



# FSEA Newsletter

Fall 2010

The Florida Structural Engineers Association

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

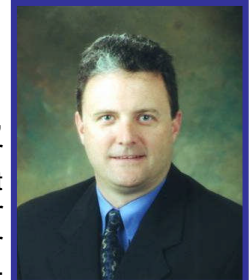
BY THOMAS A. GROGAN, JR., PE, SE

Even though 2010 is rapidly coming to a close, this has been a very productive year for your FSEA state board of directors. I am thrilled that our membership has grown by almost 10% this year finishing at 298 members. I want to thank each of our members for helping sustain our organization and making it better every year. Although overall NCSEA membership is down just under 10% due to the economic times, we are doing far better than other organizations such as ASCE, NSPE, and CASE.

I had an opportunity to attend the NCSEA Annual Conference in New York in October and I am pleased to report that Florida ranks 7th highest in membership among all other NCSEA member organizations. Each state that has a structural engineers association is considered a "member organization" of NCSEA. The sole reason for the existence of NCSEA is to serve their member organizations. States with more members are: California, Oregon, Washington, New York, Texas, and Utah. If you ever have a chance to attend the Annual Conference, I strongly recommend you take advantage of the opportunity. You will have an opportunity to meet and interact with a "who's who" of the structural engineering community at the national level. It was refreshing to realize that the problems we face in Florida are similar to those faced in other states. On Saturday morning there was the formal business meeting and I had an opportunity to listen to the issues faced by other states and quickly realized FSEA has come quite far and we are considered one of the strongest member organizations.

Each year NCSEA conducts a Winter Institute which give engineers an opportunity to learn about a specific structural issue and includes a field trip to provide first-hand knowledge of the subject matter. In 2009, the Winter Institute was held in south Florida and focused on wind forces on structures. The field trip was to the wind tunnel lab at RWDI in Miramar. Over 125 people attended. In January of 2010, over 150 structural engineers convened at Coronado Island in San Diego with a trip to the seismic laboratories and full scale shake table at the University of California at San Diego. Next February, FSEA and the Northeast Florida Chapter will play host to the Winter Institute in Amelia Island just north of Jacksonville. The theme will be: *Deferred Submittals: What the Engineer of Record Needs to Know and Show from Design to Construction*. It will include a field trip to Canam Steel and Gate Precast where a double tee will be tested to failure. I urge everyone to consider attending as this event will be a great way to increase your knowledge of the subject while getting 15 PDH's all at one location. Let's show off FSEA to the rest of the nation.

In the last newsletter, I addressed separate licensure for structural engineers in Florida. FSEA's separate licensure committee has had several



**Tom Grogan, PE, SE**  
FSEA president

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teleconferences and met face to face last month. I'd like to update you on what's been happening.

We made an effort to obtain support from the Florida Engineering Society (FES) regarding separate structural licensure. We believe their support to be critical to changing the Florida Statute since they have a powerful lobby at the state level, something FSEA is lacking. In these discussions, FES requested both their Ethics and Professional Concerns Committees review the issue and make recommendations. The Ethics Committee deferred to the Professional Concerns Committee which recommended that FES support separate structural licensure. That committee wrote a paper with back up documentation supporting their decision.

The recommendation of the Professional Concerns Committee was brought to the FES Board of Directors meeting in Jacksonville on October 2<sup>nd</sup>. The board debated the issue and I was asked by current FES president Robert Higgins, P.E. to attend to answer questions. After approximately 60 minutes of very active discussion, the FES board voted against the recommendations of their Professional Concerns Committee and voted down support of separate structural licensure by a vote of 15-9. The FES board suggested that their Professional Concerns Committee and FSEA consider ways to incorporate this requirement as a certification but not separate licensure. They would like to see this structured without having to change Florida Statute. I found it interesting that there was not one practicing structural engineer on their board.

The licensure committee met in Orlando just before the FSEA state board meeting on October 19<sup>th</sup> and developed a plan to re-energize the separate licensure issue. It will require that we work more closely with FES and other organizations to bring about this necessary change.

We will continue to need the support of all FSEA members as we move this legislation forward. If you are interested in participating, please contact me at [thomas.grogan@haskell.com](mailto:thomas.grogan@haskell.com).

