



# FSEA Newsletter

June 2011

THE FLORIDA STRUCTURAL ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY AMY MILLER, PE

We are now coming to the mid-point of the year and 2011 continues to be one of great excitement for our organization. Our separate licensure group continues to move forward with support being offered by the Florida Engineering Society and plans being made through the leadership of our past-president, Thomas Grogan. Our Palm Beach Chapter's Young Members Group continues to forge forward and every chapter of our organization has been very active with meetings and seminars. We have been working on updating our website ([www.flsea.com](http://www.flsea.com)) to keep it current with a listing of each chapter's upcoming events and contact information.



**Amy Miller, PE**  
FSEA president

We are also very excited about our first meeting to initiate a chapter in the Tallahassee area. This event will happen at noon on June 22<sup>nd</sup> at the offices of Barkley Consulting Engineers, 3494 Martin Hurst Road, Tallahassee, FL. If anyone in the Tallahassee area is interested in participating, please contact me or Christine Olden for more information. I would also like to take a moment to ask any of our members who are also ASCE members to consider voting for our own Dan Lavrich for Technical Region Director on the ASCE National Board of Direction. Dan is a past-president of FSEA and would represent the structural engineering community well in this position. This is a contested vote, so please take the time to vote. The electronic election balloting starts on June 15th and continues through August 12th.

Our hearts go out to those affected by recent tornadoes. Bill Bracken, board member of the Bay Area Chapter and president of Bracken Engineering spoke at our last state board meeting about a program he is involved with that coordinates non-USAR (Urban Search and Rescue) Disaster Response Inspectors. This initiative is being driven in part by our national organization, NCSEA. Bill has been working with several organizations (including NCSEA) to develop training programs for volunteer engineers. At the state meeting, the board discussed at length all aspects of supporting his efforts and decided to move forward and support ICC Certification programs in our state. Stay tuned for more information on when this program will come to your area.

Thank you for your continued membership and support. We value your membership and welcome your thoughts and contributions. This is your organization and we are here to serve our membership.

Regards,

*Amy Miller, PE*



Will Bracken, PE, SI, StS2

# GET INVOLVED IN DISASTER RESPONSE INSPECTOR PROGRAM

BY WILL BRACKEN, PE, SI, STS2

**C**hallenge: Given that the Florida Structural Engineers Association was established in part to: "... *safeguard the lives and property of the public through state-wide initiatives and active participation in the activities of the National Council of Structural Engineers Associations*", and in keeping with the leadership role that NCSEA has assumed within our industry, I am inviting FSEA's membership to participate in the International Code Council's (ICC) *Disaster Response Inspector Program* and encouraging its members to become *Disaster Response Inspectors*.

This program was created by the ICC to train code and design professionals to safely and properly assess damaged structures in the wake of catastrophes. This program was created in direct response to the increasing magnitude of disasters and the ever diminishing resources within municipalities and building departments throughout the country.

**Current National Efforts:** Currently the National Incident Management System (NIMS) system, at the direction of FEMA's director, is finalizing the creation of a *Disaster Response Engineer* resource. NIMS was originally developed by FEMA to provide a standardized approach to guide departments and agencies so that they could work seamlessly when responding and/or recovering from the effects of disasters.

This national effort to formalize and type the *Disaster Response Engineer* was undertaken due to the fact that engineering support has been required and/or explicitly requested following almost every major disaster declaration in recent US history. By creating the *Disaster Response Engineer*, NIMS desires to allow and facilitate the creation of a central database in order to identify, track and manage qualified engineer responders.

**ICC Disaster Response Inspector Program & Certification:** Currently the ICC has in place its *Disaster Response Inspector Program* which offers training, certification and opportunities to qualified participants. The *Disaster Response Inspector Program* consists of classes and certification exams. The class is a two-day training program followed by self study. The exam is an independently-administered exam for those that qualify. Successful completion of the program earns the participant an ICC DR (*Disaster Response*) Inspector certification. This certification qualifies the participant to be listed with NIMS and to perform post-catastrophe ATC inspections not only in support of national efforts but also local efforts. The

ICC program is the only one to provide the participant with a national certification equivalent to that of a building inspector that is recognized by code officials throughout the country.

