

President's Message

By Brent Packer, PE



In the President's Message last month, I stated that the Structural Engineers Association of Utah (SEAU) is preparing a bill to go before the State Senate to clarify the structural licensing scope of practice. An invitation was extended to ASCE Utah Section members to participate in a committee formed by the Section Board to review the bill and be more involved as the bill proceeds through legislation.

Over thirty Section members responded to the invitation showing interest and concerns regarding the bill. Cable Murray, committee chairman, has compiled questions and comments from those members. Cable and I met with Barry Welliver, President of SEAU, and Barry Arnold, Co-Chair SEAU Licensing committee, to obtain a better understanding of the bill and to discuss some of the questions and concerns from the ASCE, Utah Section.

The SEAU has handed their work to Senator Fred Fife as of December 19, 2007. The actual bill is currently being written and should be available online (www.le.state.ut.us) the first part of this month before the 2008 General Session begins, January 21, 2008.

I have attached copies of the SEAU Licensing Committee January Newsletter Article and A Structural Practice Act for the State of Utah from the SEAU that provides more information and background regarding the bill and the need to revise some of the current language in the Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors Licensing Act.

The ASCE Utah Section is scheduling a meeting with the SEAU Licensing Committee within the next two weeks to discuss the bill further and to answer individual questions from the ASCE Utah Section special committee members. An e-mail will be sent out soon to the Section members identifying the place and time. If you are interested in attending, plan on notifying Cable Murray (cmurray@jacobsenconstruction.com, 801-502-3032) after the e-mail has been sent.

Brent Packer, P.E.
ASCE, Utah Section President

Announcements

Utah Construction Career Days

March 25th and 26th
Washington County Fairgrounds

Volunteers are still needed to help staff the ASCE booth! Contact the Southern Utah Branch for more information.

**Upcoming ASCE/APWA
Southern Utah Branch Spring
Conference**

February 6th and 7th
"Facing Future Challenges Today"
The Dixie Center

Golf Tournament February 8th
The Ledges

For more information, contact:
Brett Jensen at Brett.Jensen@c-b.com
or Rob Reid at
Rreid@RosenbergAssociates.net

**Salt Lake Valley Science &
Engineering Fair**

March 27th and 28th
Rice-Eccles Stadium Towers

If you would like to volunteer as a judge,
visit their website at
<http://www.utahsciencecenter.org/sciencefair/participate/judges.php>

VISIT OUR WEBSITE!

<http://sections.asce.org/utah/index.htm>

Northern Utah Branch

The Northern Utah Branch will be having a luncheon in January. The guest lecturer has not been determined.

Wasatch Front Branch

The Wasatch Front Branch January guest lecturer is Stephan Charmot of SemMaterials. He will speak on a technique called Full Depth Reclamation (FDR) in asphalt pavements. The meeting will be held on January 18th at Chinese Gourmet located at 4425 South State Street in Murray. The luncheon will begin promptly at noon but please plan to arrive early to allow time to get food from the buffet. Please RSVP to Corbett Hansen before January 16th at CHansen@kleinfelder.com.

Micheal G. McKamey
Wasatch Front Branch President

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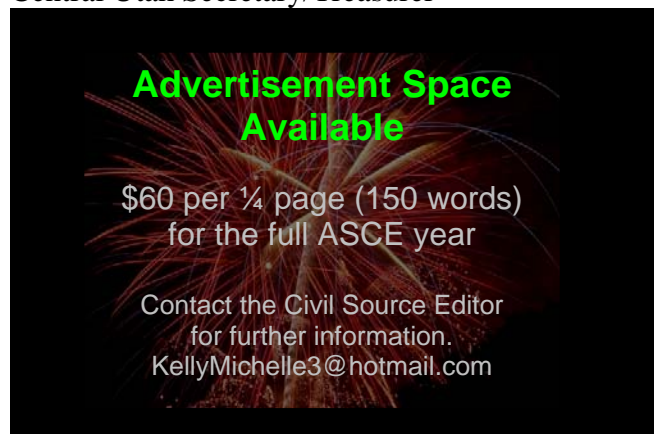
We hope you all had a great holiday season and enjoyed some time off with friends and family.

The next Central Utah Branch meeting will be Thursday, January 17th, at La Dolce Vita in Provo. Dr. Kyle Rollins of BYU will be speaking about pile foundations near the edge of slopes, particularly for bridge abutments. He will describe three full-scale lateral load tests that he conducted and provide simplified design rules based on results and other available data.

The cost for lunch is \$10 for ASCE members, \$7 for students, and \$12 for other guests. Please watch your e-mail for menu selection as the date gets closer. If you are not a member of the Central Utah Branch and would like to receive detailed e-mail notifications for the monthly meetings, please send your request to edixon@fransoncivil.com to be added to our list.

We look forward to seeing you at the next branch meeting!

