

**NCSEA Conference
October 23 – 25, 2008
Cleveland, OH**

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

The 16th Annual Conference was held in Cleveland. The conference was well attended with 36 of the 41 member organizations sending delegates. For New England, five of the six states were represented by delegates (Vermont was absent). Approximately 230 structural engineers and vendors attended the conference with delegate spouses attending and participating in many social activities. Of the total number of attendees, 71 were from the local organization SEA of Ohio.

Thursday, October 23rd

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

- **SI / QA Code Committee Meeting**
- **Ethics Forum**
- **Licensing Forum**
- **Continuing Education Forum**

A full day of technical track was offered. This track was prepared by SEA of Ohio, with the theme “**Preparing the Structural Engineer for the Challenges of Tomorrow**”.

- **Steel Solutions,**
Kurt Gustafson, S.E., P.E., AISC
 - **The New Shear Wall Design Guide for Cold Formed Steel**
Jeff Ellis, P.E., S.E., Simpson/SFA
 - **Lateral Resistance of Wood Structures and Design Tools for Residential Wood Decks.**
Robert Taylor, PhD, P.E., AFPA/AWC
 - **World Trade Center Study and Progressive Collapse.**
Shyam Sunder, Ph.D., Fahim Sadek, Ph.D., N.I.S.T.
 - **A Tool Box You Can Actually Use for Risk Management**
Doug Ashcraft, P.E., S.E.; Corey Matsuoka, P.E., CASE
 - **Welding Experience**
Duane Miller, Sc.D., P.E. Lincoln Electric
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- **Welding experience at Lincoln Electric Plant.**

Buses transported attendees to Lincoln Electric for welding demonstrations of five methods of welding, with the opportunity for the attendees to try each welding method.

- **Opening Reception**

The opening reception and vendor exhibit was held from 6:30 to 8:30 pm. Twenty-eight (28) exhibitors were present. Exhibitor booths covered numerous structural products and services including software, concrete, steel, timber, building codes and anchoring systems.

Friday, October 24th

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:

- **BIM & Structural Documentation**, by Jason Reichel, P.E., Bentley Systems

Review of Bentley Systems software and incorporating BIM issues.

- **Megatrends That Matter**, by Jan Tuchman, Editor-in-Chief, ENR

Construction is expected to be down in 2009 after big increases in previous years.

- **Midrise Construction with Cold Formed Steel**, by Don Allen P.E., SFA

This session was well received. Five recent and current projects up to five stories were discussed. Use of cold-formed steel as a material of construction has gained a lot of popularity nation-wide for variety of reasons including availability, economy, strength, ease of construction, and green building advantages. Various ways to simplify general detailing of this type of material were discussed.

- **The Ten Commandments**, by Paula Selvaggio, PLAN

A review of claims against consultants Professional Liability Insurance Policy was made.

10. Develop a Dispute Resolution Strategy.
 9. Get help early fro your insurer on potential claims.
 8. Manage your accounts receivables.
 7. Have a QA/QC Program.
 6. Know your project team capabilities.
 5. Document and confirm.
 4. Provide full services.
 3. Carefully choose your clients and projects.
 2. Keep communication going.
 1. Always use a written contract.
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- **Introduction to Standard Development and ASCE 7 Changes**, by Jim Rossberg P.E., ASCE/SEI

Next edition of ASCE-7 in 2010. There will be major revisions to the seismic and wind provisions.

New errata for ASCE-7 is routinely published by ASCE. Get the latest ASCE 7-05 errata at www.seinstitute.org/publications.

- **Concrete Roundtable Discussion**, by Tony Johnson, CRSI

A discussion between contractors, rebar fabricators, detailers and SE's was held. The subject focused on shop drawings, timeliness of SE reviews and responsibilities for each party involved in the process.

- **Dubai Tower-World's Tallest Building**, by Brad Young, S.O.M.

A review of construction progress on this cast-in-place concrete building was made.

- **Evening Reception**

An evening reception and dinner was held at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, located in downtown Cleveland. A self guided tour of the museum followed dinner.

Saturday October 25th

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.

- **The 3 S's – Structural Engineers, Sustainability and Steel**, by John Cross, P.E., ASCE

The advantages of steel in LEED buildings was presented.

- **Roll Call of Delegate**

During roll call 36 of the 41 member organizations were represented by the delegates. Planning is for the creation a new member organization, SEA of Western Pennsylvania.

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

An update of the status of the IBC Code was made. The next code issue will be IBC 2009.

