



CONNECTIONS In-Brief

March 2026 Volume 25 Issue 4

Newsletter of the
Structural Engineers
Association of Oregon

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SEAO has a LinkedIn account
and can be followed at [SEAO
LinkedIn Page](#).

Upcoming SEAO Meetings and Events:

Wednesday, March 25, 2026: SEAO Young Member Forum (YMF) Happy Hour

Location: River Pool & Sports Bar, 19 NW 5th Avenue, Portland, OR

Time: 5:30 pm—8:30 pm

See page 4 for contact information.

If you would like to be added to the YMF mailing list: [Email Preferences Form](#)

Tuesday, March 31—Thursday, April 2, 2026: International Mass Timber Conference

Location: Oregon Convention Center, 777 NE Martin Luther King Jr Blvd, Portland, OR

See page 2 for Information and link to registration.

Tuesday, April 14, 2026: SEAO Chapter Meeting (SAVE THE DATE)

Topic: Revitalizing a Classic—Climate Pledge Arena

Speaker: Brian McRae, PE, SE, Thornton Thomasetti

Location: The Old Spaghetti Factory, 715 S Bancroft Street, Portland, OR

Time: 11:30 am Check-In & Lunch, Program at Noon

See future newsletters for more information.

Thursday, April 30, 2026: SEAO Spring Seminar (SAVE THE DATE)

Topic: An Overview of Structural Changes to the 2024 IBC and Seismic Design Provisions of ASCE 7-22

Speakers: S.K. Ghosh of S.K. Ghosh & Associates LLC and Kelly Cobeen of Wiss Janney Elstner Associates

Location: Embassy Suites by Hilton Portland Tigard (Washington Square), 9000 SW Washington Square Road, Tigard, OR

Time: Sign-in Opens at 7:30 am, Seminar 8:30 am—4:30 pm

Cost: Members = \$200, Nonmembers = \$250, Students = \$65

See future April newsletter for more information.

Wednesday, May 6, 2026: SEAO & SEANY Presents the Documentary— Engineers at Ground Zero

Topic: The Vital Role Structural Engineers Played in Post 9/11 Response and Recovery

Location: University of Portland, Buckley Center, 5000 N Willamette Blvd, Portland, OR

Time: 6 pm Refreshments, 7 pm Movie followed by Q&A

Cost: \$10

See flyer on page 7 for information.

Tuesday, May 12, 2026: SEAO Chapter Meeting (SAVE THE DATE)

Topic: LEED v5: What Do Structural Engineers Need to Know?

Speaker: SEAO Sustainability Committee

Location: The Old Spaghetti Factory, 715 S Bancroft Street, Portland, OR

Time: 11:30 am Check-In & Lunch, Program at Noon

See future newsletters for more information.

INTERNATIONAL MASS TIMBER CONFERENCE TUESDAY, MARCH 31– THURSDAY, APRIL 2, 2026

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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The International Mass Timber Conference is the largest gathering of mass timber experts in the world, focusing on the entire industry supply chain. This is the 10th annual event, and it is in Portland, Oregon.

Attendees will explore cross-laminated timber (CLT), nail-laminated timber, glulam, mass plywood panels, dowel-laminated timber, and laminated veneer lumber; and the opportunities and obstacles in global design, construction, development, manufacturing, and more.

There will be over 70 speakers, 200 exhibitors, and 3,000 attendees.

Benefit from 60+ expert presentations in five focused tracks and multiple general sessions that aim to bring you more business today.

Conference Event Tracks

Track 1: Designs and Markets

Track 2: Contractors and Construction

Track 3: Supply and Supply Chain

Track 4: Developer Topics

Track 5: Advanced Topics and Case Studies

Networking meals, breaks, and receptions give you ample time to create powerful connections that can make your next deal, move your objectives forward, and build your authority in the global marketplace.

All Day Passes and One Day Passes are available for purchase with different price points for professionals, educators, government employees, non-profit employees, and students.

