



# FSEA Newsletter

Fall 2011

THE FLORIDA STRUCTURAL ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY AMY MILLER, PE

It's hard to believe the last few months of 2011 are upon us. After spending a year working closely with so many structural engineers across the state I feel more strongly than ever that our organization represents the industry's finest. Our officers and members are involved in organizations across the state and nation working to enhance not only the field of structural engineering but the world around us.

As my year as president comes to an end, I feel it has been an honor to serve in this role. Having Christine Olden (executive director extraordinaire), Pablo Carreno (our long-serving treasurer who keeps us all on the straight and narrow) and Tom Grogan (who will be replacing me next year much to our favor) supporting my role has been a true delight.

Also sincerely appreciated are the efforts of the other state board members who so often stepped up to the plate when a need arose. So many of them gave up endless hours of their time. Together we were able to grow the membership to 317 members; create another chapter of structural engineers now represented in the Tallahassee area; establish a young members group; have members who have worked diligently to move the bar forward on separate licensure; and to continue to support the various other initiatives our organization continues to support.

Despite the economic downturn, our organization worked hard to make this year a productive one. Thanks to each and every one of you. I am looking forward to my role next year as immediate past-president. In that role I will be working toward coordinating a state meeting/conference geared for our entire membership. Stay tuned!

In closing, I'd like to wish each and every one of you a wonderful holiday season and a safe and healthy 2012. Thank you for this opportunity!

Best,  
Amy



**Amy Miller, PE**  
FSEA president

## CURRENT EVENTS

### ICC DISASTER RESPONDER COURSE

It's not too late to register for the December 2 & 3 course in Jacksonville. Register on-line at [www.flsea.com](http://www.flsea.com) and click on the Calendar page.

### 2011 MEMBERSHIP DUES

Membership invoices were mailed the last week of October. If you have not received an invoice, please contact Christine Olden at [fseadirector@aol.com](mailto:fseadirector@aol.com).

# NCSEA NATIONAL CONFERENCE

BY THOMAS A. GROGAN JR., PE, SE



*Chris Kimball, PE, SE (Utah), Dustin Cole, PE, SE (Oklahoma), Tracy Palmer, (Kansas & Missouri), Don Schinske (California), Christine Olden (Florida), Cathy Riley (San Diego), Sandi Davison (Nebraska) and Jeff Laird (Mississippi) met on Friday morning to discuss the role of an executive director.*

**T**wo weeks ago several of us from Florida attended the NCSEA Annual Conference held in Oklahoma City. It was a great venue and also gave me a chance to visit the Oklahoma City Bombing Memorial which was a reminder of the terrible things that can happen when structures are put to the ultimate test. There are several things I wanted to share with you about the conference in hopes that you might consider attending in a future year.

There were over 12 sessions presented by some of the brightest structural engineering minds in the country. Speakers included Jim Cagley, Gene Corely, Ron Hamburger, Jim Malley and Craig Barnes to name a few. I enjoy attending because it makes me keenly aware that we all have so much to learn from each other.

Our Executive Director (ED), Christine Olden attended and coordinated a meeting with the executive directors of several states along with other state presidents. She found out what the other ED's are doing and learned several new things our Member Organization (MO) should be doing. On Saturday, the president of the Pennsylvania MO complemented Christine on her meeting and suggested this become a regular event for future conferences.

FSEA is the 7th largest Member Organization of NCSEA behind only California, Washington, Oregon, Illinois, Utah, and Texas. We truly have made great strides as an organization. We also have the most chapters (seven) of any of the states.

On Saturday afternoon, the conference attendees participated in a Separate Licensure discussion and subsequent breakout sessions. It was a great discussion and we addressed: establishing a committee to pursue structural licensing; gaining support within the engineering community; gaining support outside the engineering community; understanding and over-

coming opposition; working with licensing boards; and working with legislators.

This is the fourth Annual Conference I have attended and it is my hope to see more of you there next year. We are part of a great profession and sometimes forget how important it is to constantly strengthen our knowledge base. Next year's conference is in St. Louis, which is a great city and should provide an excellent venue.



