



FSEA Newsletter

Winter 2010

The Florida Structural Engineers Association

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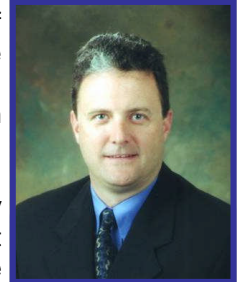
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I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself to you as your FSEA president for 2010. I am the chief structural engineer at the Haskell Company in Jacksonville and have 30 years experience. I have been involved with the state board for the past five years and watched our member organization grow from a fledgling group of individuals trying to create a separate identity to becoming the voice of structural engineers throughout the state. We now have five chapters which comprise FSEA and over 250 members, which I find heartwarming considering the current economic downturn. I want to personally thank each of you for being part of this rapidly-growing association.



Tom Grogan, PE
FSEA president

FSEA is committed to you, the structural engineers of Florida. This commitment includes providing educational opportunities; monitoring and cooperating with legislative activities; and promoting the health, safety and welfare of the public.

Each chapter, as well as the state board, provides continuing education opportunities. We recently held a state seminar in Tampa where WR Grace and Vector Corrosion presented a Concrete Corrosion seminar worth six PDH's.

FSEA continually monitors and cooperates with legislative activities. For those of you who might not be aware, there is a case, Witt vs. LaGorce, where a professional engineer, Gerhard M. Witt, designed an irrigation system for a country club in Florida that ultimately failed. A jury awarded a \$4 million judgment against Witt. Witt only had a \$1 million professional liability insurance policy so the court determined he is personally liable for the other \$3 million. This case is being appealed to the Florida Supreme Court. The AIA is filing an Amicus Brief with the Florida Supreme Court on behalf of Witt. This decision could have a significant impact on how each of you procure professional liability insurance. We will continue to closely monitor this case and keep you abreast of the outcome.

Promoting the health, safety, and welfare of the public is the fundamental premise to which we design our projects. We have recently begun to look at the concept of separate licensing of structural engineers in Florida. In the past 20 years, code provisions have become much more voluminous and complex, especially regarding wind and seismic design. Although Florida is in a very low seismic design category per IBC 2006 (no seismic provisions are provided in the 2007 FBC), we do have some of the most violent wind storms in the country. To help better protect the public, FSEA has formed a Separate SE Licensure Committee to look at the current requirements required to be professionally licensed to design structures. The most-recent PE exam had only three questions dedicated to wind and seismic knowledge. The committee believes this is woefully inadequate in determining the competency of an individual to design structures and therefore, they are recommending we take ownership of our profession and raise

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South Florida Chapter News

Greetings! With the new year, the South Florida Chapter is continuing several initiatives started last year to help our members network and increase membership.

In 2009, we started a dialogue with the local chapter of the American Institute of Architecture to cosponsor events and have joint functions. Our first event was a joint presentation on the Miami Marlins Ballpark by Bliss & Nyitray and Walter P. Moore in December. It was an extremely successful event with over 60 attendees that included architects, contractors, and specialty engineers. We are looking to build on this success with future joint events and open more channels of dialogue with other organizations.

In our effort to increase Associate level membership, we have created a new Young Member's committee. The goal of this committee is not only to increase our membership but also to provide EI's an opportunity to network and have field trips to local fabricators or construction sites. We are also coordinating efforts with ASCE and AIA for joint Young Member social events.

As always, we continue our technical seminars. This year we decided to diverge from our traditional dinner seminars and offer a tour of the CORESLAB plant during the day. The tour was well received and we had to cap the number of attendees! We look forward to having more tours in the future.

Lastly, our scholarship committee is finalizing details on the award criteria and we look forward to awarding our first scholarship this year!

Juan Fuentes, P.E., can be reached at jfuentes@bcceng.com



Juan Fuentes, PE
South Chapter
president

Continued from page 1, "Tom Grogan"

our competency bar. We are currently looking at the possibility of changing the current Florida Statutes so that structural engineers involved in building design will be required to obtain an SE license in the state of Florida. We hope others will get involved to help this important cause.

Tom Grogan can be reached at thomas.grogan@haskell.com or at 904-791-4784.

Southwest Chapter News

The Southwest Chapter had its first evening meeting of 2010 with attorney Michael Corso from the law firm Henderson Franklins as the speaker. Mike discussed the current court rulings in Florida that may dramatically affect our exposure to liability as engineers. That meeting and our meeting last fall were both well received as we had more than 25 attendees. We hope to continue that growth in attendance this year.



Richard Barrow, PE
Southwest Chapter
president

Our board has a good mix of some new and some returning members. The board is in the process of getting presenters for our evening meetings and soliciting our members as to topics and issues they would like to see addressed. One notable change is that for the first time since the inception of the Southwest Chapter, Lew Midlam is not on the Chapter board. Lew is still active helping us locally and as our state board representative. We want to thank Lew for all of his efforts to build this Chapter.

