No September Dinner Meeting

So as not to conflict with the Northwest Conference being hosted by SEAW Southwest Chapter, the Seattle Chapter will not hold a meeting in September. See you at the Conference!
It is with great enthusiasm that I welcome our membership to this season of programs and activities. While this year, so far, has been difficult for many of our members as we navigate through these uncertain times of economic recession, our Chapter Board has been reviewing ways in which we can make adjustments to better serve our members. Just as many companies have been reviewing the ways that they have conducted business in the last several years and their effectiveness in today’s market, the Board has been doing the same and we are excited about some of the ideas we have developed. These items of review will not only position us to better serve our members during these times, but also position us to bring more value to our services in the future. I would like to take this opportunity to highlight a few of the more important ideas.

First, as we recognize that there are many of our members not working, we would like to offer those members concessions in membership, program and seminar costs. We feel that the unique circumstances of this recession require the Board to take unique steps to make sure our members still have access to our services regardless of their work status.

Second, we will be re-working our dinner program format in that we will be departing from our customary and historical “white table cloth” and somewhat formal setting at a nicer restaurant and looking for a venue with a more casual environment. The content of the evening will remain basically the same, but the dinner will be more of a catered affair and lighter in content than the full meal we have been used to. Most important, we will still have beverage service! We feel we can save some money this way and direct more effort (financially) to the program and speakers with room to accommodate members who may appreciate some help with costs. Our goal is to provide a program that is attractive to our members and encourage attendance. We enjoyed a great schedule of programs last year and we remain committed to providing that same level of programs in the future.

Third, the Board feels that we, as an organized group of professionals, have been relatively silent with regard to sustainable or environmental issues. The government, in a measure to stimulate the economy has increased focus from building able or environmental issues. Consequently, we have seen an increased focus from building owners and developers to incorporate sustainable components in their projects. It is our intent to form a committee that will have as its direction to monitor and manage current and emerging sustainable technology and how it affects the structural engineering community. We will be looking for a committee chair and individual committee members to initially meet and determine more specifically the mission of this group. This is a great opportunity to be on the beginning stages of this group and be involved in the growth of what the Board feels is an extremely important issue affecting structural engineers today.

This last issue is not one that is related so much to our economic situation, but instead deals with some long range planning of our organization. A lot of the work that is accomplished by SEAW can be traced back to a relatively small group of individuals who will at some point in the near future transition out of their lead roles. While we owe an incredible amount to these folks, we as a group have to make sure that there are individuals ready to take the baton and keep our momentum moving in the right directions. SEAW is nationally recognized for its participation and leadership in code review and development as well as its resources for the development of new technology. It is important to the Board that this presence continues and to do that we need to make seamless transitions. We need to devote more effort to the development of individuals moving up and into a position where they can effectively take over the efforts these few people are managing in an invisible transition. There will be more to follow on how SEAW will manage this effort.

In a brief look ahead to our program schedule, our September program will be cancelled due to the Northwest Conference in Tacoma in that same week. We want to encourage as many members and non-members as possible to attend the Conference. Our October meeting will feature Ron Klemencic of MKA presenting on the genesis of Performance Based Design and highlight one of the first projects this procedure was used on and some of the issues that had to be addressed prior to implementation. Our November meeting will be the YMF sponsored event at the UW and we will have no program in December as usual. Look for more to come on some great programs.

In closing I would like to thank the membership for allowing me the opportunity to lead this organization. Despite the pressures of the economy, I am determined and excited to help promote SEAW’s success over the next few years and to position the group to remain successful for many years to come.

Peter A. Opsahl, Chapter President peter@pastructural.com

The SEAW Seattle Chapter Equilibrium is published monthly from September through May and is available online at www.seaw.org.

Articles, letters, and announcements are accepted by e-mail to seaw@seaw.org.

Advertising rates (prepaid)
Help Wanted/Job Wanted, max 200 words, $65; Display ads: Quarter page, $115; Half Page, $150; Full Page $190; inserts, pre-printed 8 1/2 X 11 inch flat, $190. 10% discount for ads running two or more months. Deadline is the fourth Friday of the month. Contact SEAW for an advertising order form.

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Got Structure? (Structure Magazine, that is)
All Members of NCSEA’s Member Organizations receive a subscription to Structure Magazine.