Location: Oregon Convention Center
777 NE Martin Luther King Jr Blvd, Portland, OR

You can register online at: <https://masstimberconference.com/register/>

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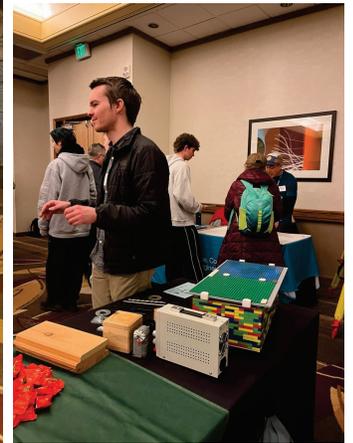
ENGINEERS WEEK RECAP

BY: NICK SLAVIN

SEAO participated in Oregon's annual Engineers Week on February 24th, an event where engineers from different disciplines come together to discuss their jobs with high school students and inspire the next generation of engineers through an exhibit hall, presentations, and field trips.

SEAO helped sponsor the event and had five members present, including YMF volunteers who manned the booth at the career fair-style segment of the event. The YMF volunteers spoke with a constant stream of high school students who seemed eager to learn and knew they liked math and science, but often had no idea what the different engineering disciplines entailed.

Since SEAO was the only booth at the exhibit hall highlighting structural engineering, the YMF volunteers played the vital role of introducing students to our industry, illustrating what we do on a daily basis, and describing the importance of our work. It was amazing to see high schoolers excited about our industry, and we hope they feel inspired to pursue structural engineering through their education and careers!



YMF UPDATE

The SEAO Young Members Forum is hosting a March Happy Hour on March 25th at River Pool & Sports Bar at 19 NW 5th Avenue in Portland, OR. It will be an evening of great discussions and fun and games.

If you are interested in learning more about SEAO YMF, please reach out to ymf.seao@gmail.com and we can provide you with more information regarding an upcoming events!

Pictures from January's Happy Hour:



NEW MASS TIMBER GUIDE

In February, Woodworks launched the Mass Timber Technical Reference Guide, which is an online handbook that brings together essential technical information for mass timber design.

The guide was developed by Woodworks technical experts and is structured to align with how engineers and architects approach design. The guide allows users to quickly locate authoritative information on materials, analysis, detailing, fire, acoustics, vibration, durability, and construction considerations.

Visit Woodworks at: [Mass Timber Technical Reference Guide - WoodWorks | Wood Products Council](#) for information.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT NICK SLAVIN



In this month's Member Spotlight, we are pleased to feature Nick Slavin, a Project Engineer at Holmes US.

Nick joined SEAO in January 2025 and recently stepped up as co-chair of the Young Member Forum, along with Jaclyn Springer of Miller Consulting Engineers.

A Southern California native, Nick grew up near Los Angeles as one of triplets. After graduating in 2020 from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo with a Bachelor's degree in Architectural Engineering, Nick continued his education at Stanford, completing a Master's in Structural Engineering in 2022. He started with Holmes US in Portland that same year and has been with the firm for close to four years. His portfolio includes a wide variety of commercial building projects, from existing school seismic retrofits in the Portland area to the new Albina One apartment building and mass timber towers in Bellevue, Washington and Billings, Montana. Nick looks forward to continuing to hone his structural engineering skillset across materials and project types in both new and existing building spaces.

The Pacific Northwest has proven to be a great fit for Nick, who appreciates the easy access to the outdoors, the unique Portland vibes, and the daily opportunity to pet coworkers' dogs in the office. Beyond his structural engineering work, Nick stays active through rock climbing and hiking, and plays percussion in the Beaverton Community Band.

ADVERTISING SPACE AVAILABLE

SEAO is pleased to provide full page advertising to members for \$500 and to non-members for \$600. That is the price to run the ad the entire year from September to August. If you'd like to advertise, please contact Jane at jane@seao.org.

NCSEA UPCOMING LIVE WEBINARS

REGISTER AT: [HTTPS://WWW.NCSEA.COM/EDUCATION-EVENTS/CALENDAR/](https://www.ncsea.com/education-events/calendar/)

March 5, 2026, 10 am to 11:15 am Pacific Time (Fee for Webinar/Included in Webinar Subscription Package)

What Should We Do Now? Implementing Structural Engineering Judgment in Urgent Response to Localized Structural Failure

Speaker: Ross J. Smith, PE, LEED AB BD+C, CDT, Principal at WJE.

