions for the Simplified All Heights Method to be adopted into the 2009 IBC.

Jim also spent numerous hours this past summer providing review and input of code change proposals for adoption into the 2010 Oregon Structural Specialty Code by sitting as SEAO's representative to the State's Structure's Board Code Review Committee.

Jim is currently working at Pace Engineers, Prior to that, he was employed at Kramer Gehlen and Associates where he was very involved within the office and outside of the office as well. He was the proactive leader in keeping the firm's Structural Notes current and relevant. Jim is also very socially conscientious and he participates in many charitable causes on his own time. One of Jim's real passions is bike riding. He participates in many organized bike rides as well as continually riding on his own.

The Board greatly appreciates Jim's contributions to our organization and the structural engineering profession. In recognition of these efforts, he will receive a certificate of appreciation and a complimentary dinner.

ENGINEERS WEEK

By David Nilles

The 46th Annual Engineers Week High School Program will be held on Thursday, February 18, 2010 at the Lloyd Center DoubleTree Hotel in Portland, Oregon.

This provides students from Oregon and SW Washington high schools with the opportunity for hands on exploration of engineering careers and partners the students with local engineers for an evening banquet. Sophomores and juniors sign up for the event through their high school counselors or math/science/technology teachers. This program relies on the participation of local engineers who host one or more students, and spend time sharing their engineering backgrounds with the students, answering questions, and providing a hands-on glimpse into the world of engineering.

An overview of the day of the event:

10am-1:30pm	Workshop on Engineering Internships and College Application
2pm	Students arrive at the hotel and sign in for field trips
2:15-4:30pm	Field trips
4:00pm	Engineer sign in opens
4:00-6:30pm	Students + engineers explore the Exhibit and Information Halls
6:30-8:30pm	Banquet program

The Engineers Week High School Program exposes high school students to engineering careers and college programs. The day's field trips highlight the breadth of local engineering – from research and development at Boeing to bridges to manufacturing engineering to biomechanical design. The exhibit hall provides the chance for students to speak to representatives from regional college engineering programs, as well as local engineering organizations. The information hall gives students to opportunity to learn more about different engineering disciplines and talk to local engineers about their expertise. The banquet draws everyone together for a key note presentation highlighting a specific engineering challenge and solution.

This event is successful thanks to the support of the local engineering community and the day-of-event involvement of individual engineers.

Registration for the event will be online starting the week of January 4, 2010 with a link from www.asceor.org. Alternatively, paper registration can be downloaded and mailed. For more information about signing up as an engineer host, contact Tova Peltz at tova.r.peltz@odot.state.or.us.

For more information about the event and how to be a sponsor organization, email Darren Hippenstiel at Darren.Hippenstiel@ch2m.com.

2010 OSSC UPDATE

By: Jim Riemenschneider

As we enter the new year, we find ourselves once again opening new calendars, honoring new resolutions, and of course, looking forward to the new 2010 Oregon Structural Specialty Code (OSSC). Based on the 2009 International Building Code, the 2010 OSSC continues to have many 'carry-overs', as did the 2007 OSSC from the 2005 OSSC.

Structurally, one of the largest changes is the removal of any references to the 1998 OSSC Wind methodology. However, it will include new simplified wind methodologies adopted by ASCE. There are also the ever present changes for special inspections and new requirements to 'high-rise buildings', but for the most part, the material and code design requirements are in line with the current code.

The initial intent of Oregon's Building Codes Division (BCD) was to have an April 1, 2010 adoption date. However, this date appears to be slipping. Most recently BCD has indicated that adoption will likely be pushed back to July 1 followed by a 60 day grace period extending to September 31, 2010. The specifics of code book availability or when posting on ICC's website will occur are still not known at this time.

The Oregon Mechanical Specialty Code and new Oregon Energy Code are also planned for adoption at the same time. In fact, late extensions in the public comment periods and subsequent committee efforts for the energy code appear to be the main reason for extending the deadline, since all three codes need to be effective at the same time.

PASSING OF A MEMBER

Elden Eugene Breedlove passed away peacefully on December 10, 2009. Following his military service, he taught Engineering at Portland State University. He married Janice Stroub, of Sheboygan, Wisconsin on August 29, 1953. They enjoyed a wonderful, 37 year marriage until her passing in May of 1990.

In 1956, Elden joined the structural engineering firm of Cooper and Rose where he became a partner in 1967 and was named president in 1976. He served as the American Council of Engineering Companies of Oregon's 21st President in 1976-77. He was also an active member of the Rotary Club of Portland. In addition to his accomplishments he served as President of SEAoI in 1965-1966.

At his personal request, no funeral services were held.

In lieu of flowers, remembrances may be made to the Ray Hickey Hospice House, care of the Southwest Washington Medical Center Foundation, PO Box 1600, Vancouver, WA 98668 or to the American Cancer Society.

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING ASSOCIATIONS

By: Brad Moyes

This past October I was elected to serve a two year term as a director on the board of the National Council of Structural Engineering Associations (NCSEA). NCSEA was formed in 1993 to focus on the needs and concerns of practicing structural engineers. Its mission is to advance the practice of structural engineering and, as the national voice for practicing structural engineers, protect the public's right to safe, sustainable and cost effective buildings, bridges and other structures.

NCSEA has partnering agreements with the Council of American Structural Engineers (CASE) and the Structural Engineering Institute (SEI). CASE is part of the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) and focuses on business practices. SEI is part of ASCE and focuses on technical activities. NCSEA maintains a focus on licensing, continuing education and code advisory. Leaders of the three organizations meet to discuss joint efforts and coordinate activities with the goal of avoiding redundant activities.

Currently NCSEA has 44 member organizations (member organizations are generally state Structural Engineering Associations such as SEAoI) representing approximately 10,300 practicing structural engineers. Dues to NCSEA are \$16 annually and are included as part of member organization dues which are passed on to NCSEA. All SEAoI members are members of NCSEA and receive STRUCTURE magazine which is owned by NCSEA and published in cooperation with CASE and SEI.

NCSEA conducts an annual conference each fall with delegates representing member organizations attending. The 17th Annual Conference was held this past October in Phoenix. The 18th Annual Conference will be held September 30 through October 2, 2010 in Jersey City, New Jersey. The annual conferences include business meetings, installation of new officers, technical and professional sessions, and an awards ceremony for individuals and projects. NCSEA also conducts a Winter Institute each year. The upcoming Winter Institute will be in San Diego on March 12 and 13, 2010 and will have the theme of seismic design. The program will include a tour of the University of California San Diego lab and shake table.

NCSEA committees include Advocacy, Basic Education, Code Advisory, Continuing Education, Licensing, Membership, Member Organization Development, Publications and Structural Engineers Emergency Response (SEER). The Licensing Committee's long term goal is to obtain SE Practice Acts in all 55 U.S. jurisdictions (50 states, 4 territories and Washington, D.C.). Currently, only 11 of 55 jurisdictions license structural engineers. Three jurisdictions have full Practice Acts including Hawaii, Illinois and the Northern Mariana Islands. Illinois has had a Practice Act since 1915 but SEAoI spends considerable lobbying funds each year to preserve it. Five jurisdictions have partial Practice Acts including California, Utah, Oregon, Nevada, and Washington. Three jurisdictions license structural engineers but don't require SEs to stamp structural plans (Title Acts). NCSEA supports use of the new NCEES 16 hour exam on a national basis. The new exam will start being administered in April 2011.

More information regarding NCSEA is available on the website, ncsea.org.