



Structural Engineers Association of
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SEAOSC

Founded in 1928 Vol. II February, 2001

NEWS

President's Message

Maybe it is because everyone is so busy or maybe it's because I'm getting old, but time seems to really fly. As I write this message, the year is, as the pessimist would say, half gone. As an optimist, however, we have a half-year left. There is much to be accomplished in this six-month period. At the State level, a long-range planning meeting will be held Feb. 23 and 24 in San Diego. If you didn't complete the questionnaire and would like to have your thoughts considered, make sure you inform the Board by e-mail, fax, or letter before that date.

Also in the initial planning stages is our attempt to put together an integrated seminar program that encompasses the field of structural engineering. These seminars could

be repeated at regular intervals for both instructional and continuing education purposes. These programs would be in addition to our normal ad hoc programs and could form the basis of a certification program at some point in the future.

This month's dinner meeting is "Student Night and Spouses Night." We will be hearing an interesting presentation from Trailer Martin and Farzad Naeim regarding the Disney Theater in downtown L.A.. Being a Frank Gehry design, the project is a real structural engineering challenge. So invite your spouse and support a student either by direct invitation or by making a nominal \$10 donation to cover student costs. We will be making our annual scholarship awards to students nominated by their respective faculties.

See you there,
Jim Hill
President

Practical Design & Detailing Seminar Mar. 7

A SEAOSC Practical Design & Detailing Seminar is scheduled for Wednesday, Mar. 7 from 3 to 5 p.m. prior to the dinner meeting. Three topics will be covered: *Steel OBF's and OCBF's (Going, Going...Gone?)* by Brian and Michael Cochran, Brian L. Cochran Associates Inc.; *Design and Use of Ordinary Moment Steel Frames in Buildings* by Henry Huang, P.E. and Ifa Kashefi, S.E.; and *Material Welding and Inspection Issues Relating to Steel Moment Frames* by Daniel Luna, Welding Inspector and Peter Maranian, S.E., Brandow and Johnston Associates. (See peach insert for details.)

L.A. Dinner Meeting

Wednesday, Feb. 7

Program: Disney Concert Center

Speaker: Farzad Naeim, S.E., and Trailer Martin, S.E., John A. Martin & Assoc.

Location: Luminarias Restaurant, Monterey Park

Menu: Tri-tip beef (Vegetarian meal available IF requested by Noon Feb. 5

Time: 5:30 Social hour

6:30 Dinner

8:00 Program

Cost: \$24

(Full-time students: FREE)

(See blue insert for reservation form and details.)

Tri-Counties Dinner Mtg.

Wednesday, Feb. 14

Program: Design Criteria for Using Steel in Wood Frame Housing

Speaker: Michael Cochran, S.E.

Location: Alexander's Restaurant, FourPoints Sheraton, Ventura

Menu: Beef or chicken

Time: Social hour: 5:30 p.m.

Dinner: 6:30 p.m.

Program: 7:30 p.m.

Cost: \$24 (Full-time undergraduate students: \$10)

(See green insert for reservation form and details.)

February Calendar

6	2 p.m. 3:30 p.m.	COLA/UCI Testing Committee SEAOSC Board Meeting	SEAOSC Office, Whittier SEAOSC Office, Whittier
7	5:30 p.m.	L.A. Dinner Meeting	Luminarias Restaurant, Monterey Park
13	2 p.m. 4 p.m.	Quality Assurance Committee Existing Buildings Committee	SEAOSC Office, Whittier SEAOSC Office, Whittier
14	5:30 p.m.	Tri-Counties Dinner Meeting	Alexander's Restaurant, Ventura
23/24		SEAOC Strategic Planning Committee	San Diego

New members



SEAOSC welcomes its newest members:

Rahul Rana, *Associate*, Ove Arup & Partners (California), Los Angeles

Pankaj K. Sachdeva, *Member*, M.W. Sausse' & Co. Inc., Valencia

Emily Wright, *Associate*, Dale Christian Structural Engineer, Orange

Amy Yeung, *Associate*, Thornton Tomasetti Engineers, Tustin

In Memoriam

WALTER D. SAUNDERS

AUG. 5, 1923 – OCT. 31, 2000

SEAOSC is saddened by the loss of Walt Saunders, who had been a member since 1954. He served as president in 1989-90 and was instrumental in initiating Orange County dinner meetings.