Richard Barrow, P.E. can be reached at Rich@LBEngineer.com.

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

Newsletter Information

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

Building Code Committee Update

By Greg McLellan, P.E., SOFL Chapter

The FSEA state board has formed a Building Code Committee. Currently the committee consists of Lew Midlam, Greg McLellan and David Compton.

The primary purpose of the committee is to provide an avenue by which FSEA members can submit ideas and suggestions for improvements to the Florida Building Code (FBC). Although individuals may submit suggestions directly to the Florida Building Code Commission, building code changes may have a better chance of being favorably considered with the support of FSEA. This will in turn provide enhanced standing for FSEA and better enable the organization to address the needs and concerns of the structural engineering profession.

Members may submit recommendations to the committee via the FSEA director at fseadirector@aol.com. All submittals will be reviewed by the committee and forwarded to the FSEA state board of directors for consideration. It is our goal to provide a voice for structural engineers throughout Florida and for FSEA to become an effective force in the building code process.

Greg McLellan can be reached at mclellan@pegroup.com.

NEFL Chapter says thank you to past president



Matthew Lowe, PE, (left) past-president of the NEFL Chapter is thanked by Michael Herring, PE, current Chapter president.

Mayer celebrates a milestone 100th birthday!!

After studying at the Technical University in Aachen, Germany, Gustav R. Mayer began his remarkable career in 1933 as a field engineer, supervising the enlargement of a power dam. His private engineering practice took him to Spain, the Netherlands and West Germany.

After WWII, he joined the US Army Corps of Engineers where he worked from 1945-1951 as Chief of Section with the Engineering Division.

In 1951, Gus immigrated to Cleveland, Ohio where he worked with Trygve Hoff & Associates and The Kaiser-Nelson Company. Sunny Florida beckoned to this young engineer, so in 1954 he moved to Miami and became Chief Engineer with Watson, Deutschman and Kruse Architects and Engineers. In 1956, Gus opened his own practice where he happily continues to this day. He is dedicated to the Florida Structural Engineers Association and attends as many of its collegial meetings and education sessions as possible. He is FSEA's first Life Member, an honor he cherishes greatly.

Gus has been called by many an "engineer's engineer" for his knowledge, integrity and professionalism. Throughout his many years in practice he has always been available to mentor young engineers as they begin their careers and has been a role model to them.



Gustav R. Mayer celebrates his 100th birthday.

Happy 100th Birthday Gus!!

State Board Meeting Minutes January 21, 2010

STATE BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Tom Grogan	Ronald Milmed	Lewis Midlam	Amy Miller
Pablo Carreno	Fred Bowen	Glenn Amore	Richard Barrow
Christine Olden	Matt Lowe	Scott Martin	

OTHER MEMBERS PRESENT:

Robert Hernandez, SOFL Chapter president

1. REVIEW AND APPROVE OCTOBER 2009 STATE BOARD MEETING MINUTES: Approved

2. FINANCIAL REPORT - Pablo Carreno

- Purchased 10 CD's for the 10 webinars offered by NCSEA
- Overall expenses were 99% of budgeted amounts, and our income was 119% of what we had projected. Our cash position has improved when compared to last year.
- Membership is currently 208 members. Given the current economic situation, our membership goal for this year is 265 members, which is 10% less than last year's peak. NCSEA's overall membership is down between 3-5%. We encourage local Chapters to continue their efforts in recruiting more members.
- It is very important for Chapter treasurers to provide Ralph Sosa, our accountant, with their Chapter's financial information in a timely manner by the date requested but not later than one week prior to each quarterly state board meeting.
- Christine Olden needs to send all Chapter presidents and secretaries a state board of directors' contact list.
- The new authorized signatory for the state bank account are: Thomas Grogan, state president, Amy Miller, state president-elect and Glenn Amore, state secretary. Pablo Carreno, Sr., state treasurer, and Ronald Milmed, state director, continue to have authorized signatures.
- Financial report: Approved

3. BUDGET ITEMS - Miller/Grogan

- The 2010 Budget, which was based on 265 members, was approved.

4. MEMBERSHIP STATUS - Olden

- 208 members have renewed to date; 2009 paid membership equaled 280

5. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR STATUS -Grogan

- The board approved Christine Olden to remain as Executive Director after she and her family relocate to North Carolina.

6. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT - Christine Olden

- Christine needs to update the web site with the 2010 board member's contact information (with photos); a calendar page; the 2010 member listing; and the State and Chapter Bylaws.
- Christine needs to invoice all the web site sponsors for their annual sponsorships.
- Glenn Amore will contact Craig (web host) to add a Job Opportunity section for members only on the web site. This section should allow members to post their resumes. Glenn was approved to spend up to \$1,200.00.
- Christine needs to send the approved Bylaws (Chapter and State) to all Chapter presidents.
- Christine needs to ask the Chapter presidents for calendar events for posting on our web site.
- Scott Martin will provide Christine with a link to the BAFL Chapter web site so it can be accessed via the state web site.
- Executive Director's report: Approved

7. CHAPTER REPORTS

- **BAFL (Martin):** Focusing on growing membership by expanding reach to all engineering firms in the Tampa Bay Area. USF Student Chapter has submitted its Bylaws and they are being reviewed by the Chapter Board. Attendance at 2009 Chapter meetings reached approximately 40 people per meeting.
- **CFL (Bowen):** No recent Chapter meetings. Fred inquired as to FSEA marketing material to present to students at UCF.
- **NEFL (Lowe):** "Engineers Week" coming soon to Jacksonville. Chapter will donate a \$2,000.00 scholarship dur-



January 21, 2010 Minutes

ing that week as they have done previously. 2011 NCSEA Winter Institute will be held in Jacksonville at Amelia Island Plantation: Tom Grogan suggested soliciting sponsors for the Friday night cocktail party; Chapter is in need of ideas for field trips during Winter Institute.

- SOFL (Hernandez):** Continuing with monthly Chapter meetings which include seminars worth at least 1 PDH. Currently creating a scholarship criteria for all Chapters as requested by the State Board.

- SWFL (Barrow):** Last two Chapter meetings had good turnouts. Speaker at last meeting was an attorney who spoke about how to protect your assets. Florida Gulf Coast University started a graduate program in structural engineering. Rich mentioned the possibility of starting a student FSEA Chapter there.

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Licensing (Grogan):** The committee has finished writing the first draft of the proposed "white paper" and is currently in the process of updating it with comments made by various members of the Licensing Committee. A one-page talking-point document will be created, along with a PowerPoint presentation. An initial bill proposal has been drafted by Ron Milmed and will be sent to the committee for review. Our goal is to have a bill prepared for legislative consideration in 2011 with the new requirements effective by 2013 with at least a one-year transition period. Liaisons of separate licensure include AIA, FICE, FES. Roger Jeffery said that cooperation between all the various engineering associations is the key is to getting passage of this bill. State Legislation Days are February 16-17 in Tallahassee so FSEA will be present to discuss our goals. Roger Jeffery will represent FSEA.

- Tom Grogan made a motion for FSEA to pay for Chris Minerva's mileage to attend the Licensing Committee Meeting. Chris is currently unemployed and lives in Miami. The motion was approved as a one-time exception since the Licensing Committee members are not reimbursed for their meeting expenses.

- FBC (Milmed):** Greg McLellan and Ron Milmed monitor revisions to the Florida Building Code and offer help to FSEA members who need assistance with understanding the building codes.

- FBPE (Milmed):** Ron did not attend the last meeting in Tallahassee. FBPE is debating accepting the 16-hour SE exam to replace the current SE 1 & SE 2 exams. Next meeting is February 17th in Tampa.

- Seminars (Milmed):** NCSEA wants Ron to make presentations to the local Chapters about NCSEA. Ron will contact Chapter presidents to set up.

9. HAITI EARTHQUAKE - FSEA SUPPORT - Ron Milmed

- Chapter presidents need to ask members if they are ATC-20 qualified. Interested volunteers must have ATC-20 experience and a valid passport. No one should go to Haiti unless called upon by NCSEA or other organizations currently working there. Christine will keep a list of qualified volunteers. Tom Grogan will send an email to all members about FSEA's involvement in Haiti and how members can volunteer.

10. NCSEA MEDIA AND EXPERT DATABASE - Ron Milmed

- NCSEA is looking for qualified FSEA members to speak to the media in the event of an emergency. Each Chapter should choose a media representative. Ron will create a letter asking each Chapter president to select a representative. Christine will email the letter to Chapter presidents. Once these representatives are chosen, the local media should be contacted and given the name of the representative for that Chapter's area.

11. NEW BUSINESS

- **Witt vs. LaGorce (Midlam):** Engineer named Witt designed an irrigation system for a country club in Florida that ultimately failed. A jury awarded a \$4 million judgment against Witt. Witt only had a \$1 million insurance policy so he is personally liable for the other \$3 million. This case is being appealed to the Florida Supreme Court. The AIA is filing an Amicus Brief with the Florida Supreme Court on behalf of Witt. We will continue to monitor this case as it has a great impact on all of us.

12. FSEA FIVE-YEAR PLAN - Tom Grogan

- Tom suggested that the state board create a five-year plan for FSEA's future.