If you are not currently receiving this excellent publication, contact the SEAW office at seaw@seaw.org. We’ll see that your subscription is registered.
Company Spotlight:
TOTON Structural Engineering

Founded in 2007, Toton Structural Engineering was established by Matt Toton with the goal of providing new levels of innovation and service to the structural engineering community.

We are a young company with a portfolio of experience, ranging from tract homes to high-rise residential towers; from schools to military community activity centers; and from remodels to large-scale seismic retrofits. By often collaborating with specialty engineers and other smaller firms, we are able to take on large and complicated projects without sacrificing quality and responsiveness.

We believe in two sometimes competing goals—to work on technically challenging and innovation-driven projects, and to constantly focus on producing work that is both designed efficiently and can be built efficiently. We are also committed to providing the best service to our clients, built on a foundation of honesty and integrity for both our clients and our employees.

We also believe that involvement in both the engineering community and the larger community helps maintain balance in people’s lives and empowers people to make a difference in their world. In this light, Toton Structural Engineering focuses on the lasting relationships our work creates with clients and with the community. Recent examples include the Camp Korey Hippodrome repairs, as well as the Washington Square and Ashwood Phase II residential towers in Bellevue, designed and constructed while Toton was Senior Project Manager for DCI Engineers. Toton is also currently the chair of SEAW’s legislative committee, vice-president of the Washington chapter of ACI, and runs a summer golf club for colleagues and friends.

TOTON Structural Engineering
911 Western Ave, Suite 309
Seattle, WA 98104
Phone (206) 331-2727
Fax (206) 299-0433
www.toton-structural.com

Cale Ash, SEAW Member since 2005, is our Company Spotlight Coordinator. If you would like to see your company in the spotlight, e-mail him at cash@degenkolb.com.

PROJECTS

Wyoming Residence

Set high on a bluff, this residence was designed to showcase the views and the structure. The heavy green and dry roof is constructed from layers of built-up wood framing and supported on peeled pole beams and columns. The sloped columns act as the majority of the SDC D-governed lateral system. These lateral-resisting heavy-timber frames were designed and submitted based on the then-latest NEHRP papers, allowing for an innovative and unique structural system.

Camp Korey Hippodrome

Camp Korey, a non-profit camp for kids in Carnation, asked Toton Structural Engineering to review the condition of their 1920’s-era bowstring truss-roofed Hippodrome building. Among several structural deficiencies, water intrusion had caused significant damage to the end of a multi-leaved web and built-up-chord truss, causing several localized failures and compromising its strength and stability. We sought out a local timber expert, Fred Pneuman, to partner on the structural assessment and the repairs, and provided repairs that allowed the contractor, Mowat, who was also donating their time, to efficiently remove, replace and splice the damaged members.

Alberta Residence

This small, yet highly-detailed residence sits alone in a small rock depression just east of the Canadian Rockies. Enduring strong winds, this triangular shaped structure contains several interesting technical features. The roof rafters are constructed of back-to-back forged steel channels that cantilever, in some locations, 22 feet, with a backspan of only 9 feet. All the major framing connections are exposed and many are riveted. Exterior structural walls, where there are any, are Thermomass insulated concrete and form the outline of the three-sided diaphragm.

-All graphics provided by TOTON Structural Engineering
Summer Casual Meeting Covers Exam Changes

-By Peter Somers

The 2009 Summer Casual featured pizza and beverages followed by informative presentations by the various committee chairs. After the committee presentations, Ed Huston discussed the upcoming changes to the Structural Engineer exam process. The new exam process began with the 2007 recommendations from the Structural Exam Task Force. The basic recommendation was a common SE exam throughout the US.

The recommendation was for one 16-hour test, the content of which was based professional activities and knowledge studies (PAKS), which were surveys completed by structural engineers throughout the country (SEAW participation was strong). The exam format consists of two 8-hour modules both intended to demonstrate breadth (multiple choice) and depth (essay problems) of knowledge. The tests cover design, analysis, and detailing.

Module 1 focuses on gravity and incidental lateral loads; Module 2 on lateral loads: high wind and seismic. Successful applicants must “achieve an acceptable result” on both modules for licensure. The modules may be taken together (back-to-back) or separately, and if an applicant does not pass one module, only that one needs to be re-taken. More information on the tests can be found at www.ncees.org.

The grading process is similar to the current exams, and the experience requirements and reciprocity (which are state-based) will not change based on the new tests. The transition period is three test cycles, with the first offering of the new exam in April 2011.