*During the NCSEA Conference, we attended a dinner at the Oklahoma City Museum of Art and the entertainment included a dance by local Indian tribes. Pictured above are Ron Milmed, PE, FSEA delegate, Christine Olden, FSEA executive director, Johnny Kemble (Ponca tribe), Cecil Gary (Kiowa tribe), dancer Randy Frazier (Prairie Band Potawatomi & Choctaw tribe) and Tom Grogan Jr., PE, SE, FSEA president-elect.*

## LICENSURE COMMITTEE NEWS

BY THOMAS A. GROGAN JR. PE, SE

**W**e have had two licensure committee meetings since our last newsletter and I am pleased to report that we are well positioned to take our cause to the legislature. The only stumbling block right now is that Governor Scott has made it clear that the only legislation he wants to address is legislation that creates jobs.

We have written the legislation and over the next year will be working with FES to determine the best approach to take with the state legislature. There will likely be a lobbyist involved so we need to fully understand how the process works. I will continue to update you of progress in future newsletters. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. Our committee is always looking for help so please volunteer if you can.

*Tom Grogan can be reached at [Thomas.grogan@haskell.com](mailto:Thomas.grogan@haskell.com)*

## BAY AREA FLORIDA CHAPTER NEWS

**W**e're nearing the end of 2011, and while the economy and the construction market may still only be trudging along, I feel that structural engineers in Florida are moving out of the valley towards the sunrise.

As my wife points out to me regularly, most of the engineers we know tend to be introverted and don't speak outwardly very often. ASCE and other trade organizations have drawn attention to how few engineers and others from science-based fields there are involved in politics. Many in the consulting business feel more and more that our services are treated as a commodity and less value is placed on the quality of our services, and yet we still have to reduce fees to stay competitive. I think most of us are happy doing the work that we do and would rather not (or can't afford to) spend the time outside of that to change the inequalities between engineering and other professions.

All that said, the Bay Area Chapter had great attendance at our "Changes to ASCE 7-10" seminar in September. It brought out engineers from all over west and central Florida, and many came in part to voice opinion, positive or negative, at the changes to the wind provisions that have been relatively unchanged for a decade. As FSEA moves to advance separate licensure of structural engineers in Florida, many have come out to learn more and get on board with an issue that can enhance and distinguish our client services and our place in the engineering community (you can learn more too at <http://flsea.com/members/>).

Maybe it's just been me that's seen this growing fire burning within our peers, but there are a few structural engineers out there that don't want to take the status quo any longer. They either went looking to change things, or have woken up being volunteered to do so and are continuing the struggle. But a few is not enough. Now is the time to help shape where our profession is going to be in 10, 20, or 30 years. Change is inevitable, and the direction of that change is going to be decided by those few who want to have their voices heard. Be one of those few.....or at least come out and see the sunrise.

**Scott Martin can be reached at**  
[SMartin@walterpmoore.com](mailto:SMartin@walterpmoore.com)



**Scott Martin, PE**  
Bay Area Chapter  
president

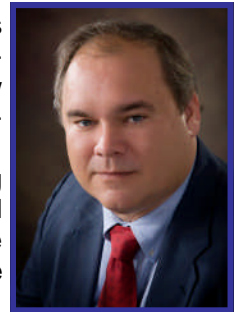
## BIG BEND FLORIDA CHAPTER NEWS

**T**he new Big Bend Chapter is up and running. We are focused on recruiting new members and explaining the benefits of joining FSEA.

Our November 9th meeting was an ASCE webinar lunch and learn on ASCE 7-10 and the changes to the wind load code. We will also be participating in a lecture on the new Marlins stadium with the FAMU/FSU College of Engineering students on December 1, 2011. And everyone is looking forward to our first annual Christmas party on December 10th, which will be highlighted by bad karaoke and good adult beverages.

The Big Bend Chapter will hit the ground running next year with more lunch and learn meetings, and participation in the ASCE Southeastern Student Conference in March. We will also be participating at the Engineers Week Banquet with other engineering organizations.

