



CONNECTIONS

May 2026 Volume 25 Issue 6

Newsletter of the
Structural Engineers
Association of Oregon

SEAO
9220 SW Barbur Blvd.
No. 119
PMB #336
Portland, OR 97219
Phone: (503) 753-3075
E-Mail: jane@seao.org
Website: www.seao.org

IN THIS ISSUE: PAGE

- May Chapter Meeting Info 2-3
- May Chapter Meeting Info (cont.) & Ask a Question 3
- SEAO/SEANY Event: Engineers at Ground Zero 4
- YMF Update, Member Spotlight 5
- Sustainable Design Committee Happy Hour Event, NCSEA YMF Scholarships, Update to FTAO Calculator, & Ad Space 6
- NCSEA Webinars 7
- SEAO/OACI Golf Tournament 8
- Structural Peer Review Services 9

Upcoming SEAO Meetings and Events:

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 (prepaid only)
See page 4 for more information.

Tuesday, May 12, 2026: SEAO Chapter Meeting

Topic: LEED v5: What Do Structural Engineers Need to Know?
Speaker: SEAO Sustainable Design Committee
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 more information.

Wednesday, May 27, 2026: SEAO Sustainable Design Committee Happy Hour Event

Location: Revolution Hall, 1300 SE Stark Street, Portland, OR
Time: 4:30 pm—6:30 pm
Cost: **Free**
See page 6 for more information.

Thursday, May 28, 2026: SEAO Young Member Forum (YMF) Event

Topic: Oregon PE/SE Licensure Presentation to YMF
Location: Holmes, 555 SE Martin Luther King Jr Blvd, Suite 602, Portland, OR
Time: 6 pm—7 pm
Cost: **Free**
See page 5 for more information.

Wednesday, July 8, 2026: SEAO/OACI Golf Tournament

Location: Langdon Farms Golf Club, 24377 Airport Road NE, Aurora, OR
Shotgun Start: 1:30 pm; Social Hour 6 pm; Dinner & Awards 6:30—7:30 pm
See page 8 for sponsorship opportunities.
This event has sold out, but sponsorship opportunities still remain.

Tuesday, October 27 - Friday, October 30, 2026 (SAVE THE DATE) NCSEA 2026 Structural Engineering Summit

Location: Hilton Union Square, 333 O'Farrell Street, San Francisco, CA
Visit the following website for info: <https://www.ncsea.com/summit/>
Registration will open soon.
See future newsletters for more information.



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

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:
9220 SW Barbur Blvd.
No. 119
PMB #336
Portland, OR 97219

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2025/2026

President
Kylean Gunhus
Miller Consulting Engineers
Ph: 503.246.1250
kylean@miller-se.com

Vice President
Sarah Johnson
Akana
Ph: 503.440.9368
sarah.johnson.eltawil@gmail.com

Secretary
Elyssa Dekker
Holmes Structures
Ph: 971.247.1050
elyssa.dekker@holmes.us

Treasurer
Ryan Guay
Pace Engineers
Ph: 503.597.3222
ryang@paceengrs.com

Director (Year 2 of 2)
Geoff Smoke
Mackenzie
Ph: 503.708.6149
gsmoke@mcknze.com

Director (Year 1 of 2)
Zak Perkerewicz
Knife River Prestress
Ph: 503.545.3284
zak.perkerewicz@kniferiver.com

Past President
Christopher Carroll
SSOE Group
Ph: 1.360.440.1071
ccarroll@ssoe.com

Executive Secretary
Jane Ellsworth
SEAO Staff
Ph: 503.753.3075
jane@seao.org

SEAO MAY CHAPTER MEETING TUESDAY, MAY 12, 2026

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

LEED v5 marks a significant shift in the U.S. Green Building Council rating system, placing a stronger emphasis on embodied carbon and whole-life climate impact. Presented by the SEAO Sustainable Design Committee, the presentation will focus on what these changes mean for structural engineers—from updated expectations around life cycle assessment to strategies for reducing the carbon footprint of structural systems. Attendees will gain practical insights into how LEED v5 is reshaping material selection, design decisions, and collaboration across project teams.

