

**NCSEA Summit
September 14 -17, 2016
Orlando, Florida**

SUMMIT REPORT

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

The 24th Annual Structural Summit was held in Orlando, Florida, at the Disney's Contemporary Resort Conference Center. The Summit was well attended with 39 of the 42 member organizations sending delegates. Five of the six New England states were represented by delegates (Rhode Island absent). Approximately 210 structural engineers and 70 vendors/technical representatives attended the summit with delegate spouses attending and participating in many social activities. This was the largest and best attended of any Summit.

This year the summit technical sessions were over two full days, with dual track technical programs provided. Sessions were organized around many of the key issues that structural engineers face in their daily practice.

SENH Delegate Bob Durfee attended the summit, and also attended the Advocacy Committee meeting as a Committee Member. SENH Alternate Delegate Alex Azodi attended the summit, and also attended the Code Advisory Committee meeting as a Committee Member. SENH member Peter Griem attended the summit and attended the Code Advisory Committee meeting as a Committee Member. SENH member Fred Emanuel attended the summit as a practicing Structural Engineer.

NCSEA reimburses Committee Members travel costs and expenses to attend Committee meetings at the Summit (Bob Durfee, Alex Azodi & Peter Griem are members of NCSEA Committees).

Wednesday, September 14th

Numerous NCSEA committees met during the morning and afternoon sessions to work on their assigned topics.

▪ **Advocacy Committee**

Bob Durfee is a member of this Committee.

There are three Sub-Committees in Advocacy as follows:

- General Public & Media Subcommittee
- Code Officials & Government Agencies Subcommittee
- Students & Educators Subcommittee

Most of the meeting focused on a redefinition of the goals of this Committee. Much work has been accomplished by this Committee over the past 10-15 years. New tasks for the Committee to accomplish over the next 1-2 years was discussed.

It was felt that this Committee should be more effective in communicating to the Member Organizations (MO's) all the work that has been accomplished and the tools and resources that have been developed and are available to the MO's. An outreach plan was developed to

contact all MO's with similar Committees (Advocacy, Public Relations, Etc.) and find out how we can be of service and better network with MO's. Questions to ask:

- Is your MO Advocacy Committee active?
- What is your Committee doing?
- What do you need?

It was noted that the Students & Educators Subcommittee is developing a manual/guide to assist with forming Student Chapters within MO's. Manual should be published/available by spring, 2017. Also, it was reported that thirteen (13) Student Chapters already exist at the MO level.

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

Alex Azodi is a member of this Sub-Committee. There was a full day meeting focusing on the public comments for the Code Change Proposals for the 2018 code cycle. The Public comment hearings are scheduled for the second part of October 2016 and will be the final hearing for all the proposals involving a public comment. The sub-committee had to review and decide which public comment it must form a position for, against, or remain neutral. The result of this ICC public hearing will be incorporated in the 2018 code.

- **Continuing Education Committee**
- **Membership Committee**
- **Structural Engineer Licensure Committee**
- **Publications Committee**
- **Structural Engineers Emergency Response (SEER) Committee**
- **Young Member Group Support Committee**

- **Young Engineer Reception**

A significant contingent of young engineers (approximately 24) attended this year's summit. Young member attendance was again bolstered this year by eight (8) summit attendance scholarships awarded to young members by NCSEA. A reception was held from 4:30 to 5:30 pm for young members to meet, socialize and network with their colleagues and peers.

- **Evening Gala Event**

Attendees were treated to a social event at the Orlando Art Museum from 6:30 pm to 11:30 pm. Music, odouvers and other refreshments were provided. This event was sponsored by *Computers & Structures, Inc.* Many attendees attended this event and developed contacts with engineers from different states.

Thursday, September 15th

Thursday started with a Delegate Interaction Breakfast. The objective was to provide more person to person interactions between the Delegates.

- **Technical Presentations**

Numerous technical presentations were made throughout the day regarding structural engineering. Technical notes, outlines or Power Point files for all presentations are posted on the NCSEA website.