**Opportunity:** I am inviting FSEA's members to participate and to get involved. To get involved, simply sign up for the class and the exam. To sign up you can contact either your local FSEA chapter representative or contact ICC on-line at: [www.ICCsafe.org](http://www.ICCsafe.org)

Successful completion of both will earn you a *Disaster Response Inspector* certification which will enable you to participate in both NIMS and the Building Officials Association of Florida's (BOAF) Mutual Aid Response network.

*Will Bracken, PE, SI, StS2, can be reached at [wbracken@brackenengineering.com](mailto:wbracken@brackenengineering.com).*

## FSEA MOVING FORWARD WITH SEPARATE LICENSURE

BY TOM GROGAN, JR. PE, SE

**S**ince our last newsletter, the Licensure Committee has met two times, the last one face-to-face prior to the FSEA Board meeting in Tampa. Here is a brief look at our latest activity:

The Legislation Sub-committee intends to re-write the proposed legislation so that it allows for the creation of an SE license without stating which building types or the specific requirements of the SE license. The sub-committee believes FBPE should be responsible for those details. Once re-written, legislation will be shared with Steve Precourt, an engineer in the Florida House of representatives, for his comment and support.

Now that we have the support of the Florida Engineering Society (FES), we need to determine how much lobbying support we need from them for 2012. Once we write our proposed legislation, we need FES lobbyist to help sell it to the Florida House and Senate.

To improve public awareness, we are creating a list of articles to publish in FES's monthly newsletter and other professional magazines, trade journals, etc.

And lastly, we are developing a list of Frequently Asked Questions and Responses.

Our next teleconference date is Wednesday, July 13<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m. We are always looking for members to participate on this committee.

*Tom Grogan, Jr. PE, SE can be reached at [thomas.grogan@haskell.com](mailto:thomas.grogan@haskell.com).*

## BAY AREA FLORIDA CHAPTER NEWS

Welcome to summer in Florida! The Bay Area Chapter has been working to put together provocative meeting topics for the rest of the year including our end-of-the-year dinner presentation on the Florida Marlins' new ballpark roof and our summer tour in July of Florida Structural Steel's fabrication plant.

Those will be interesting, but don't forget that the new Florida Building Code goes into effect at the end of 2011. To get you prepared, we are hosting a four-hour seminar in September on the changes to the ASCE 7 wind provisions (if you haven't seen them – they are substantial!), and a January presentation on the other changes to the Florida Building Code. Be sure not to miss both of these. If you don't live in the area, Tampa is only a short drive away from most of the peninsula! Exact dates and locations will be coming out soon. Enjoy your summer! *Scott Martin, PE can be reached at [smartin@walterpmoore.com](mailto:smartin@walterpmoore.com).*



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

## CENTRAL FLORIDA CHAPTER NEWS

Hello from Central Florida! As we approach the middle of 2011, I am happy to report that we have continued to meet monthly for interactive DVD webinars focused on areas that we, as engineers, encounter on a regular basis. These webinars are a significant value for all, as they provide a great learning experience while earning our members professional development hours at a cost that can't be beat. The informal nature of these meetings allows our members to interact on all levels of business, sharing and exchanging information. We will be continuing these meetings throughout the year in addition to our planned seminars.

Speaking of seminars, on June 8<sup>th</sup>, our members had the opportunity to attend a very popular NCSEA seminar led by Timothy Mays, Ph.D., P.E. The topic, "Guide to the Design of Out-of-Plane Wall Anchorage." It was very well received and our members gained a tremendous amount of valuable information and knowledge. I would like to extend my thanks to Timothy Mays for providing the Central Florida Chapter with this opportunity. Likewise, we would like to thank Mike Herring, P.E., the FSEA Northeast Chapter president, for working with us to bring this seminar to Florida.

As always, keep watching your email for announcements of our upcoming events. Feel free at any time to contact me or any other member of the local board with any questions, concerns, suggestions, etc. Member involvement in our group is certainly the key to our success and we want to hear from you!

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



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

## SOUTHWEST FLORIDA CHAPTER NEWS

We've been continuing to offer educational opportunities to our members, having speakers at our dinner meetings and presenting NCSEA webinars at our breakfast meetings. So far this year we've had speakers or webinars on Architecturally Exposed Structural Steel, Designing Buildings for Wind Using ASCE7, SE Licensure, and Basic Masonry. We plan to continue to offer the NCSEA/TMS webinar series on masonry at our breakfast meetings.