**Doug Barkley can be reached at**  
[douglas.barkley@bcei.us](mailto:douglas.barkley@bcei.us)



**Doug Barkley, PE**  
Big Bend  
Chapter president

## NCSEA'S 2012 WINTER INSTITUTE

### SAVE THE DATE!

FEBRUARY 10-11 AT THE  
HOTEL MONTELEONE IN  
NEW ORLEANS, LA

**Tour:** Inner Harbor Navigation Canal (IHNC) and the Lake Borgne Surge Barrier

**Lectures:** Geotechnical Engineering and Pile Load Test Program for the Inner Harbor, Design of Gate Structures, ASCE 7-10 Wind Loading and Design, Hurricane and Tornado Shelter Design, Retaining Wall Design – Soil Improvement Methods in Soft and Challenging Soils, and More... Don't miss it!

Visit [www.ncsea.com](http://www.ncsea.com) for more information!

# STATE BOARD MEETING MINUTES OCTOBER 12, 2011

## **Review and Approve July 27, 2011 Meeting Minutes: Approved**

**Financial Report (Carreno):** Our cash position has declined significantly.

**Budget Comparison:** Our projected income and expenses are no longer tracking as we expected with our income showing at 65.5% which reflects the addition of the two new chapters and the fact that we do not derive any income from their members for a year. Our expenses are reported at 78% and therefore, as running a bit over where they should be. However, if we plug in the NCSEA dues, the percentage would be much higher. We are no longer running in a “safe” cash position with our reserve being extremely low. We must face this issue head on and continue with our efforts to increase our membership and our collections.

## **Accountant’s Financial Statement:**

**Seminars:** We are currently sponsoring the ICC certification seminar in two locations across the state. We need to do everything in our power to promote these seminars as our financial well-being is totally dependent on their success.

**Membership:** At the end of the 2011 QTR 1, we had 277 members and thanks to the great effort of all, we ended the 2011 QTR 2 with 299 members. At the end of the 2011 QTR 3, we have increased our membership to 317 members and have added two new chapters. As of 9/30/11, our membership numbers are: BAFL (28), BBFL (7), CFL (32), NEFL (55), PBFL (35), SOFL (130), SWFL (30) for a total of 317 members. The new Big Bend Chapter is up and running, however, they need to open a checking account. The approximate start-up costs for a new chapter is \$2,500.00.

**2012 Budget:** Tom Grogan and Amy Miller will work on balancing the budget for 2012.

## **The Financial Report was approved.**

**Executive Director’s Report (Olden):** The next newsletter will be published in November. Recent updates to the web site include: calendar items on front page; Big Bend Chapter; FAQ’s for separate licensure; Find A Structural Engineer list; ICC seminar registration. The addition of a map of Florida on the Chapter’s page will have to wait until next year. Christine needs to add the name and contact information of the 2<sup>nd</sup> past president to each of the chapter pages.

**Executive Director’s Meeting at NCSEA:** Christine has organized a meeting of approximately ten Executive Directors and Association presidents for Friday, October 21<sup>st</sup> at the national conference. The purpose of the meeting is for the executive directors of other associations to share their “best practices.”

**2012 Ballots:** Christine Olden will use Survey Monkey to create the 2012 ballots. The ballots will be emailed to all members in November. The following appointments to the state board will be voted on by the membership: secretary: Fred Bowen; president-elect: Scott Martin; CFL director: Brett Rylands; NEFL director: Matt Lowe; SOFL director: Greg McLellan; SWFL director: Brian DeVries.

**2012 Dues: A motion was made to raise the dues by \$10.00 per person (with the exception of student dues which will remain at \$10.00): This motion was approved.**

**Chapter Reports: NEFL:** A four-hour Hayward Baker seminar held in September netted about \$1,600.00. There are plans to award two \$1,000.00 scholarships to engineering students this year. A fall social is planned aboard the Haskell yacht. The chapter recently voted to start charging \$10.00 for lunch webinars. The chapter has been supportive of the student engineering chapter at UNF.

**BAFL:** Netted about \$5,000.00 from the four-hour Wind Provisions seminar held in September. Sixty-five people were in attendance.