Eric R. Dixon, P.E.
Central Utah Secretary/Treasurer



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Southern Utah Branch

The Southern Utah Branch Officers would like to thank everyone who attended the December Luncheon. We had a great turnout and everyone received a small gift.

The Southern Utah Branch is in the process of reviewing a number of scholarship applicants. The winners will be presented with the scholarships at the next luncheon.

The Utah Construction Career Days will be held on March 25th & 26th at the Washington County Fairgrounds. Construction Career Days is a great way to get local middle and high school kids excited about engineering and construction. The local school kids get a hands on experience in heavy equipment operation, surveying, soil testing, concrete installation and framing. The Southern Utah Branch has participated in this event for the last two years and have had great participation from local area engineering firms. However, we still are in need of volunteers to help staff the ASCE booth. Anyone interested please contact a branch officer.

The APWA/ASCE 2008 Spring Conference will be held on February 6-8th, so be sure to mark those dates on your calendar. There will be many beneficial breakout sessions and the golf tournament will be held at The Ledges golf course. The branch will still accept award nominations up to January 18th, so please fill out those award nominations. If you haven't done so please submit your registration application.

Brett Jensen
Southern Utah Branch President

Geotechnical Group

The Geotechnical Group does not have any announcements for January.

Younger Member Forum

For the YMF, the new year brings new officers. Be sure to look at the contacts page for our new and changing leadership.

The YMF will again continue its support of the Salt Lake Valley Science and Engineering Fair coming up the end of March, 2008. These are the "best of the best" projects from the school districts around the valley. They are always in need of volunteers and judges. Take a few minutes and look at the following link: <http://www.utahsciencecenter.org/sciencefair/participate/judges.php>.

If you have any questions please contact James Barron, P.E., james.barron@slcgov.com, or contact Jodi Ostrander directly at - jostrander@utahsciencecenter.org. If you do get involved let us know so we can recognize those that are associated with ASCE.

It just keeps coming back. The spring 2008 PE Exam will be on April 11th, 2008. The YMF will continue to offer the exam review course again this year. Review classes will begin about the middle of February. For more information you can e-mail Brad Conder, P.E. at: BradC@horrocks.com.

Cable Murray, P.E.
USYMF-President

Changing Your Email Address?

Keep us posted! Login to www.asce.org/myprofile and update your records. The ASCE Utah Section uses this information to send you the Civil Source.

SEAU Licensing Committee Special Article

The licensing committee of SEAU has now jumped the first hurdle on the path to creating a structural practice act in the state of Utah. After meeting with the Division of Occupational and Professional Licensing (DOPL) to determine how to adjust the language in the Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors Licensing Act (Title 58, Chapter 22), the final work was handed over to Senator Fred Fife on December 19, 2007. The bill is presently being written and should be available online sometime during the first part of January 2008.

As now defined, professional structural engineering or the practice of structural engineering means the design and analysis of complex buildings and structures and includes the definition of professional engineering or the practice of professional engineering as defined in section 58-22-102 (9). To create a separate practice act for structural engineering, the first edit was to amend the definition (9) to limit a professional engineer from engaging in the practice of structural engineering.

The definition of professional structural engineering given in section 58-22-102 (14) was then expanded to explicitly indicate the areas of practice for professional structural engineers. This list is a slightly modified version of the type III and IV structures defined in the International Building Code with the addition of buildings over five stories or 60 feet and structures with an aggregate gross area greater than 60,000 square feet. Additionally, the definition includes the practice of professional engineering as defined in section 58-22-102 (9).

To accommodate the perceived need for transitioning some individuals who are currently practicing in the areas now defined for structural engineering, the qualifications section was amended. Section 58-22-302 (f) was expanded to allow an exception to the examinations established by rule for applicants to be allowed to

submit a signed affidavit stating that they are competent and currently engaged in the practice of structural engineering. This “window” is set to expire on January 1, 2009, which provides an effective six-month period since the bill would not become law until July 1, 2008.

Several other portions of the licensing act are to be modified in this bill to help clarify definitions and administrative procedures as recommended by DOPL. These include a fuller explanation of the exceptions to licensure and revision to residential practice, and the allowance for expert testimony by out-of-state professionals.

The proposed bill will create a defined practice for structural engineering instead of just alluding to complex structures. This is a noteworthy effort for our profession and state. It serves to recognize the need for competent and qualified practice in the design of public and private structures where life safety is to be assured.



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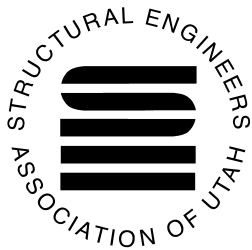
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A Structural Practice Act for the State of Utah

IN A NUTSHELL

- ❑ Need for greater public safety in the structural design of significant buildings and structures
- ❑ Those presently qualified and competent to practice structural engineering as defined will remain qualified to do so
- ❑ Six month window for transitioning professionals to apply for S.E. licensing
- ❑ Administration changes for DOPL are minimal

PROPOSED STRUCTURAL LICENSE ACT FOR UTAH

The current Utah law concerning the practice of structural engineering does not define which structures or buildings require structural design other than to suggest that they are complex.