Walt was born in Los Angeles and served in the Pacific Theater in World War II before graduating from USC in 1950 with a degree in civil engineering. He worked for Brandow & Johnston and John A. Martin & Associates before forming Martin & Saunders, which later became W.D. Saunders & Associates. He retired to Mammoth Lakes in 1994 where he enjoyed backpacking, hiking, skiing and fishing.

He is survived by Alice, his wife of 53 years, two sons and one daughter and four grandchildren.

PD&D Seminar Apr. 4

SEAOSC will hold a Practical Design & Detailing Seminar from 3 to 5 p.m. prior to the Apr. 4 dinner meeting at Luminarias Restaurant, 3500 Ramona Blvd., Monterey Park.

Topics for PD&D seminars are chosen to provide practical and current information for both established engineers and structural designers and for those who are less experienced. Attendees will receive handouts pertaining to the seminar. Attendance qualifies participants for two SEAOSC Professional Development credits.

The topics and invited speakers for the April seminar are "Precast Frame Joint Design Techniques Based on Current Findings of the PRESS Research Program" by Suzanne Dow Nakaki; "Classification and Design of Tilt-Up Shear Walls," by John Lawson; and "Design Update on Los Angeles City Requirements on Out-Of-Plane Wall Anchorage," by Nick DelliQuadri, et. al.

A "package deal" is available for members who pre-register for both dinner and the seminar. Watch this newsletter for registration form and further details on this seminar.

SEAOC To Conduct Salary Survey



SEAOC member firms that participated in last year's SEAOC Salary Survey were emailed a letter with instructions and a salary survey form Jan. 7. Member firms who did not participate last year can obtain the forms and instructions from the SEAOC website: www.seaoc.org or [ftp.cpceng.com/outgoing/SEAOCSalarySurvey](ftp:cpceng.com/outgoing/SEAOCSalarySurvey). Participants will automatically receive the results free of charge. A copy of the 2000 survey results is available on the SEAOC website. The cost is \$50 for members, \$100 for non-members.

Participation in this survey is encouraged in order to provide valuable results.

Esquivel Forms New Firm

Juan Carlos Esquivel, M.S. S.E., SEAOSC member since 1992 and current Membership Committee Chairman, announces the formation of a new structural engineering firm. JCE Structural Engineering Group, Inc. will provide structural engineering services for new construction as well as seismic retrofit including base isolation, seismic dampers and fiberwrap techniques. The new firm will provide services for commercial, educational, health care, governmental, and industrial sectors. Juan Carlos is also a member of ASCE, ACI, AISC, EERI, TMS, ICBO, ATC, NZSEE, and AIA. The new firm will be located in Pasadena. Please see the classified advertisement in this newsletter for available positions

SEAOSC Dinner Meeting Survey Results

Following are the results from the recent SEAOSC survey on dinner meetings.

Total surveys mailed: 1438; Total surveys returned: 32 (2% return rate)

1. Where would you be willing to attend a dinner meeting during the next year? (You may check more than one.)

Los Angeles: 16

Orange County: 16

Tri-Counties: 2

Riverside: 3

Westside: 7

Other: South Orange County, Ontario, Santa Maria, Pasadena or Van Nuys, Downtown:

2. What topics/issues would you like to see featured at SEAOSC dinner meetings? (Speaker has a 1-hour time limit.)

- Structural I & II Licenses, separate code requirements for S.F.D.
- Code-specific topics with numerical examples similar to mini-seminars before dinner meetings.
- Plywood shear wall design based on recent testing.
- Changes to codes. Interesting projects being done in area.
- Bracing connections per 1997 AISC Seismic, concrete repair.
- Code changes – actually limit these to the education series and provide unique structural problem and their solutions (real life).
- Presentation of projects recently completed or under construction featuring (1) design to current codes resulting differences with respect to what was considered “standard practice”, (2) innovative or unusual design solutions, and (3) projects of particular “public” interest.
- Anything.
- New design guidelines like IBC and other International Codes.
- Weld design (standard not for moment resisting frames).
- 2000 IBC
- Repair methods of damaged structures
- Pros/cons of tilt-up construction and C.M.U. construction.
- Special moment frames.
- Base isolation.
- Concrete repair.
- Composite strengthening.
- IBC adoption in California vs. NFPA 5000 Building Code. Maybe Martin Johnson could give us an update.
- The “low-down” on seismic design on light frame buildings that include the use of steel moment frames, moment columns, wood shear wall and “Simpson strong wall” or equal.
- Special structures, new codes, business topic such as marketing, office automation; local building officials; wood topics.
- New moment frame design, computer modeling, designing to allow for field tolerances.
- New code info, liability re: SEAOSC vs. UBC, etc.
- Wood frame detailing; fire repairs to GLB and large timbers.
- Modeling tricks or problems w/major computer programs.
- Continued variety of topical issues. The dinner meeting is a good forum for an open discussion and particularly well suited to “hot topics” of the day.
- Code/design issues.
- A varied mix of design topics, construction issues, project management, software.
- Issues affecting the practice; issues/ideas to improve profession’s image.



(Continued on Page 5)

SEAOSC Dinner Meeting Survey Results (Continued From Page 4)

- Discussions on structural materials and construction.
 - Base isolation, performance/design concepts of reinforced concrete buildings (shear wall and moment frame), ICBO 2000 seminar, steel braced frame seminars.
 - Steel moment frame design at garage vs. cantilever steel column. Flexible vs. rigid wood diaphragm.
3. What ideas do you have to improve dinner meetings?
- No ties; over by 9; no rubber chicken!
 - Such dinner topic with example will be posted on the web or emailed before the dinner so we can come prepared for discussion.
 - Raffles/give-aways.
 - Move OC meeting further south, start meeting earlier.
 - Have an Inland Empire meeting.
 - Should have more audience participation in a Q/A format or just comments.
 - Conduct the meetings every two months.
 - I enjoy the current format!
 - Many churches have a mid-week service or Bible study on Wednesday evening. This has been the main reason I have not attended dinner meetings in recent years. Sometimes I attend the Practical Design & Detailing Seminars prior to the dinner meeting and then have left for home.
 - Give sufficient notice of meeting and subject. Notice should arrive 1 week before as a minimum.
 - More field trips would be good to major construction projects in Orange County (buildings, bridges).
 - Alternate/vary day of the week – that way, more people would be able to attend at least some of the meetings.
 - Why not publish structural details for standard Type V construction for many typical conditions?
 - Vary locations of meetings.
 - Offer free software by using sponsors.
 - Committee chairs and board members must attend all dinner meetings. Use that in promotion letting members know that they can chat one-on-one with board members and committee chairs.
 - Develop phone tree by regions. Have tree members call other members reminding them to attend the dinner meeting. Tree can be designed such that no one calls more than 10 members.
 - Provide design examples and handouts.
 - More technical content/competent speakers.
 - Switch off between LA and Westside.
 - Vary location. Encourage regular attendees to promote the dinner meeting to others. Encourage regular attendees to actively engage in conversation with newcomers to welcome them. Try some promotional ideas to increase attendance such as drawing for a free dinner with collected business cards – this will keep a record of attendees for next time.
 - Most are good.
 - Besides the discussions, improve on the atmosphere. Vary location, throw in some music to accompany dinner, maybe even a short film of some engineering project.
 - Genuine efforts from the “doer” members to welcome newer/younger members. Why not a luncheon meeting? (11:30-2:00). Different locations (tired of Luminarias). Better menus. More lively presentations – maybe twice a year, have a real meeting with membership discussions with a moderator or a panel.
 - Adjourn the board at 5:30 or before - the social hour is important for business contacts.

Call for Papers

2001 SEAOC ANNUAL CONVENTION

The Structural Engineers Association of California issues this Call for Papers to be presented at its 2001 Annual Convention, to be held at the Loews Coronado Hotel in San Diego Wednesday, Sept. 26 through Saturday, Sept. 29.