**CFL:** Holding monthly board meetings; coordinating monthly lunch-time webinars—about eight to 10 people are in attendance. Each person purchases their food and pays \$10.00 to watch the webinar. The chapter is planning to host a seminar at the beginning of 2012.

**BBFL:** Last board meeting was week of October 17<sup>th</sup>. Trying to coordinate a chapter meeting before the holidays. May possibly have a joint holiday party with another association.

**PBFL:** Recently held an ICC Introductory course presented by Will Bracken.

**Young Member’s Group:** A recent barbecue netted about \$300.00 and about 30 people were in attendance.

**SOFL:** Recently held an ICC Introductory course presented by Will Bracken. On November 11-12<sup>th</sup> the ICC Disaster Response Seminar will be held in Coral Springs. The chapter is struggling to make money from their monthly meetings so the board recently sent a questionnaire to its members asking for feedback on their monthly meetings. The results of the questionnaire were: earlier dinner presentation; new location; reduced dinner costs; and different seminar topics. Also, the members no longer want to receive a hard copy of the meeting notice, just an email notice. The board has already selected its 2012 nominations and a ballot will be sent out this month. A member wants to start a YM Group in the South Florida Chapter. A \$1,000.00 scholarship will be awarded to one student from FAU, FIU and UM this year.

**A motion was made for Ron Milmed to receive “Life Member” status by the state board and the SOFL Chapter board. This motion was unanimously approved.**

**SWFL:** Recently held a webinar on ASCE-7. Members have asked about what goes on at the state level. Amy Miller has offered to create “talking points” about the state’s activities and will send those to the chapter presidents.

## **Committee Reports:**

**Licensing (Grogan):** The next teleconference is Wednesday, November 2<sup>nd</sup> at 4:00 p.m. Ron Milmed is cleaning up the White Paper. The modified White Paper was emailed to all committee members on October 18<sup>th</sup>. Right now, the committee needs to find articles about separate licensure and submit them to FES. The White Paper and FAQ’s have been posted on the

## MINUTES CONTINUED

web site on the Members page and people can be directed to the site for further information.

**FICE (Barkley):** Doug met with the head lobbyist Jon Johnson, who is not open to the idea of separate licensure. Before the end of this year, Doug suggested that he and Tom Grogan meet with FES director Frank Rudd and Jon Johnson in Tallahassee to discuss the future of separate licensure.

**SEER (Martin):** FSEA is co-sponsoring the ICC Disaster Response Certification course over the next three months in Tampa, Coral Springs and Jacksonville. Tom asked Christine Olden to call Nancy at the FBPR to get a list of EI's to send them course information. We also need to get the word out to other engineering associations. Chris Pfeil needs to order the ATC manuals two weeks prior to each seminar. Robert Hernandez suggested using the people that become Certified Disaster Responders also as media contacts.

### **New Business:**

**NCSEA Volunteers (Miller):** Three FSEA members filled out volunteer applications with NCSEA to help out at national level: Carmelo Giglio, Jason Burby and Troy Bishop.

**Financial Ambitions (Martin):** Scott asked the state board about FSEA's plans for the future and if FSEA has any plans for political influence. He suggested coming up with a five-year plan. Mark Scala suggested expanding our membership to include bridge engineers. Tom Grogan suggested that Scott look at NCSEA's five-year plan that was published last year.

**Box Net On-Line File Sharing (Amore):** Glenn has set this up so that the state board can share documents and have a discussion. Christine Olden needs to create an account and be the administrator. Whenever an update is made to a file, everyone in the group will receive an update notice.

**Awards Banquet (Miller):** Amy recently asked Robert Hernandez to talk to the SOFL board about having an awards banquet next year in Miami. The board suggested holding the banquet on a weekend next summer and possibly attending a field trip to either the Marlins' Ballpark or touring the Port of Miami which will be in the process of building a tunnel. Albert Romanach, an FSEA member, could help coordinate a tour to the Port of Miami since he works for CEMEX and they are supplying the concrete. The field trips would be worth PDH credit awarded by FSEA.

