



SHASTA

CASCADE

STRUCTURAL ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION

President's Message

By Wayne Parker

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President
 Wayne Parker

Vice President
 Bill Nagel

Board of Directors
 Rob Kibler
 Don Russell
 Kent Jessen
 Charley Roberts

Secretary/Treasurer
 Ron Boese

Editor
 Open

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Like most of our members, during the years of operating my engineering company, I have experienced work load cycles as I define as "busy," "very busy," and "out of control busy".

The "out of control busy" condition can be caused by:

- 1) The belief that spring and good building weather is just a couple of weekends away. This push can start after any two consecutive days of sunshine beginning sometimes in January and extending through April.
- 2) The adoption of new building codes, like this last June. Our firm pushed 9 different projects out that day!
- 3) Building permit fee increases. This condition seems to be rather random and usually the fee increases are without much merit in my opinion.
- 4) The belief that the "rainy season is just days away". In some years this condition can start in August and continue through December. The contractors desperately want to complete their foundation and "get out of the mud" as I call it. This rainy season fear condition is somewhat understandable, however it is compounded by a long and dry fall like we have now on our hands.

I think I am siding with the firefighters of California. When will the rain and relief come for 1999?

I will agree that being popular and in high demand is flattering but when the desire to keep all of your clients happy causes you to work 16 hours per day, 7 day a week, burn out is just around the corner.

I have referred many new potential clients to several of my fellow SCSEA members only to find out that they too were to busy for the task. Some weeks I will turn away 10 new clients and I am now hesitant to send these people to other busy firms. I have been telling people sorry without even getting to the cost of design fees. Another tactic I have tried was to increase my hourly billing rate. This recent increase was the first in a few years, however it has not helped reduce the out of control busy workload.

Another failed method of mine has been to inform the customer that I was too busy to even look at their project to establish design fees for several weeks. Why do we think that a few weeks from now we will have more time to accomplish a task we cannot do today? The answer is optimism. Optimism seems to be a common personality trait of self employed business owners.

Right now, I am very optimistically hoping for rain.



MEETING SCHEDULE

S.C.S.E.A. MEETING

DATE: November 17, 1999

TIME: 5:00 p.m. - Board Meeting
6:00 p.m. - General Meeting

PLACE: Casa Lupe
2490 Fair Street, Chico
893-5050



Let's get down to business!

Directions to Casa Lupe:

From Highway 99, take Skyway and Park Exit, follow Park Avenue west to intersection of Fair Street, turn right on Fair Street and turn immediately right into parking lot restaurant.

PRESENTATION:

Steel Bridge Project
National Competition
Professor Russ Mills
California State University Chico

AGENDA

1. Call meeting to order. Parker
2. Approval of September minutes. Boese

Shasta Cascade Structural Engineers Assoc. Board Meeting Redding, May 19, 1999

Members Present: John Brunemeier, Wayne Parker, Don Russell, Chris Hanna, Ron Boese.

Secretary-Treasurer's Report: Ron reported a bank account balance of \$2318.72. John submitted newsletter bills of \$39.15 for paper and postage, and \$37.50 for Marsha Goodfellow's time preparing and mailing the newsletter. [Dinner expenses and the contribution to the CSU-Chico bridge team reduced SCSEA funds to \$1911.67 on May 19.]

National Bridge Competition: Civil engineering students from CSU-Chico submitted a request to SCSEA for financial assistance to travel to the National Bridge Competition in Alaska. The Board agreed to give \$200 toward the students teams' travel expenses.

SCSEA Elections: Nominations were discussed. Bob Harp and Bill Nagel have agreed to run for the Vice-President/President-Elect position.

E-mail Addresses: To make it easier--and perhaps cheaper--to communicate with members in the future, it was agreed that next year's due invoices should include a request for member's e-mail addresses.

Newsletter Editor: No one has yet volunteered to edit the SCSEA newsletter. John reported that Marsha Goodfellow is willing increase her involvement, to make the work of the editor somewhat easier. An editor is urgently needed.

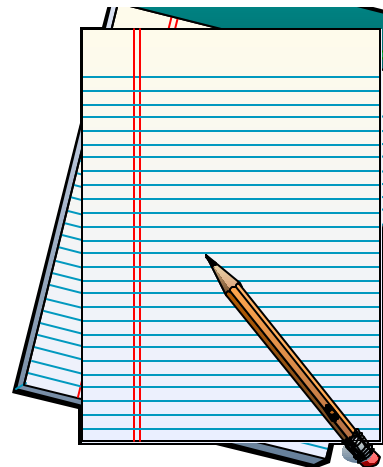
Reorganization of the State SEAOC: John reported that the last several months have been turbulent ones for the state-wide SEAOC. Most of the SEAOC leaders believe it needs to be reorganized to operate more efficiently, but SEAOC has been unable to reach a decision on how to do

this in a way that is considered fair to all the members. As a result of the controversy, the SEAOC executive director and executive secretary have resigned.

The state SEAOC politics has taken so much energy that the regional SEAOC- Central leadership had not had time to work on the issue of encouraging city and county building departments to hire or contract with professional engineers to plan check structural design of buildings required by state law to be designed by a licensed professional.

Goals and Changes: Several goals and changes were proposed for the new year stating in September.

1. Start board meetings at 5:00 rather than 4:00.
2. Work at encouraging city and county building departments to hire or contract with professional engineers to plan check structural design of buildings required by state law to be designed by a licensed professional.
3. Check on the possibility of starting a web site for SCSEA. Don volunteered to obtain about this.



