

Structural Engineers of New Hampshire (SENH)



Submitted by: Robert H. Durfee, P.E., Delegate

Board of Directors:

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Year of Formation: 1995

Total Number of Members: 178

Annual Dues: \$ Member \$40.00 Assoc. Member \$35.00 Student \$20.00

Meeting Schedule: Five (5) regular meetings held throughout the year in September, November, January, March and May. One (1) technical seminar held in October or March

Delegate: Robert H. Durfee, P.E.

Alternate Delegate: Matthew J. Low, P.E.

List of Active Committees:

Legislative Liaison
Professional Development Committee
Joint Committee of N.H. Engineering Societies
Office of Emergency Management (OEM) Committee
Public Relations Committee
Special Inspections Committee
N.H. QBS Coalition
NCSEA Communications Committee

Previous Year's Activities:

The September 2005 meeting was a joint session with SEAVT where a presentation on "Traditionally Connected Heavy Timber Connections (Old and New)" was made. The presenter was Dr. Ben Brungraber, PhD, P.E., and SENH member.

The October 2005 day-long seminar included multiple presentations on "Light Gage Metal Framing" by the Steel Framing Alliance, NAHB Research Center and Hexport International.

The November 2005 meeting had a presentation by SGH, Inc. on "Site Class Determination & Structural Consideration for Seismic Design using IBC".

SENH hosted a meeting (co-sponsored by SSFNE and AISC) with a presentation of "A Look at the New AISC Specification for Structural Steel Buildings: What will be the impact on the designer?" by Louis F. Geschwindner, Ph.D., P.E.

The January 2006 meeting featured a presentation by PNA Construction Technologies on "Grade Supported Floor Slabs".

The March 2006 meeting was business practice oriented and featured a presentation by Zweig-White Consulting, Inc. on "Recruiting & Retaining Star Employees".

The June 2006 meeting was held at the University of New Hampshire (UNH) and included a presentation by the UNH Civil Engineering Department on "What to Expect from a UNH Graduate". The presenter was Dr. Raymond A. Cook, Associate Professor of Civil Engineering and SENH member.

SENH placed thirty five (35) NSCEA Structural Engineering Posters in local high schools in the spring.

The SENH Board tracked several bills on this year's legislative calendar. Below is a brief description of each bill.

- **HB 1142** – a measure establishing a committee to study whether a general business license should replace the licensure of trades and professions.

The bill was deferred to committee. SENH is monitoring this potential legislation.

SB-317 - the establishment of screening panels appointed by the professional organization representing the occupation or profession of the complainant. to review complaints to occupational and professional regulatory boards plus an additional appeals board to review decisions by occupational and professional regulatory boards.

SENH, present written opposition to SB-317 It is inconsistent for SENH, which has as its primary mission to advance the technical practice of structural engineers through meetings, seminars, and educational programs and to improve the professional, business, and administrative practices of structural engineering firms and consultants, to participate in potential disciplinary actions against its members or to sit in judgment of actions taken by the board that issues the professional licenses crucial to the practice of structural engineering. In addition, SENH had serious concerns relative to the proposed appeals board that would be comprised of members who would have no involvement or understanding of the occupation or profession for which they are hearing an appeal.

The bill was not passed by the House.

- **2006-S-2026-R** – adding the International Residential Code 2000 in the definition of the state building code.

SENH testified before the Senate Public and Municipal Affairs committee supporting the adoption of the International Residential Code. The International Residential Code has been adopted and went into effect starting July 8, 2006.

- **2006-H-2620-R** – a measure relative to membership on certain professional boards.
- **2006-H-2621-R** – a measure relative to the regulation of landscape architects.

SENH worked with the Landscaped Architects, and representatives from AIA, NHSPE, ASCE, and ACEC in refining the text in for the Landscape Architect licensing legislation. The Landscape Architecture Licensure Bill was passed.

Participating in this process has given SENH insight into the challenges that lie before us if, in the future, we decide to move forward with a Structural Engineering Practice Act. In

order to pass a Practice Act (separate license for Structural Engineers), we would need to develop a strong coalition with the other engineering societies in our state in addition to obtaining political support.

- **HB 1347** – a measure defining licensure, registration, or certification of regulated professions.

SENH participated in an amicus brief along with AIA, SENH, ACEC, ASCE and others in a case where the NH Supreme Court recently upheld the constitutionality of the Statute of Repose which had previously been deemed unconstitutional in Superior Court. For those who are not familiar with this statute, it states "...all actions to recover damages for injury to property, injury to the person, wrongful death or economic loss arising out of any deficiency in the creation of an improvement to real property, including without limitation the design, labor, materials, engineering, planning, surveying, construction, observation, supervision or inspection of that improvement, shall be brought within 8 years from the date of substantial completion of the improvement."

In the coming year, SENH is planning the following:

- The Professional Development Committee will continue to organize membership meetings that will be held in September, November, January, March and May with a variety of technical and business practice topics to be discussed.
- September 2006 meeting will be a joint meeting with ASCE-NH and cover "The Engineer as Expert Witness in New Hampshire".
- Fall 2006 training seminars with the New Hampshire Office of Emergency Management are being scheduled to provide training to the members in ATC-20, 21 & 45.
- Our January meeting will be related to a bridge topic and is coordinated with the NHDOT.
- Future meetings will include a presentation on "Special Inspections" and another in the "International Existing Building Code".