Speakers:

David Marks, PE, SE



David Marks is a structural engineer at KPFF in Portland with more than 15 years of experience. He has worked on a wide range of building types, including mission-critical facilities, residential and commercial projects, and many Portland-area high schools. With an avid interest in sustainable design, David serves on SEAO's Sustainable Design Committee and is an active member of KPFF's internal sustainability group. He developed an in-house embodied-carbon estimating tool that is now used across KPFF offices. Outside of work, David enjoys parenting and being outdoors as much as possible.

Jo Ann Offill, Chair, SEAO Sustainable Design Committee

Jo Ann is a structural engineer in Portland, Oregon with a passion for reducing embodied carbon in the built environment. She has over nine years of experience and is actively involved in the Sustainable Design Committees for NCSEA and SEAO, for which she is the founding chair. Through her committee involvement, she works to elevate industry awareness of embodied carbon and drive adoption of best practices.



Matthew Pearson



Matthew Pearson has worked with KPFF since 2021 as a structural designer and actively contributes to the company's mission to fulfill the SE 2050 commitment. He also currently serves on the SEAO Sustainable Design Committee. Matthew values accountability, empathy, and recognizes how both are integral in pushing our industry forward to do our part in reducing carbon emissions and be responsible stewards of our built environment.

(Continued on Page 3)

SEAO COMMITTEES

CODE ADVISORY COMMITTEES

Seismic
Masamichi Ikeda
mikeda@jrma.com

Wind
OPEN CHAIR

Snow Load
Andy Stember
andy@jasenginc.com

Code
Eric Watson
eric@miller-se.com

Vintage Building
OPEN CHAIR

Special Inspections
Eric Watson
eric@miller-se.com

STRUCTURAL ENGINEERS EMERGENCY RESPONSE (SEER)

David Tarries
david.tarries@portlandoregon.gov

PROGRAM COMMITTEES

Golf Tournament
OPEN CHAIR

Conferences
Kevin McCormick
kevin@miller-se.com

Monthly Meetings
Scott Dawson
scott@paceengrs.com

ADVOCACY COMMITTEES

Website
Seth Thomas
seth.thomas@kpff.com

Engineers Week
Michelle Juarez
michelle@miller-se.com

Young Member Forum
Jaclyn Springer & Nick Slavin
jaclyn.springer@miller-se.com and
nick.slavin@holmes.us

Sustainability
Jo Ann Offill
joann.offill@gmail.com

SE3
William Locke
william.locke@coffman.com

CONTINUING EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Seminars
Andy Stember
andy@jasenginc.com

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEES

Newsletter
JoMarie Farrell
jomarief@vlmk.com

Roster
Jane Ellsworth
jane@seao.org

DELEGATES

NCSEA
Jared Lewis
jared@catenaengineers.com

Seth Thomas (Alternate)
seth.thomas@kpff.com

WCSEA/NWC
Amit Kumar
Amit.kumar@portlandoregon.gov

SEAO MAY CHAPTER MEETING (CONT.)

Kathryn Carrigg, PE



Kate serves as WoodWorks Regional Director for Oregon, Southern Idaho, and Hawaii, providing education and assistance within the AEC and Development Communities toward the use of wood in multifamily and non-residential construction. With backgrounds in wood science, structural engineering, and construction management, she brings a unique perspective to every technical challenge and project with which she assists. During her 13+ years in the industry, Kate has worked on a multitude of successful projects and continues to be driven by her excitement for wood as an innovative and sustainable structural material.

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/may2026/leed-v5-what-do-structural-engineers-need-know> before end of day, Friday, May 8. 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.

