

SEAOAL President's Welcome, Only Engineers can SAVE US!!!!, YP Updates,

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# SEAOAL Dynamic Columns

Quarterly Newsletter: March 2016

## Welcome from the 2016 President

Hello! It is my pleasure to serve you, our SEAOAL membership, as President of the Board of Directors for 2016. I hope you enjoy this new issue of Dynamic Columns.

Last September I had the distinct pleasure of attending the NCSEA convention in Las Vegas representing our Member Organization. In talking with Delegates of other MO's from all over the country I was delighted to see that we are actually doing very well as an organization. Our number of members, quality of seminars & speakers, our efforts in advocacy, executive directorship, local alliances with neighboring states, young member group activities and our scholarship program were a great impression to others at the convention and I was very happy to boast about them – but, there is always room to improve.



In keeping with the spirit of improvement we would like to continue with these efforts and maybe expand to new ones. I'd like to align ourselves more & more with some of the committees at the NCSEA level – the Basic Education and Code Advisory committees come to mind, and to try to use NCSEA's tools and recommendations for the betterment of our chapter.

We are open for suggestions in any of the activities our association is involved in so please don't be coy and feel free to tell us what we can do better.

The past year also saw the creation of the position of 'Permanent Delegate' who will be charged with representing our MO for a minimum period of three years giving continuity and a familiar face at NCSEA events.

We will continue to promote structural engineering in the State of Alabama, not only with our effort to implement a separate structural licensure and keeping an eye on those efforts in neighboring states but also at a 'grass roots' level by going out to universities in Alabama and talking to students about our wonderful profession.

Also I would like to thank our past President Cheryl May and the rest of our Board of Directors and especially Rhea Williams, our Executive Director, for all your hard work during 2015 and I look forward to working with all of you this year.

Finally, please make sure to sign up for our Spring seminar on ATC-45 & ATC-20 training and get CalEMA certified! You will also receive a CalEMA badge in the mail!! – Don't pass up this opportunity to have the skill to help our state's Emergency Management people to assess structures after a natural disaster.

P.S.: Check out my article in Modern Steel Construction

<http://digitaleditions.walworthprintgroup.com/publication/?i=290680>

Robert Whyte, P.E.  
2016 SEAoAL President

## Engineers Keep us SAFE!



Did you know that Structural Engineers are ONE of the few professions that can be certified to assess buildings after a disaster? YES, you are and we need you to get certified!! Our [spring seminar](#) is the ATC 45 CalEMA certified course. *You will need to bring your driver's license, professional license and we will take a headshot picture of you on site.* Once you complete the seminar, we will mail all the information to California EMA. They will process

## Committee Updates

### Code Advisory

SEAoAL adopted the Special Inspections NCSEA position statement at our February SEAoAL board meeting. Click here to read statement:

[SEAoAL Position Statement Adoption.pdf](#)

*NCSEA Link to Code Advisory Committee*

<http://www.ncsea.com/committees/codeadvisorycommittee/>



**Education & Advocacy**

## Young Member News



On February 24 the YMG introduced elementary kids to the exciting world of Structural Engineering at Birmingham's McWane Science Center's Engineering Showcase. The young professionals challenged the kids to create towers out of toothpicks & 25 DOTS. The results were full of imagination, creativity, & some additional bracing thanks to the YP's guidance.

your paperwork and mail you a Cal EMA badge. Your certification will expire in 5 years and you will have to take the course again.

### **WHY CAL EMA? We live in Alabama.**

California has the only EMA certification to date. If (God Forbid) we have another tornado or other disaster that tears through one of our cities/towns or nearby states, and it is declared a state of emergency, FEMA and others will recognize volunteers with CalEMA badges. Butch Grimes, AIA will explain how this works and other important "boots on the ground" information.

Grimes is a CalEMA Trained Presenter for "Use of ATC-45 Safety Evaluation of Buildings after Windstorms and Floods and ATC-20 Safety Evaluation of Buildings after Earthquakes.". He was a key player in the disaster relief efforts from the April 2011 tornadoes in Tuscaloosa. He has been CAL EMA certified since 2011 and has presented at several national and state conventions.

SEAOAL has been visiting universities to promote the structural engineering profession. We need more Structural engineers!

Andrew Marlin and Jeff Hillman did a presentation for AU. Bart Berneche and Barry Johnson went to UA in Tuscaloosa and presented.

If you are interested in promoting the profession, please email [Rhea](mailto:Rhea).



### **BRIDGE BUILDING JURORS NEEDED**

The ASCE Southeast Student Conference is being held at UA in Tuscaloosa. Structural Engineers are needed to judge the bridge building competition. You will be on a job site, so hard hats, safety glasses and boots required. They need 10 to 12 structural engineers for 3-hour shifts on Friday, March 11th from 7:30 -4:30.

[Click here for Schedule](#)

If you can participate as a judge, email [Rhea](mailto:Rhea).

Thank you Nicole Sommerville for organizing this event.

### **2015 Updates**

On December 17, the YMG co-hosted a joint Holiday Social with the young professional groups of AGC, AIA, and ASCE at the Wine Loft in Birmingham. More than 50 young Architects, Engineers, & Contractors turned out to network & fundraise continued support for the Firehouse Shelter's art workshop series. The YPs donated a large box of art supplies & more than \$400, which will positively contribute to the lives of people struggling with addiction and homelessness, Thanks to all who participated!

On November 10 Bart Berneche with IAPMO's Uniform Evaluation Service presented "Certifying Building Products and Alternative Building Products in Particular." Berneche evaluates building products and publishes certification reports for use by product specifiers and builders, and by Building Code Officials as a basis for approval. The products are innovative and are alternatives to products prescribed in the building codes. The presentation included the background of certifications, the certification rules and steps involved, and the



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entities and agencies that certify the products.

If you would like to learn more about the YMG & receive updates, contact Nicole Sommerville at [nsommerville@lbyd.com](mailto:nsommerville@lbyd.com)

## Spring Seminar Sponsors



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