CONNECTIONS

February 2026 Volume 25 Issue 3

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:

Tuesday, February 10, 2026: SEAO Chapter Meeting
Topic: Delivering a Landmark Bridge for Sherwood, Oregon
Speaker: Stuart Finney & Nick Halsey, KPFF Consulting Engineers
Location: The Old Spaghetti Factory, 715 S Bancroft Street, Portland, OR
Time: 11:30 am Check-In & Lunch, Program at Noon
See page 2 for registration information.

Tuesday, February 24, 2026: 62nd Annual Engineers Week High School Program
Location: Lloyd Center DoubleTree by Hilton, 1000 NE Multnomah Street, Portland, OR
Time: 9:30 to 4:30 pm
See page 4 for information and how to sponsor the event.

Tuesday, March 10, 2026: SEAO Chapter Meeting (SAVE THE DATE)
Topic & Speaker: To Be Determined
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.

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.

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.

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.

Send membership inquiries to:

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SEAO FEBRUARY CHAPTER MEETING
Tuesday, February 10, 2026

Topic: Delivering a Landmark Bridge for Sherwood, Oregon

In late 2021, KPFF began studying a bicycle and pedestrian crossing over Highway 99W to support the City of Sherwood's vision for a mixed-use, higher-density expansion and to connect existing neighborhoods to their newly opened high school across the highway. Less than four years later, the project opened in September 2025 as a landmark at the future center of Sherwood, OR. This presentation will discuss how the signature structural design evolved from concept through construction. With a synergistic blend of pathway alignment/profile and structural type alternative studies, we developed a unique design at an efficient cost. Five simply supported, biaxially symmetrical truss spans are arranged into a dramatic undulating form totaling 900 feet on structure and 1/3 mile of new multi-use trails. The design team leveraged BIM for the bridge design and for engagement with both the general public and prospective bidders. The bridge spans were erected during just three, 24-hour roadway closures. Through careful coordination between KPFF, the contractor, and subconsultants, the bridge opened on schedule and on budget.

Speakers: Stuart Finney & Nick Halsey, KPFF Consulting Engineers

Stuart Finney: Stuart is a client-focused structural engineer with a willingness and ability to go beyond conventional solutions to achieve exceptional results. Since 1999, he has gained extensive engineering experience in both building and transportation structures and uses his accrued knowledge to anticipate potential issues before they occur and address them in the design. Stuart's career features work with complexity and community importance, like the Barbara Walker Crossing, a pedestrian bridge in Portland's Forest Park with an iconic design and people-driven function, and many seismically retrofitted vehicular bridges that help to make the Pacific Northwest safer. His engineering philosophy is to first concentrate on understanding the client's goals, then allow those to guide the design.

Nick Halsey: Nick began his journey with KPFF as an intern before being hired as an engineer in 2017 and earning a promotion to Associate in 2025. Over the years, he has contributed to an impressive array of projects spanning diverse market sectors, including the Block 216 Tower, the Benson Polytechnic High School historic modernization, and the signature Bicycle and Pedestrian Crossing of Highway 99W in the City of Sherwood. Nick's strengths as an engineer include finding creative solutions to complex problems, fostering collaboration and curiosity in project teams, and leveraging the use of BIM visualization tools throughout the design process. He thoughtfully details structural elements at every scale and enjoys designing projects with a holistic approach, prioritizing the experiential qualities of completed spaces.

Location: The Old Spaghetti Factory, 715 S Bancroft Street, Portland, OR 97239

Time: 11:30 am—Noon — Check-in & Lunch
Noon—1 pm — Program

Cost: $35 Prepaid Members
$45 Prepaid Non-Members
$20 Student Members

Reservations: Pre-registration is required for all. **You can register and pay online at:** https://www.seao.org/events/feb2026/delivering-landmark-bridge-sherwood-or before end of day, Friday, January 9. You can also register with Jane Ellsworth via phone at (503)753-3075 or via email: jane@seao.org. It is expected that this event will sell out so **register early**.