- **Northeast Coalition of Structural Engineer Associations (NECSEA) Meeting**

The Delegates and attendees from the Northeast States met from 4:30 pm to 6:00 pm during the Summit to discuss issues common to the Northeast region. Representatives from NY, NH, MA, ME, VT and CT were present. Bob Durfee, Alex Azodi and Peter Griem attended this meeting representing SENH. In all eighteen (18) structural engineers from the northeast attended and participated in this meeting.

The success of organizing, coordinating and presenting a seminar with speaks provided by the Northeast MO's was reviewed. A seminar titled: *2015 and Beyond - International Building Code Changes*, was held in Saco, ME on May 23, 2016. This seminar will be presented in January, 2017 in New York and February, 2017 in Connecticut. Dates and locations to be announced.

The coalition meeting schedule was discussed. There will be four meetings this year, two face to face meetings (NCSEA Summit and one regional meeting) and two via teleconference meetings. The next teleconference meeting is set for November 9th at noon. A new chair and secretary was established. For the coming year, CTSEC will be responsible for chairing the meetings (Rick Boggs) and recording and issuing meeting minutes.

Branding of the group was discussed. Lapel pins were distributed to attendees. Further branding (t-shirts, polo shirts, and hard hat stickers) was considered. Hard hat stickers was approved and will be distributed once available.

Discussion occurred on formalizing the group and establishing a legal non-profit entity, establish dues, etc. Further discussion on this topic postponed to next meeting.

- **Evening Exhibitor Reception**

An evening reception was held from 6:30 to 8:30 pm with the exhibitors. Forty one (41) exhibitor companies were present. Exhibitor booths covered numerous structural products and services including software, bolts & fasteners, steel products, concrete anchoring systems, concrete repairs, building codes and building retrofit. Summit attendees had access to exhibitors throughout the duration of the summit, exposing them to the latest products, software and tools for structural engineering practice. Attendees were encouraged to visit all exhibitors during breaks and at the Thursday evening reception, making them eligible to win raffle prizes at the end of the summit.

Friday, September 16th

The first part of the Friday was dedicated to another new session called the *Delegate Collaboration Session*. Several important issues affecting the practice of structural engineering were discussed and debated through a work shop style event. Conclusions were reported to the full membership during the Saturday business meeting.

- **Technical Presentations**

Numerous technical presentations were made throughout the day regarding structural engineering. Technical notes, outlines or Power Point files for all presentations are posted on the NCSEA website.

- **Awards Banquet**

Evening activities included a cocktail hour social and dinner/awards banquet. The dinner celebrated the best and brightest of our profession. The NCSEA Service Award was presented to Carrie Johnson for her longstanding contribution to the organization. David Bonowitz was presented the James M. Delahay Award in recognition of his years of service to the profession. The Robert Cornforth Award was presented to Bob Paullus (posthumously) for his longstanding contributions to TNSEA.

The Awards Committee received project applications for awards. The Committee presented sixteen (16) 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

These awards highlighted the amazing depth, breadth, creativity and technical skill demonstrated by firms of all sizes from across the country. (Details of all the winners can be found at the NCSEA website and in Structure magazine).

The banquet concluded with the changing of the guard of the NCSEA Board of Directors. Outgoing President Brian Dekker summarized the numerous accomplishments made by the organization during the past year, followed by incoming President Tom Grogan who discussed goals for the coming year. Tom then introduced the 2016-2017 NCSEA Board of Directors.

Saturday, September 17th

- **Committee Reports**

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

Each of the NCSEA Committee Chairs briefly summarized their activities during the year (presentations of each are posted on the committee pages on the NCSEA website).

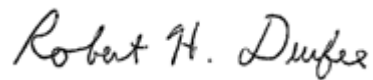
- **25th Annual NCSEA Structural Engineering Summit**

Washington D.C. and the Washington Hilton Hotel has been identified as the location of the 25th Annual Structural Summit which will be held on October 11-14, 2017.

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank SENH for supporting registration, hotel and travel expensed for me to attend this summit as your delegate from New Hampshire. This year Alex Azodi again joined me in attending the summit as your Alternate Delegate and participated in many of the concurrent activities that were available. Peter Griem attended and participate in several Committee meetings. I wish to thank Alex and Peter for their participation.

Respectfully Submitted,



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