



# STRUCTURAL ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION OF ARIZONA NEWSLETTER

[www.seaoa.org](http://www.seaoa.org)

JULY – SEPTEMBER 2023

## State President's Message

David Grapsas, PE, SE  
SEAOA State President



A new SEAOA year is officially underway and we are excited for this upcoming year. I would like to first thank Andy Dileo for his time as President of the SEAOA State. He did a tremendous job and sure left some big shoes for me to fill. Thank you Andy.

I am excited to take on this new role and continue the great traditions of SEAOA. As Ashraf Habibullah would say, "The amazing thing about structural engineering is that our profession makes life better for all of humanity on a daily basis."

The state convention was a huge success and always great to see many familiar faces as well as many new faces. Thank you to all vendors and everyone the contributed to making it a success.

The SEAOA is a volunteer organization and relies on membership to make itself better. The State Convention was organized by volunteers including Arpan Tailor who secured the speakers, Andy who along with Sarah helped to set up the venue the night before it started. The Awards Committee is all volunteers that sort through the applications and order the plaques, the Newsletter Committee, and the board members themselves are all volunteers. There are several committees, you can find more information at [www.seaoa.org](http://www.seaoa.org). The chapters encourage members volunteer so reach out to any of the committees to see how you can sign up to help.

Please reach out to [info@seaoa.org](mailto:info@seaoa.org) if you have any suggestions or would like to join one of our great Chapters or Committees.

Thank you again for trusting me to be your SEAOA State President.

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TUCSON CHAPTER  
MEETING

**September 20, 2023**  
*More info to be posted to  
the SEAOA website*



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CENTRAL CHAPTER  
MEETING

**September 19, 2023**  
*More info to be posted to  
the SEAOA website*

## Central Chapter Chairperson's Message

JJ Prockza, P.E., S.E.  
Central Chapter Chair



Hello Structural Persons!

I'm taking over as Central Chapter Chair for Mark Forman who performed the job extremely well, and hope to live up to his model. Thank you, Mark.

We have two Central Chapter Board Members resigning, and I want to thank them for their service to the structural engineering community. Thank you, Bob Brown, and Adam Boucher for your service!

We are welcoming two new board members to fill their spots, Jeff Hollowell and Brandon Horton. Thank you for stepping up and helping us to have a central chapter that brings great education and community to our central chapter.

Our new Central Chapter board is working on getting speakers lined up for our upcoming meetings, the next of which will be September 19th. I anticipate that our meetings will continue to be at Hilton Airport on the third Tuesday of each month.

I want to let you all know about ASCE's call for new committee members of a new revision ASCE 11 – *Structural Condition Assessment of Existing Buildings*. I anticipate that this update standard will become quite important once NIST releases their report on the Surfside Collapse (Champlain Towers South) and jurisdictions consider mandating existing building structural assessments. If this sounds like an area you would like to influence the future of the standard of practice, I encourage you to apply to that committee.

I look forward to serving you as the Central Chapter chairman this upcoming year, and I hope to see many of you attending our future meetings.

**THE RIGHT BRAIN**  
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WAAAAAIT A MINUTE...  
THESE AREN'T THE LATEST DRAWINGS?

*With the quantity and frequency of revisions on some projects, it's not hard to see how occasionally some things aren't built from the latest drawings.*

*I've never seen something quite like this, but I was sent a picture a few years ago of a large cloud-shaped hole that had been cut in a concrete floor slab. The contractor had scaled the delta cloud on the plans and then duplicated it on the floor.*

*This Right Brain cartoon is a contribution from Brent Wright of Wright Engineers, an SEAOA supporting firm. If you would like to contribute an original cartoon, please email it to [info@seaoa.org](mailto:info@seaoa.org)*

## Tucson Chapter President's Message

Janelle Perry, PE, S.E.  
Tucson Chapter President



Welcome back! I hope everyone had a productive summer and it included some relaxation in any form. I would also like to welcome our new officers and directors for the Southern Chapter: Manuel Naves (Vice-President), Ron Schneider (Director), and Steven Hess (Past President). Be

sure to congratulate these individuals for their involvement and dedication to our organization. We are still trying to fill the following positions: Secretary, Treasurer, and Director. Other committees for which I would encourage your participation are Code (Chair: Paul Scott) and Legislative (Chair: Allan Ortega).

Many of you know this is my second time as President of our organization. The first time I was energetic, with plans and ideals, and I remember that time fondly.

This time I volunteered because we were having a difficult time finding people willing to step up for the organization. I am still trying to figure out why we don't have as much participation as in years past.

Are there no engineers that have ambitions and ideas for our profession? Is no one willing or able to take a couple hours a month to even come to the meetings?

One problem might be the inconsistency of meeting times and dates, so we are planning to stick to third Wednesday of the month lunches as much as possible. Another issue could be price. I know a \$35 lunch seems like a lot, but our venue really works with us to get a great deal. I know I paid \$16 recently just to get my kid a Subway meal so, short of ordering in sandwiches, this may be the new normal. Perhaps we need more appealing topics. We try to get a range of topics that are interesting and varied but certainly welcome any and all ideas for meeting topics.