PDH Credit: One (1) PDH will be available for this program.

Questions: Contact Jane Ellsworth at jane@seao.org.

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PRESIDENT'S JANUARY MESSAGE

By: Kylean Gunhus, PE

Dear SEAO Members:

Last month we filled the tables at The Old Spaghetti Factory to hear from Trent Nagele of VLMK speak about some design pitfalls and trends related to slender concrete wall design. Lets keep the full house trend going!

This month, we will have the pleasure to hear from Nick Halsey and Stuart Finney of KPFF who will be discussing the new pedestrian bridge over Highway 99 in Sherwood. Also occurring this month, is national E-Week. Our YMF co-chairs, Jaclyn Springer and Nick Slavin, will be hosting a booth at Oregon's E-Week event on February 24, which focuses bringing high school students and local professionals together to inspire the next generation of engineers.

Don't forget to update your spreadsheets! The 2025 OSSC was officially adopted on October 1, 2025 and the grace period is quickly closing. Mandatory adoption will occur on April 1, 2026. As I'm sure you are all aware, there have been some significant changes from past code cycles, and I would hate for you to be surprised.

On a similar note, the Special Inspection Subcommittee is working on updating the special inspection tables for distribution. We will be sure to make an announcement as soon as those are up-to-date and published to the website.

Please reach out if you have any questions or interest in joining one of our committees.

Thank You,

Kylean Gunhus
2025/2026 SEAO President

YMF UPDATE

The SEAO Young Members Forum hosted the January Happy Hour on January 28 at Rontoms on East Burnside. It was 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!

2026 OREGON E-WEEK

Oregon E-Week 2026 returns on Tuesday, February 24 in Portland, Oregon.

The event will include an exhibit hall and career fair, optional morning sessions with panel discussions, a banquet lunch with keynote speaker, and field trips, all geared towards sophomore and junior high school students.

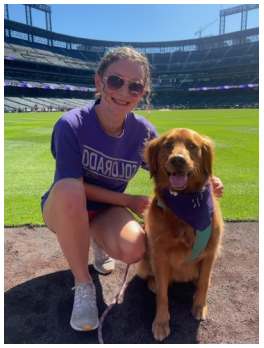
SEAO will have a booth that will be manned by YMF volunteers.

If you or your company would like to help fund the event, there are two ways to sign up:

1. Online—click here to sign up and make a secure payment.
2. Mail in completed form on pages 7 and 8 of this newsletter with a check enclosed.

If you have any questions, please reach out to eweek.oregon@gmail.com.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT
Jaclyn Springer

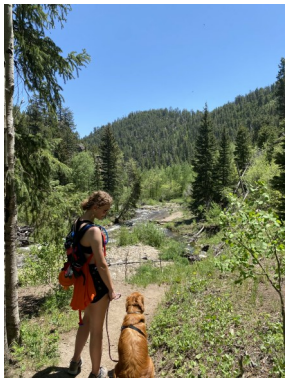


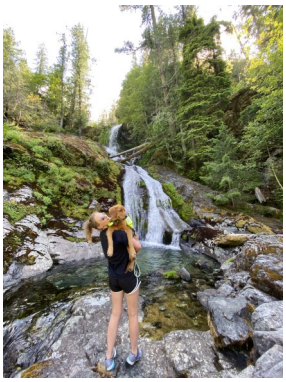
This month we shine the Member Spotlight on Jaclyn Springer. Jaclyn has been an active member of SEAO since 2024 and recently stepped up (with Nick Slavin of Holmes Portland) as a co-chair for the Young Members Forum. On January 28th they hosted their first Happy Hour of 2026 (see pictures to the left).