Upcoming webinars include: Strength Design of Masonry, Allowable Stress Design of Masonry, Masonry Tall Walls and Masonry Shearwall Design. At our next dinner meeting on June 29<sup>th</sup> we will be having a speaker from NSquare Inc. to discuss helical piles.

One of our goals has been to increase student participation and I'm pleased to announce that we are having students attending our meetings. We're looking forward to a busy year. *Jeff Ballard, PE can be reached at [jeffbonline@embarqmail.com](mailto:jeffbonline@embarqmail.com).*



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

## NEW CHAPTER FORMING IN TALLAHASSEE??

Do you know a structural engineer in the Tallahassee area or does your company have a branch office in Tallahassee? On June 22<sup>nd</sup> at noon, FSEA president Amy Miller will be conducting a meeting at the offices of Barkley Consulting Engineers, 3494 Martin Hurst Road in Tallahassee to form a new Chapter.

Please contact Christine Olden at [fseadirector@aol.com](mailto:fseadirector@aol.com) or call 407-592-7876 for more information.

## NORTHEAST FLORIDA CHAPTER NEWS



**Mike Herring, PE**  
Northeast Chapter  
president

**G**reetings!! My name is Mike Herring and this is my second term as president for the Northeast Florida Chapter of the Florida Structural Engineers Association.

I want to thank our entire board of directors for their ongoing work and dedication to our Chapter. Special recognition goes to Mark Keister (V.P./President-Elect), Rich Peters (Treasurer), Mark Miller (Secretary), and Tom Grogan and Amy Miller (who started our

Chapter and are now serving in leadership roles on the state board of directors).

Our recent highlights have included two general meetings, both with excellent response and turnout: On May 10<sup>th</sup>, Mr. Alwyn McDowell from Skyline Steel LLC, presented "Innovations in Sheet Piling". On June 7th, Dr. Timothy Mays, NCSEA Publications Committee Chairman and Associate Professor of Civil Engineering at the Citadel presented (from his publication), "Guide to the Design of Out-of-Plane Wall Anchorage: Based on the 2006/2009IBC and ASCE/SEI 7-05". We were very fortunate to be able to have Dr. Mays visit us for this special presentation.

Our next general meeting is scheduled for July 20<sup>th</sup> and will feature a presentation on "Construction Defects and the Structural Engineer" by Attorney Chris Cobb. Also, we are currently planning our annual summer social event and future presentations on Deep Foundation Systems, Light Gage Metal Framing, and Structural Steel Welding Inspection Methods.

**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 of our Chapter board members/officers, or email me at [mikeh1787@comcast.net](mailto:mikeh1787@comcast.net) or phone me at (904) 288-0113 in the evenings. I look forward to another great year and seeing you at our meetings.

### 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

## PALM BEACHES FLORIDA CHAPTER NEWS



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

**T**he state's first Young Members Group has held meetings and teach-ins. The teach-ins are prepared by our Chapter PE's and have the quality of content that our dinner meetings have.

This year we have had superb presentations at our meetings. Our first meeting as a Chapter on March 16<sup>th</sup> was a presentation delivered by Ben Nelson, NCSEA board member.

The following month, on April 20th, Mike Guerasio, chief structural inspector for the city of Parkland, spoke with us about product approvals. On May 18th, Bart Wallis, BNI's engineer of record for the Miami Marlins stadium spoke with us on the intricate design of a retractable roof ball park with glass walls.

This month, on June 15th, Doug Wood was our guest speaker. Doug was featured on the cover of the February issue of "Structural Engineering & Design" for the Alhambra Parking Structure.

In addition to our meetings and teach-ins, our Chapter is working on a membership campaign. We have 31 members, including our Young Members Group and we are trying to increase our Chapter's active members. We invite all who receive this newsletter to contact the FSEA Director and become a member of your local Chapter.

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

## NCSEA NINETEENTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

*OCTOBER 20-22, 2011  
OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA*

*RENAISSANCE  
CONVENTION CENTER*

[WWW.NCSEA.COM](http://WWW.NCSEA.COM)

AS AN SEA MEMBER, YOU CAN TAKE ADVANTAGE OF NCSEA'S MEMBER DISCOUNT BY REGISTERING BEFORE SEPTEMBER 1ST.