In closing, I'd like to thank each of you for participating in FSEA. It has given me great satisfaction watching this organization continue to grow and improve with each passing year. I'd like to thank Christine Olden, our executive director for making my job easier and the board members who worked very diligently throughout the year: Amy Miller (President-Elect), Glenn Amore (Secretary), Pablo Carreno (Treasurer), Lew Midlam, Ron Milmed, Richard Barrow, Fred Bowen, and Scott Martin. They truly are a great team of people and I look forward to continuing to work with them in the future. If you have any interest

in helping at the state board level, please don't hesitate to contact any of the board members. Board member's emails are listed on the front page of the newsletter in the left side bar or also on our web site at [www.flsea.com](http://www.flsea.com) and click on the Inquiry page.

## Northeast Florida Chapter News



**Mike Herring, PE**  
Northeast Chapter  
president

**G**reetings!! Our Northeast Florida Chapter is busy attending and planning various activities.

We recently had two successful general meetings, both with informative technical presentations. The topics were "Florida Construction Lien Law: What Engineers and Architects Need to Know" and "2010 Florida Building Code - 2010 Proposals and Process". Both meetings were well received and had more than 30 attendees. We especially want to thank Jim Schock, PE, City of Jacksonville

Building Inspection Manager, for his presentation on the Florida Building Code and where it's heading.

Our Annual Social Event was held on Thursday August 19<sup>th</sup> at Seven Bridges Grill, and as always, all who attended had a great time.

Our next meeting presentation will be on Friday morning, December 10<sup>th</sup>, with the topic of "Welding Methods, Inspections, and Testing". Instructors will include AWS Certified Welding Inspectors and a Welding Engineer. This will feature a four-hour presentation, with an emphasis on visual inspection, non-destructive test methods, how to identify and correct weld defects, and interactions between welding inspectors and structural engineers. Look for more information and details to follow.

We encourage all Northeast Florida structural engineers to become members of our Chapter and attend our meetings.

**Mike Herring can be reached at [mikeh1787@comcast.net](mailto:mikeh1787@comcast.net).**

## South Florida Chapter News

I would like to thank the South Florida board of directors for their support and guidance over the last year. It has been a pleasure to work together on several new initiatives and ideas for our membership.

The Young Members Committee (YMC) had its first joint event with ASCE and AIA. We had over 50 attendees which provided several networking opportunities for everyone. The YMC has also decided to start providing events in Palm Beach. These efforts will be lead by Heather Anesta of C3TS. If you have young PE's or EI's, please forward any notices you receive.

The University of Miami, Florida International University, and Florida Atlantic University have all selected recipients for our inaugural scholarship award. The awards reception will be held in December with the installation of our new board of directors.

We also completed our field trip to Industrial Galvanizers and our eight-hour seminar with the American Welding Society (AWS) on visual weld inspections. Both provided a wealth of information and guidance to the attendees. We are looking forward to the concrete repair seminar by Jay Thomas of Structural Preservation Systems in December.

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

*Juan Fuentes can be reached at [jfuentes@bcceng.com](mailto:jfuentes@bcceng.com).*



**Juan Fuentes, PE**  
South Chapter  
president

**Jorge Ruiz, P.E., Wilfredo Melendez, E.I. and Santiago Schenone, E.I. take part in the**

**field trip to Industrial Galvanizers on October 12, 2010.** (Photo courtesy of Douglas Wood & Assoc.)



## Southwest Florida Chapter News

Our October Chapter meeting included a presentation on prestressed concrete presented by Cement Industries and the FPCA. We had an excellent turnout of 35 people, which included a number of engineering students from Florida Gulf Coast University. We are pleased with the participation of the FGCU staff and students in our Chapter as one of our goals this year was to develop a relationship with the University.

In November we had our first breakfast presentation of a DVD course purchased by the FSEA state board. The presentation was well received as an easy and inexpensive way of obtaining PDH's so we will be providing more breakfast presentations in the future.

*Richard Barrow can be reached at [rich@fbengineer.com](mailto:rich@fbengineer.com).*



**Richard Barrow, PE**  
Southwest Chapter  
president

### CONGRATULATIONS TO THE RECIPIENTS OF THE "SOUTH FLORIDA CHAPTER SCHOLARSHIP AWARD"

**REEM MADKOUR,**  
University of Miami  
**SHAWN HURLEY,**  
Florida Atlantic University

These individuals were each awarded \$1,000 scholarships. One more scholarship will be awarded this year.