The bottom line is, we need you! I think it is fun to be involved and affect change in our organization and beyond as we offer training to engineers, recommend code changes to building officials, and grow our businesses for the future. On that note, please email me ([janelle@jpstructural.com](mailto:janelle@jpstructural.com)) if you would like to be a member of the board (see above for open positions) or if you have any ideas for meeting topics. I look forward to working with you all to breathe some vibrancy back into our organization!

## Need a Structural Engineer?

The SEAoA created a web page for members to add their name to a list of structural engineers who are available to consult on small residential and commercial projects. This list is very helpful for building safety staff in all jurisdictions. When an applicant receives a plan review comment requiring engineering for something like a new lintel in an existing wall, the first question the applicant asks is, "Can you tell me who to use?". Plan review staff are not allowed to make these referrals for several reasons. They can however refer to the website. Please contact Sarah Betts ([info@seaoa.org](mailto:info@seaoa.org)) if you are interested in adding your name to this list.

## UA Civil & Architectural Engineering Career Night – Thursday, October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023 (5pm to 8pm)

<https://www.uofaasce.com/fall-career-night.html>

Student Contact: Ryan Knoner, [knoner@arizona.edu](mailto:knoner@arizona.edu)

This event serves to pair civil, architectural, and construction engineering students with firms for internships and full-time employment. The Civil & Architectural Engineering Career Night begins at 5:00pm in the Civil Engineering building courtyard for a one-hour reception mixer with industry representatives, students, and faculty. Following the mixer, the career fair takes place in historic Bear Down Gym from 6:00 to 8:00pm. Food and refreshments will be provided. The UofA graduates many students who are highly sought after by multiple firms. This is a great opportunity to meet and talk with these students early in the school year because many of them will accept employment offers prior to their graduation.



### Request for Newsletter Articles

The SEAOA Newsletter Committee always appreciates input from the membership about articles and information that you'd like to see in upcoming newsletters. The newsletter is an excellent place for the SEAOA membership to share opinions, ideas and information with the rest of the association.

Here are some ways you can contribute to the SEAOA Newsletter:

- Submit a nomination of a fellow SEAOA member to be featured in our upcoming Member Highlights section
- Provide a short article on a recent interesting design project that you participated in
- Provide a short article on engineering community outreach activities that your company has participated in

Also, anyone who could volunteer a little time every quarter to help publish the newsletter is most welcome. One easy way to help would be to “proof” the newsletter before it's published. Please contact Sal Caccavale ([seccbc@cox.net](mailto:seccbc@cox.net)) or Mark Sipes ([Mark.Sipes@maricopa.gov](mailto:Mark.Sipes@maricopa.gov)) if you have any articles that you'd like to submit, if there are any topics you'd like to see in future SEAOA Newsletters or if you'd like to help with publishing the newsletter.

## Old Timers Lunch

Paul Scott, PE, SE  
Scott Structural

On May 23, 2023, many retired and older Engineers gathered together to have lunch at Paul Scott's home in Phoenix, AZ. It was a great group and we all

enjoyed sharing stories of our careers and catching up. We hope to do it again soon and that you'll join us "Old Timers" next time!



5/23/20233 – Phoenix, AZ - From left to right: Greg Creaser, Bob Vallelonga, Jim Westhoff, Burce Barrera, Ed Wilson, Bill Mancini, Bob Brown, Lou Scatena, Cliff Paul, Bob Stimson, Jeff Novak, Jim Wilson, Fred Noelke, Sheila Hall, Paul Scott, Clarence Campbell.

## 2023 57<sup>th</sup> Anniversary SEAOA Convention and Conference

Sarah Betts, P.E., S.E.  
Administrative Assistant

During the third weekend of June, the SEAOA was proud to once again welcome nearly 200 Structural Engineering professionals to Scottsdale, Arizona. There we held the 57th Anniversary SEAOA Convention and Conference from June 15-17. This year was another successful event that brought together those in the industry from Arizona and across the southwest to the DoubleTree by Hilton Scottsdale/Paradise Valley resort.



The beauty of the resort and desert landscape was again matched by a top-notch slate of speakers for this year's conference. Some of our presentations included Dr. Ghosh's Overview of Structural Changes in the 2021 IBC and ASCE 7-22, Dr. Kit Miyamoto's informative talk on Seismic Events in Turkey, case studies on Penn Station's East End Gateway and UC Berkley's New BioSciences Hub... and more!



In addition to our great seminars we also had plenty of time for relaxing, catching up with old friends and colleagues and making new connections with those we

work with every day. Thursday evening, we had our Exhibitor Reception with the Annual Minute-To-Win-It competition that has become a crowd pleaser. After several years of putting up a fierce competition, Kelsey Lavicka with Verco Decking brought home the prize for Exhibitor of the Year for 2023-24 for his hilarious Shakespeare adaptation. More photos from our conference can be found on the SEAOA website.