# STATE BOARD MEETING MINUTES MAY 5, 2011

**Review and Approve Previous Meeting Minutes:** Approved

**ICC's Disaster Response Inspector Program & Certification (Bracken):** Bill Bracken presented the board with a program created by the International Code Council to train and utilize "second responders" after catastrophes. This program started after the 2004-2005 hurricane seasons. The board agreed to offer seminars to our members and to help publicize this program. Chris Pfeil and Pablo Carreno will lead the SEER Committee and Mark Scala, Glenn Amore and Bill Bracken will assist. Bill will also act as the Federal Liaison.

**A motion was made to create a SEER Committee: Approved.**

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

**Budget comparison:** Our projected income and expenses are tracking as expected with our income showing at 42.3% which is somewhat misleading since we received a great chunk of money for the 2011 budget year in renewals that came in during the last quarter of 2010 and were reflected in that report. Our expenses are slightly higher than they should be which correlate with the reduction in our cash position when compared to the same quarter in 2010.

**Accountant's financial statement:** The Accountant's Financial Statement has been modified to reflect the income from membership dues for each Chapter in addition to the Consolidated Report. The new Palm Beach Chapter will also be included in the report. All the Chapters reflected activity as a result of meeting and seminars. SOFL has set aside over \$20,500.00 in CD's towards the Chapter's Scholarship Fund. These monies do not appear in the Consolidated Report but Pablo Carreno will speak to Ralph Sosa, our accountant, to have these amounts reflected in the report.

**Winter Institute:** As agreed, FSEA contributed \$4,000.00 towards sponsorship of the Friday night reception at the Winter Institute. We raised a total of \$4,800.00 of which \$4,300.00 was collected in this quarter; \$250.00 in April and \$250.00 was paid directly to NCSEA. Our expenses, including Christine's time, were a total of \$4190.00. The board discussed the issue of what to do with any profits from this type of activity and the board agreed that for all future events that are sponsored at a national level, the state is responsible for raising all the money.

**Membership:** As of the end of the 2010 fourth quarter, we had a total of 303 members, some of which are included in the 2011 membership count. As of 5/2/11, we have 289 members. This puts us at only seven members less from our 2010 third quarter benchmark.

**Financial report: Approved**

**Executive Director Report (Olden):** Christine is going to speak with the web host about changing the web site – adding a calendar section to the front page and adding sponsor logos to the first page. Christine will get a price quote for updates/changes.

**Committee Reports:**

**Separate Licensure (Grogan):** See page 2 of the newsletter for updates.

**Florida Building Code (Scala):** Mark Scala is now the liaison between the FSEA and the FBC. Mark will attend the six meetings per year and keep the state board up-to-date on the Florida Building Commission.

**Florida Board of Professional Engineers (Milmed):** Currently the Rules Committee is formulating rules but these can not be adopted due to the Governor's moratorium on new rules. The FBPE accepted the FSEA's wording about the 16-hour NCEES exam. FBPE will administer and accept this exam, however, it is not legally adopted until the Governor signs off on it.

**Florida Engineering Society (Milmed):** FES has proposed changing the continuing education requirements: looking into having each person report his own ceu's - except for the Laws & Rules ceu's.

**Old Business:**

**CFL Chapter Action Plan:** Amy Miller praised the Chapter for meeting monthly for board meetings and coordinating monthly webinars, however, she still thinks a lot more work needs to be done. She would like to see a plan to increase membership and to increase revenue.

**New Business:**

**New Tallahassee Chapter (Miller):** Amy asked if any of our board members could provide her with names of engineering firms in Tallahassee that would be willing to team up with her to start a new chapter. Pablo Carreno has all the paperwork needed to form a new Chapter.

**FSEA's Continuing Education Provider Status (Grogan):** FSEA has to renew its Provider Status by May 31, 2011. Christine Olden and Tom will work together to get this accomplished.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 27, 2011 LCM Engineering in Ft. Myers.