ASK A QUESTION, GET AN ANSWER

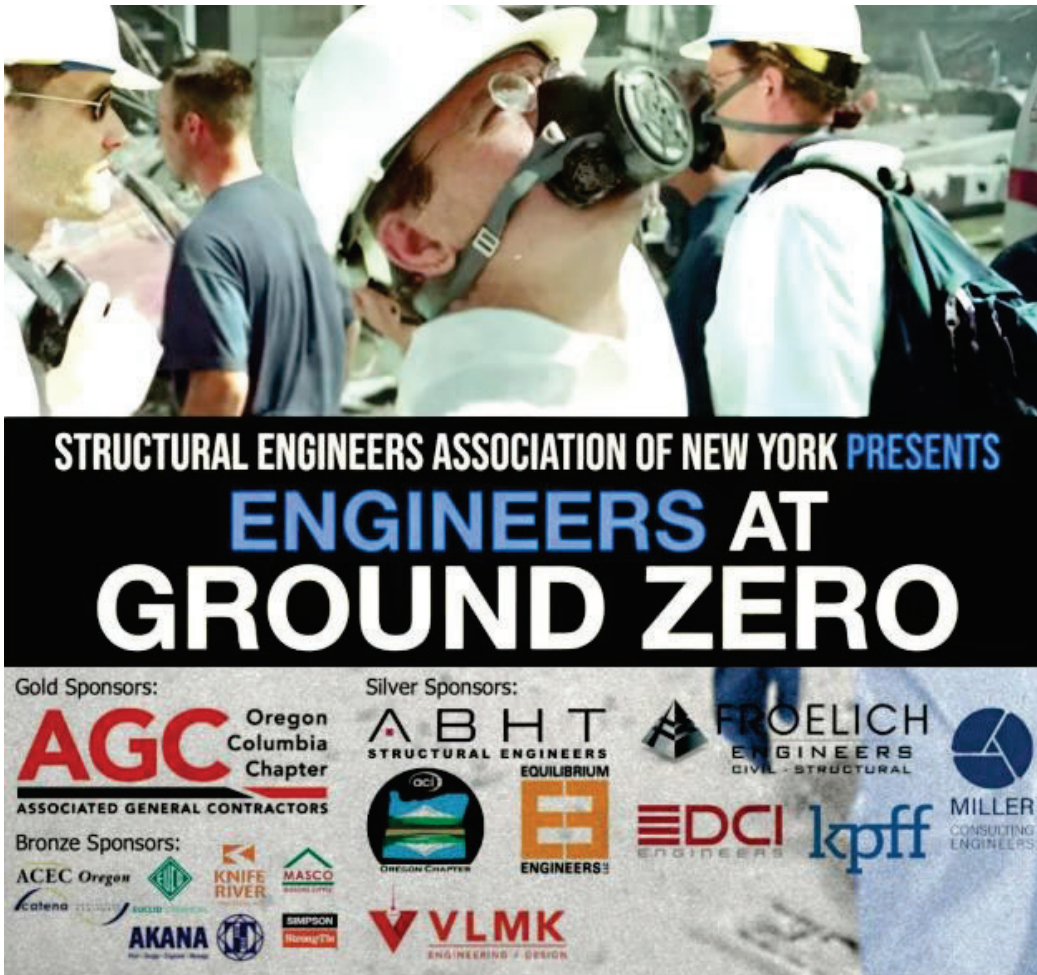
Do you have a code question you would like to ask the Wind Committee or Snow Committee?

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.

SEAO & SEANY EVENT: ENGINEERS AT GROUND ZERO
WEDNESDAY, MAY 6, 2026
UNIVERSITY OF PORTLAND, BUCKLEY CENTER

SEAO in collaboration with SEA of New York is hosting an event on May 6, 2026. A documentary film will be presented that shows the vital role structural engineers played in post-9/11 response and recovery.