**ARBER & ASSOCIATES, INC.**  
Structural & Shoring Engineers

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# State Board Meeting Minutes October 19, 2010

**This is the condensed version of the minutes.  
Please contact Christine Olden at [fseadirector@aol.com](mailto:fseadirector@aol.com) for the full version.**

## **Update NCSEA Annual Conference (Grogan):**

Tom Grogan and Ron Milmed attended the conference in Jersey City September 30 - October 2, 2010. There was a good sponsor turnout and the seminars were well received. Five FSEA members attended the conference. FSEA ranks 7th highest in membership among the other member organizations.

Ron Milmed said there are many ways to get involved in NCSEA and he asked Christine Olden to email the "NCSEA Volunteer Form" to all our members.

**FSEA Alternate Delegate for NCSEA Conferences:** As of January 1, 2011, Ron Milmed will no longer be the FSEA delegate to NCSEA. Tom Grogan has accepted the invitation to replace Ron. The state board also asked for a volunteer to be an alternate.

**Financial Report (Carreno):** Our cash position has remained steady. **Budget comparison:** Our projected income and expenses are tracking as expected with our income at 60.9% of budgeted and our expenses at 85.9%. We should have a significant boost in our income with the renewals which will be coming in during the fourth quarter. All our major expenses have been completed with only the reimbursable for this meeting and Christine's time for this meeting and the renewal mailing left to be funded.

**Accountant's Financial Statement:** There were no significant discrepancies found in any of the Chapter reports and the few conflicts that we found did not have any significant impact on the Consolidated Report and the Chapters were notified of the issues to be addressed.

**Membership:** As of the end of the quarter, we had a total of 296 members which exceeds the total number of paid members we had at the end of the third quarter of last year by eight. We picked up an additional member in October for a grand total of 297 members. It is important to note that eight of the 297 members count towards the 2011 membership year. After reviewing the budget form format, it was decided to make separate lines for board meeting expenses and seminar fees, rather than lump them together.

**2010 Actual - 2011 Budget (Miller):** Amy Miller (president-elect) presented the 2011 budget to the board. She reviewed each of the line items. **A Motion to approve a modified budget was approved.**

## **FBPE (Milmed):**

**The following Modified Rules are effective as of 9/28/2010:**

<b>61G15-31.001</b>	<b>General Responsibility</b>
<b>61G15-31.002</b>	<b>Definitions</b>
<b>61G15-31.004</b>	<b>Design of Cast-in-Place Post-Tensional Concrete Structural Systems</b>
<b>61G15-31.005</b>	<b>Design of Structures Utilizing Precast and Prestressed Concrete Components</b>
<b>61G15-31.007</b>	<b>Design of Pre-Engineered Structures</b>
<b>61G15-31.008</b>	<b>Design of Foundations</b>
<b>61G15-31.009</b>	<b>Design of Structural Steel Systems</b>
<b>61G15-32.002</b>	<b>Definitions (effective 10/11/2010)</b>

**Continuing education requirements:** FES has been tasked with increasing CEU requirements. FSEA is in agreement of 15 hours per year, which will bring Florida in line with most other states.

**2011 NCSEA Winter Institute** is being held on Amelia Island February 25 & 26, 2011. FSEA and the NEFL Chapter will host the Friday night Social Hour.

**Next meeting:** February 24th at Amelia Island - the day before the Winter Institute.



Being one of the newer FSEA Chapters, we have been and continue to be primarily focusing on finding creative ways to increase and retain membership. We had our first joint meeting on November 16, 2010 with the newly formed local Chapter of ASCE/SEI. This joint meeting was the last bi-monthly Chapter meeting of the year. The lunch meeting topic was “Techniques, Materials and Design Considerations for Strengthening of Existing Concrete Structures” given by Structural Preservation Systems.

The BAFL Student Chapter at the University of South Florida is up and running with their first meeting held September 15, 2010. The BAFL board is very excited about this achievement, and look forward to the opportunities this will provide for the USF structural engineering students and our members.