Though sometimes underappreciated and undervalued in a traditional design process, the structural engineer is often relied upon to make crucial, time-sensitive decisions in the event of structural failure. In many cases, these critical choices are made with limited information and without extensive analysis but can have an impact on immediate life safety concerns and long-term building salvageability. Several case studies featuring real-life emergency scenarios requiring rapid decisions in structurally compromised situations are presented inviting audience interacting through real-time polling and discussion for a “choose your own adventure/what would you do?” format, followed by lessons learned and causation findings.

During this webinar, you will learn to:

1. Recognize characteristics of a structural emergency.
2. Understand and balance life safety and structural stability priorities with long-term building salvageability.
3. Recount lessons learned and apply structural engineering judgment to compromised structures. (1.25 PDH)

March 12, 2026, 10 am—11 am Pacific Time (Free)

2026 SEE Awards: Landmark Structures Structure of the Year 2025 Award Winner: National Medal of Honor Museum

Speaker: Robert Hellyer, PE, Director at sbp New York

schlaich bergemann partner (sbp) will present on the structural complexity and creativity of the recently opened Nation Medal of Honor Museum in Arlington, TX. The project incorporated numerous specialized structural solutions to realize the ambitious architectural vision. The presentation will highlight structural elements like the column-free Exhibition Hall elevated 50ft above the entry rotunda on five tapering precast mega-columns and the complex geometry and fabrication that made a pair of intertwining spiral staircases possible. (1 PDH)

March 17, 2026, 10 am to 11:30 am Pacific Time (Fee for Webinar/Included in Webinar Subscription Package)

An Introduction to Physical Security Design for Structural Engineers

Speaker: Sharon Gallant, SE, Managing Principal at KPFF & Chris Heckmann, PE, Senior Project Manager with Ehlert Bryan

This presentation is designed to introduce the principles of physical security design to structural engineers, regardless of their level of experience. Attendees will gain an understanding of what physical security entails and how its concepts are applied in the design of secure facilities. The presentation will address the importance of mitigating risks associated with armed attacks, bombings, protests, and hostile vehicles and provide an overview of analytical methods, design standards, testing and other practical concepts.

Course Learning Objectives:

1. Understand the analytical methods and software used in structural engineering to assess and mitigate the effects of explosive loading and progressive collapse.
2. Gain familiarity with design standards and codes relevant to

physical security and the hardening of structures against human induced threats.

3. Understand testing specifications, evaluation protocols, and performance criteria for materials and systems designed to withstand blast, ballistics, forced entry, and vehicle impact. (1.5 PDH)

March 24, 2026, 10 am—11 am Pacific Time (Fee for Webinar/Not Included in Webinar Subscription Package)

Design Mitigations for Fire

Speaker: Erica Fischer, Ph.D, PE, Oregon State University

Wildfires are growing in frequency, intensity, and geographic reach, placing increasing risk on buildings in wildland–urban interface (WUI) communities. This webinar explores design-based mitigation strategies that can significantly reduce wildfire exposure and improve post-fire resilience, grounded in data and lessons learned from recent wildfire events. The presentation highlights evidence-based approaches at three scales:

- **Building scale:** fire-resistant materials, assemblies, and detailing to limit flame and ember intrusion
- **Parcel scale:** defensible space, landscaping, topography, and setbacks that influence fire behavior near structures
- **Community scale:** neighborhood layout and firefighter access considerations

Case studies from the 2025 Los Angeles Fires and the 2021 Marshall Fire illustrate what worked, what failed, and why. By synthesizing current research, codes, and best practices, this session equips engineers with practical strategies to reduce wildfire vulnerability, enhance life safety, and strengthen long-term resilience in fire-prone regions. (1 PDH)

March 31, 2026, 10 am to 11 am Pacific Time (Fee for Webinar/Not Included in Webinar Subscription Package)

Reconnaissance and Resilience: The 2025 Los Angeles Fires

Speakers: Emily Frazier, PE, YA Group & Khalid Saifullah, Ph.D, Kinematics, Inc.

