COUNCIL OF AMERICAN STRUCTURAL ENGINEERS (CASE)

Winter 2010

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CASE NEWS

Council of American Structural Engineers

The Strength Behind the Beauty

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Free CASE Publications on CASE Members Only Webpage!

Successful Structural Industry Issues Roundtable Held in Houston, TX

On Wednesday, January 27, CASE conducted a highly successful structural industry issues roundtable in conjunction with the SEAoT-Houston's dinner/ meeting. The roundtable enjoyed a good turnout from local structural engineers and was held at the HESS Club (Houston Engineering and Scientific Society). Topics included:

- Risk vs. Reward in Integrated Project Delivery Projects
- The Risks Associated with BIM and Certified Models
- The Risks Associated with LEED Ratings and Managing Owner Expectations
- How to Collect Your Fees Without Getting Sued

The above event was so well received that CASE is planning to hold a similar roundtable in conjunction with a local SEA dinner/meeting in another part of the country this summer. The Boston area is being explored.

Following the above dinner/meeting, CASE held its winter meeting on January 28 -29 at the Westin Oaks, Houston. The meeting included break-out sessions for the CASE committees on National Guidelines, Programs & Communications, Toolkit, and the Executive Committee, respectively. These committees have been the reason for CASE's success for over 20 years and are vital to CASE's future. As part of the committees' ongoing activities, face-to-face meetings and informal discussions are held twice a year to explore current issues and work on projects like new and revised Risk Management Tools, Guidelines and Contracts, as well as Publications, and Risk Management Convocations. These meetings also allow the various CASE committees to interact across all of CASE's activities. For more information on the CASE committees go to http://www.acec.org/case/committees.cfm.

CASE Risk Management Convocation Coming to Orlando May 2010

The CASE Risk Management Convocation will be held in conjunction with the first-ever combined Structures Congress/North American Steel Construction Conference at the Gaylord Palms Convention Center in Orlando, Florida, May 12–15, 2010. The Structural Engineering Institute of ASCE (SEI) and the American Institute of Steel Construction (AISC) are joining forces in 2010 to host this first-ever combined event. Registration is now open for the conference and is being handled at AISC's website: www.aisc.org. A preliminary program is available for viewing at SEI's website www.seinstitute.org.

The following CASE Convocation sessions are scheduled to take place on Friday, May 14:

6:45am- 8:00am

CASE Breakfast -Changes to AISC Code of Standard Practice - What SE's need to know

Speaker: David B. Ratterman, Secretary and General Counsel, AISC

The AISC Code of Standard Practice has served as a specification guideline and statement of custom and usage in the fabricated structural steel industry since approximately 1921. The Code is regularly updated and maintained by a balanced committee of industry professionals; approximately one-third of the Code Committee is comprised of practicing structural engineers. Mr. Ratterman is a graduate engineer and counsel to the Code Committee. He will discuss the relationship of the Code to the practice of structural engineering.

8:00am -9:30am

Steel Fabricator Perspective on Quality of Engineering Documents or Change Orders

Speaker: Carol Drucker, Drucker Zajdel Structural Engineers; Chris Simonson, Zalk Josephs Fabricators, LLC; Larry Dearman, Strahs, Boitz & Associates

This session will be led by a licensed specialty structural engineer who can comment on the document quality as it relates to potential risk management issues for the structural engineer of record. The session will include discussion from a steel detailer and a steel fabricator related to the associated construction costs and/or change orders resulting from document quality and clarity.

1:45pm -3:15pm

A Day in the Life of a Project Manager

Speakers: John Aniol, Walter P. Moore; Corey Matsuoka, SSFM International

Follow the day of a structural project manager as he struggles through a day filled with risk and discovers tools to help him mitigate those risks. Some of the tools he will discover will cover communication, corporate culture, planning and prevention, education, scope and contracts, construction documents and construction.

3:30pm -5:00pm

Managing Expectations and Risks During the Steel Detailing Process

Speakers: Glenn Bishop, LBYD, Birmingham AL; Will Ikerd, RLG Engineers, Dallas, TX

The AISC Code of Standard Practice provides two options for structural steel connections, either fully detailed by the engineer or selected and completed by the detailer. After much discussion, AISC is considering adding a third option for connection: design by a specialty structural engineer retained by the fabricator. This session will explore the needs and expectations of both the engineer and the fabricator for each of these three options. Also discussed will be how these expectations might change in the BIM world.