Our September bi-monthly Chapter meeting featured an informative presentation on professional liability, contracts, and construction law given by Amanda K. Bennett, Esq., partner at the law firm Bush Ross P.A. This was a timely meeting topic with the recent ruling of limitations of personal liability in the case of Witt vs. LaGorce and the subsequent veto of Senate Bill 1964.

*Dave Compton can be reached at [dcompton@urbanengineering.com](mailto:dcompton@urbanengineering.com).*

## BRACKEN ENGINEERING PLACES 7TH IN NATION FOR “BEST FIRMS TO WORK FOR” CONTEST

On Wednesday, September 29, 2010 Bracken Engineering, Inc, was awarded 7th place in the nation for the *Structural Engineering & Design Magazine’s* Best Firms to Work For contest. This award is the result of a competition that recognizes the top Structural Engineering firms in the country. In order to attain this recognition, a company is nominated by its employees and selected by industry peers based on workplace practices, employee benefits, employee retention rates, and much more. Once the required number of employee nominations has been received by *Structural Engineering & Design Magazine* the company’s practices and ethics are ranked in accordance with the competitions standards.

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.

Bill Bracken has been an FSEA member for the past three years. For additional information about Bracken Engineering, Inc. please visit their web site at [www.brackenengineering.com](http://www.brackenengineering.com).



### 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.

### Web Site Advertising Rates

Price is per annual basis

Your company logo with a link to your company’s web site: \$250.00

### Newsletter Advertising Rates

Price is per issue:

Business-card ad: \$25.00

1/4 page ad: \$50.00

1/2 page ad: \$100.00

Full-page ad: \$200.00



## FLORIDA PE LICENSE RENEWAL PERIOD IS HERE

BY MIKE HERRING, PE

**A**s a courtesy reminder from FSEA, the deadline for Florida PE License Renewal is February 28, 2011.

It is very important to verify your continuing education (CE) credits before attempting to renew your license. Please keep in mind that engineers cannot enter continuing education credits. This must be done by the continuing education provider, such as FSEA.

Take the following steps to verify your continuing education credits online:

1. Go to website: <http://www.myfloridalicense.com>
2. Select "RENEW/MAINTAIN A LICENSE" on top menu bar.
3. Select "View Continuing Ed" on left menu bar, last item.
4. Input "User ID" and "PIN", select "Log On"
5. This takes you to "Continuing Education Requirements".
  - Verify that your PE license number is correct (shown at the top).
  - Courses are listed for the current renewal cycle.
  - Courses taken with FSEA will be listed as FLORIDA STRUCTURAL ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION.
  - Note - FSEA courses will be listed as Area of Practice (AOP), we are not approved for Rules and Laws.
  - If you have taken a course with FSEA and it is not listed, please contact your local FSEA representative.
6. While logged in, you can also Maintain your Account (verify/modify mailing address, phone, email, etc.).
7. Select "Log Off" (at top left) when done.



## 2011 NCSEA WINTER INSTITUTE FEBRUARY 25 & 26

**THE AMELIA ISLAND PLANTATION,  
AMELIA ISLAND, FL**

**A TWO-DAY SEMINAR FEATURING DEFERRED  
SUBMITTALS: WHAT THE EOR NEEDS TO KNOW  
AND SHOW FROM DESIGN TO CONSTRUCTION.**

**THIS COURSE WILL AWARD THE  
FOLLOWING HOURS  
OF CONTINUING EDUCATION:  
FRIDAY - 8 HOURS  
SATURDAY - 7.5 HOURS**

**INCLUDED IN THE PROGRAM FRIDAY ARE TOURS  
OF THE CANAM STEEL JOIST FACILITY AND  
GATE CONCRETE PRODUCTS.**

**VISIT  
WWW.NCSEA.COM  
TO  
REGISTER NOW!**

**OMNI AMELIA ISLAND PLANTATION  
RESORT**

The Omni Amelia Island Plantation Resort welcomes attendees of the NCSEA Winter Institute. All group attendees may book the special rate of \$149.00 plus tax.

The group will receive 25% off recreational activities as well as free resort operated airport transportation via hourly service (advance reservations required).

Please call 904-277-5920 to set up your advance reservations.