Wildfire risk is high across much of California, with Southern California especially vulnerable due to climate, vegetation, topography, and wind. The January 2025 Los Angeles wildfires showed how quickly fires can escalate into catastrophic urban events, destroying thousands of structures in hours. This webinar presents findings from post-fire reconnaissance efforts led by the SEAOSC Disaster and Emergency Services Committee in collaboration with the Existing Building Committee and SEAOSC Board. Volunteer structural engineers collected perishable field data using observations, checklists, and photogrammetry. The presentation will highlight key lessons learned and discuss aspects that may have implications for structural design, emergency response, and community resilience, showing how real-world wildfire performance data can inform future planning in fire-prone regions. (1 PDH)

There are also recorded webinars that can be purchased for professional development hours (PDHs) online at <https://www.ncsea.com/education-events/calendar/>

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

VAK ENGINEERING

Structural Engineer
Oregon

VAK Construction Engineering Services is a Contractor-Focused engineering firm looking for candidates to fill an engineering position. VAK offers a range of contractor services, including design and drafting work in temporary structures associated with: bridge falsework, marine falsework, access structures and crane trestles, cofferdams and shoring, crane and heavy lift engineering, erection, demolition, equipment seismic/wind anchorage, and more. Candidates will ideally have passed their E.I.T., P.E., or S.E. exams and be eager to learn. Construction or Construction Engineering experience a plus, but an educational background in Civil or Structural engineering is a must. Depending on experience mechanical or CEM educational backgrounds may be acceptable. Those candidates with experience with RISA, Visual Analysis and/or SolidWorks Simulation are desired but not required. Interested applicants are encouraged to visit our website at:

www.vakengineering.com for more information, and submit resumes to akoiv@vakengineering.com

CITY OF WARRENTON

City Planner
Warrenton, Oregon

The City of Warrenton (population 6,446) on the Oregon Coast is looking for a City Planner! The position will serve as part of the City's management team, coordinating the multi-department Review Team—administering the planning, implementation, and coordination of community development programs.

The candidate should have urban planning expertise, knowledge of Oregon land use codes, executive leadership and project management experience, be an effective communicator, and an appreciation for Warrenton's attributes.

A bachelor's degree in urban planning, public administration or related field, and three years of progressively responsible experience in planning is required. An advanced degree in planning or related field, membership to the AICP or the ability to attain within six (6) months, and public sector planning experience in Oregon, coastal, or small-town environments is attractive. Other combinations of relevant education and experience may be considered.

Compensation: \$88,672 to \$107,726 (DOQ) annually plus excellent benefits.

To be considered, complete and email the following materials in PDF or Word format to emily@jensenstrategies.com no later than **Wednesday, March 25, 2026**.

For more information about how to apply, visit: <http://www.jensenstrategies.com/recruitment/warrentoncityplanner>

Questions:

Emily Rehder
(503) 477-5615
emily@jensenstrategies.com

The City of Warrenton is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

ASK A QUESTION, GET AN ANSWER

Do you have a code question you would like to ask the Wind Committee or Snow Committee?

SEAO is pleased to provide a simple way for Q&A's with technical committees. Email questions to jane@seao.org, and SEAO will direct your question to the appropriate committee chair for a response. Questions and their answers will be made anonymous and available to the membership on the website www.seao.org. Committees include: Seismic, Wind, Snow, Code, Vintage Building, and Special Inspections.

Join the Oregon Chapter of the Structural Engineers Association (SEAO) for an evening focused on community resilience.



In Collaboration With The Structural Engineers Association of New York, SEAO Presents:

ENGINEERS AT GROUND ZERO

A DOCUMENTARY ABOUT THE VITAL ROLE STRUCTURAL
ENGINEERS PLAYED IN POST 9/11 RESPONSE AND RECOVERY

Wednesday, May 6th 2026

6^{PM} Refreshments

7^{PM} Movie followed by Q&A

Admission \$10

Visit www.seao.org To Register

University of Portland
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