**Next meeting will be held on January 26, 2012 in Boca Raton in conjunction with the Palm Beach Chapter, which includes the Young Member's Group.**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

## BRACKEN ENGINEERING PLACES 3<sup>RD</sup> IN *BEST FIRMS TO WORK FOR* RANKING

**T**ampa, FL – October 3, 2011 This past week one of Florida's own, **Bracken Engineering, Inc.** was awarded Third Place overall and Top Small Structural Engineering Firm to work for within the national "**Best Firms To Work For**" competition. The rankings were announced at the "**Best Firms To Work For Summit**" held last week in San Diego, CA. This Summit is an annual event held by ZweigWhite, publisher of CE News and Structural Engineer.

These prestigious rankings were based on comprehensive evaluations of firm culture, workplace practices, employee benefits, employee retention rates, professional development and business successes. Within the Structural Engineering category the winners were as follows:

### **Structural Engineering - Overall**

1. ARW Engineers (Ogden, Utah)
2. Barrish Pelham & Associates, Inc. (Sacramento, California)
3. Bracken Engineering, Inc. (Tampa, Florida)

Bracken Engineering takes pride in its service to its clients each and every day and strives to exceed their clients' expectations. However, being recognized by their peers based on the employees who help shape their company is an honor that Bracken Engineering does not take lightly. In the years to come Bracken Engineering will continue to strive to exceed client expectations and continue to provide a model work environment for their employees.

William C. Bracken, PE, SECB, CFM, president and principal engineer at Bracken Engineering, Inc., is an active member of FSEA, as well as many of his employees.

For additional information about Bracken Engineering, Inc. please visit their website [www.brackenengineering.com](http://www.brackenengineering.com).

**A HUGE THANK YOU GOES OUT TO WILL BRACKEN FOR VOLUNTEERING HIS TIME TO TEACH THE TWO ICC DISASTER RESPONDER COURSES !**

**WE TRULY APPRECIATE YOUR TIME AND EXPERTISE!**

## CENTRAL FLORIDA CHAPTER NEWS



**Brett Rylands, PE**  
Central Florida  
Chapter president

**H**ello again from Central Florida! It is hard to believe that we are already approaching the holiday season of 2011. I hope that this year has been kind to everyone so far.

Over the last months, we have continued our DVD webinar series. A total of seven webinar events have been held so far for total of 10.5 professional development hours. Topics have included various aspects of masonry design including "Strength Design and Allowable Stress Design," tall

walls and shear wall design as well as joist girder evaluation and modification. Upcoming topics include tilt wall engineering (with openings), "Designing for Wind (ASCE 7-08)" and "Foundation Design Using IBC." As has been the case since the outset of this series of meetings, attendee's receive 1.5 PDHs for only \$10!

Of course, on June 8<sup>th</sup> we held a fantastic NCSEA seminar led by Timothy Mays, Ph.D., P.E. The topic was NCSEA's "Guide to the Design of Out-of-Plane Wall Anchorage." The seminar was very well attended. In fact, we completely filled our meeting space at the offices of Cuhaci & Peterson in Orlando.

In other news, the International Code Council's course, "When Disaster Strikes," was temporarily postponed in the Tampa Bay area. This course expands upon the ATC-20/45 course held last year, and is intended to prepare participants for the ICC Disaster Response Inspector Certification Exam. We extend our thanks to Chris Pfeil over in the Bay Area Chapter who performed all the "heavy lifting."

As always, keep watching your email for announcements of our upcoming events, including the soon-to-be-rescheduled ICC seminar as well as a Revit Structural (Building Information Modeling, "BIM") interactive presentation. Feel free at any time to contact me or any other member of the local board with any questions, concerns, or suggestions. Member involvement in our group is certainly the key to our continued success. We want to hear from you!

**Brett Rylands can be reached at [brettr@c-p.com](mailto:brettr@c-p.com)**

## SOUTH FLORIDA CHAPTER NEWS

**I** can't believe it's been almost a year since I've had the honor of being president of the South Florida Chapter. I would like to thank the South Florida board of directors for their support and guidance throughout the year.