Per Vacationland, the film's documentary studio, *Engineers at Ground Zero*, directed by Kalim Armstrong, is a documentary film that highlights the little-known structural engineers played following the September 11, 2001 attack on the World Trade Center. While first responders have been rightfully praised, this documentary film focuses on the structural engineers who ensured their safety during recovery, helped stabilize structures, and prevented the Hudson River from flooding the New York City subway system. The film features firsthand accounts and examines how 9/11 has influenced building design and emergency response to keep the public safe. It is also a film about human nature and people coming together to take care of each other in the aftermath of a traumatic loss of life.



Join us for an evening focused on community resilience.

Time: 6 pm Refreshments
7 pm Movie followed by Q&A
(Movie Run Time: 46 Minutes)

Location: University of Portland
Buckley Center
5000 N Willamette Blvd
Portland, OR 97203

Cost: \$10 per person
(prepaid online via link to the right)

Register online at: <https://www.seao.org/events/may2026/engineers-ground-zero>

If you have questions, please reach out to Jane Ellsworth at: jane@seao.org

Thank you to all our sponsors whose generous support has made this event possible.

YMF UPDATE

JACLYN SPRINGER & NICK SLAVIN
CO-CHAIRS YMF

This month, the SEAO Young Members Forum (YMF) is hosting an event to inform YMF members about PE/SE licensure on Thursday, May 28 at 6 pm at Holmes. Ashley Graybeal is the OSBEELS Communications Coordinator and has been with the agency since 2023. Her passion and focus is outreach—keeping licensed professionals informed, helping future licensees navigate the process, and educating youth on professions in engineering and surveying. In this presentation, she will give an overview of the process for obtaining and maintaining licenses as Professional Engineers (PE) and Structural Engineers (SE) and discuss common questions and mistakes. Pizza will be provided for all attendees!

Please RSVP using the following form so we know how much pizza to order:

[Oregon PE/SE Licensure Presentation to YMF](#) . Feel free to email ymf.seao@gmail.com with any questions regarding this event.

Also, NCSEA is offering scholarships for Young Members to attend the Structural Engineering Summit. See page 6 for more information.

The April YMF Happy Hour bowling event at Superplay in Beaverton was a great success. The picture below is from that event. Thanks to all who could join us.



If you are not on YMF's mailing list and would like to be added, please contact ymf.seao@gmail.com or complete the form via the following link to be added: [Email Preferences Form](#).

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



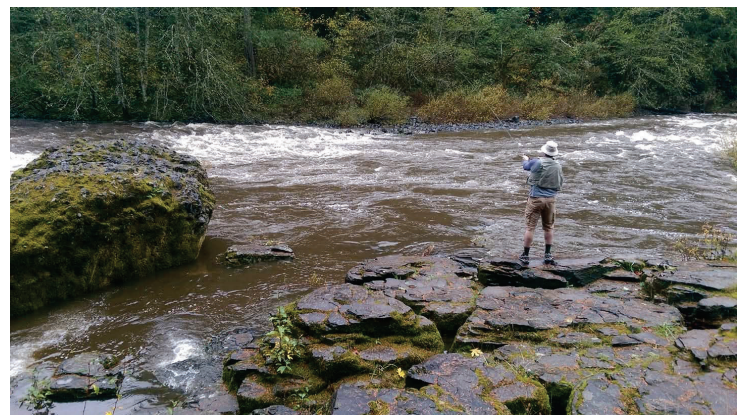
In this month's Member Spotlight, we are pleased to feature Scott Dawson, a Structural Engineer at PACE/Verdantas.

Scott joined SEAO in December 2025 and accepted the position for Chair of Programming.

Scott attained his Undergraduate Degree in Civil and Environmental Engineering and his Master's Degree in Structural Engineering at the University of Houston in Texas. He has a diverse skillset including offshore structural to commercial, industrial, and residential engineering and is currently pursuing his Structural Engineer's (SE) license.

Scott began his structural career designing residential and light commercial structures in Houston, TX for a couple of years. After grad school, he accepted a position at Foster Wheeler and then at Zentech, Inc. designing offshore rigs and other platforms. For the last few years, Scott has engineered a wide variety of building and non-building structures at PACE Engineers here in Oregon.

