FALL WELCOME EVENT
SEPT 2, 2015 - 5:30 – 9:00 PM
at Luminarias Restaurant
3500 Ramona Blvd, Monterey Park, CA 91754

Socialize and Network at the Committee Showcase:
- Engage with current committee members to learn about committee goals and ongoing projects.
- Network and participate for greater IMPACT in your profession and community.
- Visit with our sponsors to learn about new products and services.

Main Event: Been There, Done That - Aligning Expectations from Various Levels of Experience
- Hear stories and lessons from engineers with 2-30 years of experience.
- Gain insight into working across generations, career advancement, and successfully navigating your career.

PANELISTS:
- David Cocke, S. E., F. SEI, F. ASCE Matt Timmers
  President
  Structural Focus
- Craig Chamberlain, M.S., S.E.
  Managing Principal, Vice President
  Nishkan - Chamberlain
- Francisco Garcia, P.E.
  Principal/Founder
  FJ Engineering + Design
- Gretchen Haussler, M.S., P.E.
  Senior Project Engineer
  Miyamoto International, Inc.
- Jose Hernandez, E.I.T.
  Senior Engineer
  Thornton Tomasetti
- David Cocke, S. E., F. SEI, F. ASCE
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  Senior Project Engineer
  Miyamoto International, Inc.
- Jose Hernandez, E.I.T.
  Senior Engineer
  Thornton Tomasetti

REGISTER NOW!
$35 Prepaid, $45 at the Door, $25 Students
www.seaosc.org

Social & Registration
5:30 – 6:00 PM
Committee Showcase Networking & Hors D’oeuvres
6:00 – 7:15 PM
Dessert and Panel Discussion
7:30 – 9:00 PM
RAFFLE PRIZES
CASH BAR
COMPLIMENTARY DRINK ON SEAOSC!
HORS D’OEUVRES
DESSERT

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Classified Ads
September 2, 2015 Dinner Meeting & Committee Showcase Flyer

2015-2016 membership renewals are due by August 31!
Members received one invoice by mail to their preferred mailing address in early July.
Welcome back! Hopefully all of you are rejuvenated from your summer vacation and perhaps kids are all back in school. YES! It’s the most wonderful time of the year!! Although this song is typically a winter holiday song, those of you with kids that are now back in school, can probably relate. Historically, September has been the starting time for the new SEAOSC Board after some downtime during the July/August months. However, this year, the Board has been working diligently to make an IMPACT for our profession and community.

The 2015-2016 SEAOSC Board of Directors was introduced to the membership in the July/August Newsletter where you will find more in-depth information about the diversity and experience of each member.

President: Michelle Kam-Biron, S.E., SECB
American Wood Council

President-Elect: Jeff Ellis, S.E.
Simpson Strong-Tie Company, Inc.

Treasurer: Robert “Bob” Lyons, S.E.
Risha Engineering Group, Inc.

Past President: Kevin O’Connell, S.E.
Simpson Gum pertz & Heger

Director (2y):
Colin Kumabe, S.E.
City of Los Angeles, Building & Safety

Director (2y):
Edgar Plazola, S.E.
Insight Structural Engineers

Director (2y):
Joseph Valanci uis, S.E.
Karagozian & Case

Director (2y):
Pau l Van Benschoten, S.E.
Coffman Engineers

Director (1y):
Lorena Arce, P.E.
American Institute of Steel Construction

Director (1y):
Todd Brown, S.E.
Dale Christian Structural Engineering

Director (1y):
Jeffrey Haight, S.E.
Ehlen, Spiess & Haight, Inc.

Director (1y):
Victoria Wigle, S.E.
Thorton Tomasetti

SEAOSC is very fortunate to have these industry leaders for Directors who will volunteer valuable hours working on behalf of SEAOSC. In July, the Board had our first meeting and an orientation for the new Directors. During the meeting the new Directors were quickly brought up to speed and continued planning for the 2015-16 year. Some of which was mentioned in my President’s message that was included in the membership renewal package. The SEAOSC events are designed to have an IMPACT on our profession by cultivating membership growth and the advancement of SEAOSC.