SHASTA CASCADE STRUCTURAL ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION MINUTES BOARD MEETING REDDING, SEPTEMBER 22, 1999

Members Present: Wayne Parker, John Brunemeier, Don Russell, Charley Roberts, Kent Jessen, Ron Boese.

Secretary-Treasurer's Report: Ron reported a bank account balance of \$1952. In May the SCSEA incurred an unexpected \$200 expense. The restaurant at which we met in May charged us this amount because the number of people having dinner at our meeting was not enough to meet the restaurant's minimum for using the banquet room there free of charge. Despite this surprise, the actual SCSEA expenses for the 1998-99 fiscal year were \$55 less than budgeted. Total receipts were \$50 less than budgeted, so the end of year balance is almost exactly what the budget anticipated.

1999-2000 Budget: Ron distributed a preliminary draft budget proposal for the Board to discuss. This preliminary draft suggested changes from the previous year budget, including: (a) No special project to raise money for SCSEA (The UBC Structural Update Seminar in September 1998 raised \$655); (b) A deficit of \$200; (c) Reduction of our scholarship fund for CSU-Chico Civil Engineering students from \$500 to \$300. The Board members quickly agreed that the seminar project should not be attempted this year, and that since our reserves exceed our annual budgeted expenses, a modest deficit is acceptable. But Board members felt strongly that we should try to maintain or increase our support for student scholarships. Several alternatives were suggested, including raising dues or cutting other expenses. One suggestion was to save printing and postage costs by sending our newsletter by e-mail, but this suggestion cannot be implemented immediately. The Board voted to accept the proposed budget with an amendment (moved by Kent, seconded by Charley) to request a \$10 voluntary contribution to our scholarship fund from each member. Ron was asked to include the scholarship fund contribution request in the dues invoices to be mailed out this fall. Voluntary contributions to the scholarship fund will be used to supplement the \$300 scholarship amount in the general budget.

President's Plaque: The Board decided to purchase a plaque to express appreciation for the work of past president John Brunemeier. Wayne agreed to order the plaque.

Web Site and E-mail: Don Russell reported on possibilities for a web site for SCSEA. He estimated it would cost about \$200 to establish a web page, plus about \$260 annual fees. Lower-cost options include using an Internet server, or "hitch-hiking" on a member's web page. Any of these options would also require a commitment of time to prepare and maintain the web site. Charley offered to allow the SCSEA to use e-mail services through his account for little or no charge. Board members agreed that a modest start best suits our resources of money and time, so working through the existing account of Charley (or another member) is the favored alternative for this year. Ron was asked to begin to compile a list of members' e-mail addresses.

Professional Plan Check by Local Building Departments: No progress has been made in recent months on the SCSEA campaign to encourage several local counties and cities to hire or contract with professional engineers for plan check of building permit applications for non-exempt structures.

Judson Engineering Joins The Engineering Company

As of September 1, 1999, Judson Engineering has joined forces with THE ENGINEERING COMPANY. Judson Engineering has experienced some changes over the last few months. Steve Judson has taken the position of Building Official for Trinity County, and is entrusting his clients to his long time friend and associate, Mark Cram, President of THE ENGINEERING COMPANY.

It is with great excitement that Judson Engineering merges with Redding based THE ENGINEERING COMPANY. Mark is a native of the north state and has been practicing engineering for over 20

years. Mark and his staff are proud to continue on where his valued associate left off.

The same friendly staff from Red Bluff will be available as they join forces with the Redding office. Two licensed engineers are on staff including a structural engineering license in both California and Nevada. With the expansion, THE ENGINEERING COMPANY will be able to better manage the workload and offer more reliable, convenient service. The range of services will include commercial, industrial, institutional, and residential designs. With the increased licensing capacity and the restructure of the busi-

nesses, they anticipate being able to offer more options, providing efficient service.

Mark Cram, President
Structural Engineer

Beth Krodel,
Business Administrator

Eli Jurisich, Professional Engineer

Heath Paulson, Designer, E.I.T.



President Hoover on Civil Engineering

The following passage is taken from President Herbert Hoover's inaugural address (who began his career designing civil engineering projects). The quote was originally published in the ASCE NEWS and is reprinted here verbatim.

"Ours is a great profession. There is a fascination of watching a figment of the imagination emerge through the aid of science to a plan on paper. Then it moves to realization in stone or metal or energy. Then it brings jobs and homes to men. Then it elevates the standards of living and adds to the comforts of life. That is the engineer's high privilege.

The great liability of the engineer compared to . . . Other professions is that his works are out in the open where all can see them. His acts step by step, are in hard substance. He cannot bury his mistakes in the grave like doctors. He cannot argue them into thin air or blame the judge like the lawyers. He cannot, like the politicians, screen his shortcomings by blaming his opponents and hoping that the people will forget.

. . . Unending stream of goodness which flows from his successes. . .

On the other hand unlike the doctor, his is not a life among the weak. Unlike the soldier, destruction is not his purpose. Unlike the lawyer, quarrels are not his daily bread. To the engineer falls the job of clothing the bare bones of science with life, comfort, and hope. No doubt, as years go by, people forget which engineer did it, even if they ever knew . . . But the engineer himself looks back at the unending stream of goodness which flows from his successes with few professional satisfactions that few may know."



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With the help of mother nature I hope to get down to the "very busy" work load condition and have more time to do the important things, like being a parent, husband, and of course your SCSEA President.

Hope to see all of you at the November 17th meeting in Chico.

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| 3. | Treasurers report.
A)1999-2000 Budget | Boese
Boese |
| 4. | Old Business | Parker |
| 5. | New business, website and news letters. | Parker |
| 6. | Shasta Co. plan check. | Parker |
| 7. | SEAOC Report. | Parker |
| 8. | Adjournment. | Parker |