Peter Somers, P.E., S.E., is a Senior Associate with Magnuson Klemencic Associates, and an SEAW member since 2001. He can be contacted at psomers@mka.com.

Mark Your Calendar

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<tr>
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<th>NOVEMBER, 2009</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>September 9th</strong></td>
<td><strong>November 17th</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>No September Dinner Meeting due to Northwest Conference</strong></td>
<td><strong>Seattle Chapter Dinner Meeting</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Thu-Fri 24-25</td>
<td><strong>SEAW Scholarship Applications solicited</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>SEA NORTHWEST CONFERENCE</strong></td>
<td><strong>(One week early due to Thanksgiving)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Hotel Murano, Tacoma WA</td>
<td>YMF Sponsored meeting: Firms Showcase &amp; Student Presentations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hosted by SEAW Southwest Chapter</td>
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<td><strong>Unpaid Members dropped from rolls</strong></td>
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Watch the SEAW website for Calendar updates!

YMF Corner

After holding its second elections last spring, the YMF leadership held a transition meeting in June to share information with new officers and get ready for the upcoming year. Melissa White will stay on for the year as Past Chair, joined by Jessica Jenness as Chair, Dan Yeager of DCI Engineers as Vice Chair, Jerry Lee of MKA as Social Representative and Robyn Yang of DCI Engineers as Outreach Representative.

The upcoming year will see a few changes to the YMF. At the officer transition meeting, the policies and procedures were revised to more accurately reflect our goals as the group continues to evolve. The most noteworthy change is the new goal of providing two community service activities each year, one each in the fall and spring. This was prompted by the positive feedback received from last spring’s Rebuilding Together day.

Another change was the establishment of a consistent happy hour schedule. Happy hours will be held in downtown Seattle on the second Tuesday of each month and on the east side on the third Wednesday of each month (beginning with September). So, mark your calendars for happy hours so you don’t miss out on the fun.

YMF held its first happy hour of the year at The Alibi Room in Seattle on Tuesday, August 18th. There was a great turnout out of about 16 YMF members and one board member in attendance.

Social Representative, Jerry Lee, has selected the following locations for our upcoming happy hours:

- Tuesday, September 8th – Thoa’s at 1st/Union, Seattle
- Wednesday, September 16th – Chantanee, Bellevue

If you have any requests for future happy hour locations, please send them to Jerry at jlee@mka.com. If you have any questions or ideas for future YMF events, or if you

Created in 2007, the Younger Member Forum provides networking and social opportunities to SEAW members 35 and under, as well as new non-member engineers and students. All SEAW members are welcome to participate in YMF functions.

Jessica Jenness, YMF Chair
jessicajenness@hotmail.com
Meetings, Seminars

COSMOS Technical Session on Practical Application of the new ASCE 7-10 Required Procedures for Determining Site Specific Ground Motions

The Consortium of Organizations for Strong Motion Observation Systems (COSMOS) will be holding its Annual Meeting and Technical Session at the Clarion Hotel at the San Francisco Airport, Millbrae, California on Friday, November 6th. The day-long technical session will focus on “Practical Application of the new ASCE 7-10 Required Procedures for Determining Site Specific Ground Motions.” This year’s COSMOS Technical Session is being co-sponsored by the Pacific Earthquake Engineering Research Center (PEER) and the California Geological Survey (CGS).

The technical session will include presentations on the new ASCE 7-10 procedures required to be used in determining site-specific ground motions for both building design and liquefaction evaluation applications. ASCE 7-10 is expected to be adopted in the 2012 IBC and the 2013 CBC. The new ASCE 7-10 procedures will greatly change how site-specific ground motions will be developed for building code applications. All site-specific ground motions will now need to be developed based on maximum direction of response and not on geometric values and outside of the near field, a target risk of collapse needs to be incorporated in the site-specific ground motion determination. In the near field, ground motions will be determined based on one-standard-deviation values. Some agencies in California are already mandating that these procedures be considered in current site-specific ground motion studies. The technical session will include practical applications in utilizing the new procedures for determining site specific ground motions and the selection and scaling of ground motion time series records. Issues in implementing the new procedures will also be discussed. After the presentations are made, the presenters will also serve on a panel that will discuss (along with session participants) their observations regarding the determination of site-specific ground motions and the selection and scaling of ground motion to satisfy ASCE 7-10.

This year’s COSMOS Technical Session is complimentary to the September 2009 EERI “NGA Model” Seminar program. For complete program and registration details for the COSMOS Annual Meeting and Technical Session, visit the COSMOS website at www.cosmos-eq.org.