Thursday night Ashraf Habibullah and CSI were generous enough to again sponsor our Anniversary Main Event including delicious food, live music, dancing, and fun until late in the evening. This is always a great time and the SEAOA appreciates all that Ashraf does in support of the structural engineering community. Check out the party photos on our website as well.



As always, the success of our convention is rooted in the diverse group of attendees we gather every year and the support of our generous Sponsors and Exhibitors. This

year we welcomed 31 companies this year that showcased their products, shared their industry experience and gave us the business card we need to reach out to someone we know when that next project challenge comes up.



The SEAOA's Annual Convention and Conference is the main funding source for that SEAOA uses to fund our outreach efforts to Arizona's Universities, High Schools and Middle Schools as well as efforts to make sure Arizona's concerns are heard at a National level with Rule

Making bodies and Code Officials. Our convention committee focuses on keeping the attendee costs reasonable and a great value for those attending and looking for PDH credit. We are always pleased to see the faces of our members intrigued and laughing as we step away from our day-to-day competitive businesses and gather together as professionals working to make Arizona and elsewhere a safe and better place.

Thank you to all that were able to attend and for those that missed it, we are making plans already for next year... so hopefully you can join us as well.

Thank you to all who helped plan another great Convention. If there's anything you'd like to see at the 2024 Convention, please consider joining the SEAOA Convention Planning Committee and let your ideas be heard!

SEAOA Convention Committee  
 Committee Chair and SEAOA President: Andy DiLeo  
 Sponsor Exhibitor Sub-Committee Chair: Allan Ortega  
 Venue Sub Committee Chair: Andy DiLeo  
 Speaker Sub-Committee Chairs: Arpan Tailor  
 SEAOA Administrative Assistant: Sarah Betts

## 2023 - 2024 SEAOA Board Members and Committee Chairs

### State Board:

President: David Grapsas  
 Past President: Andy DiLeo  
 At-Large Director: Jeff Hollowell  
 At-Large Director: Allan Ortega  
 Tucson Director/Secretary: Jennifer Patronski  
 Tucson Director: Ron Schneider  
 Central Chapter Director/Treasurer: James Newhall

### Committees and Chairs:

Awards: Sal Caccavale  
 Finance: James Newhall, Mike Lu and Brady Notbohm  
 Code: Paul Scott and Jennifer Patronski  
 Convention Planning: David Grapsas  
 Legislative: Allan Ortega  
 Newsletter: Sal Caccavale and Mark Sipes  
 SEER: Derek Hanson and Heidi Szabo  
 YMG Chair: Cesar Castro

### Central Chapter:

Chairperson: JJ Proczka  
 Past Chairperson: Mark Forman  
 Treasurer: Diane Eisenbacher  
 Secretary: Jeff Hollowell  
 Director: Brandon Horton  
 Director: Jan Dunkelberg  
 Director: James Newhall  
 Director: David Grapsas

### Tucson Chapter:

President: Janelle Perry  
 Past President: Steven Hess  
 Vice President: Manuel Naves  
 Treasurer: OPEN  
 Secretary: OPEN  
 Director: Ron Schneider  
 Director: OPEN

## 2023 Excellence in Structural Engineering Awards

Sal Caccavale, PE, SE  
Awards Committee Chair

The SEAOA takes great pleasure in announcing this year's SEAOA Excellence in Structural Engineering Awards recipients.

**Excellence in Structural Engineering Awards** went to the following entries:

PROJECT	FIRM	CATEGORY
University of Arizona Old Chemistry Building Renovations	Martin White & Griffis Structural Engineers	Forensic/Renovation/Retrofit/Rehabilitation
Sky Harbor Sky Train Rental Car Station	Gannet Fleming, Inc	New Buildings, Over \$10M

**Merit Awards in Structural Engineering Awards** went to the following entries:

PROJECT	FIRM	CATEGORY
Pinal County Attorney's Office	DLR Group	New Buildings, Over \$10M
P855 Expeditionary Combat Skills Student Berthing	Martin, White & Griffis Structural Engineers	New Buildings, Over \$10M
Banner Desert Medical Center Women's Tower Expansion	PK Associates, LLC	New Buildings, Over \$10M
The Beam on Farmer	PK Associates, LLC	New Buildings, \$2M to \$10M
Northwest Wastewater Master Plan – Lift Station 77	Gannet Fleming, Inc	Other
IDA on McKinley	Schneider Structural Engineers	New Buildings, \$2M to \$10M
Mayo Clinic East Vertical Expansion	Meyer Borgman Johnson	New Buildings, Over \$10M

Thank you to all who helped judge the 2023 Excellence Award submissions:

Paul Scott – Central	Janelle Perry – Tucson
Brent Woods – Tucson	Andrew Netupsky – Central
Greg Bakkum – Central	Allan Ortega – Tucson

More information on the awarded projects, the Excellence in Engineering presentation can be found here: [SEAOA 2023 Excellence Awards Presentation](#)

For a complete list of all SEAOA Excellence in Engineering Awards past winners, see the Awards Committee page: <http://seaoa.org/awards/>

The newsletter will be providing feature articles on each of the award winners during the 2023-2024 year. Three award articles are included in this newsletter edition.