He has enjoyed exploring Oregon and it's beautiful scenic landscapes while here so far and is looking forward to discovering even more.



SUSTAINABLE DESIGN COMMITTEE UPDATE

BY: JO ANN OFFILL

Please join the Sustainable Design Committee for a casual happy hour focused on connection and conversation.

Whether you are curious about sustainable design, exploring LEED v5, or already an expert, this is a chance to ask questions, share ideas, and learn more about the committee. Representatives from WoodWorks will also be on hand to provide guidance on using wood to help meet LEED v5 goals.

Where: Revolution Hall, 1300 SE Stark Street, Portland
When: Wednesday, May 27th from 4:30 pm to 6:30 pm.

The event will be sponsored by WoodWorks.

APA FTAO CALCULATOR UPDATED FOR 2026

Do you use APA's Force Transfer Around Openings (FT AO) calculator? APA has updated their free Excel-based calculator for 2026.

The calculator is a step-by-step tool which simplifies FTAO shear wall design and worksheets for walls with one, two, or three openings. It also includes full design examples.

Visit APA's link at: [Force Transfer Around Openings - APA – The Engineered Wood Association](#) for more information.

NCSEA SCHOLARSHIPS FOR YOUNG MEMBERS

NCSEA is now accepting applications for two exciting opportunities designed to support and celebrate emerging professionals in structural engineering.

- Young Member Summit Scholarship: Provides full registration to the 2026 Structural Engineering Summit and a travel stipend for first-time recipients for transportation and lodging. Visit: <https://ncsea.submittable.com/submit/8e4e04a3-84f6-4b5f-8823-1962207fb69f/2026-young-member-summit-scholarship>
- Young Member Group of the Year Awards: Winners receive one complimentary Summit registration, a travel stipend, and funding to support future programming. Visit: <https://ncsea.submittable.com/submit/37738680-fa4a-4b81-8556-3a9d4b982514/2026-young-member-group-of-the-year-awards>

Submissions must be completed by 10 pm on Friday, June 26, 2026.

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/)

May 12, 2026, 10 am to 11:15 am Pacific Time (Fee for Webinar/Included in Webinar Subscription Package)

Wind Fundamentals: Understanding the “Why” Behind ASCE 7 Wind Provisions

Speaker: John O’Brien, PE, SE, PES Structural Engineers

Structural engineers rely on ASCE 7 for wind design. But what do you do when your structure doesn’t fit neatly into the geometry outlined in the provisions? This session explores wind fundamentals; how wind flows around structures, resulting in pressures on elements and surfaces. Wind tunnel testing of basic geometric shapes and structures gives insights into how wind behaves in different scenarios, which informs the pressure coefficients in the standard. By understanding the “why” behind the provisions, engineers will be better equipped to extrapolate this science to a variety of real-world situations with greater clarity, confidence, and flexibility. (1.25 PDH)

May 14, 2026, 10 am to 11 am Pacific Time (FREE Webinar)

2026 SEE Awards: Non-Building Structures—Seattle City Light Denny Substation

Speaker: Thomas Hudgings, PE, SE, KPFF Consulting Engineers

Seattle City Light’s Denny Substation provides power to support the growth of the Denny Triangle neighborhood in downtown Seattle. The project combines an intricately detailed linear park and architectural screenwall wrapping heavy construction supporting substantial electrical infrastructure. The project offered substantial opportunity for creative structural problem-solving and innovative solutions. (1 PDH)

May 26, 2026, 10 am to 11 am Pacific Time (Fee for Webinar/Included in Webinar Subscription Package)

Structural Assessments of In-Situ Wood Members: Best Practices for Determining Allowable Design Stresses in Existing Structures

Speakers: Matthew Anderson, Wood Science Consulting, Inc. & Russell Edgar, Madra WoodTech. LLC

