



Greetings: Structural Moments is an occasional newsletter from the NCSEA President to Delegates and Officers of the Member Organizations. It permits the NCSEA Board to communicate with our members on matters of importance to the Association and our ongoing activities. Under some Presidents, this newsletter was published monthly. More recently, it has fallen by the wayside. I believe it is important to keep communication going, so I am attempting to revive it. Not willing to commit to a monthly message, I have renamed the publication "Structural Moments" instead of "Monthly Moments." I hope you find it useful. Please feel free to share this newsletter and information contained in it with other members of your association.

NCSEA Board Seeks to Visit Associations

As part of the Board's ongoing campaign to establish closer relationships between NCSEA and our member organizations, we are encouraging the member associations to invite an NCSEA Board Member to visit at one of the member association's Board and/or dinner meetings. The NCSEA Board member will report on news of the national association and also bring back to the NCSEA Board an understanding of the issues of importance to our membership. An NCSEA Board member should already have contacted your Association. If this has not happened and you would like to arrange for an NCSEA Board member visit, please contact Jeanne Vogelzang at the Executive Office to arrange for this to happen. Jeanne can be reached at 312-649-4600, extension 201.

NCSEA to Publish Member Organization News in Structure

Each month, 30,000 structural engineers receive STRUCTURE, the official joint publication of NCSEA, CASE and SEI. Originally started as an Association newsletter, the magazine has grown far beyond this, and today many structural engineers view STRUCTURE as a primary source of

information on important news of the profession, as well as articles on noteworthy projects and technical developments. In each issue, NCSEA, CASE and SEI have several pages dedicated to providing Association news. NCSEA would like to use NCSEA News to broadcast important information generated by our member organizations. Is your Structural Engineering Association having an annual meeting? A seminar? Have you developed a publication on a technical issue? If so, NCSEA can help get the word out to 30,000 of your peers. We encourage you to keep us informed of timely events that would be of interest to other structural engineers. Just send the information, by note or email, to the attention of our Executive Director. Please note that due to space limitations, not all information submitted will be printed. However, we will endeavor to print as much material as feasible.

Structural Licensing Update

At the NCSEA annual meeting in New Orleans last autumn, I announced that with the Structural Engineering Certification Board launched and underway, NCSEA was once again focusing on the pursuit of uniform structural engineering practice acts in all 55 U.S. jurisdictions. NCSEA is joining with SEI in this effort. In November, the Professional Activities Division of SEI hosted the third licensing summit, again in New Orleans. Attended by nearly 50 engineers from around the United States, the licensing summit explored strategies for obtaining structural practice acts in several situations, including jurisdictions with existing title acts and jurisdictions without separate licensing of any kind.

Attendees left the summit with instructions to find a suitable state or states in which the efforts of NCSEA and SEI could be brought to bear, to assist local engineers in seeking structural practice act legislation. It was agreed that the ideal state would have:



Structural Licensing Update continued

- A strong and cohesive group of engineers dedicated to doing the hard work to obtain a license.
- A recent series of noteworthy structural failures, in which inadequate design played at least a contributing role.
- A State licensing board that would not be adamantly opposed to the concept.

Since the November meeting, at least 4 states, and possibly 5, have surfaced as potential strong candidates to obtain structural licenses.

At the New Orleans meeting, NCSEA Director Ed Huston announced that engineers in Washington State were ready to try to upgrade their structural engineering title act to a practice act. Director Huston reports that progress in Washington State looks good, and the program is well underway toward having appropriate legislation introduced.

Several engineers from Utah, including SEAU Vice President Julie Ott, attended the New Orleans meeting and returned with a desire to press forward in Utah as well. Barry Arnold, SEAU President, reports that an active letter writing campaign targeted at legislators has been initiated and that engineers there are hopeful that success is achievable.

Past NCSEA President and Illinois licensing board member, Gene Corley, recently attended an NCEES meeting and spoke with representatives of the licensing boards in Florida and Minnesota. Both licensing boards indicated that they felt that separate licensing of structural engineers is exactly what is needed to solve problems in their states.

Meanwhile, in California, engineers are watching the legislature's sunset reviews of the State Licensing Board and looking for an opportunity to leverage these reviews into a potential conversion of the existing title act into a practice act.

More on licensing is sure to come. If you believe the structural engineers in your state are interested in working for a Structural License act, let us know so that we can explore how to work together. The more states that are successful in doing this, the easier it will be for the other states.

NCSEA Seeks Member Associations Interested in Hosting 2006 and 2007 Annual Meetings

Are you interested in hosting the NCSEA annual meeting in your state in 2006 or 2007? It's a great way to bring some excitement to your association. Past meetings have been held in Honolulu (1996), Louisville (1997), Portland, Me (1998), Seattle (1999), San Antonio (2000), Manchester (2001), Chicago (2002), Denver (2003) and New Orleans (2004). This year's meeting will be in Kansas City.

NCSEA meetings are typically held in September or October. They are organized as both an engineering conference and an NCSEA Council meeting. It is usually held on Friday and Saturday with Saturday being reserved mostly for council business. There is a Friday evening dinner at a place of local interest or entertainment and a Saturday evening banquet and awards program, usually held at the hotel. The NCSEA Board meeting and Committee meetings are held on the Wednesday and Thursday prior to the conference. Registration and a welcoming reception are held on Thursday evening.

The NCSEA office will handle most of the organizational and logistical tasks, while the hosting organization is responsible for selecting an NCSEA-Board-approved theme for the conference, all of the speakers for the Friday meeting except the luncheon speaker (usually 6 speakers total, including the keynote speaker), spouse activities (which may be someone at a table during registration and on Friday morning, answering questions and providing maps and tour information), and sponsors (usually amounting to \$10,000 - \$15,000, with typical donations being in the \$250 to \$1,000 range).

If you are interested in serving as a host state, contact Jeanne Vogelzang at the Executive office.