It is anticipated that the technical program will be composed of papers in the following areas:

Practical Design: Papers of this type will focus on information that can be readily utilized by structural engineers in day to day design. Pertinent topics would include (but not be limited to) the design or retrofit of buildings, bridges, marine structures, tanks, and towers.

Research/New Methods/New Application: These papers will focus on recent research with application to structural engineering, new methods of analysis, and the use of new materials or new applications of traditional materials.

Business: These papers will discuss the business of structural engineering and could address any of the following issues: new markets, liability, fees, human resources, insurance, publicity, or professional services.

Interested parties should fax a brief (300 words or less) abstract of their paper before Apr.1, 2001 to Eric Lehmkuhl, Technical Program Committee, 2001 SEAOC Convention, KPFF Consulting Engineers, Inc., 3131 Camino Del Rio North, Suite 1080, San Diego, CA 92108. Phone: (619) 521-8500; fax: (619) 521-8591. Authors will be notified of acceptance by May 1, 2001, and papers ready for publication will be due around July 1, 2001. Authors will be provided with detailed guidelines for publication.

AUXILIARY CORNER

The Structural Engineers Auxiliary would like to invite all Auxiliary members and all SEAOSC's spouses and significant others to join in the Spouses' and Students Night at the Feb. 7 SEAOSC Dinner Meeting. The meeting will again center on the Auxiliary's recognition of outstanding engineering students nominated by local universities. This will be the ninth year the Auxiliary has recognized these students with a one-year membership in SEAOSC and a framed certificate.

SEAOSC has joined the Auxiliary in recognizing these outstanding students by awarding scholarships funded by local engineering firms and individual SEAOSC members. Auxiliary members Nancy Cochran and Dianne Thompson will present the awards and scholarships to the students this year.

A presentation on the Walt Disney Concert Hall in downtown Los Angeles will be the program for the evening. This building was designed by the famous architect, Frank O. Gehry.

Hope to see you at the dinner.

Letter to the Editor

The following letter was written by Peter W. Ehlen, structural engineer from Santa Barbara, in response to the SEAOC Assessment Questionnaire.

November 27, 2000

Gentlemen:

I appreciate this assessment effort and welcome the opportunity to share with you some thoughts that I have regarding what our association can do in the future. My concern lies with the effectiveness of the structural design portions of the building code and their general drift toward a much more complicated document that is more and more difficult and time consuming to understand and apply. A simple comparison of



the thickness of the 1955 Uniform Building Code, that I used when I graduated from college, and the thickness of Volumes 1, 2, and 3 of the current code give simple evidence of the additional level of complexity that exists today.

I believe that those who write building codes may be losing sight of why the building code exists in the first place. The code's purpose is to create safe buildings for people to live and work in. In order for this to happen, the code must be easy to understand by a wide cross section of design skill levels. Instead, the code now has become a kind of showplace for the most sophisticated design procedures and a battleground between material manufacturers who want their products to be used in the construction of buildings. It is my experience that fewer and fewer people involved in the structural design of buildings have a clear understanding of the meaning of the code. This includes design engineers and plan check engineers. More and more time is required simply to try to understand the code. Evidence of the increased complexity is the fact that for many sections of the code it is found necessary to write design aid documents and commentaries that are contained in the same document as the code. Also, there is a general drift toward relying more and more on material manufacturer documents such as the National Design Standards for detailed design requirements. It is really becoming a full-time job simply to find where things are in the code and to understand their meaning. I am sure that members of the Structural Engineers Association of California who are active in the building design field are aware of the time and complexity associated with the recent codes and, ironically, the difficulty the codes present in fulfilling the basic purpose of the code.

One of the problems with the more complicated and time-consuming codes is that they take time away from other portions of the structural engineering practice that are of equal importance. These include having the time for design engineers to really think how a

building is behaving and not be completely absorbed in the literature of the code. In addition, less and less time is being spent by structural engineering design firms in providing construction observation, which is essential to the realization of a safe building that will successfully perform in the years ahead.