A proposal by the Structural Engineers Association of Utah (SEAU) would better define the practice of structural design by explicitly stating which buildings and structures would be considered not only complex, but also of sufficient importance to warrant the added expertise of structural engineers.

The International Building Code (IBC) classifies structures according to their occupancy with the intent of requiring increased care in the design of certain buildings. Hospitals, schools, and structures housing large numbers of occupants are deemed important and the code requirements for their structural design are consequently elevated.

These structures are among those defined in the proposed structural practice act for Utah.

Why Is A Structural Practice Act Necessary?

With the adoption of the 2006 International Building Code, Utah is leading the way in public safety. There is an increasing complexity requiring higher levels of competence and experience for structural design of significant structures

Reasons for improving structural practice:

- *Education Requirements:* Bachelor of Science degree requirements have steadily decreased from 140 to 150 semester hours to as little as 124 hours.
- *Complex Codes:* Structural engineering design and building code requirements have become increasingly complex
- *Computerization:* Use of advanced software by less competent engineers to design structures
- *Hidden Problems in Existing Buildings:* Many potential problems will only be evident when an earthquake or design snow load is applied
- *Plan Checking:* Many jurisdictions do not have the resources to perform sufficient structural plan reviews. Reliance on the "engineers stamp" does not always assure quality performance
- *Insurance Costs:* Poor design and construction can affect many different insurance policies
- *Cost Effective Design:* A structure can be designed which may be safe and meets the building code, yet is not the most cost effective structural solution

How Will the Current Practice of Structural Engineering Change?

Those presently qualified and competent in the areas defined by the act will continue to be able to practice structural engineering. If not presently licensed as an SE in Utah, they will submit application to DOPL for review together with an affidavit attesting to their competence and experience.

How Will It Be Implemented?

Beginning July 1, 2008, those professional engineers not holding a valid S.E. license in Utah and desiring to be transitioned will have six months to make application to the Division of Occupational and Professional Licensing (DOPL).

After January 1, 2009 licensing as a S.E. in Utah will follow the requirements presently established by the state and administered by the DOPL.

Benefits

- Increased public safety for the structural design of significant buildings and structures
- Clearly defines the responsibilities for the practice of structural engineering
- Maintains and improves upon the standards established by the state of Utah for the practice of structural engineering and the qualifications of license holders.



Contact info: Barry Arnold, Co-Chair SEAU Licensing committee: (801) 782-6008; barrya@arwengineers.com;
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Barry Welliver, President, Structural Engineers Assoc. of Utah: 801-553-0162; barrywelliver2@earthlink.net



December 2007

Subject: Judging for Salt Lake Valley Science & Engineering Fair 2008

Most science and engineering professionals are interested in greater participation in scientific topics and activities within the junior high and high school populations. That's why we are developing a Utah Science Center (USC). (See www.utahsciencecenter.org). And that's why USC has assumed responsibility for one of Utah's regional Science and Engineering Fairs, the Salt Lake Valley Science and Engineering Fair (SLVSEF).

The USC is recruiting experts like you to participate as judges in the SLVSEF 2008. As a judge, your expertise and involvement will help these youngsters understand and use the scientific method. After receiving brief training, fair judges will rate six to eight science and/or engineering exhibits by evaluating students projects and asking the students questions to determine how well each of them understands their experiment.

The fair will take place on March 27 and 28, 2008 at Rice Eccles Stadium. Student projects will be set up and inspected for display compliance on March 27 followed by a private judge preview session. Judging will begin at 8:00 a.m. on March 28 with an hour for familiarization with assigned projects (without students) followed by three hours of judging. A judge training session will be held in February 2008 (additional info will be posted on the SLVSEF home page at www.utahsciencecenter.org/sciencefair soon) that will provide additional judging materials and instructions.

You can be part of a cadre of specialized volunteers who form the backbone that makes SLVSEF work. Your participation in the fair as a judge will connect participating students with respected scientists and engineers in our community to guide these aspiring technical minds to sheer joy of investigating our world using the scientific method.

If you are interested in participating in the 2008 SLVSEF, please visit <http://www.utahsciencecenter.org/sciencefair/participate/judges.php#form> to register today! If you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to email or call Jody at (801) 661-2120.

Sincerely,

Jody Ostrander
Operations Manager
Utah Science Center

Brenda Mann
Fair Director
University of Utah

Civil Source Calendar January

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Happy New Year!	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17 Central Utah Branch Meeting La Dolce Vita Provo	18 Wasatch Front Branch Meeting 12:00 Noon Chinese Gourmet 4425 S State Murray	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

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