Are your 2009 Dues Paid?

Log in to seaw@seaw.org and check today!

The default Log-in name is your email address; password is your first name. We recommend you personalize your password (on the “My Membership” page) once you’ve logged in.

Opportunities

Engineers

Seattle Structural

Seattle Structural PS Inc is a downtown Seattle firm looking for engineering candidates with 4 to 8 years experience. Share in our vision of client-based service and hard working enthusiasm on diverse and challenging projects in the US and overseas. Join our collaborative staff of 10 in one of Seattle’s most vibrant office towers, specializing in public, commercial, retail, industrial and specialty projects. We offer excellent benefits and stimulating work in a casual environment. Visit our website at www.seattlestructural.com

Send resumes to: Pete Pawlak SE, 1420 Fifth Avenue, Suite 425, Seattle, WA 98101
Phone 206-343-3000; fax 206-343-3013; e-mail PPawlak@SeattleStructural.com

Bridge Engineers

2 Bridge Engineer positions with Washington State Ferries. Salary: $64,740 - $84,984 Annually, DOQ.

Positions are currently funded until June 30, 2011. WSF Seismic Retrofit Program needs a structural engineer for the design, construction, and maintenance of ferry terminal facilities that have a variety of complex structure types including movable bridges, timber and concrete vehicle approach structures, berthing structures, and terminal buildings. Develop a screening process to identify and prioritize WSF Structures for seismic retrofit. Determine seismic loads and determine the capacity of existing steel and concrete WSF Structures per AASHTO, WSDOT, and FHWA retrofit criteria.

WSF Load Rating Engineer to perform load ratings and structural maintenance repairs of ferry terminal structures. Have the ability to perform load rating analyses (similar to design check) on existing WSF Structures using AASHTO Load Rating requirements. Bridge types include steel pony truss, steel girders, concrete pre-stressed structures, and timber members. Registered PE in WA in Civil Engineering, BS in Civil Eng., 5 yrs. Exp. preferably in the structural design of bridges per WSDOT criteria. Refer to our website www.wsdot.wa.gov/jobs.

www.wsdot.wa.gov/jobs
Membership

Membership Applications

- Michael G. Hough
  Anderson Peyton
  BSCE 2005, MSCE 2006, UW
  Class: Associate

- Drew A. Kirkpatrick
  Magnusson Klemencic Associates
  BS, 2008, MS 2008 UCLA
  Class: Associate

- Benjamin Klingenstein
  Magnusson Klemencic Associates
  BS 2008, Washington University St Louis; MS 2009, Stanford
  Class: Associate

- Rylan Knuttgen
  King County
  BSCE 2007; MSCE 2009, UW
  Class: Associate

- Benjamin J. McCann
  CT Engineering Inc.
  BSCE 1996, UW
  Licensed PE, Washington
  Class: Professional Associate

- Eric Rupp
  Swenson Say Faget
  BS 2002 Seattle University
  Licensed PE, Washington
  Class: Professional Associate

- Ryan Jeffrey Walters
  Integrus Architecture
  BSCE 2008, WSU
  Class: Associate

Accepted Applications

- Matthew Amrhein
  Associate

- Nicholas Carter
  MEMBER

- Mark Dachille
  Associate

- Stephen Day
  Professional Associate

- Sean W. Johnson
  Associate

- Katherine Krall
  Associate

- Natalie Low
  Student

- Annie Luu
  Associate

SEAW Membership Dues

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR 2009 DUES?

Seattle Chapter members were emailed their dues invoices on January 23rd, and reminders went out on March 2nd, April 1st, and August 11. According to the SEAW Bylaws, annual dues are payable in advance. **Members whose dues are unpaid at the end of the year will be removed from the membership.**

**Check your dues status today!**

**Online Invoice Check/Dues Payment Instructions**

1. Go to www.seaw.org
2. Log in to the member area (Default login name is your email address; password is your first name)
3. Click on “My Membership” in the menu bar
4. Select “Membership Renewal” in the gray menu bar to see if there is an outstanding invoice
5. Select the invoice and Follow the prompts to pay your dues online using your VISA or Mastercard
6. When your payment has been made, you will receive an automated receipt by email.

**Forgot your Login Information?** Simply click on “Forgot Password” under the Member sign in area and enter your email address. Your information will be emailed to you.