

Structural Engineers of NH

October 2006



Serving New Hampshire

Next Meeting:

Thursday

November 9, 2006

**Site Visit Guidelines for
Structural Engineers**

**The Sheraton
Harborside
Portsmouth, NH**

SENH PRESIDENT'S LETTER...

The November 9th meeting will be held at the Portsmouth Sheraton and will feature a presentation by Alex Blanco, Chief Underwriting Officer, Poole Professional Ltd. See the enclosed announcement.

PR Committee Update

The PR Committee has been hard at work evaluating many different ways for SENH to expand its positive image in our community. As a result of several productive "brainstorming" sessions, the Committee is working to finalize a draft report for issue to the Board of Directors which summarizes the Committee's ideas, associated costs etc. for items including but not necessarily limited to:

- Website redevelopment and expansion (new pages for public, students etc.),
- Student outreach (canned programs for presentation at elementary, middle, high schools and universities),
- Scholarship programs
- Media spots (newspapers, radio public service announcements, trade magazines etc.)

The committee anticipates finalizing the report in the fall for submission to the Board for review. Issuance and acceptance of this report is not expected to be the end of the committee's work, but rather a step in an on-going goal of increasing the exposure and improving the image of SENH. It is expected that the report and its recommendations will create opportunities for other SENH members to contribute to the group at a committee or task level.

If you have ideas which would assist the committee, please see any member of the committee, which includes: Fred Emanuel, Steve Johnson, Matt Low, Kyle Roy and Pete Steffensen.

New Hampshire State Building Code Review Board Update

The New Hampshire State Building Code Review Board has met twice since a summer break. As you are probably aware, the 2000 IRC was recently adopted and signed into law. The 2006 versions of the recently published I-Codes, including the IRC, have been studied in committee to determine the applicability of the currently adopted amendments. The Board will likely be recommending to the legislature that the 2006 versions be adopted with the applicable amendments. No new amendments are being considered at this time. It will be sometime in 2007 before the Codes are formally adopted and become law.

The sub-committee studying the adoption of the International Existing Building Code has nothing to report at this time. You can view all the current State Building Codes, amendments, meeting minutes and Board contacts by visiting the board's web site www.nh.gov/safety/bldgcode. You may also contact Joel Fisher at Fisher Engineering, PC, 528-7641 or fisher@metrocast.net, if you have any questions or comments regarding the Board's activities.



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Member of

The ASCE SEI Annual Conference

At the invitation of Structural Engineering Institute (SEI) Alex Azodi of SENH attended the events in Las Vegas, Nevada on October 6 and 7, 2006. The first day was the general session with welcome, schedule, purpose, general information, and the meeting for the chairs of local Structural Technical Group and the second day was ASCE/SEI national update and brainstorming Session on topics of importance.

The NCSEA Annual Conference

Robert Durfee, PE attended the annual conference in Salt Lake City, Utah as the SENH Delegate to NCSEA (National Council of Structural Engineers Associations). He will be posting a summary report of the NCSEA activities on our website, and will make a brief report on NCSEA at the November meeting. Progressive collapse design provisions for the 2009 IBC were a key topic of the conference. If the proposed provisions are accepted into the code, it will have a significant affect the structural engineering community.

Bob will also be contacting you by email regarding his yearly request to assist with the distribution on posters promoting Structural Engineering in local high schools, and to identify volunteers to contact their alma mater engineering school to promote the minimum college course requirements for structural engineers.

Engineer of the Year and Young Engineer of the Year Award

There are new guidelines and other important information to help you nominate a candidate for the 2007 Engineer of the Year and Young Engineer of the Year awards that are announced at the annual NH Engineers Week Banquet on February 22nd. The most notable changes are that nominations by persons or organizations other than engineering societies are allowed and the deadline for submittals is December 28th. The jurors will continue to be active members of the participating societies.

The guidelines and other important information to help you nominate a candidate will be posted on the SENH website. Please let the SENH Board know if you think one of our members exemplifies the characteristics and achievements worthy of consideration. Or you may proceed to nominate this member on your own. (FYI – this is to be done without the candidate's knowledge).

Member Profiles

Jim Karmozyn, P.E., of H.E. Bergeron Engineering, participated in the Mt Washington Bicycle Hill climb up the Auto Road to benefit the Tin Mountain Conservation Center in Mt Washington Valley, raising almost \$2,000. Unfortunately, his chain broke 20 yards from the finish line at the top getting up the 22% grade. Jim is on the right in the linked [Hill Climb Photo](#).

Tony Coviello, PE of JSN Associates, Inc., took up running in the last year and has now decided to train for his first half marathon to benefit the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. His goal is to raise \$2,000 when he runs 13 miles on November 12th. Click on his [Team in Training home page](#) to see him training in Hawaii and to check on his progress.