Jaclyn grew up in Lincoln, Nebraska where she first discovered her interest in engineering and enjoyed understanding how things work. In 2023 she graduated from Colorado State University with a Bachelors Degree in Civil Engineering and Minor in Real Estate Business. Upon graduating she spent the first few months of her career working primarily on residential foundation repairs and structural framing observations at a residential engineering firm in Lakewood, Colorado. While in Colorado, both as a student and professional, she was a member of SEAC.

In 2024 she made a big decision to move to Oregon to live closer to her sister. That June she started at Miller Consulting Engineers. So far, she has spent most of her time working on building components and residential remodels, but hopes to expand more into commercial projects.

When she's not at work, you can find her hiking with her dog, playing pickleball, or traveling. She also enjoys connecting with students to discuss the innovation and creativity we can bring to the structural engineering field.





NCSEA UPCOMING LIVE WEBINARS

Register At: https://www.ncsea.com/education-events/calendar/

February 18, 2026, 10 am to 11 am Pacific Time (FREE)
QuickFrames: Advanced Solutions for Structural Roof and Floor Frames by Simpson Strong-Tie

Speakers: Sean Dryden & Fayad Rahman, PE, Simpson Strong -Tie.

QuickFrames is a pre-engineered, adjustable framing solution designed to simplify structural support for rooftop and floor openings in commercial buildings. In this webinar, we'll explore market challenges and the limitations of traditional angle iron and channel steel frames, highlighting the need for more adaptable framing solutions. You'll learn how QuickFrames compares traditional welded steel frames, with its fully customizable, bolt-on design that simplifies coordination, eliminates field fit-up issues, and reduces labor, installation time, and associated costs.

The following topics will be covered:

- Identify common installation challenges with traditional roof frames and how they impact project timelines and costs.
- Describe the key features and benefits of QuickFrames, including their adjustability, ease of installation, and cost-effectiveness compared to traditional roof frames.
- Understand the function and application of QuickFrames in RTU supports · Review the Engineering Services provided by Simpson Strong-Tie and the documents that make up the engineered QuickFrames design.
- Learn about engineering and design considerations of the components that make up the innovative QuickFrames system.

The webinar will provide an informative discussion on how QuickFrames can enhance efficiency and simplify installation for your next project. (1 PDH Provided by Simpson Strong-Tie and not NCSEA)

February 19, 2026, 10 am—11:30 am Pacific Time (Fee for Webinar/ Included in Webinar Subscription Package)
Cracks—Identification, Cause, Prevention, and Repair

Speaker: David Flax, CDT, CCPR, National Development Group of Euclid Chemical

Cracks – they aren't all the same – There are many types of cracks that happen for many different reasons. They can be due to construction defects, job-site conditions, design problems, contractor error, environmental, change of use, concrete issues, shrinkage, etc. This presentation will cover 23 different types of cracks with plenty of photos. We will discuss the following for each type of crack: how to identify them, what caused them, how they could have been prevented, and how to repair them. This presentation will include the selection of materials and methods for structural, functional, and aesthetic crack repairs. Knowing all these things will help the specifier to not only specify the correct repair, but to reduce or eliminate similar cracking on future projects. (1.5 PDH)

February 24, 2026, 10 am to 11:30 am Pacific Time (Fee for Webinar/Not Included in Webinar Subscription Package)
A Practical Seismic Design Workflow: Applying ASCE 7 Through Real-World Examples

Speaker: Thomas F. Heausler, PE, SE, SECB, F.ASCE, F.SEI

This webinar presents the NCSEA Design Guide for Basic Seismic Design and introduces a structured Seismic Design Workflow for applying the ASCE 7 Seismic Provisions. **Chapter 1** defines the Workflow and establishes a consistent sequence of seismic design tasks. The Workflow is then demonstrated through design examples including **Chapter 2: Seismic Design Category A**, **Chapter 3: Steel Braced Frame**, **and Chapter 4: Three-Story Steel Moment Frame**. The examples illustrate step-by-step seismic load determination, system selection, and code application using a consistent calculation format that can be referenced when designing similar or more complex structures, particularly in low seismic regions. (1.5 PDH)

February 26, 2026, 10 am—11 am Pacific Time (Fee for Webinar/ Included in Webinar Subscription Package)
Introducing AISC Design Gude 16—Assessment and Repair of Structural Steel in Existing Buildings

Speaker: Christopher M. Hewitt, SE, PE , Simpson Gumpertz & Heger, Inc.