**The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m.**

# SOUTH FLORIDA CHAPTER NEWS



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

**G**reetings everyone! The South Florida Chapter continues its efforts to increase membership and networking opportunities for its members. We are taking advantage of the summer break to finalize our remaining dinner seminars, social events, and field trips.

The Scholarship Committee has already been formed, and soon they will be contacting the local universities (University of Miami, Florida International University and Florida Atlantic University)

so they can start the selection process for the recipients of the Second Annual FSEA South Florida Scholarships, which will be granted to one deserving student from each of these institutions during our year-end presentation.

The plant visit to Precast Specialties (PCSI) in Pompano Beach in April was very successful and well attended by our members. We want to express our gratitude to the PCSI staff and personnel who so graciously hosted our group and gave us a very interesting tour of their facilities.

Before going on the summer break, we proudly brought in Mr. Jaime Gascon of the Miami-Dade Building and Neighborhood Compliance Department for a presentation on "Product Approval in the High Velocity Hurricane Zone". As part of our networking and outreach efforts with other professionals, we also invited the president and vice president of AIA Miami to this presentation, and they advertised our event in their newsletter.

We look forward to the summer break to recharge and come back with renewed energy in September. Hope everybody has a fun and safe summer!

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

## 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.



*Anantha Chittur, PE, SOFL secretary, and Matt Olender, PE, SOFL director, tour the Precast Specialties plant in Pompano Beach on April 12, 2011.*



*Pictured above and below: South Florida FSEA Chapter members attend a plant tour of Precast Specialties. Attendees received two PDH's.*



**Photos courtesy of Juan Fuentes, PE.**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### LAVRICH RUNNING FOR TECHNICAL REGION DIRECTOR

The American Institute of Civil Engineers (ASCE), with about 150,000 members nationally, is made up of 10 Geographic Regions and one Technical Region. The Technical Region is made up of eight Specialty Institutes, of which one is the Structural Engineering institute (SEI). Many of our FSEA members hold membership in ASCE as well as FSEA, and many of those are members of SEI. Any member of ASCE can elect to be a member of one of the eight Specialty Institutes at no extra charge. Most structural engineers choose SEI.



**Dan Lavrich, PE,  
SECB, M.ASCE**

Each Geographic Region of ASCE has one seat on the National ASCE Board of Direction (Geographic Region Director), and the Technical Region has two seats. Nominated by the SEI, Dan Lavrich, PE, SECB, M.ASCE, is running for one of those Technical Region Director seats. The two Technical Region Director seats are for three-year terms and they are staggered. Dan just finished a four-year term on the Board of Governors of the Structural Engineering Institute.

Dan's opponent is a worthy candidate from the

institute called COPRI, which stands for Coast, Oceans, Ports, Rivers & Inlets. He is a Coastal Engineer from North Carolina. Information for both Technical Region Director candidates along with information for all other candidates for other positions in ASCE is available on the ASCE website.

Balloting information will be sent by ASCE via e-mail to all ASCE members starting June 15th and balloting will take place until August 12, 2011. Balloting can take place on-line and instructions will be included in the ASCE e-mail. All ASCE members are eligible to vote and are encouraged to vote.

Dan would appreciate your support of his candidacy since he is a structural engineer, a member of FSEA, and a native and lifelong resident of Florida. Dan has practiced in Florida as a licensed PE since 1975 and his views on the position of Technical Region Director as well as the direction of the Civil & Structural Engineering Profession are contained in his Vision Statement which is available on the ASCE web site.

Dan has been a member of FSEA since 1998. His experience includes past-treasurer of FSEA, past-board member of FSEA, past-alternate national delegate, and past-president of FSEA (1994).

Please support our FSEA member!

### CALL FOR ENTRIES

#### NCSEA 14TH ANNUAL EXCELLENCE IN STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING AWARDS

The NCSEA Excellence in Structural Engineering Awards celebrates the greatest structural engineering achievements in the United States and throughout the world. Entries are due July 22. Awards will be presented at the Renaissance Hotel in Oklahoma City on October 22, 2011 at the conclusion of the NCSEA Annual conference; and winning projects will be featured in future issues of STRUCTURE magazine. For awards program rules and eligibility, as well as entry forms, see the Call for Entries on the NCSEA website: [www.ncsea.com](http://www.ncsea.com).

### 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!