Building from the 2012 Re-alignment Plan that was developed over several meetings spanning multiple weeks by Joe Labrie, Kevin O’Connell, Mehran Poursanjani, myself and led by then-President Janah Risha, the new Board and some of the past Directors, had an all-day Strategic Planning Retreat (SPR) in August. If any of you have had the opportunity to participating in a SPR, you know that it can be quite challenging and mentally exhausting. Similar to the Re-alignment Plan we have as priorities: Membership, Committees, Leadership, Outreach and Member Benefits. We accomplished quite a bit but there is a lot of work ahead of us to prioritize and create a plan with short- and long-term goals in addition to tangible measurables so that future Boards may have something to gauge their progress. It was very apparent that the Board has a passion to improve and sustain SEAOSC with a desire to have an IMPACT on our profession and the community by providing a platform specifically for structural engineers to advocate for our profession and a structurally safe built environment.

SEAOSC will continue efforts to make an IMPACT on our community and stay involved with local jurisdictions such as the City of Santa Monica and the City of Los Angeles as well as working with Dr. Lucy Jones, in support of Mayor Garcetti’s Resilience by Design. SEAOSC will continue to highlight the need for building retrofit and the importance of including structural engineers in the development of solutions to create a resilient community. This will be highlighted in the November 2-3rd: SEAOSC Summit event. SEAOSC is also working with LADBS to put people who seek help with seismic retrofit in contact with local structural engineers by referring them to the SEAOSC Referral Listings posted to our website.

The City of Los Angeles Department of Building and Safety (LADBS) has contracted ATC to perform a Trial Evaluation Program, which will engage Los Angeles engineers to apply the ATC-78-3 methodology to buildings in Los Angeles. ATC is finalizing a Request for Proposals and News Release describing this Program and SEAOSC is working with the ATC to make SEAOSC members aware of this opportunity.

Furthermore, the Board recently supported the City of Thousand Oaks in its efforts to adopt a Back to Business (B2B) program, similar to the City of Glendale. B2B creates a partnership method for businesses to prepare in advance for the disruption and recovery caused as the result of an earthquake or other disaster. Private sector Civil and Structural
Engineers are retained by a business and are pre-certified by the City Building Official to perform safety assessment inspections and post placards on damaged buildings to designate whether they are safe to enter or occupy. SEAOSC is also participating in the SEAOC Task Group that is discussing the Berkeley Balcony issue that not only affects the City of Berkeley but may affect ordinances throughout the state and nation.

During the June LA Dinner Meeting, I highlighted the big gap across the room between the younger members and the more senior members in the audience when both groups were asked to stand. My hope is that we will build an association that bridges that gap not only between the seasoned members and the younger members, but also between men and women, experienced and new, etc. so that we can work together and grow this association.

In order to sustain SEAOSC we need to continue to nurture the membership that we have and recruit new members which includes younger engineers otherwise eventually SEAOSC will cease to exist. There are many seasoned members that have a wealth of knowledge that can be passed to the younger generation and I’m sure the young engineers have knowledge that they can pass on to the seasoned engineers. We’ve heard from the Young Members (YM) group that they’d like to participate in the committees, which is awesome. Are there any committee members that would like to mentor a younger member?

Another opportunity to bridge a gap came month’s prior to my presidency when I had heard from several SEAOSC women that voiced a desire to network with other women in structural engineering. While other associations within our industry are providing support specifically for women within their associations, SEAOSC has not done so. It’s also not a secret that the structural engineering industry has seen a decrease of women entering or staying in the field. As a result, I sent an inquiry to a few women asking if they’d be interested in starting a group where they could network with other women within the field. And what started out as a few emails has now blossomed into many women in structural engineering of diverse age and experience (ILookLikeAnEngineer), showing great interest to continue the dialog. Hopefully this will formally stay within the SEAOSC association, although, it’s yet to be determined by the group. However, I am very excited and inspired that these women want to make an impact on supporting and advancing women in structural engineering.

