

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?

This year, the SEAMASS YMG organized several events and outreach opportunities. The most beneficial activity was the NCSEA YMG Trivia Night. It was one of our most well-attended events and allowed our members to bond over friendly competition. We had two teams participate and one team made it to the tie-breaker round and won!

One of our other beneficial events was the “Intro to SE/PE Exam” seminar given by our own recently licensed engineers. After positive feedback from previous years, we’ve made this an annual event.

Our other successful events include construction site tours of large projects in the Boston area. One of our spotlight events was the tour of One Dalton, Boston’s third tallest building. The \$700 million building is 742 feet high with 61 floors and a triangular footprint. We hosted another tour of the Boston College Recreation Center and the presentation and tour was given by a SEAMASS member.

We hosted two other interactive social events including rock climbing and a holiday party. The night of rock climbing was a huge hit and followed up by a networking event at a local brewery.

SEAMASS received an NCSEA Grant in 2018 to help the local ACE mentor program. We acquired six donated computers and used the grant money to refurbish the computers and provide structural analysis software programs. The remaining funds were used for a K’Nex model building set and shake tables to help the students understand the fundamentals of building frames and lateral design.

The YMG has also made it a point to promote community involvement through volunteering opportunities. This year some of our members participated as judges in the New England Future City Competition and mentored Girl Scouts at their Extreme Gingerbread House competition where their creations had to withstand an earthquake on a shake table.

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.

The most effective method we've seen for growing our YMG membership is through teaming up with our member organization and our young members spreading the word about the organization.

In the past year, we have expanded our audience for our young member event announcements to the entire member organization in addition to our YMG mailing list. We've seen that senior members at various firms who've realized the amazing benefits of being involved with SEAMASS, are advocating for the organization to the young engineers at their companies.

Another way we attract people to our events is by making all our events "free". The YMG board coordinates with the senior organization to cover costs of the events, which allows for fewer barriers for new young members to make the first step in coming to an event.

Lastly, the most effective method we've seen for growing our YMG membership is simply by our young members spreading the word to their coworkers and colleagues. We've worked extremely hard this year and every year prior to ensure we're providing technical events, networking opportunities, and outreach activities that meet or exceed the expectations of our members. In turn, they want to tell other potential young members of the benefits of joining SEAMASS. The young members who are referred to the organization tend to be the ones who stay involved in the organization beyond their first event.

Utilizing these methods, SEAMASS YMG has doubled its membership in the past year. The percent increase of young members was over 5 times higher than the increase in professional members. The YMG now has 50 members and the member organization as a whole has 207 members.

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?

We provide several opportunities for our members to network with our own member organization as well as different disciplines within the industry including other YMGs in the AEC industry and vendors.

The biggest networking event we have with both senior and young members is our Annual Dinner. This year we attended a New England Revolution Soccer game at Gillette Stadium. It was the most well-attended Annual Dinner to date and young members made up 20% of the total attendees. The connections with our senior members especially have given us more resources for young member group events. Frequently our contacts for setting up construction tours and technical presentations come from within our member organization. In turn, these become our next spotlight events.

We connect with other people in the industry through our construction site tours and networking with other YMGs. This year the Boston Society of Architects young members hosted a Winter Warmer where several young member groups from the AEC industry met for a night of networking. The SEAMASS YMG was one of the event sponsors and the networking opportunity was announced to our entire member organization.

During the holidays, we joined with DeWalt/Powers to organize a holiday party at a local bar. They provided us with educational experience using their DeWalt Design Assist software and allowed our members to network with a vendor and learn about new products in the industry.

Lastly, a few of our members have been fortunate enough to attend the Structural Engineering Summit and we know first-hand the value it has in terms of new connections and learning opportunities. We always encourage our young members to attend the Structural Engineering Summit to take advantage of the incredible networking and education by NCSEA.

Testimonial one must be from a member of your Young Member Group describing how their participation has helped them grow as a young engineer.

I started to participate in young SEAMASS YMG activities last year. It has been exciting to find other young engineers that share the same passion for structural engineering. I have been able to exchange experiences with them and learn new approaches to structural challenges while being in a relaxed and supportive environment.

We have visited leading construction sites in the greater Boston area where we have seen innovative structural solutions. For example, we toured the Boston College Recreation Center which was also featured in the November 2018 issue of STRUCTURE magazine.

The networking events have led me to meet and establish friendships with engineers at most of the structural engineering companies in the greater Boston area. I have to admit that my social group has expanded significantly since I started to attend the events. My communication skills have also remarkably improved thanks to this.

Activities and shared time with fellow young engineers within the young SEAMASS events have made me feel more passionate and motivated about structural engineering and willing to innovate and go beyond any limits of my career.

Jerson Olano, SEAMASS YMG Member
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Testimonial two must be from a member of your SEA or local structural engineering community describing the benefits they have witnessed from the young members' participation in YMG activities in the last year.

In the last year, the SEAMASS Board of Directors has witnessed strong participation of its young members in YMG activities. The YMG continues to attract new members and exhibit growing attendance at its events. With events ranging from educational site tours of local projects to social activities such as rock climbing, the YMG offers numerous opportunities for younger engineers to network and become involved in their local engineering community.

An example of a recent event the YMG offered was a seminar on the SE and PE exams, which walked attendees through the registration, preparation, and examination phases of both exams. Members who attended indicated that the event helped them to better understand licensure in Massachusetts and the application process. The YMG also teamed up with DeWalt to host a holiday party and networking event. Roughly 50 people attended, contributing to a strong sense of community in a relaxed and fun setting. Last October six SEAMASS YMG members attended the NCSEA summit in Chicago. This was an excellent opportunity for these members to network with other engineers from across the country and share ideas with representatives from other young member groups.

The YMG maintains a strong relationship with the SEAMASS Board of Directors and main body. There was a strong turnout of young members at the SEAMASS Annual Meeting, which was held at Gillette Stadium at a New England Revolution game. The YMG also collaborates with other local engineering societies, universities, and the ACE mentor program for high school students, where the group secured an NCSEA grant for computers and other instructional resources. Young members in the early stages of their careers benefit tremendously from the opportunities the YMG provides to gain technical and field exposure, network with other young members, and participate in activities with the member organization at large.

Bill Lovallo, SEAMASS President
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