This presentation introduces AISC Design Guide 16: Assessment and Repair of Structural Steel in Existing Buildings, a comprehensive resource for evaluating and strengthening steel structures. The session will cover approaches for assessing existing steel buildings, including visual inspections, nondestructive evaluation, and material testing, while also addressing common deterioration and damage mechanisms such as corrosion and impact damage. Practical considerations for evaluating older details, welds, and connections will also be highlighted, with discussion on efficient repair and strengthening approaches for structures in service. Attendees will gain a clear understanding of both the technical framework and practical advice outlined in Design Guide 16, equipping them with tools to confidently plan and execute structural steel assessment and repair projects. (1 PDH)

March 3, 2026, 10 am to 11:30 am Pacific Time (Fee for Webinar/ Not Included in Webinar Subscription Package)
Seismic Design Workflow for Concrete and Wood Systems: NCSEA Gude Examples

Speakers: David A Fanella, Ph.D, PE, SE, CRSI and Thomas F Heausler, PE, SE, SECB, F.ASCE, F.SEI

This technical webinar continues the NCSEA Design Guide series on Basic Seismic Design, demonstrating the application of a defined seismic design Workflow to concrete and wood lateral systems in low seismic regions. The presentation reviews step-by-step design examples that illustrate seismic load determination and ASCE 7 code application using a consistent calculation format. The session covers **Chapter 5: Concrete Moment Frame, Chapter 6: Short Concrete Shear Wall, Chapter 7: Tall Concrete Moment-Governed Shear Wall, and Chapter 8: Wood Frame.** These examples provide a technical reference that can be applied to similar or more complex structures. (1.5 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 OPPORTUNITY

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

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.

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.

DISCOVER ENGINEERING

Celebrating over 60 years of growing new engineers in Oregon & Washington

62nd Annual E-Week High School Program

You are an essential part of the 62nd Annual Engineers Week High School Program.

Date: **Tuesday, February 24, 2026**

Location: **Lloyd Center DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel -** 1000 NE Multnomah St.

To participate at E-week, do one of the following:

1) Go to http://www.oregonengineersweek.org/sponsorship/ for online registration.
2) Send in the following form and a sponsor check (see details on next page).

We will contact you with additional day of the event information.

Engineers Week Sponsorship Levels

		Sponsor Included on E-week Web and Social Media	Title Sponsor on all Event Publications*	Official Sponsor of Morning Program	Number of Sponsored Students	# Banquet Dinner Tickets for Your Organization
Platinum	**$2,000**	✓	✓	✓	**20**	**15**
Gold	**$1,000**	✓	✓	.	**10**	**10**
Silver	**$500**	✓	.	.	**5**	**5**
Individual	**$80**	.	.	.	**1**	**1**

**Title sponsors will be included on all event publications if program support is committed by December 31, 2026.*

2026 E-week Sponsor Registration

Organization Name: _____

Contact Name: _____

Email Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Sponsor level - check one**:**

- **Platinum $2,000**
- **Gold $1,000**
- **Silver $500**
- **Individual $80 x ___ # of attendees**
- **I cannot attend, but I would like to sponsor a student - $40**

Send this form and a sponsor check payable to "ASCE Oregon Engineers Week" by January 31, 2026 to:

Jason Kelly
c/o DOWL
5 Centerpointe Drive, Suite 350
Lake Oswego, OR 97035

We will confirm receipt of your registration and send more day of event details.
Please email jkelly@dowl.com with any questions.

The Engineers Week High School Program is a tax-deductible program affiliated with the American Society of Civil Engineers, a 501c3 non-profit organization.