“What is SEAOSC doing for me?” is a question that sometimes comes from our members and non-members. These are just a few things that SEAOSC provides: reasonably priced topical educational opportunities, SEAOSC and ICC publication discounts, dinner meetings that SEAOSC hosts at a loss or break-even budget and the opportunity to participate on a SEAOSC committee to better our profession, provide safe buildings and much more. There are a lot of opportunities to participate on a SEAOSC committee and some just need volunteers based on a project-by-project basis so for that those who have limited time could be a perfect fit. Or perhaps, as mentioned previously, seasoned committee members could mentor young members to help bridge the gap and engage them. Taking a well-known statement and putting a SEAOSC spin on it:

Ask not what SEAOSC can do for you. Ask what YOU can do for SEAOSC.

What will you do? Come to the September 2nd LA Meeting: New Membership Recruiting, Committee & Sponsor Tabletops and Panel Discussion where you can network with other SEAOSC members, chat with committee Chairs, learn about current building products and listen to a panel discussion of a diverse group of engineers about the current state of the industry. The first drink is on us!

Lastly, I encourage you to attend the September 9-12, SEAOC Convention in Seattle, WA. Not only is it a great way to learn about current and innovative structural engineering topics but it’s a great way to meet your fellow engineers and have a blast while doing it!

As the first female President of SEAOSC, I was honored to receive the gavel from Kevin O’Connell who worked tirelessly to provide great insight, professionalism and forward-thinking leadership for SEAOSC. It’s a privilege to join the ranks of all these prestigious Past Presidents who came before me and contributed their volunteer time to advance the profession of structural engineering. I am very much looking forward to working with our awesome board and SEAOSC to make an IMPACT in the industry.

Do you want to join us to move our profession forward? Let’s create something that will make the world awesome and have an IMPACT on our industry!

Have an Extraordinary Day!

Michelle Kam-Biron, SE, SEC
SEAOSC President

#ILookLikeAnEngineer
Larry Alan Burnett, 63, was born January 10, 1952 in Fontana, CA. He passed away April 22, 2015 at home with his family in Alhambra, CA after a strong-fought battle with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS, or Lou Gehrig’s Disease). Larry is survived by his wife, Donna, and three sons, Justin, Tyler, and Matthew, his daughter, Kathryn, as well as his mother and three sisters. His two granddaughters also survive him.

Larry worked with dedication for 35 years as a structural engineer, opening his own firm, Burnett & Young, Inc., with partner Don Young in 2001. One of the most respected engineers in Los Angeles, Larry helped design the shoring and groundwork for many well-known buildings that now stand in this vast city. The systems that Larry designed have had a profound impact on the shoring industry and, in some part, changed the way shoring is done in California. He was immensely intelligent and had an incomparable knack for problem solving, often creating entirely new ways of fixing and building things. Larry was ever eager to extend his hand for those around him, and those in need.

The most loving father and husband, Larry made sure his family was always taken care of to his utmost ability. His presence will be deeply missed, and his life honored greatly. A memorial reception will be held Tuesday, April 28th between eleven and one o’clock at Cabot & Sons Funeral Home in Pasadena. His family would appreciate any donations be made to the ALS Association in Larry’s name.

Published in the Los Angeles Times on Apr. 26, 2015.

Brendan Ramos, S.E.
Project Engineer, Structural Focus
Member since 2010
bramos@structuralfocus.com

Favorite Movie: The Count of Monte Cristo

Proudest Accomplishment: Obtaining my Structural Engineering License

Childhood Ambition: Become an Engineer

First Job: McDonald’s

Why Join SEAOSC: It’s a great way to keep in contact with fellow structural engineers and share knowledge. It’s also a great technical resource.
Recently an engineer was sued in small claims court and lost. In response to this, the SEAONC Professional Practices Committee (PPC) has put together this article to provide our membership with some basic information, resources, and advice about small claims court.

