

October Newsletter

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# SEAL Dynamic Columns

Quarterly Newsletter: October 2017



**Bucket Building Challenge at NCSEA Summit**

## **SEAL Delegate Report from NCSEA Summit**

**by Bill Wilson, P.E.**

*Bill Wilson with LBYD is our permanent delegate. There is an advantage to having*

*the same person represent our state each year. Please take the time to read the report, pretty interesting things going on with NCSEA.*

The 2017 NCSEA Summit was a success this year. Over 500 structural engineers gathered in Washington DC to further the profession of Structural Engineering. Engineers attend the summit from all 50 states. Alabama was well represented having 6 people attend. We heard great technical seminars, participated in committee meetings and enjoyed social time at the National Building Museum. This is my 4th year to attend the Summit and it seems to get better each year. I have really enjoyed connecting with many of the same engineers over that time period. It is nice to meet others who are practicing Structural engineering in other parts of the country. It is comforting to know they have some of the same struggles we do in Alabama. We are also able to learn from some of their successes. Because engineers like lists, below are the top 10 takeaways from the Summit for SEAoAL.

1. NCSEA operates as a non-profit with a budget of approximately \$1.2M dedicated to advancing the profession of structural engineering.
2. NCSEA has a wealth of information for practicing structural engineers that is located in the members only portion of their website. As a member of SEAoAL you have access to all of this information. You really need to check it out at <http://www.ncsea.com/>
3. The NCSEA code advisory committee is looking for corresponding members from Alabama. If you are interested in providing input on such things as special inspections, wind design, seismic design, or existing building evaluation, the sub-committees are looking for your help.
4. NCSEA provides grants to Member Organizations for new initiatives such as starting student chapters, putting on Young Member events or sponsoring mentoring programs. SEAoAL needs to take advantage of this program.
5. The Structural Engineering Emergency Response (SEER) Committee is picking up momentum. There were two calls to assist Texas and Florida during the recent hurricane season. As a state that will be affected by future hurricanes, we need to be more active with the SEER Committee. The Chair of the Alabama SEER Committee has recently stepped down. If you are interested in serving on the committee, please let Rhea know.
6. Structural Engineering Licensure continues to pick up steam. There are initiatives in nearby states that we need to be watching. GA and SC being the closest. Oklahoma passed a practice act this year.
7. NCSEA has developed a new committee called Structural Engineering Engagement and Equity (SE3). The committee's mission is to study and promote engagement and equity in the structural engineering profession
8. SEAoAL is not the biggest SEA but we compare very favorably with many of our peers. We can also learn from the bigger more established SEA's in the country in the way they organize state committees and participate in the national committees.
9. SEAoAL is providing good value for the money. Our yearly dues are in the lower half of all SEAs.

10. Rhea is a rock star. I heard at least 2 states try to hire her even from a distance. Many of our neighboring states are figuring out how advantageous it is to have a really strong executive director. We are very lucky to have her involved with SEAoAL.

There are a ton of things going on at a national level. I would encourage you to explore the NCSEA website to see a complete picture of what NCSEA is doing. Finally - I highly recommend you to attend next year's Summit at the **Sheraton Grand in Chicago, IL (October 23-26, 2018) if you are able. See you there.**

**Bill Wilson, P.E.**  
**SEAoAL Delegate**



CSI sponsored party at the National Building Museum - NCSEA Summit

### **YOUNG Member Report from NCSEA Summit**

Emily Dunham

The 2017 NCSEA Summit was held last week in Washington, D.C. with more than 500 in attendance. More than 70 of these were young members, which was record attendance for the Young Member Group. Because of our record attendance, the conference made efforts to create events and seminars just for us. This included a welcome reception for the Young Members present, as well as a special program track during the breakout sessions. This special program track included sessions on joist design for wind loads, shear wall design, and a time of round table discussion from mentors and advisers to aid and encourage us in our careers. There were also several other educational sessions that ranged from highly technical design sessions to soft skills including business development and networking, all of which resulted in numerous opportunities to increase our knowledge base. Possibly the

most surprising aspect of the conference, especially as a young member and having never attended before, was the opportunity to see how the codes are developed and that I, along with every other attendee, was given the opportunity to provide input on changes that should be considered in the upcoming code editions. A vote was taken to see how ASCE 7 might be restructured and reorganized so that it functions more effectively. During the voting process, open discussions were had and some of the most effective comments came from young members. We use the codes daily, having to dig through them to determine how they are to be applied to each given project. We then get to know them even more thoroughly as a result of our exam preparations. Suggestions by young members were made for more flowcharts, clarifications to ambiguous sections, and the incorporation of the commentary into the main body of the code. Given the response I saw to some of these comments, I expect to see changes in the code that resulted from input of our Young Members.

Throughout the 2017 Summit, it was evident that this was not a conference for just our most experienced colleagues. It was for us too, to help us be better engineers-both technically and in business so that we can learn and grow and become the industry leaders in the future. Please consider attending the conference in 2018 which will be held in Chicago. Not only can young engineers come for a greatly reduced registration fee, but this year, 8 scholarships were awarded to young engineers which covered the conference registration and provided a travel stipend. I would love to see Alabama and SEAoAL well represented next year. **Looking forward to seeing you in Chicago for 2018!**

## WIND, SEISMIC & SOFTWARE Seminar

Check out this great Winter Seminar where you earn 7PDHs approved in AL & FL!

