



### **NCSEA 2005 Business Meeting to Feature Strategic Plan Preparation**

NCSEA is about to embark on a strategic planning process. The purpose of this strategic plan is to guide the organization's activities over the next three to five years. Once in place, the strategic plan will assist the Board in determining which activities should be included in NCSEA's annual budgets and where and how the organization should concentrate its limited volunteer and financial resources.

This strategic planning process will be initiated with a series of brainstorming sessions at the October 2005 annual business meeting in Kansas City. This will be your opportunity, personally or through your Delegate, to have a say in where you think NCSEA should concentrate its efforts in the next 5 years. Should NCSEA continue to pursue adoption of structural practice act licensing in the 55 U.S. jurisdictions? Should we expand our continuing education programs? Should we develop an aggressive public relations campaign to elevate the public's view of structural engineers? Should we develop a legislative action program to affect tort reform in the U.S.?

Please consider the opportunities within your member organizations and bring your ideas to Kansas City.

### **New Code Advisory Committee Chair**

David Bonneville, SE, a Senior Principal of Degenkolb Engineers, San Francisco, California, was appointed by the Board of Directors to chair the NCSEA Code Advisory Committee. In this role, David will act as NCSEA's delegate to the International Code Council's Industry Advisory Committee. This is a critical role, in that it is the vehicle by which NCSEA expresses opinions on the processes and procedures used by the ICC in revising and adopting code provisions. It is through the actions of past NCSEA delegates that ICC adopted rules that provided for practicing structural

engineers to sit on the ICC committees, providing us direct access to the code-making process.

In addition to the important position on ICC's Industry Advisory Committee, the Code Advisory Committee Chair will be responsible for coordinating with the standards development organizations, to provide NCSEA access to their processes, and also for coordinating NCSEA's four Code Advisory subcommittees: Existing Buildings, General Engineering, Seismic, and Quality Assurance. Over the past six years these four subcommittees have been instrumental in assuring that ICC and NFPA adopted provisions in the building codes that structural engineers deemed acceptable and appropriate.

David is replacing Jim Delahay, who passed away unexpectedly on April 16 of this year. Prior to his untimely demise, Jim was working on two important initiatives. One was the development of a comprehensive Policies and Procedures document that will govern the rules and operating procedures for the various NCSEA Code Advisory subcommittees. The second involved working with the several organizations that develop structural engineering standards, including ACI, AFPA, AISC, ASCE, and TMS, to assist in identifying and resolving conflicts between their various standards and the codes. This latter initiative would include assisting in coordinating the calendars by which these standards are revised, so that they are better coordinated with each other and the codes that reference them and, also, so that they better serve the needs of the practicing design professional.

David takes on this new position after serving for a number of years as chair of the Seismic Subcommittee of the Code Advisory Committee. Prior to his work with the Seismic Subcommittee, David was an active member of SEAOC's seismology committee. He is also a member of the ASCE-7 Seismic Task Committee and BSSC's Code Resource Support Committee. In these various roles, David has appeared frequently at the ICC Code Hearings, speaking on behalf of these professional organizations.



In this past code cycle, David was an active member of the coalition that formed between NCSEA, ASCE/SEI and BSSC to support removal of technical provisions from the building code, deferring instead to the requirements of the referenced design standards. In the course of this effort, David also assisted NCSEA in obtaining travel support funding for our Seismic Subcommittee from the Building Seismic Safety Council.

Past chairs of the NCSEA Code Advisory Committee include Rawn Nelson and Jim Delahay, both of whom were instrumental in making the committee's work one of our organization's most significant accomplishments. We look forward to the continued success of this committee under David's leadership.

### **NCSEA Provides Input to NIST on WTC Report**

In the spring of 2002, Congress charged the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) with (i) the responsibility of conducting a detailed investigation of the collapse of the twin towers of New York's World Trade Center, and the adjacent WTC-7 building, following the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, and (ii) recommending needed improvements to design and construction practice. Over the next three years, NIST conducted extensive investigations into many aspects of this disaster, including interviews of witnesses, collection and analysis of photo and video evidence, laboratory testing of samples of the collapsed buildings, fire testing of components similar to those comprising the buildings, and detailed analytical simulations of the aircraft impacts and resulting fires, and the response of the structures to these loadings.

In June of 2005, NIST published a draft version of its recommendations on its website. The recommendations were broad sweeping in their content and ranged from structural design, fire protection engineering, emergency egress requirements, and emergency response procedures

to education of design professionals. NCSEA, in cooperation with the American Institute of Architects, conducted a review of the 30 individual NIST recommendations and provided comment to NIST on August 4, as requested by the agency.

NCSEA's response to the NIST recommendations was developed by the General Engineering Subcommittee of the Code Advisory Committee, under the chairmanship of Subcommittee chair and NCSEA Board member, Ed Huston. In addition to members of the subcommittee, several other engineers and building officials were invited to participate, resulting in a total of 15 persons who assisted in developing the NCSEA response. Initially, the committee developed a comment and response to each of the 30 NIST recommendations. At the request of the NCSEA Board, however, the NCSEA official response was limited to items in which structural engineers have particular knowledge and expertise. NCSEA's comment on other issues was coordinated with AIA, but not directly expressed. The following is the text of the NIST recommendations to which NCSEA responded, together with NCSEA's response. A full version of the NIST recommendations can be obtained from the NIST web site at [www.NIST.gov/WTC](http://www.NIST.gov/WTC). The NCSEA response to the NIST recommendations can be found at [www.NCSEA.com](http://www.NCSEA.com).