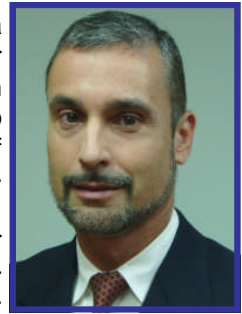
The South Florida Chapter recently completed a member survey in an effort to better understand our member's preferences and expectations with respect to the monthly programs we put together for them. Based on the responses we received, starting next year we plan to implement a few changes to our programs that we hope our members will welcome and appreciate.

Our Scholarship program, now in its second year, is on target to grant scholarship awards to three deserving students from our local universities (University of Miami, Florida International University and Florida Atlantic University). The awards reception will be held in December with our new board of directors installation.

Our recent programs included an "Introduction to the ICC's Disaster Response Inspector Program," given by William C. Bracken, and a seminar on "Best Practices for Integrating BIM and Structural Analysis." We look forward to the state-sponsored seminar "When Disaster Strikes – An Institute for Disaster Response", a two-day program to be held in November in conjunction with the Palm Beaches Chapter that will prepare the attendees for the ICC Disaster Response Inspector Certification Exam.

I would like to thank all our members for their continued support and look forward to seeing everyone at our future events.

**Carlos Sanz, PE can be reached at [megroup@bellsouth.net](mailto:megroup@bellsouth.net)**



**Carlos Sanz, PE**  
South Florida  
Chapter president

## NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

Please submit all articles, photos and other news for the *FSEA Newsletter* to Christine Olden at [fseadirector@aol.com](mailto:fseadirector@aol.com) or call 407-592-7876.

# NORTHEAST FLORIDA CHAPTER NEWS



**Mike Herring, PE**  
Northeast Chapter  
president

**G**reetings!! My name is Mike Herring and I am the president of the Northeast Florida Chapter.

I want to thank our entire board of directors for their ongoing work and dedication to our chapter. Special recognition goes to Mark Keister (vp/president-elect), Rich Peters (treasurer), and Mark Miller (secretary) for their work behind the scenes.

Our recent highlights have included two general meetings, both with excellent response and turnout. On July 20<sup>th</sup>, Attorney Chris Cobb, an expert in construction law, spoke to us about "Construction Defects: What Engineers and Architects Need to Know." On September 20<sup>th</sup>, Mark Plaskett and Dr. Ed J. Garbin, both from Hayward Baker presented "Specialty Geotechnical Construction."

We have tried something new, offering viewings of ASCE Webinars, with a very low cost to our members. Our last one was November 10<sup>th</sup>, with "Design of Buildings for Coastal Flooding," presented by William Coulbourne.

Our last general meeting was on November 16<sup>th</sup> and featured a presentation from the American Institute of Steel Construction (AISC) on "Steel Talks -

Introduction to the new AISC Publications." This presentation provided an overview of some of the important changes and clarifications that have been made to three AISC standards: Specification for Structural Steel Buildings, Code of Standard Practice, and Specification for Structural Steel Joints. The presenter was Matt Brady, an AISC Steel Solutions Center Advisor.

Another big event is coming! We are hosting an FSEA state-sponsored seminar on "When Disaster Strikes – An Institute for Disaster Response," on December 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>. This comprehensive two-day ICC course provides participants with the skills, knowledge, and tools to help them become a Disaster Response Inspector. Look for more information to come out on this.

Also, we have been working to reactivate and energize our student chapter organization at the University of North Florida (UNF), and we look forward to helping them in any way we can.

Most of all, we encourage all Northeast Florida Structural Engineers to become members and join our Chapter. My personal goal is to reach out to the North Florida Structural Engineering Community and make this your Chapter!!! If you have any comments, suggestions, or just want to talk Structural Engineering, contact any our Chapter board members/officers, or email me at [mikeh1787@comcast.net](mailto:mikeh1787@comcast.net) or phone me at (904) 288-0113 evenings. I look forward to another great year and seeing you at our meetings.



**O**n Friday, November 4th, members of the Northeast Florida Chapter were treated to a three-hour cruise aboard a chartered yacht. The cruise took the members down the St. Johns River.