This webinar provides a technical framework for evaluating the load-carrying capacity of timber in existing buildings. Participants will review wood mechanics and field methodologies for visual grading, exploring the application of American Society and Testing of Materials Standards (ASTM) standards to in-situ materials including sawn lumber, glulam, and mass timber. The presentation further focuses on forensic capacity adjustment using non-destructive testing and microbiological analysis to assess decay. Attendees will learn to adjust published allowable design stresses according to National Design Specification (NDS) factors, specifically addressing the structural implications of checks and splits. The session concludes with exemplar case studies, providing defensible protocols for the safe load-rating and rehabilitation of historic timber systems. (1 PDH)

May 27, 2026, 10 am to 11 am Pacific Time (FREE *Structure* Sponsored Webinar)

If Price Is the Problem, You’re Telling the Wrong Story by BQE

Speaker: Steven Burns, FAIA, The Well-Designed Firm

Too many firms assume they lost the job because their price was too high. In most cases, however, the fee is merely a convenient

excuse that masks a deeper issue. When a client does not clearly understand the value your firm brings to the table, price becomes the deciding factor. That is not a pricing problem. It is a positioning problem. This webinar challenges the outdated belief that winning work is about being competitive. You will learn how to earn trust, create emotional resonance, and position your firm as the only logical choice long before fees are ever discussed. We will explore how to shape the client’s perception, elevate your value, and design a sales process that moves your firm from the pricing conversation to a position of strength. This session is for firm leaders who are ready to stop selling time and start selling expertise. After attending this program, participants will be able to:

- Understand the real reasons clients hesitate to hire your firm, and how to address those objections early in the sales process.
- Learn how to shift the conversation from pricing to value in a way that builds trust and confidence.
- Learn how to utilize storytelling and positioning techniques to differentiate your firm.
- Design a sales process that begins before the RFP and builds long-term demand for your expertise.
- Gain tools to present fees with confidence and clarity, showing how your value justifies the investment. (1 PDH)

June 11, 2026, 10 am to 11 am Pacific Time (FREE Webinar)

2026 SEE Awards: Performance Design for Resilience—Dennis and Carol Troesh Medical Campus

Speakers: Simon Rees, SE, Irene Heung, SE, and Branden Dong, SE from Arup

At 1.1 million square feet and 260 feet tall, the Dennis and Carol Troesh Medical Campus is currently the tallest hospital in California. The hospital is situated 0.6 miles from the San Jacinto fault and 3.1 miles from the San Andreas fault. This facility therefore faces significant earthquake risk and one of the highest seismic demands of any hospital in California. To ensure earthquake resilience and hospital safety, a seismic force-resisting system was implemented consisting of buckling restrained braces and SidePlate moment frames sitting above an isolation plane with 126 triple-friction-pendulum isolators and 104 nonlinear fluid viscous dampers. Arup used a nonlinear performance-based design, cloud-based digital tools and LS-Dyna software to analyze the 480-bed, 16-story acute care replacement hospital under stringent requirements of California’s Office of Statewide Health Planning & Development (OSHPD). (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/>

2026 SEAO / OACI GOLF TOURNAMENT



JULY 8TH, 2026
Langdon Farms Golf Club
1:30 PM SHOTGUN START!

SPONSORSHIP FORM

Company Name: _____

Contact Name: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____

SPONSORSHIPS *(choose any or all of the following)*

- HOLE SPONSORSHIP (\$350)**
Comes with individual tee signage and recognition at the on-site dinner.
- PAR-3 SPONSORSHIP (\$750)**
Set your company up near the tee at one of 4 available, 3-par holes and also receive recognition at the on-site dinner.
(Only available to 4 sponsors)
- DINNER SPONSORSHIP (\$4,000)**
Sponsor the on-site barbacue dinner! Includes tournament registration for a team of four, and distinct recognition from SEAO/OACI at the on-site dinner.

