

**NCSEA Conference  
October 20-22, 2011  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma**

CONFERENCE REPORT  
Robert H. Durfee, P.E., SECB, SENH Delegate  
Alex Azodi, P.E., SECB, SENH

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The 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference was held in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. The conference was well attended with 39 of the 43 member organizations sending delegates. Five of the six New England states were represented by delegates (Rhode Island absent). Approximately 200 structural engineers and 38 vendors attended the conference with delegate spouses attending and participating in many social activities. Students from the University of Oklahoma and Oklahoma State University attended the Friday Technical Conference. Total attendance for the Conference peaked at approximately 350 attendees, the largest attendance of any Annual Conference. Of the total number of attendees, 151 were from the local organization, Oklahoma SEA.

Thursday, October 20th

Numerous NCSEA committees met during the morning session to work on their assigned topics.

- **Advocacy Committee**

Bob Durfee is co-chair of this Committee with Tom DiBlasi. Tom is vacating his co-chair position to become Present of NCSEA. Candidates are being sought to fill the vacant co-chair position. The Committee reviewed the recent accomplishments of the past year. Ongoing tasks include developing a new promotional poster, developing a Structural Engineer promotional brochure for clients, and preparing a PowerPoint presentation for High School students.

- **Basic Education Committee**
- **Code Advisory General Engineering Subcommittee**

The General Engineering Subcommittee of the Code Advisory committee met on Thursday to discuss the agenda items for the 2015 code cycle. Over thirty items ranging from snow removal on the roof to building height definitions to foundations underpinning were discussed. It was decided that the subcommittee needs to address and form position on nearly all of these issues. The subcommittee will be analyzing these issues in detail and will vote at the next meeting in New Orleans in December in order to present its positions at the ICC hearing in January 2012.

- **Code Advisory IS/QA Subcommittee**
- **Code Advisory Wind Engineering Subcommittee**
- **Licensing Committee**

The afternoon session had two (2) forums on subjects relevant to structural engineering. Forums included:

- Ethics In Structural Engineering, Barry Arnold, Presenter
  - Speaking to the Media, Gerry Bond, Presenter
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A parallel afternoon session offered software presentations by: RISA Technologies, CSC Inc., Structural Desktop, Inc., Bentley Systems, S-FRAME Software, Inc. & Design Data.

- **Opening Reception**

The opening reception and vendor exhibit was held from 6:00 to 8:00 pm. Thirty eight (38) exhibitors were present. Exhibitor booths covered numerous structural products and services including software, bolts & fasteners, concrete anchoring systems, concrete repairs, building codes and testing equipment, and building retrofit.

#### New England Coalition of Structural Engineer Associations

The Delegates and attendees from the New England States met from 8:30 pm to 11 pm at the Mickey Mantle Steak House restaurant for beverages and food, and to discuss issues common to the New England region. Coordinating and sharing technical speakers at member meetings, and scheduling an annual New England wide structural engineering conference (possibly in Worcester, MA) for 2012 was discussed. The delegate from SEAoNY attended this meeting, and after much discussion it was realized that New York shares many of the same issues and concerns as New England. It was decided to include SEAoNY in the coalition, and rename the coalition Northeast Coalition of Structural Engineer Associations.

#### Friday, October 21<sup>st</sup>

Numerous technical presentations were made throughout the day regarding structural engineering. Technical notes, outlines and Power Point files for all presentations will be posted on the NCSEA website. The following presentations were made:

##### Morning Session

- **International Structural Engineering Practice**, by Jim Cagley
- **Making Sense of the Rubble through Forensic Investigation after the OKC and 9/11 Attacks**, by Gene Corley
- **Forensic Design Panel Discussion**
- **Road & Bridge Devastation in VT & NH**, by Bob Durfee

##### Afternoon Session 1

- **The Building Code Process Today**, by Ron Hamburger
- **Building Code Panel discussion**
- **Specialty Structural Engineering – What I Learned After College**, by Bill Bast
- **Specialty Engineering Panel Discussion**

##### Afternoon Session 2

- **Investigation, Design & Construction for Renovation Projects**, by Craig Barnes
  - **Renovation Panel Discussion**
  - **How to Make Money in Structural Engineering**, by Marc Barter
  - **Business Issues Panel Discussion**
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## Evening Reception

An evening reception and dinner was held at The Oklahoma City Museum of Art.

### Saturday October 22<sup>nd</sup>

The conference agenda on Saturday morning consisted of NCSEA Committee Reports and the NCSEA Business Meeting. All committee reports will be posted on the NCSEA website.