Other Meetings and Seminars

SEAMass will sponsor the Bracing Design for Stability: Columns & Frames seminar on November 1, 2006 which is also at the Holiday Inn in Newton. You can register for that event at <http://ncsea.com>

Sincerely,
Structural Engineers of New Hampshire

Linda K. McNair-Perry, P.E.
President



Structural Engineers of New Hampshire Meeting Attendance

DATE: September 27, 2006

PLACE: The Derryfield Restaurant, Manchester , NH

RE: The Engineer as the Expert Witness
(2.0 PDH Assigned)

NAME			ORGANIZATION			NAME			ORGANIZATION		
Geoffrey R.	Aleva, P.E.	Civil Consultants	Steve W.	Johnson, P.E.	Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc.	Matthew	Allen, P.E.	JSN Associates, Inc.	James	Karmozyn, P.E.	H.E. Bergeron Engineering
Alex	Azodi, P.E.	Omega Structural Engineers	Leslie	Keeling		Roderick D.	Bard, P.E.	Stahlman Group, Inc.	Roger	Keilig, P.E.	HTE Northeast, Inc.
H. Edmond	Bergeron, P.E.	HE Bergeron Engineers	Paul	Kirby, P.E.	TFMoran, Inc.	Gerry	Blanchette	H. L. Turner Group	Louis H.	Klotz, P.E.	Klotz Consulting Group, Inc.
Robert R.	Bussiere, P.E.	Bussiere Engineering	Dave	Konieczny, P.E.	Pyramid Engineering, P.C.	John	Byatt, P.E.	CLD, Inc.	Ken	Koornneef	Nobis Engineering, Inc.
Ben	Cota		Matthew J.	LaBrecque, P.E.	Pro Con, Inc.	Normand G.	Cote, P.E., SECB	NGC Structural, LLC	Steven	Lehman	
Cheryl W.	Coviello, P.E.	Appledore Marine Engineering, Inc.	Johnathan, M.	Longchamp, P.E.	Daigle Engineers, Inc.	Tony	Coviello, P.E.	JSN Associates, Inc.	Dana	Lynch	Civil Works, Inc.
G. Keith	Donington, P.E.	Parsons , Brinckerhoff, Quade & Douglas, Inc.	Gerald	Maher		Kathy J.	Dougherty, P.E.	---	Nathan	Maher, P.E.	JSN Associates, Inc.
Robert H.	Durfee, P.E.	Dubois & King, Inc.	Kenneth G.	Marshall, P.E.	Foley & Buhl Engineering, Inc.	Robert E.	Duval, P.E.	TFMoran, Inc.	Lisa M.	Martin, P.E.	Quantum Construction Consultants, LLC
Fred	Emanuel, P.E.	Emanuel Engineering, Inc.	Richard	Noblet		Joel	Fisher, P.E.	Fisher Engineering, P.C.	Linda McNair	Perry, P.E.	GV Engineering, LLC
Jason L.	Gallant, P.E.	The Louis Berger Group	Neil J.	Rapoza	Civil Consultants	Roger W.	Gayer, P.E.	Structures Unlimited, Inc.	Stephen	Richard	Steffensen Engineering Assoc., Inc.
Dan L.	Gelinas, P.E.	Gelinas Structural Engineering, LLC	Autumn	Ricker		Derek J.	Gilbert, P.E.	Oak Point Associates	Richard E.	Roberts, P.E.	Foley & Buhl Engineering, Inc.
Paul	Goldberg, P.E.	Pro Con, Inc.	Richard A.	Rouleau, P.E.	Consultant	Timothy L.	Grant, P.E.	TL Grant Engineering Consulting	Amy	Sanders	CLD Engineers
Sally	Gunn	Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc.	John	Scott	Rist-Frost-Shumway Engineering	Robert S.	Hartford, P.E.	Kalwall Corporation	Matthew A.	Severson, P.E.	Parsons Transportation Group
Neil W.	Helberg, PE	Lewis Engineering, PLLC	Peter	Steffensen, P.E.	Steffensen Engineering Assoc., Inc.	Steven M.	Hodgdon, P.E.	Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc.	Miles P.	Stetson	University of New Hampshire
Martha	Israel	R.W. Gillespie and Associates	Robert B.	Tarquino, P.E.	Parkview Consulting Inc.	Sean	James, P.E.	Hoyle, Tanner & Assoc., Inc.	Jeffrey L.	Tirey, P.E.	Tirey & Associates, P.C.
Eric	Johnson	Nobis Engineering, Inc.	Debbie	Violette	Standtec Consulting Services	Matthew R.	Johnson	Devine, Millimet & Branch, PA	Steve	Wolf	Contech

