

# SEAOG – Georgia | 2020 Young Member Group of the Year Finalist

**What events has your Young Member Group hosted (including education sessions, site tours, outreach, exam review, etc.) to foster professional development among your members? What event or activity did your membership find to be the most beneficial and why?**

One of the most well-attended and most cherished events the SEAOG Young Members Group hosts every year is an information session for the PE Structural exam, featuring a new set of freshly licensed panelists to give their best pieces of advice to the next generation of structural engineers on their path to licensure. 2019 was a particularly special year for this event, as young member alums Sarah Scarborough and Brian Adorno (both past chairs) had been selected to take this same SEAOG YMG classic presentation to the national stage at the NCSEA Structural Engineering Summit in Anaheim. The information session kicked off with an introduction to the state of Georgia's application process, exam specifics, and a few lessons learned and study tips. Then the session moderators ask the panelists a few quick intro questions to get the Q&A started. Once the panelists are warmed up the Q&A begins, and attendees have the chance to ask their burning questions to aid in exam preparation. This event was the most beneficial to SEAOG young members because it helps engineers in all stages of the SE exam preparation process. In fact, it is not uncommon for young members to attend this session back-to-back since it covers all things SE exam from applying to receiving your license, and the panelists are different every year. Another continuing education event the SEAOG YMG participated in this year was the SEAOG IBC 2018 seminar with S.K. Ghosh. The YMG chair advocated for a special reduced rate for young members to boost the attendance of young engineers. The event was a huge success, educating Georgia structural engineers (both new and seasoned) on the major changes made to the IBC 2018 and its referenced standards.

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**What has your Young Member Group done to reach out to new young members over the last year and/or to increase participation/engagement of your members? Discuss how your actions have led to membership growth and/or increased participation. Please also indicate the size of the Young Member Group relative to the SEA membership.**

Over the last year, the SEAOG Young Members Group has boosted membership and event attendance by exploring a few new publicity methods for the group and its events. In addition to posting event details on the SEAOG YMG website and including them in the monthly newsletters, the SEAOG Board was asked to help publicize events within their respective companies and emails were also sent out to the entire member organization. This helped the YMG reach a lot more people for each event. Generally event attendance remained relatively high throughout the year. Obviously there are many factors that can influence membership involvement and attendance, but the SEAOG YMG definitely sees value in having the main member organization support and encourage their events with their younger staff. Also over the last year, events have shifted more toward professional development. These events have fared well because they are so unique and allow young engineers to hear the perspectives of more experienced engineers. The young members group has about 30 active members. SEAOG has approximately 180 members.

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**What has your Young Member Group done to foster networking with senior members of your MO, within the YMG, and with other disciplines (i.e. architects, contractors)? What lessons/educational opportunities have come from interacting with these groups?**

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