I wish it to be understood that I have the highest respect for all the research that is being done in all areas of structural analysis and design. My concern is that these extensive design procedures should not be a part of the code but should be used as a basis for insuring that more simplified procedures contained in the building code are in fact conservative. Any individual who has a special design problem or has a particularly significant structure, there is always the opportunity to rely on this more advanced state of knowledge as they pursue the structural analysis and design of these buildings. However, most buildings designed and built in California are less than three (3) stories and of fairly simple structural assembly. A much less rigorous code easily comprehensible by a wide cross section of structural designers is needed.

It is my understanding that those who participate in the writing of structural codes consists of people in the academic field, those in the material supply fields, and I suspect a relatively small number of practicing engineers. This disparity is due in part to the fact that the academic people and material supply people are financed by those respective institutions whereas the practicing structural engineer, who has excellent knowledge about how the code should be written, consists of a small cadre of admirable individuals who donate a good portion of their time or whose companies underwrite a portion of their time.

In response to your Needs Assessment Survey, I strongly urge the Structural Engineers Association of California to take an active role in the creation of a building code, which is easily comprehensible by a wide cross section of design engineers and building department officials. It should be a code that allows time for the design engineer to think through the design process rather than simply comprehend reams of detailed code requirements. Since we are in a visionary state with this needs assessment survey, it might be appropriate to consider financially underwriting the talents of a few practicing structural engineers to aggressively pursue the creation of a user friendly design code that will have the best chance of realizing the basic purpose of the building code, which is to create safe buildings.