SENH September 27, 2006 Meeting Minutes

I. BUSINESS PORTION OF MEETING:

1. The meeting was called to order by President Linda McNair-Perry, PE, at 7:30 pm, after the social time and dinner.
2. Treasurer Report: Jim Kamonzyn announced that the SENH checkbook balance was \$12,482.60
3. New Members: Linda McNair-Perry announced that two new associate members have been approved to join SENH.
4. UNH Career Day: Alexi Azodi announced that he would be representing SENH at the UNH Engineering, Technology & Business Internship & Career Fair on October 18, 2006. He plans to have a table to distribute flyers for those companies, who have advertised on the SENH website, and are interested in obtaining student interns or summer positions. There will be another opportunity to reach UNH students on February 28, 2007.
5. NH Emergency Management: Dr. Louis Klotz announced the program for the up coming Pre & Post Disaster Workshops scheduled to begin October 12, 2006. It is co-sponsored by SENH, ASCE, ACEC, NHSPE and BEM. It is an opportunity to receive 24 PDH even if the attendee does not wish to participate as an engineer reservist.
6. Special Inspection Seminar Announcement: Rich Roberts provided handouts announcing the up coming Special Inspection Seminar at the Wayfarer on October 18, 2006.

II. TECHNICAL PRESENTATION

Matthew R. Johnson, Esquire, Devine Millimet, Attorneys at Law, "Engineers as Expert Witness, Why it is not as bad as you Think".

What is an expert witness? A lay testimony is a witness of the facts. The lay witness saw the collapse and other related events. An expert witness renders opinion to the events. Why did the building collapse. The legal profession or the jury can not determine the cause of the collapse. They depend on the expert witness for an explanation. The expert gives their best opinion based on their available tools. The expert also plays a critical role for construction litigation. Regarding defective work, did the contractor perform his duties correctly? Did the engineer properly design the structure? Cases involving delay in claims, was the needed work properly identified? In the scope of work, were the back charges legitimate? The expert witness resolves all these issues. The engineer can contribute to the plaintiff counsel without appearing in court. They could investigate what went wrong. The evidence would shape the legal strategy. Should the lawyer proceed with the case or settle? The witness can direct the lawyers on whom to interview; what witness is giving correct testimony. The expert tells what the best way to present the facts. Often, if the expert witness does a good job, the trial will not happen. The role the expert witness plays in helping the defense council is similar to helping the plaintiff counsel. In addition, the expert could provide technical information that may rebut the plaintiff's expert. The rules regarding disclosure obligations on a federal and state level were explained. If the engineer is retained in counsel for preparation or pleading of the case, under the attorney work product privilege, the engineer identity is not accessible to the opposing side. In testifying, written report signed by the expert including all opinions and the grounds for them must be disclosed. Even the data considered in forming the opinions must be disclosed. The qualification and publications by the expert witness within the last 10 years also are disclosed to the opposing side. The fact that the expert was deposed or had testified in other cases during the last 4 years is disclosed. The compensation for the expert witness is independent of the outcome. New state statues are consistent with the federal statues. Some tips and traps for expert witness are that all written correspondence including email can be deposed. It is better if the engineer talks on the phone than to use email. Do not volunteer information when testifying. It is better to let your counsel control the information. If you need information, be sure to tell the attorney before going to court. Try to understand the legal process. The benefits of acting as an expert witness include new revenue to the engineer, professional development toward being an Arbitrator, contribution to the community in dispute resolution, and public confidence in the profession.

2.0 PDHs for the technical presentation were earned by attendees.

Respectfully submitted by Robert S. Busby, P.E., Secretary, SENH

NOVEMBER MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

NEXT MEETING: Thursday November 9, 2006

PRESENTATION: “Site Visit Guidelines for Structural Engineers”

Alex Blanco, Chief Underwriting Officer, Poole Professional Ltd.

What is your role on the job site? How should you conduct site visits? How should your site reports be written? This presentation will provide input from a liability control perspective.

PLACE: **The Sheraton Harborside**
250 Market St., Portsmouth, NH
Phone 431-2300

DIRECTIONS: I-95 to Exit 7, turn east on Market St. to the hotel. Take a right on to Russell Street at the traffic light in front of the hotel (over railroad tracks). Hotel parking is on the right.

AGENDA: 5:30 pm-6:30 pm Social Hour
6:30 pm-7:15 pm Dinner
7:15 pm-7:30 pm Business Meeting
7:30 pm-8:50 pm Presentation

DINNER: Buffet: Apple, cranberry and leek stuffed chicken, Moroccan BBQ salmon.

COST: Members of SENH and ASCE: \$45.00 Non-Member: \$50.00
Full Time Student: \$15.00

RSVP: by Friday, November 3, 2006
Please send check payable to “Structural Engineers of New Hampshire” with list of attendees to:

SENH
P.O. Box 226
Manchester, NH 03105-0226
Contact: Deb Coon, Administrative Assistant, (603) 669-5555

NOTE: 2.0 PDHs have been assigned for attendance to this program. Attendees are responsible for ensuring their check-in on the attendance list upon arrival at the meeting.



**STRUCTURAL ENGINEERS
OF NEW HAMPSHIRE**

P.O. Box 226
Manchester, NH 03105-0226

WE'RE ON THE WEB!
WWW.SENH.ORG

