The 20th Annual Conference was held in St. Louis, Missouri. The conference was well attended with 37 of the 43 member organizations sending delegates. Four of the six New England states were represented by delegates (Rhode Island & Vermont absent). Approximately 200 structural engineers and 42 vendors attended the conference with delegate spouses attending and participating in many social activities.

This year the conference technical sessions were expanded to two full days. The general theme of the conference was “Design Trends for the Future”. Sessions were organized around many of the key loading elements that structural engineers face in their daily practice.

SENH Member Alex Azodi attended the conference, and also attended the Code Advisory Committee meeting as a Committee Member. SENH member Fred Emanuel attended the conference as a Structural Engineer.

Wednesday, October 3rd

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

- Advocacy Committee

Rick Boggs and Brain Decker are now co-chairs of this Committee. Bob Durfee remains on the Committee as a member. Some of the accomplishments of the subcommittees over the past year are:

- **Clients & Prospects Subcommittee** completed a promotional brochure for structural engineers (brochure posted on NCSEA website).
- **General Public & Media Subcommittee** produced a PowerPoint presentation entitled “Creating Good Media Relationships” and a white paper entitled “Writing a Press Release”. (Presentation and paper posted on NCSEA website).
- **Code Officials & Government Agencies Subcommittee** prepared three (3) white papers entitled “When are Geotechnical Reports Required?”, Structural Code Requirements for Modifying Existing Buildings”, and “When is it Permissible to Reduce Roof Live Loads?”. (Papers posted on NCSEA Website).
- **Students & Educators Subcommittee** produced a PowerPoint presentation entitled “What is Structural Engineering?”, and published a new promotional poster.

- Basic Education Committee

- Code Advisory General Engineering Subcommittee

Alex Azodi is a member of this Committee.
Code Advisory Committee had a very busy year working on the changes submitted for the 2015 code cycle. The committee started with over 300 code change proposals. During this meeting, the focus was to discuss the results of the first ICC public hearing. 78 public comments were reviewed and discussed during this meeting and the committee position was decided on these items for the final hearing. Chairman and/or other members of this committee routinely attend the ICC public hearings and speak in favor or against the changes that affect the structural engineering community. The 2015 code cycle is now closed to any further structural code change proposals. Focus of this committee in the next year will be on the changes to IRC and the proposals for code changes for the next IBC code cycle.

- Code Advisory Wind Engineering Subcommittee
- International Code Council Evaluation Services (ICC-ES) Structural Hearings
- Licensing Committee
- SECB Board

Evening SECB Reception

The SECB (Structural Engineer Certification Board) reception was held from 6:30 to 8:30 pm. SECB Chairman Greg Soules informed the attendees that new certification procedures for existing Structural Engineers with P.E. registration will be offered starting in January 2013.

Thursday, October 4th

- Technical Presentations

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

NCSEA Code Advisory Committee (CAC) Chair Ron Hamburger began the morning session by presenting an overview of the topic, followed with more specific presentations by CAC subcommittee chairs on ASCE 7 Wind Provisions by Don Scott, seismic anchorage using ACI Appendix D by Kevin Moore, strength design of masonry by Ed Huston, and a summary of the ICC-ES process by Bill Warren, along with Jim Collins of ICC-ES. These presentations highlighted recently completed or upcoming changes to the standards documents that will impact practice.

The morning session wrapped up with a keynote session by Larry Griffis, Senior Principal and President of the Structures Group at Walter P. Moore. The title of Larry’s presentation was “Structural Engineering Practice – Instilling a Culture of Discipline”. Larry’s presentation was simulcast live on the web by NCSEA through equipment graciously provided by ICC-ES. Larry’s presentation focused on sixteen recommendations that engineers should follow to help avoid problems in design. The video of Larry’s presentation is available from the link under NCSEA Conferences and Institutes on the NCSEA homepage (www.ncsea.com).
The afternoon session turned to snow and tornado loadings. Professor Mike O’Rourke of RPI provided an excellent presentation on the basis for the snow loading requirements in ASCE 7, followed by a very interesting talk by Joe Zona of SGH on observations related to the numerous roof collapses that occurred during the epic New England snow storms during the winter of 2010-2011. The day closed with a fascinating discussion of the effects of the tragic Joplin Tornado by SEAKM members Randall Bernhardt and Malcolm Carter. The SEAKM task force team generated a list long list of recommendations that will help to limit the effects of future tornadoes. These recommendations can be found online.

