The 15th Annual Conference was held in Philadelphia. The conference was well attended with 36 of the 41 member organizations sending delegates. For New England, all states were represented by delegates. Approximately 250 structural engineers and vendors attended the conference with delegate spouses attending and participating in many social activities. Of the total number of attendees, 53 were from the local organization SEA of Delaware Valley (Pennsylvania and Delaware).

**Thursday, October 11th**

The numerous NCSEA committees met during the day to work on their assigned topics.

- **Advocacy Committee**
  
  The NCSEA website overhaul has been completed. This year’s promotional poster (skyscraper theme) is finished, and will be distributed to the delegates.

- **Basic Education Committee**

- **Education Forum**

- **Licensing Forum**

  Although no formal presentation was given, the committee chair opened the forum with an update of states that are seeking practice and title acts. NCSEA continues to believe that a uniform structural engineering practice act in all 55 U.S. jurisdictions will strengthen the structural engineering community and improve public safety. Several states have enacted practice acts in recent years. Discussion was held regarding a recent meeting with the National Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE) regarding opposition to separate licensure for structural engineers. NCSEA is willing to help in the pursuit of practice acts if member organizations feel it is right in their state.

- **SEER Committee**

  SEA of California is the most organized. SEA of California developed their response team independently after realizing a deficit in the state response capabilities. Even though they were not actually recognized by California, the state called on SEA of California to respond after earthquakes. Shortly thereafter, they have become a staple in California’s response program. Tennessee has also had similar success in developing a state recognized response team. The toughest hurdle that each state faces is getting proper legislation passed offering “Good Samaritan” status to Structural Engineers responding during a declared emergency. NCSEA SEER Committee stands ready to assist Member Organizations develop recognized teams.
• **Opening Reception**

The opening reception and vendor exhibit was held from 6:00 to 8:00 pm. Twenty-nine (29) exhibitors were present. Exhibitor booths covered numerous structural products and services including software, concrete, steel, timber, building codes and anchoring systems.

**Friday, October 12th**

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


  10:00 a.m.  Track 1 -- Renovation of Philadelphia City Hall Case Study  
  Carl Baumert PE, Keast & Hood, Nan R. Gutterman, AIA, Vitetta  
  Track 2 -- Working with Historic Buildings – Historic Materials and Methods  
  Dean Doukakis PE, Keast & Hood

  11:00 a.m.  Track 1 – Façade Restoration Case Study (Ritz Carlton)  
  David Beebee PE, Christopher McDermott, Diane Duncheshie O'Donnell & Naccarrato  
  Track 2 – What to Survey When Working with Older Structures  
  Suzanne Pentz, Keast & Hood

  12:00 noon Lunch sponsored by Vulcraft of New York, Inc.

  12:45 p.m. Design, Usage, and Applications for Composite Steel Joists  
  Perry S. Green, PhD, Steel Joist Institute

  1:45 p.m. Track 1 – Waterfront Development Challenges  
  Richard Long, Hudson Engineers  
  Track 2 – Quality Assurance  
  Cliff Schwinger PE, The Harman Group

  2:30 p.m. Track 1 – Electronic Documentation and Record Management – Panel Discussion  
  Moderators – Gerard Gioia PE, Jacobs Jared Loos PE, Ewing Cole  
  Track 2 – Masonry Design Basics  
  Dr. Franklin Moon, Drexel University

  4:00 p.m. Track 1 – Testing and Inspection Trends and Technology  
  Andrew Pennoni PE, Pennoni Assoc. (tentative commitment)  
  Track 2 – Continuing Education and Registration Trends  
  Sue Frey PE, CH2M Hill
• **Evening Reception**

An evening reception and dinner was held at the Top of the Tower, a restaurant banquet facility on the 50th floor of a downtown skyscraper. The dinner honored the NCSEA founding Directors and founding President, Jim Cagley, P.E., and past Presidents of NCSEA.

**Saturday October 13th**

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. Two (2) technical presentations were also made during the Saturday agenda.

• **Innovation in Mid-Rise Construction Projects:** The FORTACRETE Structural Panel Floor System, Frank Pospisil, PE, USG Company, by Brian Quinn

• **Roll Call of Delegate**

During roll call 36 of the 41 member organizations were represented by the delegates. Structural Engineers Association of Alaska (SEAAK) is the newest member organization to form and join NCSEA in 2007.

• **Code Advisory Committee Report,** by Ron Hamburger

An update of the status of the IBC Code was made. The goal of the Code Advisory Committee is to have one set of structural provisions for the entire county. To date IBC has been adopted by most states.

Numerous changes are being proposed by several national organizations. The website [www.iccsafe.org](http://www.iccsafe.org) tabulates code change proposals.

This committee is seeking members from northern New England (ME, NH, or VT) for the seismic sub-committee.