The state has a useful website regarding small claims court: http://www.courts.ca.gov/selfhelp-smallclaims.htm

Limits on Claims:
The limit on small claims court varies in accordance to the type of plaintiff: $5,000 for business organizations and $10,000 for individual plaintiffs. (A sole practitioner is considered an “individual”.) In any case the plaintiff will need to provide evidence to support the amount of the claim.

Attorney Representation:
You cannot have an attorney represent you in small claims court, and even if you could the attorney fees would likely not be justified given the relatively small amounts involved. However, it may be useful to consult with an attorney to get feedback on your case and the arguments that are likely to be persuasive.

Conduct in Court:
If you decide to go to small claims court without the benefit of legal counsel, the PPC offers the following common-sense advice. This advice, of course, should in no way, shape or form be considered a substitute for legal counsel:

1. Wear your Sunday best. Present yourself as a reasonable, hardworking, competent professional.
2. Boil your presentation down to two minutes. The judge will likely have a lot of cases on the docket and may be cranky.
3. Bring at least two extra copies of all your evidence – one for the judge, one for the opposing party. Try to base your presentation on the written documents to the extent possible. Structural engineers don’t always have a contract but they normally have written work product such as reports, drawings, calculations, and specifications.
4. NEVER interrupt the judge or the other side. Wait your turn and politely ask to respond.
5. Be very polite to the clerk and bailiff. They and the judge are like a small family. If you are rude to the clerk, it could tip the case against you.

Appeals:
Only certain small claims judgments can be appealed: A defendant can appeal a judgment in favor of plaintiff, and plaintiff can appeal a judgment in favor of defendant’s counterclaim.

The small claims appeal is made to Superior Court, where the case will be tried anew. In the small claims appeal, you can be represented by an attorney. The appeal trial is informal, and you do not have a right to a jury, and the judge is often a pro-tem attorney. Since the appeal is still technically in the small claims court regime the monetary limit is the same. The decision in the small claims appeal is final and cannot be appealed to higher courts. Because the case cannot be appealed to a higher court a small claims decision cannot become a legal precedent.

Even if you do not have an attorney represent you at the appeal, it still may be worthwhile to consult with an attorney beforehand. This could help you understand what arguments are more likely to be persuasive and what evidence to present.

Effects on your Engineering License:
Fortunately, the threshold requiring an engineer to report an adverse judgment to the BPELSG is $25,000, which is well above the monetary limits of the small claims court. However, an adverse party might report the adverse judgment to the BPELSG as part of a claim against you, thus technically creating a basis for BPELSG to take disciplinary action against your license based on a breach of contract.
When you are a member of SEAOSC, you are part of a growing network of member engineers developing and evaluating various structural engineering design philosophies and standards, as well as assisting building code officials in the development of building codes at the local, state and national levels.

The SEAOSC committees also assist in developing training seminars for structural engineering continuing education programs, public informational bulletins regarding earthquake hazards, and assisting local elementary, junior high and high schools with engineering education programs.

Committee meetings are open to anyone to attend as an observer. However, voting on committee business reserved for SEAOSC members. We encourage you to contact the Committee Chair directly using the Roster on the back page of this (or any) newsletter to learn more about the committee's projects and meetings.

SEAOSC is now seeking members to join one or several of SEAOSC's restructured committees or special interest groups to help build SEAOSC's member community.

There are many ways to share your talents and passions with SEAOSC. Some of these needs are ongoing, some will be short-term tasks. SEAOSC's new committees and interest groups will provide you with a goal and let you and your team produce something meaningful and important to our community.

**Action:** Click this link to “sign-up” on the email distribution list for each committee

Enter your current/preferred email address and contact information and select your desired committees from the list and click the Submit button.

This is NOT a current commitment or assignment of a task. This is to opt-in to receive future information about the committee's meetings and charges.