- Matt Lowe was asked to prepare a draft of this plan for discussion at the board meeting in Miami.

- Tom asked members to come up with ideas for the plan and be ready to present them at the next state board meeting.

13. NEXT MEETING DATE: Friday, April 23, 2010 in Miami. Venue to be determined.

Northeast Florida Chapter News



Mike Herring, PE
Northeast Chapter
president

Greetings!! My name is Mike Herring and effective January 1st, I have been elected to the position of President for the Northeast Florida Chapter of the Florida Structural Engineers Association.

I want to thank our Immediate Past President, Matt Lowe, and acknowledge the excellent job he did in leading our chapter and ensuring its continuing success during his term. Also, an enthusiastic thank you goes to our entire Board of Directors for their ongoing work and dedication to our chapter. I look forward to working with and collaborating with this first-rate group during my term. Special recognition goes to Brian Warfield (continuing as Treasurer), Mark Miller (continuing as Secretary), Mark Keister (for taking on the V.P./President Elect position), and Tom Grogan and Amy Miller (both got our chapter started and are now serving on the State Board of Directors).

So...What have we been up to? We had three general meetings last Fall, all with excellent response and turnout: On September 15th, Dr. Charles Thornton presented "The AE Profession: This Engineer's Look into the Future"; we co-sponsored this with the local AIA and ACI Chapters. On September 29th, Mr. Ed Huston presented, "Wind Design using the 2006 IBC, ASCE 7-05, and a look at the Provisions of the 2009 IBC". On December 4th, Mr. Amanuel Gebremeskal (from AISC) presented, "Harnessing the Power of AISC Design Guides".

Our Annual Social Event was held August 13th, good times were had by all at the local Seven Bridges Grill & Brewery.

Our next general meeting is scheduled for February 25th and will feature Mr. Mohamad Hussein presenting "Testing Methods for Deep Foundations". Also, we are currently planning future meeting presentations on Welding Methods, Concrete Tilt-Up, Steel Joist Systems, and the latest revisions to the Florida Building Code.

We are supporting the local University of North Florida Student Chapter, and once again we have contributed \$2000 to the Engineers Week Scholarship Fund, to go to UNF student(s) interested in career(s) related to structures.

We encourage all NE 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 or phone me at (904) 288-0113 evenings. We look forward to seeing you at our meetings.

NE Chapter Contributes to UNF Scholarship Award

On Friday February 15th, the Jacksonville Engineering Community kicked off the 2010 National Engineers Week with a Scholarship Awards Luncheon at the University of North Florida (UNF).

Along with the other participating Societies and Organizations, the Northeast Chapter of the Florida Structural Engineers Association made a Scholarship Award donation to a deserving engineering student. This year, we contributed a \$2,000.00 donation to a civil engineering student of the University's choice, with the requirement that he/she be interested in a career in structures, along with other rigorous academic criteria.

We are proud to announce that this year's FSEA – NE Chapter Scholarship recipient is Darrell Damrow. Darrell is a senior in the civil engineering program at UNF, with the goal of becoming a Structural Engineer. He has constantly made Dean's List, and has many varied interests including music, fitness, and participation in charity runs.

Congratulations Darrell!!!



NEFL Chapter president, Mike Herring, presents the Scholarship Award to Darrell Damrow at the Engineers Week 2010.

FSEA News

Structures Congress May 12-15, 2010 Gaylord Palm Convention Center, Orlando

The Structural Engineering Institute of ASCE (SEI) and the American Institute of Steel construction (AISC) are joining forces in 2010 to host this first-ever Joint Structures Congress. Visit www.aisc.com for more information. Be sure to stop by the FSEA booth in the Exhibit Hall!

2010 NCSEA Conference

- [September 30 - October 2, 2010:](#)
NCSEA Annual Conference; Hyatt Regency on the Hudson, Jersey City, NJ.
- Visit www.NCSEA.com for more information.

Upcoming Events

April 13, 2010: South Florida Chapter Meeting; "Hazard Mitigation of the Building Envelope" - Rick De La Guardia, guest speaker; 6:00 PM at Don Shula's Hotel & Club, 6842 Main Street, Hialeah. RSVP to gigliogroup@bellsouth.net.

April 23, 2010: State Board Meeting; 1:00 PM in Miami. Location to be determined.

May 12 - 15, 2010: Structures Congress/North American Steel Construction Conference (NASCC). Location is the Gaylord Palms Convention Center, Orlando, FL. The Structural Engineering Institute of ASCE (SEI) and the American Institute of Steel Construction (AISC) are joining forces in 2010 to host this first-ever Joint Structures Congress. Visit www.aisc.com for more information. *FSEA will be sponsoring a booth in the Exhibit Hall so be sure to stop by!*

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