



## NATIONAL COUNCIL OF STRUCTURAL ENGINEERS ASSOCIATIONS

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Letter to SEA's  
JANUARY/FEBRUARY, 2011

Dear Delegates of our NCSEA Member Organizations:

Happy 2011! I hope that you and your family had a wonderful holiday season and your firms are off to a good start for the New Year. My name is Jim Malley, and I have the honor of being NCSEA President for 2010-2011. NCSEA is planning to communicate with our Delegates and Member Organizations more frequently this year, including letters such as these, and at least two web-based meetings that hopefully will be attended by Delegates and/or leaders of all NCSEA Member Organizations.

One of the challenges that NCSEA continually faces is ensuring that our individual members are aware of all the good work that is being done on their behalf, and to assist the work of their statewide and local Member Organizations. Being the "National" organization naturally results in making it difficult to communicate in a way that each individual engineer has an accurate understanding of the ongoing activities. Listed below is a partial list of NCSEA activities, with the volunteer committee primarily responsible noted in parentheses.

- Provide practicing engineers access to the development and revision process for codes and standards (Code Advisory)
- Advocate positive changes in the building code development process (Code Advisory)
- Enhance the image of structural engineers in the eyes of the general public (Advocacy)
- Educate the media to encourage them to seek structural engineers for commentary on issues that pertain to structural engineering (Advocacy)
- Convey accurate information to the general public relative to structural-engineering-related events (Advocacy)
- Educate other design professionals and potential clients about the role, value and importance of structural engineers (Advocacy)
- Educate elected officials about the importance of structural engineers in order to gain their support for SE licensing legislation, Good Samaritan Acts, mandatory peer review, and QBS (Advocacy)
- Encourage students to pursue careers in structural engineering (Advocacy)
- Develop publications to assist engineers with difficult and poorly understood areas of practice (Publications)
- Advocate for structural engineering degree programs (Basic Education)
- Enhance communication thru NCSEA website improvements, the Member Organization Delegate Handbook, and monthly e-newsletters sent to all MO members (NCSEA Office)
- Provide meaningful, practical and convenient continuing education opportunities at reasonable prices, such as Webinars, annual Winter Institute and Conference (Continuing Education)

- Provide national support for pursuing separate structural licensing on a state-by-state basis (Licensing)
- Pursue improvement in the level of competence and standard of practice of the structural engineering profession throughout the U.S. (Licensing)
- Work toward establishing a national Structural Engineering Emergency Response (SEER) network to link state SEER groups, as well as help promote in-state Good Samaritan laws (SEER)
- Provide reasonably-priced ATC-20 and ATC-45 training for MO's (Continuing Education)
- Continuously update the NCSEA SEER Manual (SEER)
- Encourage communication and interaction between member organizations, their committees, and NCSEA committees (NCSEA Office)
- Revitalize existing, and create new, state SEAs (Membership Development)
- Publish STRUCTURE, the leading monthly publication for, by, and about structural engineers and their practice (Publications – Editorial Board, NCSEA Office)

A few of these items are noted as being a responsibility of the NCSEA Office. In addition to these items, our office staff supports and spurs our committees to complete all of their tasks and goals. Led by Executive Director Jeanne Vogelzang, they are critically vital to our success, working collaboratively alongside the volunteer efforts of our members.

In addition to these ongoing activities, recent NCSEA accomplishments include:

- Successful participation of the Code Advisory Committee (CAC) in representing practicing SE's on numerous proposed changes to the 2009 IBC. Positions taken by the CAC were upheld on issues related to simplified wind provisions, seismic retrofit of existing buildings, numerous seismic design issues, quality assurance/quality control, and design related to progressive collapse.
- Survey of educational institutions for structural-engineering-related courses offered and publication of the results in the May 2010 issue of STRUCTURE magazine, in the interest of improving the technical and practical quality of education for structural engineering students.
- Publication of two NCSEA books and short courses offered throughout the U.S. (*Guide to the Design of Diaphragms, Chords and Collectors Based on the 2006 IBC and ASCE/SEI 7-05* and *Guide to the Design of Out-of-Plane Wall Anchorage Based on the 2006/2009 IBC and ASCE/SEI 7-05*).
- Formation of five new member organizations, in Alaska, Mississippi, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin.
- New SE Practice acts in Utah and Washington. Active support of MO's pursuing new SE Acts in Florida, Texas, Nebraska, Ohio, Alaska and Georgia.
- Signing of an agreement with the International Code Council (ICC) Evaluation Service to assist ICC with the technical review and acceptance of structural products.
- Establishment of a successful ongoing series of webinars for members, that focuses specifically on the educational needs of practicing structural engineers.
- Development of a review/refresher course specifically designed for the new NCEES Structural Engineering examination, given for the first time this January and February, prior to the first time the new SE test is being given.

- Monthly e-newsletters to update the membership on activities and issues of interest.

In addition to our ongoing activities, I am greatly looking forward to working with the Board, our NCSEA staff, NCSEA Committees, and our Member Organizations over the next year to carry out the Vision and Mission of NCSEA that we reconfirmed last year:

***Vision: NCSEA and its Member Organizations constitute the premier professional society for practicing structural engineers in the United States of America.***

***Mission: NCSEA serves to advance the practice of structural engineering and, as the autonomous national voice for practicing structural engineers, protect the public's right to safe, sustainable and cost effective buildings, bridges and other structures.***

One of the Board's first actions this year was to finalize and approve NCSEA's Strategic Plan. As the President in the first year of the five year Strategic Plan, my goal is to ensure that we get off to a good start toward achieving the six main goals outlined in the plan. They are simply stated as:

**External Goals**

1. Promote the Profession
2. Represent the Profession
3. Improve the Profession

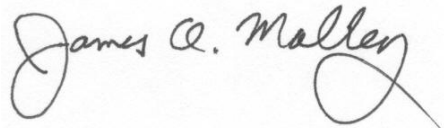
**Internal Goals**

1. Encourage and Support the Member Organizations
2. Energize Committee Activity
3. Ensure Financial Security

The Strategic Plan has a great deal of detail as to how we plan to achieve these goals. While I am certain that we will make good strides forward on all six goals this year, I plan to place emphasis on areas where NCSEA can continue to expand our service to our Member Organizations and their individual members. I pledge that we will strive to serve the varied needs of all our Member Organizations to the maximum extent possible during the coming year.

As with any volunteer-based organization, there are numerous activities and functions where Delegates, Member Organization leaders, and individual members can become involved and make significant contributions to the future success of NCSEA and our profession. We urge each of you to consider joining us in NCSEA's effort to serve our profession and help protect the public safety. If you have questions about NCSEA's activities, program, or how they relate to those of your Member Organization, please feel free to contact me, or NCSEA Executive Director Jeanne Vogelzang, via the NCSEA website at [www.ncsea.com](http://www.ncsea.com). If you do decide to actively participate, I believe that you will find it to be a stimulating and rewarding experience.

Thank you for all that you do, and will do, to promote, represent and improve our profession.



James O. Malley  
NCSEA President, 2010-2011