- Registration Sponsor (\$400)**
(Keg of beer during Registration ahead of tee-off)
- LD/KP/Long Putt Hole Sponsor (\$150)**
- Golf Cart Sponsor (\$500)**
(Golf carts with a sign in each cart with your company name)
- Goofy Club Sponsor (\$400)**
(Keg of beer at SEAO/OACI Par 3 Single Club Challenge Hole)
- On Course Drink Refreshment Sponsor (\$500)**
(Drink cart and two drink tickets per participant)

SPONSORSHIP SUB-TOTAL: \$



TEAM REGISTRATION *(if sponsoring the Dinner, one foursome included)*

SPONSORS WILL HAVE UNTIL MAR. 20th, 2026 TO GUARANTEE TEAM REGISTRATION

(Player Fee includes green fee, golf cart, driving range, two drink tickets, and dinner. A Box Lunch can now be selected for an additional \$25)

Player Names	Member?	Fee	Box Lunch (Leave blank for None/\$0)	Player Total
	<input type="checkbox"/> SEAO <input type="checkbox"/> OACI	\$250	<input type="checkbox"/> Turkey/Swiss/Sourdough <input type="checkbox"/> Beef/Provolone/Sourdough \$25 <input type="checkbox"/> Chicken Caesar Wrap	\$ _____
	<input type="checkbox"/> SEAO <input type="checkbox"/> OACI	\$250	<input type="checkbox"/> Turkey/Swiss/Sourdough <input type="checkbox"/> Beef/Provolone/Sourdough \$25 <input type="checkbox"/> Chicken Caesar Wrap	\$ _____
	<input type="checkbox"/> SEAO <input type="checkbox"/> OACI	\$250	<input type="checkbox"/> Turkey/Swiss/Sourdough <input type="checkbox"/> Beef/Provolone/Sourdough \$25 <input type="checkbox"/> Chicken Caesar Wrap	\$ _____
	<input type="checkbox"/> SEAO <input type="checkbox"/> OACI	\$250	<input type="checkbox"/> Turkey/Swiss/Sourdough <input type="checkbox"/> Beef/Provolone/Sourdough \$25 <input type="checkbox"/> Chicken Caesar Wrap	\$ _____

Pay By MAIL: Check Included

TOTAL: \$

Name: As it appears on Credit Card

Contact Phone #:

Credit Card #:

Credit Card Exp Date:

3-Digit Code: On back of Credit Card

Billing Zip Code:

Please Return This Form A.S.A.P. to: SEAO, PO BOX 2958, Vancouver, WA 98668

Or Call To Process a Credit Card Over The Phone!



STRUCTURAL PEER REVIEW SERVICES

NEED A SECOND SET OF EYES ON YOUR PROJECT?

Erickson Structural provides independent, customizable peer reviews for engineers working on existing buildings. Our reviews help reduce risk, improve efficiency, identify alternatives, and propose solutions. Peer reviews can be general or detailed, topic-specific, and tailored to fit your timeline and budget. Reviews can be conducted confidentially behind the scenes, so our involvement is not visible to the engineer's client, or transparently, so that all parties are aware of our role and recommendations, depending on project needs and engineer preferences.

We Provide Peer Reviews for:

- ✓ Engineering Reports for Complex Structural Projects
- ✓ Remediation for Structurally Distressed Buildings
- ✓ Structural Forensic Investigations

Flexible Review & Feedback Options:

Feedback can be provided verbally, in writing, through red-line markups, or other formats to meet project needs.

"I have been sending my structural reports to Erickson Structural to review for many years. I have had other engineers review my reports but have not encountered anywhere near the level of thoroughness, quality, frankness and technical feedback that I've received from Erickson Structural. I highly recommend their reviews to enhance the quality of your engineering product." - Marcor Platt, PE, SE

READY TO BEGIN? Start your peer review today at ericksonstructural.com/peer-review
QUESTIONS? Contact us at info@ericksonstructural.com