Numerous changes are being proposed by several national organizations. The website www.iccsafe.org tabulates code change proposals.

Changes to the 2009 code will include:

- Structural observation of wind force resisting systems
- Reorganization of Chapter 18 – Foundations
- Simplified wind load provisions
- Prefabricated trusses
- Live load reduction methods
- SER will not be a conflict of interest for performing Special Inspections
- Reorganization of Chapter 34 – Existing Structures

- **Basic Education Committee Report**, by Craig Barnes

The committee will be resurveying the 288 engineering colleges and universities in 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.

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

The 10th Annual Winter Institute has been set for January 23 - 24, 2009 in Miami, Florida. This two (2) day Institute will present seminars on the ASCE-7 Wind provisions. More information on the Institute including registration information and hotel accommodations can be found on the NCSEA website www.ncsea.com.

The Diamond Review Program is very active. 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). Diamond Review programs are now accepted by New York and Florida PE Boards.

NCSEA will be offering several web-seminars in the coming year.

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

NCSEA has adopted a Code of Ethics. MO's are encouraged to develop and adopt a similar code.

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

This committee assists with member organizations wishing to implement a Practice Act in their State.

Six (6) member organizations have expressed interest in pursuing separate licensing in their State. Member Organizations are: Montana, Alaska, South Carolina, New York and Missouri.

NCEES is moving towards a single, 16 hour structural exam.

- **Publications Committee Report**, by Tim Mayes

Structure Magazine continues to be the premium structural publication in the country. Member Organizations and their members are encouraged to send articles, suggestions, letters, etc. to the editor.

- **SEER Committee Report**, by David Swanson

This committee offers ATC-20 and ATC-45 training. This committee assists with implementing good samaritan laws in each state.

Each member organization is requested to provide a primary and secondary Structural Engineering Emergency Response (SEER) contact for their organization. NCSEA/SEER committee will create and emergency contact tree.

- **Treasure's Report**, by Jim Malley

The 2008-09 budget was presented. The total budget is \$830,508.02.

NCSEA has some new administrative staff last year and is proposing to add one (1) new position this year.

- **Report on the NCSEA Strategic Plan**, by Ed Huston

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
- Develop a Code of Ethics for NCSEA and its members
- Preparing a National Emergency Response Program
- Improve building codes
- Establish a formal Degree Program
- Develop a policy on the technical role of the SE in Quality Assurance

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.

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

The Certification Board has reviewed credentials and issued certifications to over 1,700 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.

The Board is in its fourth year of certification. The grandfather clause closed in July 2008. All new applicants must take and pass the SE II exam.

Visit the Board website at www.secertboard.org for more information.

- **New England Delegation**

During lunch delegates and attendees from the five New England states present (Vermont absent) met informally to discuss improved communications, sharing of ideas and resources, and acknowledging areas of common interest and concern. The group proposed a meeting this fall or winter with the President from each member organization. The purpose of this meeting will be to formalize communication between the state member organizations and possibly create a New England Council of Structural Engineers Associations.

- **Engineering to Green Buildings**, by Martha VanGreen

New buildings in the USA use three times more energy than European buildings. The main benefit for green buildings is energy cost savings/reductions. LEED does not have minimum requirements for new buildings, but will eventually propose minimums.

- **NCSEA Plenary Sessions on Code Advisory**

The Code Advisory Committee (CAC) conducted plenary sessions on the purpose and direction of the CAC as it relates to future activities of the International Code Committee (ICC) and practicing Structural Engineers. Five (5) plenary break-out sessions were held with discussions, as well as Q&A in each session. Breakout sessions were conducted based on the CAC Subcommittees as follows:

- **Breakout Session I** Seismic Provisions
- **Breakout Session II** Existing Buildings / Structural Retrofit
- **Breakout Session III** General Engineering
 - The main and hot topic discussed was structural observation during the construction phase; after much debate and discussion it was the consensus of the group that observation by structural engineer should be added to chapter 17 for all building and structural requiring structural engineering. This will be send to ICC for consideration in 2012 IBC.
- **Breakout Session IV** Special Inspection / Quality Assurance
- **Breakout Session V** ICC Evaluation Service Advisory Committee
 - Various topics were briefly examined. These topics will be further debated and discussed by the committee members throughout the next year for final submission to ICC
- **Wrap-up of CAC Session**

- **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)
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- 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.

- **17th Annual NCSEA Conference**

Scottsdale, Arizona has been identified as the host of the 17th Annual Conference which will be held on October 15 – 17, 2009. 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 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,

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