Visit [http://seaosc.org/about-structural-engineering/committees](http://seaosc.org/about-structural-engineering/committees) to view the 2015-2016 charges by .pdf for the following committees:

**Membership Value**
- Membership Committee
- Younger Members Committee

**Image and Advocacy**
- Image and Public Relations Committee

**Codes and Standards**
- Seismology Committee
- Existing Buildings Committee
- Earthquake Performance Rating System Ad-Hoc

**Education**
- Education Committee
WELCOME
NEW MEMBERS

Member SE
Pawan Gupta
Walter P Moore
pgupta@walterpmoore.com
Charles Richards
Artisan Engineering
chuck@artisanengineering.biz

Member
Bryan Strege
VCA Structural
bmstrege@gmail.com
Scott Watterson
Cefali & Associates
swatterson@cefali.com

Associate
Grant Urban
Penetron USA
gurban@penetron.com

Smarty Pants Coupon!
Congratulations on recently passing your PE or SE Exam!
Enjoy dinner on us at our meeting on September 3, 2015!
Enter coupon code “SmartyPants” when registering online to receive discount.
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FJ Engineering + Design

Jose Hernandez, E.I.T.
Senior Engineer
Thornton Tomasetti

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www.seaosc.org
**KNA CONSULTING ENGINEERS -- IRVINE**

KNA Consulting Engineers has immediate openings for motivated engineers at all experience levels. KNA specializes in structural engineering of educational, civic and healthcare facilities. We are located in Irvine just minutes from the Spectrum. Our team is a dedicated group of resourceful, friendly, innovative and hard-working professionals and we are looking for the same qualifications in responding candidates. Successful candidates shall possess excellent communication skills and be able to effectively collaborate with clients, owners, contractors and other design professionals. KNA offers competitive compensation along with a comprehensive benefit package.

**REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS:** BS-ARCE or BSCE (structural) from an accredited university, California seismic engineering background and proficiency with the California Building Code and other related codes. Experienced candidates should also have PE or SE license, OSHPD or DSA experience and working proficiency with Revit. Entry-level candidates should have EIT Certification.

**PLEASE DO NOT RESPOND IF YOU DO NOT MEET THE REQUIRED MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS.** Qualified candidates are invited to submit their resume along with a cover letter to careers@KNAconsulting.com. For more information, please visit us at www.KNAconsulting.com. NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE.

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**FTF ENGINEERING - San Luis Obispo**

FTF Engineering is a successful, boutique structural engineering firm with offices in San Luis Obispo and San Francisco. We specialize in challenging design driven projects in commercial, industrial, and residential sectors throughout the Central Coast and Bay Area. The FTF-SLO office is the result of a recent partnership and subsequent merger with the former Fred H. Schott & Associates.

Our office environment is open, communicative, team-oriented, fast-paced, high energy, flexible, and fun. Our engineers all work on multiple projects simultaneously and we strive to provide exceptional and innovative engineering solutions.

Our SLO office is actively seeking candidates for the following positions:

**Project Engineer,** 2-5 years experience: Candidates should have a BS in Civil, Structural, or Architectural Engineering with a MS preferred, PE license, exceptional written and verbal communication, and proficient drafting skills.

**Structural CAD drafter** 5-7 years experience: Candidates should have strong organization and excellent drafting skills using AutoCAD 2010, Revit experience preferred.

All Applicants should have a valid CA drivers’ license and be physically able to navigate a job site. Please submit letter, resume and work samples to randy@ftfengineering.com.
The SEAOSC Board of Directors works on the behalf of our membership. If there are general or specific items you would like to see the Board of Directors address or discuss please contact any of the SEAOSC Board members.

### Committees Chair(s) Phone Email

**Membership**
- Victoria Wigle*
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  - vwigle@thorntontomasetti.com
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Get involved! Members are invited to join a SEAOSC committee. Please contact the chairperson for information on current projects and meeting times, dates and locations.

Please visit [www.seaosc.org/about-structural-engineering/committees](http://www.seaosc.org/about-structural-engineering/committees) to view the annual committee charges and tasks.