**Pictured are (bottom row, left to right): Craig and Stephanie Woodard and Hollie and Mark Miller.**

**(2nd row, left to right): Brian Warfield, Tom Grogan, Thomas Montemayor, Matt Lowe, Mike Grochowski, Mike Herring, Andrew Isildar, and Adam Dooley.**

**Captain Rocky drove the boat and not shown are Nancy Grogan and Sherry Herring.**

## PALM BEACHES FLORIDA CHAPTER NEWS

Since our beginning in February 2011, we have had an enthusiastic first year. One of our biggest goals is to promote our profession to the public as well as other professionals.

Perhaps one of the best things that has come out of our chapter is our Young Members (YM) Group. These EI's and young PE's are loaded with energy and enthusiasm and have contributed greatly to our chapter. The YM Group has become a venue for EI's to be introduced to the structural engineering community. We have spent some time introducing our regular members, our YM's and guests to the building department's structure and plan review/submittal process.

At our first regular meeting in March, NCSEA's Ben Nelson traveled to Palm Beach all the way from the Denver, Colorado area as our speaker on the deferred submittal process.

In April, we featured Mike Guerasio, chief structural plans examiner for the city of Parkland, Florida who spoke on submitting product approvals.

In July and August, we took a break from our regular dinner meetings, but our board of directors met to plan our fall and winter schedule.

At our regular meeting in September, Rebecca Caldwell, Palm Beach County Building Official, gave a presentation on the laws, rules and structure of the Palm Beach County building department.

As previously stated, the YM's are loaded with energy and enthusiasm and they are an integral part of our chapter. They have been meeting one to two times per month for PE teach-ins. One of the biggest events they planned was a Saturday afternoon barbeque fundraiser which netted over \$200 for the Palm Beaches Chapter. The YM's leader Heather Anesta has been instrumental in starting an FSEA student chapter at Florida Atlantic University recognized by the University. Troy Bishop, EI will be the YM's leader in 2012. The YM group is a great way for EI's to be introduced to the structural engineering profession. Heather takes her PE exam in March. Good luck Heather!

Our chapter membership took off in the beginning thanks to the SOFL Chapter allowing their north Broward and Palm Beach County members to move to the Palm Beaches Chapter. This provided important funding needed to start our chapter. Our chapter members also did some recruiting and we hold strong at 35



**A. Mark Scala, PE**  
*Palm Beaches  
Chapter president*

members. We are currently active in contacting new recruits to expand our membership.

On October 19th, Bill Bracken gave our chapter an introductory presentation to "When Disaster Strikes." PBFL and SOFL are joint-venturing the two-day training event on November 11th & 12th.

In December, we are completing our year by participating with the Palm Beach County Planning Congress, Inc. in their holiday gala event on Friday, December 2nd from 7 to 10 pm. Not only will related professional organizations like FES and ASCE be present, but attorneys and real estate organizations will be there too. This will give us an opportunity to mingle and let our colleagues know that structural engineers are active and seeking more exposure. Additionally, we'll be able to advertise and promote structural engineering to other professionals in attendance. We look forward to this event as it will be an excellent opportunity to promote ourselves.

It's been a great year thus far, and it will only get better!!

**Mark Scala, PE can be reached at**  
[markscalape@att.net](mailto:markscalape@att.net)

## SOUTHWEST FLORIDA CHAPTER NEWS

We continue to offer educational opportunities for our members. At our last dinner meeting, N Square, Inc. and Foundation Supportworks presented "An Introduction to Helical Pile Foundation Systems." We also had a web seminar at LCM Engineering titled "ASCE 7-10 Overview" by S. K. Ghosh Associates Inc.

We still have a number of NCSEA webinars to present and will continue to show them at our breakfast meetings. During our November dinner meeting we discussed offering a scholarship to an FGCU engineering student for the first time. I would like to thank all of our members that have been attending the meetings and presentations for their continued support.



**Jeff Ballard, PE**  
*Southwest Florida  
Chapter president*

**Jeff Ballard, PE can be reached at**  
[jeffonline@embarqmail.com](mailto:jeffonline@embarqmail.com)