• **Advocacy Committee Report,** by Dave Adams

The Advocacy Committee goal is to improve and enhance the image of the structural engineering profession. The committee re-designed the NCSEA website to be more user friendly. The committee has developed two (2) a Power Point Presentations on structural engineering for the high school student audience. A new structural engineering poster (skyscraper theme) has been developed and was handed out to all delegates. SENH obtained forty (40) posters to provide to guidance councilors or math and science teachers at schools in our state.

• **Continuing Education Committee Report,** by Mike Tylk

The 9th Annual Winter Institute has been set for February 29 to March 1, 2008 in Austin, Texas. This two (2) day Institute will present seminars on the 2006 IBC seismic provisions. More information on the Institute including registration information and hotel accommodations can be found on the NCSEA website [www.ncsea.com](http://www.ncsea.com).
The Diamond Review Program is up and running. This program approves presenters that are certified and qualified to make presentations under the numerous continuing education requirements of the many states that require Continuing Education Units (CEUs) or Professional Development Hours (PDHs).

NCSEA will be offering several web-seminars in the coming year including: masonry, wind, concrete shear walls and others.

- **Licensing Committee Report**, by Susan Jorgensen
  This committee assists with member organizations wishing to implement a Practice Act in their State.

- **SEER Committee Report**, by Bill Hollis
  This committee offers ATC-20 and ATC-45 training. This committee assists with implementing good samaritan laws in each state.

- **Publications Committee Report**, by Tim Bates
  Structure Magazine is now the premium structural publication in the country. Member Organizations and their members are encouraged to send articles, suggestions, letters, etc. to the editor.

- **Treasure’s Report**, by Davy Biecker
  The 2007-08 budget was presented. The total budget is $617,575.
  NCSEA has some new administrative staff.

- **Basic Education Committee Report**, by Craig Barnes
  The committee is resurveying the 288 engineering colleges and universities in 2007-2008 for compliance with the basic education requirements recommended by NCSEA. Alumni from each collage and university is being sought to assist in contacting a university to have a survey completed. SENH provided nine (9) volunteer members to serve as liaisons to their Alma Mater and assist schools to complete the survey. SENH’s efforts and support was acknowledged at the conference.

- **Report on the NCSEA Strategic Plan**, by Greg Robinson
  The major goals of the Strategic Plan are:
  - Uniform Continuing Education Requirements
  - Diamond Review Program
  - Instituting Practice Acts in every state and jurisdiction
  - Placing at least one (1) structural engineer on each state licensing board
  - Developing a Code of Ethics for NCSEA and its members
  - Preparing a National Emergency Response Program
The entire plan is to be implemented by 2011. To date, more than half of the goals identified in the plan have been achieved or implemented.

- **Ethics Committee Report**, by William Bast

  This is a new committee, first formed and met on 1/25/07.

- **Structural Engineering Certification Board (SECB) Report**, by Ron Hamburger

  The Certification Board has reviewed credentials and issued certifications to over 1,000 structural engineers to date. The Board reviews applications three (3) times per year (March, July and November).

  The Board is now reviewing recertification/renewals of Board Certified Structural Engineers, including continuing education compliance. To date, 900 engineers have been recertified.

  The Board is in its third year of certification. The grandfather clause will close in July 2008. After this closing, all applicants must take and pass the SE II exam.

  Visit the Board website at [www.secertboard.org](http://www.secertboard.org) for more information.

- **Concrete Contributions to Green Buildings**, by Michael Mota, P.E., Portland Cement Association

  Ten (10) states now have green building laws or regulations.

  Visit the PCA website at [www.cement.org](http://www.cement.org) for more information on this presentation.

- **NCSEA Workshop: Taking Your Association to the Next Level**

  The Plenary Session was organized by the NCSEA Board with all member organization delegates participating. The goal of the exercise was for member organizations to share with each other what works and what doesn’t in organizing and growing their membership.

  Delegates were able to participate in five (5) workshops which met separately to identify ways to grow and organization. Workshops included:

  - Recruiting new members and board members
  - Benefits offered to members
  - Establishing chapter organizations within a state organization
  - Recruiting younger members
  - Meeting formats that work

  The plenary session report will be available on the NCSEA website.
• **Awards Banquet**

Evening activities included a cocktail hour social and dinner/awards banquet. The Awards Committee received approximately 40 project applications for awards. The Committee presented fifteen (15) awards for outstanding projects in five (5) categories as follows:

- New Buildings (Over 100 Million in Construction)
- New Buildings (100 Million to 30 Million in Construction)
- New Buildings (Under 30 Million in Construction)
- Bridges and Transportation Structures
- Other Structures

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

• **16th Annual NCSEA Conference**

Cleveland, Ohio has been identified as the host of the 16th Annual Conference which will be held on October 23 – 25, 2008. Two (2) full days of technical presentations are planned for this conference.

**Acknowledgements**

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

Respectfully Submitted,

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