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SEAoAL Dynamic Columns

Quarterly Newsletter: January 2018

President's Letter

Goodbye 2017. Hello 2018. As President of SEAoAL for 2018, I get to write these little snippets for the newsletter. And this one? Well, it is about telling you there is a new President and reminding you to renew your membership dues. So, now that we have that out of the way, let's talk about everyone's favorite subject. CHANGE.

It wasn't that long ago I was writing this snippet for the newsletter as the incoming 2013 President of SEAoAL. And now just five short years later, I have the privilege of serving a second term. While some may not see the changes, SEAoAL has changed in a number of ways during that time. On August 28, 2018, we will host our 8th Annual Conference and Expo. The first event in 2011, my first year on the board, was an effort to start an event members could count on each year as an opportunity for quality education and meeting area representatives who provide guidance on products used in the construction of modern buildings. I remember days of picking a range of dates and then working with speakers to coordinate calendars for our event. For 2018, we have already set the date. We have established a reputation with our event that makes people want to take part. Having been to two different NCSEA conferences, I can tell you that our conference and expo is a bigger event than what most states can support, even those with larger memberships. I hope all of our members have an opportunity to attend our event and see how special it is.

The success of the annual conference and expo helped SEAoAL move forward financially and begin to make an impact on the future of our profession. From scholarships (\$17,500 over the last four years) and sponsorships (such as the Steel Bridge Competition) to on campus presentations, SEAoAL has had an impact at universities across the state. Further down the line into those future generations, SEAoAL has impacted younger students through E-Week volunteering at the McWane Science Center in Birmingham. February 23rd will mark our 6th year volunteering at McWane, which has been led by our Young Member Group (which also did not exist during my first year on the Board).

It was also the first year on the Board that Bill Wilson and I interviewed Rhea Williams for the SEAOAL Executive Director position. Rhea has had a tremendous impact on SEAOAL and, with an eye to what we could become, has been a driving force in making these, and many other, changes become a reality.

So let's get back to 2018 and take a moment to look ahead. In five years, where do you hope to see change in SEAOAL? What about personally and professionally for yourself? What do you hope to look back on in 2023 and see that has changed? What are the changes you have been putting off for the last five years? I hope everyone finds a way to ignite the change they want to see in their own 2018 and beyond.

As a parting note, I ask that you please take a few moments, if you haven't already, to renew your SEAOAL membership and help us continue moving forward in the support of structural engineering in Alabama.

Sincerely,

Jason Partain

It's ALL ABOUT WOOD!

We



have a great conference planned for you at a very unique location too. Southern Museum of FLIGHT! If you can find the Birmingham Airport, you can find the Southern Museum of Flight.

Register today for the interesting educational program presented by the American

Committee Updates

Code Advisory

NCSEA Link to Code Advisory

Committee: <http://www.ncsea.com/committees/codeadvisorycommittee/>

Education & Advocacy

2016 ASCE Southeast Student Conference

The Annual ASCE Southeast Student Conference was held at the University of Alabama. SEAOAL was a sponsor. Bart Berneche and Barry Johnson volunteered to work the conference on behalf of SEAOAL. They also juried the bridge building competition.



Above, Barry Johnson surrounded by students from several universities explaining SEAOAL's role as advocate for structural engineers in Alabama.

If you are interested in promoting the profession, please email Rhea.

SEER UPDATE

Wood Council, and earn **6.5 AL & FL approved PDHs.**

Don't miss the chance to visit our exhibitors. Register the office for a low cost conference in your own back yard, no travel expenses for this Annual Conference & XPO.



Lunch is sponsored by our industry friend **PARROT STRUCTURAL SERVICES.**

We will have the usual all day coffee bar to keep you jacked up for the presentations, chocolate snacks, delish breakfast and a yummy lunch. You know we always feed you a good meal!

Register online or snail mail is still acceptable too.

[Click here to register!](#)

THANKS TO OUR XPO LUNCH SPONSOR!!!



On May 15 and 16, 2016, the Alabama Council of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) and Structural Engineers Association of Alabama (SEAOAL) co-sponsored a table at the Alabama League of Municipalities Annual Convention in Huntsville. Kimberly McMurray of AIA and Jeff Hillman and Clint Stewart of SEAOAL represented their respective organizations. The purpose of the event was to get the word out regarding the roles that Architects and Structural Engineers play in post-disaster situations in



communities across our great state. Participants at the convention included mayors, councilmen and women, clerks, and managers of cities and towns. We were able to engage these individuals and provide them information (verbally and with a handout) about how our CALEMA trained professionals can inspect existing buildings, at no cost to the municipality, to ensure the structure is safe or not to re-enter and/or re-inhabit.

If you would like more information on how you can get involved in this important service to our local communities, please contact Clint Stewart at clintstewart@excellcommunications.com

Young Member News



On April 21, the SEAoAL YMG joined the ASCE Young Member Group on a site visit to Forterra Structural and Specialty Products in Pelham, AL. Forterra Structural & Specialty Products is a leading supplier of prestressed and precast products in the United States. We toured the plant which primarily produces precast structural members, including bridge members, and other specialty products. One of the newest products they are producing is the NEXT Tee Beam which is used in fast-track bridge construction. The group learned about the process used to create the structural members, including stressing, curing, and testing. Thank you to all the members who were able to join us!

If you would like to learn more about the YMG & receive updates, contact Nicole Sommerville at nsommerville@lbyd.com.

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