- **Evening Exhibitor Reception**

  An evening reception was held from 6:30 to 8:30 pm with the exhibitors. Forty two (42) exhibitor companies 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. Conference attendees had access to exhibitors throughout the duration of the conference, exposing them to the latest products, software and tools for structural engineering practice. Attendees were encouraged to visit all exhibitors during breaks and the Thursday evening reception, making them eligible to win raffle prizes at the end of the conference.

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

  The Delegates and attendees from the New England States and New York met from 8:30 pm to 10 pm at Cardwell’s Bricktop restaurant for beverages and food, and to discuss issues common to the Northeast region. Technical issues common to the coordinating and sharing technical speakers at member meetings was discussed. The collation decided to focus on seismic provisions of the IBC code in the coming year. It was generally agreed that the current seismic provisions of the code is not practice for conditions experienced in the northeast. The Coalition will attempt to influence changes in the code for application to northeast conditions.

**Friday, October 5**

- **Technical Presentations**

  Friday’s conference session opened with reports by the state Member Organization delegates. Each report highlighted ongoing activities and areas where the states could share information that would be mutually beneficial.

  After these reports, the session turned to the latest developments in seismic design. Jon Heintz of the Applied Technology Council summarized the important takeaways from five ATC projects
that addressed system qualification, weak ground story wood frame structures, nonlinear analysis modeling techniques, ground motion selection and scaling, and soil-foundation structure interaction.

Ron Hamburger then provided a more detailed description of the ATC 58 project which is establishing the next generation of tools for Performance Based Seismic Engineering. This theoretically rigorous approach recognizes the inherent uncertainty of all facets of earthquake engineering, and provides the framework and mechanism for a tool that should serve our profession for decades to come.

The final portion of the technical conference, presented by NCSEA Publications Committee chair Tim Mays, summarized the contents of two existing (Diaphragms and Wall Anchorage) and two soon to be completed (Serviceability and Foundation Design) NCSEA publications. Tim presented selected example problems from each of the documents to highlight the practical approach followed in all NCSEA documents, which are written in a manner that will make them immediately useful to the practicing engineer.

**Awards Banquet**

Evening activities included a cocktail hour social and dinner/awards banquet. The dinner celebrated the best and brightest of our profession. NCSEA Service Awards were presented to Emile Troup and Mike Tylk for their longstanding contributions to the organization. Jim Robinson was presented the James M. Delahay Award in recognition of his years of service to the profession as the S.E. member of the ICC Code Committee. Ron Milmed was presented with the Robert C. Cornforth Award for his contributions to the growth and success of the Florida SEA. New to the awards banquet this year were three conference scholarships and recognition of the winners: Heather Anesta of FSEA, Emily Gulielmo of SEAC and Dallin Pedersen of SEAU.

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

These awards highlighted the amazing depth, breadth, creativity and technical skill demonstrated by firms of all sizes from across the country. ([Details](#) and a [PowerPoint presentation](#) of all the winners can be found at these links and on the NCSEA website home)
The banquet concluded with the changing of the guard of the NCSEA Board of Directors. Outgoing President Tom DiBlasi of SEA-CT summarized the numerous accomplishments made by the organization during the year, followed by incoming President Ben Nelson of SEAC who surprised the crowd with a brief on-key serenade to President DiBlasi, prior to his acceptance speech, which drew an analogy between his two passions of music and structural engineering. Ben then introduced the 2012-2013 NCSEA Board of Directors:

Williston Warren, Director (SEAOC)  Thomas Grogan, Director (FSEA)
Brian Dekker, Director (SEAOI)  Mark D’Amato, Director (SEAW)
Joe Luke, Secretary, (SEAOT)  Barry Arnold, Treasurer (SEAU)
Carrie Johnson, Vice President, (OSEA)  Ben Nelson, President (SEAC)
Tom DiBlasi, Immediate Past President (SEA-CT)

Saturday, October 6th

- **Committee Reports**

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.

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), followed by reports by NCSEA Executive Director Jeanne Vogelzang which focused on how NCSEA measures up to the most successful professional organizations, and the Treasurer’s report by Barry Arnold which summarized the existing financial state of the organization.

The highlight of the morning was the presentation by young member Heather Anesta who summarized a new document on how to establish Young Member Groups. Heather’s enthusiasm and passion were infectious to all in attendance. Immediate Past President Jim Malley wrapped up the meeting by summarizing the results of the year-long Ad Hoc effort on Communication and Collaboration, listing a number of recommendations that will soon be delivered in a final report to the 2012-2013 NCSEA Board of Directors.

- **21st Annual NCSEA Conference**

Georgia (SEA of Georgia) has been identified as the host of the 21st Annual Conference which will be held on September 18-21, 2013, in Atlanta.

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 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,

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