



NCSEA Strategic Planning

NCSEA is developing a Strategic Plan to assist the organization to be successful and address the needs of our members over the next 5 years. The NCSEA Board of Directors will use the plan as a guide as we allocate resources. Those of you fortunate enough to attend the NCSEA annual business meeting in Kansas City, Missouri last October provided much appreciated input during the workshop, giving NCSEA feedback on the most important programs and services that our organization can and should provide. Participants analyzed the strengths and weaknesses of our organization, as well as the opportunities and threats. They also highlighted the specific things that NCSEA does best and should continue to do, like STRUCTURE magazine and our Code Advisory Committee achievements.

Then, in December, the NCSEA Board, together with past NCSEA Presidents, met in a professionally facilitated session in Nashville, Tennessee, to convert the information and ideas obtained at the annual meeting into a list of specific goals and objectives. Our first task was to revisit our Mission Statement. We have proposed the following:

“The National Council of Structural Engineers Associations (NCSEA) serves to advance the practice of structural engineering and, as the national voice for practicing structural engineers, protect the public’s right to safe, sustainable and cost effective buildings, bridges and other structures.”

Over the following day and a half, we brainstormed and debated over a long list of ideas for how NCSEA can improve our practices, our profession and our organization. This list is a work in progress and includes a wide range of goals each with specific tasks for achieving the objectives. It is currently posted, in rough draft form, on the NCSEA website. The board has subsequently split the list into two types of goals: (i) those which will

strengthen our profession and the practice of structural engineering, and (ii) those which will strengthen our organization.

The NCSEA Board will meet again, April 21, 2006, to finalize our priorities, edit the goals for the next five years, and shape this list into a cogent and useful strategic plan. Then we will be visiting each SEA to get your feedback and approval as we move forward over the next five years. Don’t wait until we visit. Feel free to email recommendations prior to our April meeting to me, vicki@gmsllp.com.

SEA Activities Matrix

All SEA delegates have recently received a single page summary of each Member Organization’s activities as reported for the 2005 Annual Conference Book. This list can help states with similar interests and committee activities to get in touch with one another and share ideas and strategies. For example, SEAoNY has been working with the NYC Building Officials to create a Homeowner’s and Small Contractor’s Guide to Underpinning. How is underpinning addressed in other locations? Another example is State Newsletters. Would you like to see what other states publish?

Please feel free to contact delegates from other SEA’s and don’t hesitate to keep the Board in the loop. Although we already have national committees addressing most of these issues, the board hopes that this list will also suggest topics for national discussions at future Annual Conferences. Maybe in addition to delegates attending the conference, your SEA’s Newsletter Editor should attend and share ideas about successful publishing!

New NCSEA Sub-Committee: Website!

The NCSEA Board has accepted the Advocacy Committee’s proposal to form a temporary Website Subcommittee. The purpose of the committee will be to revisit NCSEA’s current website and incorporate ideas of the NCSEA committees and the



future goals of NCSEA. They hope to have the new site ready before the year ends!

The NCSEA website is not solely for structural engineers. The next version will be more audience friendly, where the audience includes structural engineers, engineers-in-training, educators, students, clients, homeowners, contractors, architects, related professionals, etc. Our goal is to more effectively serve structural engineers and to educate others about the structural engineering profession. If you are interested in participating, or just want to point out a very cool, user-friendly website that you have visited, please contact me or Cindy Chabot, Chair of the Website Subcommittee at cchabot@chabotengineering.com.

NCSEA Diamond Review Program

The NCSEA Diamond Review program is intended to assist structural engineers in obtaining continuing education in a painless manner, while facilitating the ability of providers of various types of seminars and educational programs to be able to offer continuing education credits for their programs. A provider of continuing education submits information on its intended program to NCSEA, for review and certification as eligible for continuing education credit. Once a review panel finds that the program has sufficient technical merit and validity, it will be approved and anyone who attends the program can claim continuing education credit for it.

The program is open to a wide range of continuing education providers, including professional associations such as AISC, ACI and PCA, individual member organizations and vendors of construction products and services. These continuing education credits are more likely to be acceptable to many state licensing boards as well as the Structural Engineering Certification Board.

NCSEA needs more reviewers to assist our Continuing Education Committee in reviewing these programs and determining if they are worthy of certification. We intend to select panels of

reviewers from a pool of applicants and to make small honoraria available for these reviews. We are looking for volunteers with expertise in design with each of the construction materials, various types of structural analysis, different types of construction methods etc. Please assist us in locating potential reviewers. More information can be found on the NCSEA web site. Please encourage your members to complete the simple forms and participate in this program.

Reminder: The NCSEA Board voted in 2004 to increase annual dues to \$15 per member payable September 1, 2006. This increase was delayed so SEA's could adjust their budgets accordingly. Dues are based on the SEA membership roster. Rosters should be forwarded to STRUCTURE annually, preferably in September, in order to update the magazine mailing database.

NCSEA is an incredible value. In addition to the 12 issues of STRUCTURE magazine that each member receives, members are aided in their daily practice by the accomplishments of our Code Advisory Committee to strengthen, clarify and simplify building codes. NCSEA has developed an effective emergency response committee, to coordinate and assist communities with structural safety assessments following natural and human-induced disasters, and established a separate structural engineering certification program.

Summary.

What should you do now?

1. Review the NCSEA notes regarding the Strategic Plan. Provide feedback.
2. Update your State Activities in the Matrix. Make suggestions for Annual Conference Discussion Groups.
3. Review the NCSEA website. Provide feedback.
4. Complete and submit the form on NCSEA's website, to apply to review program submittals to NCSEA's Diamond Review Program.