- **Roll Call of Delegate and Member Organization Remarks**

During roll call 39 of the 43 member organizations were represented by the delegates.

- **Code Advisory Committee Report, *Ronald Hamburger, Chair***

Important goal has been to move structural requirements out of the building code and into consensus standards. ICC will now publish new codes on a 3 year cycle. Consensus standards moving to publish new standards a 5 year cycle.

- **SEER Committee Report, Scott Nacheman, Chair**

Will publish updated SEER Manual in 2012. Will complete and maintain list of MO's that have ATC-20 & 45 training.

- **Basic Education Report, *Craig Barnes, Chair***

National re-survey of engineering schools will be issued in October 2011. Publication of survey results schedule for STRUCTURE Magazine in 2013.

- **Continuing Education Report, *Mike Tylk, & Carrie Johnson, Co-Chairs***

Organized 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Winter Institute for January 2012 in New Orleans, LA. Offered 16 webinars over the past year. Offering 16 Hours SE Exam review course.

- **Licensing Committee Report, *Susan Jorgensen, Chair***

Of the 50 states and 4 territories, 49 now offer the NCEES 16-hour exam. Committee assisted NCSEA Board to develop "Proposed Policy of NCSEA on Separate Structural Engineering Licensure".

- **Publications Committee Report, Chun Lau**

Issued "Guide to the Design of Out-Of-Plane Wall Anchorage Based on the 2006/2009 IBC and ASCE/SEI 7-05." Created ½ day and full day course on the Guide. Drafted book titled "Inspection, Testing and Monitoring of Buildings and Bridges". Working on publication for sheet pile wall systems.

- **Advocacy Committee Report, *Bob Durfee, Co-Chair***

The Committee will be developing a new structural promotion poster theme, a PowerPoint presentation for promoting structural engineering to high school students,

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and a tri-fold promoting structural engineering to clients. The committee is seeking to fill 3 positions: Committee Co-Chair, Website Subcommittee Chair, and PowerPoint Group Leader.

- **Executive Director Report**, Jeanne Vogelzang
- **Communications & Partnering**, Ad Hoc Committee/Jim Malley, Chair
- **SECB Report**, Marc Barter, BOD

Current SECB certifications are 1,400. The Committee implemented on-line registration/re-certification this year.

- **Treasurer's Report**, *Ben Nelson, Treasurer*
  - Assets: \$731,035.00
  - 2011 Budget: \$890,800
  - 2011 Expenses \$889,914
  - NCSEA spends \$89/member for services to Structural Engineers
- **Proposed Changes to NCSEA LOGO**, by Tom DiBlasi

Changes to logo were presented and discussed. Current logo has text unreadable and not conducive for use on letterhead. Recommended changes generally agreed by Delegates.

- **Presentation of proposed NCSEA Policy on Separate Structural Engineering Licensure**, by Susan Jorgensen, Chair
- **Presentation on SEI Policy on SE Licensing**, by Sam Rihani
- **Licensure Discussion and Vote by Delegates on NCSEA Policy Separate Structural Engineering.**

Delegates voted unanimously to adopt the NCSEA Policy as proposed, without revision.

- **Breakout sessions**
    - Strategy Session 1
    - Strategy Session 2
    - Strategy Session 3
    - Strategy Session 4
  - **Regroup and summarize results of breakout sessions**
  - **NCSEA Board of Directors Meeting**
  - **Awards Banquet**
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Evening activities included a cocktail hour social and dinner/awards banquet. The Awards Committee received numerous project applications for awards. The Committee presented twenty four (24) awards for outstanding projects in eight (8) categories as follows:

- New Buildings Under \$10 Million
- New Buildings \$10 Million to \$30 Million
- New Building \$30 Million to \$100 Million
- New Buildings Over \$100 Million
- New Bridges and Transportation Structures
- International Structures over \$100 Million
- Forensic / Renovation / Retrofit / Rehabilitation Structures
- Other Structures

Award winners and their projects will be published in a future issue of Structure Magazine.

- **20<sup>th</sup> Annual NCSEA Conference**

Missouri (SEA of Kansas & Missouri) has been identified as the host of the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference which will be held on October 4-6, 2012, in St. Louis, MO.

### **Acknowledgements**

I would like to thank SENH for supporting registration, hotel and travel expensed for me to attend this conference as your delegate from New Hampshire. This year Alex Azodi again joined me in attending the conference and participated in many of the concurrent activities that were available. I wish to thank Alex for his participation.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Robert H. Durfee, P.E., SECB  
SENH Delegate

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