Tuesday, December 5th  
Alabama AGC Conference Center  
Birmingham, AL

SEAoAL Members: \$185 by Nov. 27  
Nonmember Price: \$205 by Nov. 27



**Young Member SPECIAL!!**  
Only \$25 to attend the morning session (description below),

## NCSEA SEER UPDATE HURRICANE HARVEY



On August 25, 2017, Hurricane Harvey made US landfall near Rockport, Texas as a Category 4 hurricane with sustained winds of 130 MPH. Within 48 hours, 53 NCSEA/SEER members from across the country volunteered to provide 2nd Responder assistance.

includes a yummy breakfast.

**Validating Software Results: Garbage In, Garbage Out -- by Matt Brown, P.E.**

*It is nearly impossible to design structures and meet all code requirements without software. The software is only as good as the engineer operating it. This presentation focuses on common mistakes engineers make in modeling and analysis using any engineering software. Learn fast and simple methods of validating the output of the software so you can feel confident your results are accurate and correct. Also, learn what you might be missing if you assume the software is doing everything for you! See if your firm will pay for you to attend, small price for expensive knowledge.*

We will have the usual all day coffee bar to keep you jacked up for the presentations, chocolate snacks, delish breakfast and a yummy lunch. You know we always feed you a good meal!

Register online or snail mail is still acceptable too.

**[Click here to register!](#)**

**Lunch Provided by:**



Of those 53, 51 were actively deployed.

- 3 Requests Responded to
- 7 Municipalities/AHJs Supported
- 51 Responders Deployed
- 13,878 Structures Assessed
- 12 Days Deployed

## HURRICANE IRMA



On September 10, 2017, Hurricane Irma made US landfall in the Florida Keys as a Category 4 hurricane with sustained winds of 130 MPH. Within 48 hours, 84 NCSEA/SEER members from across the country volunteered to provide 2nd Responder assistance. Of those 84, 24 were actively deployed.

- 3 Requests Responded To
- 4 Municipalities/AJHs Supported
- 24 Responders Deployed
- 5,032 Structures Assessed
- 12 Days Deployed

Interested in SEER? Is your name on the NCSEA SEER volunteer list. If not, please log in to NCSEA website with your member info - sign up! SEAoAL is looking for a chair for this committee. We work closely with Alabama Council AIA. Are you interested? Email [rhea@karmamanagementinc.com](mailto:rhea@karmamanagementinc.com)

## Young Member News

Save the dates!



### Lunch and Learn and Mill Tour at Atlas Tube – November 8, 2017

We will be having a lunch and learn with Atlas Tube on November 8. Atlas Tube is a producer of HSS sections, and they now have a mill located in Birmingham. They also provide resources for designing and specifying HSS products. During lunch, their representatives will present to our group, and we will follow up lunch with a quick tour of the mill. If you would like to attend please email Blake Greene (email provided below). Lunch provided!

Atlas Tube, 171 Cleage Drive, Birmingham AL 35217

<http://www.atlastube.com/>

- 11:15-11:30am: Arrive at the mill
- 11:30-12:15pm: Lunch and Learn (Topic TBD)
- 12:15-12:45pm: Mill Tour
- 12:45-1:00pm: Q&A

### Annual YEAC Holiday Social – (December TBA)

The SEAOAL YMG tentatively will be co-hosting a joint Holiday Social with the young professional groups of AGC (YCF), AIA (EP), and ASCE (YMG) at a location to be determined in Birmingham. We typically collect donations of art supplies to support the Firehouse Shelter, so keep this in mind! Further information coming soon, so if you are not on the email distribution list please let Blake know!

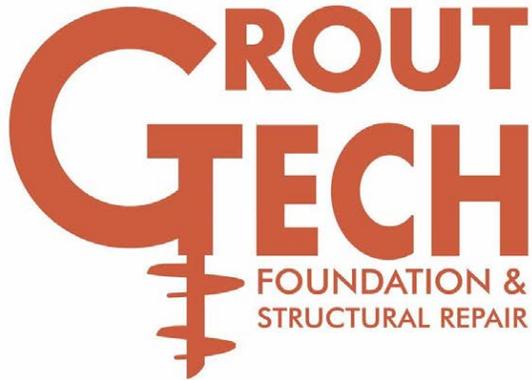
### E-Week Engineering Showcase – February 23, 2018

Mark your calendars for February 23rd! The McWane Science Center is hosting an Engineering Showcase in which middle-school and high-school kids are introduced to the wonderful world of Engineering! **The SEAOAL plans to host a booth again this year and we will be looking for volunteers.** The event typically is held from 9am-2pm at the McWane Science Center. Stay tuned for more information on the event and how to

volunteer!

If you would like to learn more about the SEAoAL YMG and receive updates on the upcoming events, contact Blake Greene at [bgreene@tuckerjones.com](mailto:bgreene@tuckerjones.com).

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