Very truly yours,
Peter W. Ehlen

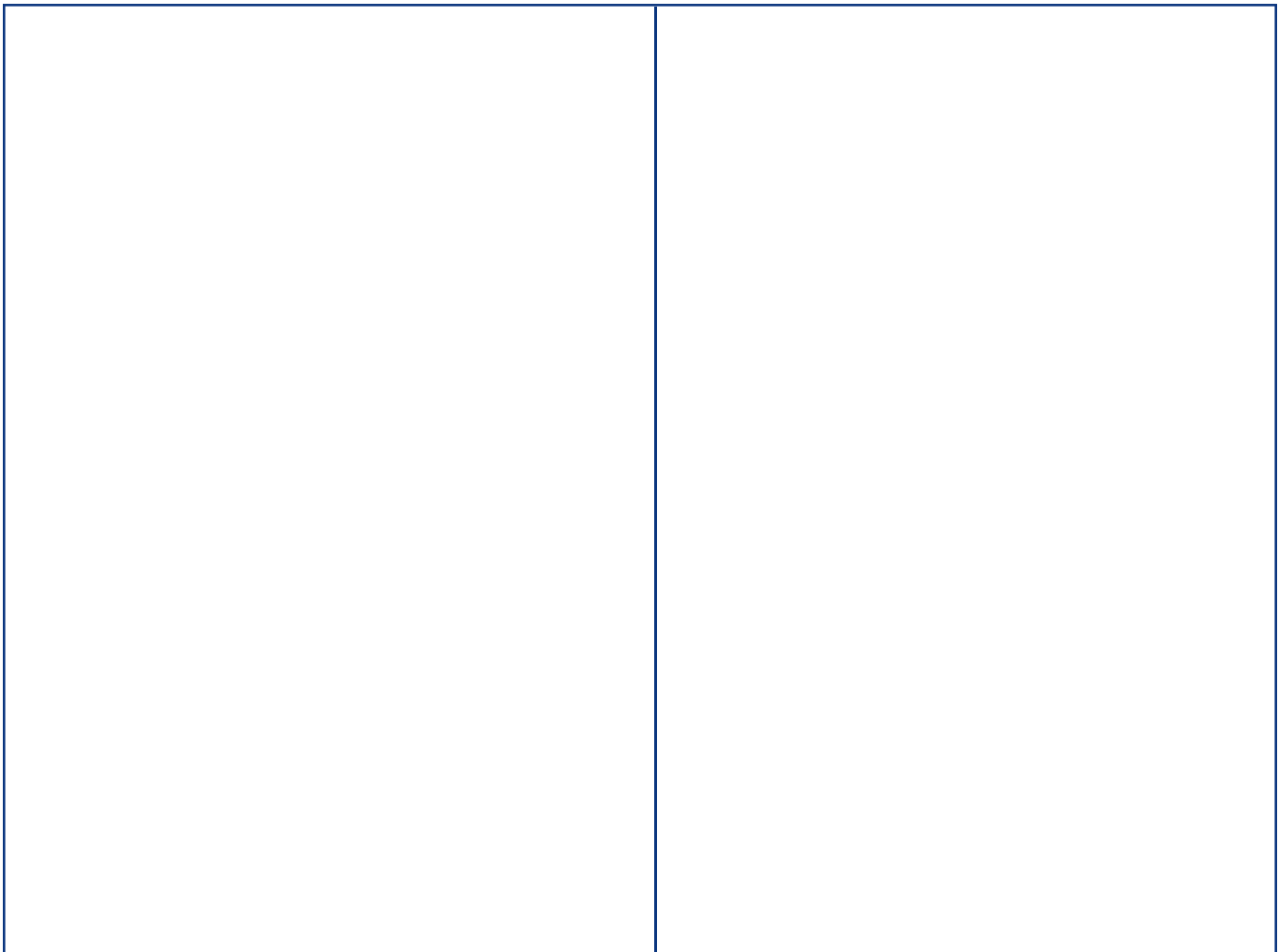
Advertisements

Howard F. Stup & Associates Inc. seeks motivated P.E. or E.I.T. seeking P.E. registration, with minimum of two years experience in design and/or structural investigation of wood-framed structures; good verbal and written communication skills; and motivation. Modern office; excellent benefits. Fax resume to (805) 642-0090. Phone: (805) 642-0500, attention Rita.

Teter Consultants, LLP (www.tetercon.com), is seeking an experienced Senior Structural Engineer interested in competitive compensation & benefits, ongoing career development, interesting projects, and a unique firm culture to join its growing and dynamic organization. Registered PE minimum, SE preferred. Send resume to 1025 N. Demaree, Visalia, CA 93291. Fax: 559/625/5282.

Li & Associates, Thousand Oaks, has positions open for senior engineer, designer and drafter. Applicant must have three years design experience in steel, concrete, wood and masonry. Industrial, commercial and school experience required. Firm provides excellent compensation and opportunity to grow. Call Joe: (805) 495-33432 or fax resume to (805) 4495-4083.

Grossman & Speer Associates Inc., Glendale, is looking for new college graduates and structural engineers at all levels. We offer a modern office environment, flexible working hours and an opportunity for advancement. Send your resume. Fax (818) 507-1556. Email: loyd@grossmanspeer.com.



Advertisements, announcements and inserts are for the information of readers and are not intended as endorsements by SEAOSC.

KPFF Ad

Hart Ad

Howard F. Stup & Associates Inc.

Seeking
manager of design staff

Requirements:

California professional engineer registration, S.E. license preferred; minimum five years experience in design of concrete, steel and wood structures. Good verbal and written skills, motivation, and ability to work effectively with clients. Hospital, seismic upgrade experience a plus. Modern office; excellent benefits.

Fax resume to (805) 642-0090.
Phone: (805) 642-0500, attention Rita.

Kitson Ad

2000 - 2001 SEAOSC Officers and Committee Chairs

Get involved! Members and interested parties are invited to join a SEAOSC committee. Contact the chairperson for information on current projects and meeting times, dates and locations.

SEAOSC Officers & Board Members	Name	Phone	Fax	Email
President	James Hill*	562-426-4447	562-426-0979	calse@aol.com
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Treasurer	Richard Hess	714-828-1365	714-236-4034	rhess@hesseng.com
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Steel Structures	Peter Maranian	213-484-8950	213-483-5550	n/a
	Yeuan Chou	213-368-7258	213-368-7227	n/a
Younger Member	Jason Tani	805-499-4484	805-499-7303	jtani@ix.netcom.com
Website Administrator	Shafat Qazi	310-530-3050	310-530-0184	shafat@bqe.com

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