Updated CASE Commentary on AIA Document C401: "Standard Form of Agreement Between Architect and Consultant"

Recently the CASE Contracts Committee released CASE Document 6 – 2009, Commentary on AIA Document C401. The purpose of this document is to provide assistance to the Structural Engineer of Record (SER) when using AIA Document C401 as the basis of a contractual agreement. The document features:

- A Commentary on certain conditions of the Agreement.
- A sample cover letter for use with the Agreement.
- Two matrices of Scope of Services based on the CASE National Guidelines.
- An exhibit to add to or clarify the Terms and Conditions of AIA Documents C401 or B101.

This document was provided to all CASE members at no charge as another benefit of CASE membership. To access all CASE publications, which include guidelines, contracts and tools, go to www.acec.org/case and log-on to the Members Only page.

A series of webinars on CASE Document 6 – 2009 will be offered at a reduced cost to CASE members. Stay tuned for details.

New CASE Tool Released – Milestone Checklist for Young Engineers

The ability to develop young staff has always been a crucial component of the success of any firm. Recently, the CASE Toolkit Committee released **CASE Tool No. 5-2: Milestone Checklist for Young Engineers**. It is the second tool related to CASE's Fifth Foundation of Risk Management – Education. The tool will help your engineers understand what engineering and leadership skills are required to become a competent engineer. It will also provide managers a tool to evaluate engineering staff. Each item could be customized to fit your firm's expectations.

Tools related to the other CASE Foundation's can be downloaded from the CASE website at http://www.acec.org/case/tools.cfm. If you have any questions or suggestions for new tools, please contact the Toolkit Committee through the website and click on any of the committee member's e-mail addresses.

A few years ago, CASE set out to improve the practice of structural engineering by reducing the frequency and severity of claims. One of the ways CASE planned to accomplish this was through the production of software-based tools that are made available to CASE members through e-mail and on the CASE website.

CASE Chairman Urges Structural Engineering Community to Take Active Role in Legislative Issues

In the January 2010 issue of Structure magazine, CASE Chair Doug Ashcraft's editorial: "The Right to Petition the Government" urged the structural engineering community to become more active in federal and state legislative issues affecting their industry. ACEC and CASE are currently active in many legislative issues. To find out more, go to www.acec.org and click on "Advocacy" to read about the issues that affect structural engineering firms as well as the broader engineering community.

Portal for Education & Career Recordkeeping

The Registered Continuing Education Program (RCEP) is a nationwide portal for education and career recordkeeping merging quality education providers with engineers, surveyors, and related industry professionals into one comprehensive, searchable, online system. Recently, the National Institute for Engineering Ethics at Texas Tech University (NIEE) joined the growing league of RCEP providers, adding to the list of quality, NCEES-approved providers of superior engineering and related industry education. The NIEE, whose mission is to develop and foster education, training, and discourse in engineering ethics, is just one of the prestigious academic institutions to participate in RCEP, joining with Colorado State University – Continuing Education, which is nationally recognized for its excellence in providing a wide range of educational and training programs through the College of Engineering and Department of Construction Management. A full listing of RCEP's Registered Providers can be searched at www.rcep.net. To learn more about RCEP visit its website or contact Maria Buscemi, mbuscemi@acec.org or 202-682-4323 for more information.

RCEP is a one-stop solution for keeping up-to-date with continuing education requirements, finding courses from quality providers, and maintaining a complete education record that simplifies the licensure renewal process."

COUNCIL OF AMERICAN STRUCTURAL ENGINEERS

ACEC
American Council of Engineering Companies
100 Years of Excellence

1015 15th St., NW
8th Floor
Washington, DC 20005-2605

Phone: 202-682-4332
Fax: 202-898-0068
E-mail: dbixby@acec.org
Website: www.acec.org/case

The Council of American Structural Engineers (CASE) is a national association of structural engineering firms that provides a forum for members to improve the quality of structural engineering through enhancement of business practices, reduced professional liability exposure and increased profitability.

Our mission is to improve the practice of structural engineering by providing business practice resources, improving quality, enhancing management practices and reducing the frequency and severity of claims.

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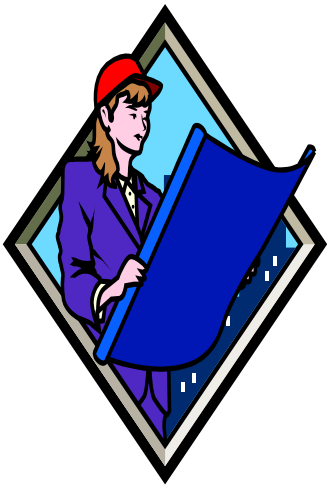
Calendar of Events

April 25-28: ACEC Annual Convention
Washington, DC

May 14: CASE Spring Convocation
(w/SEI Structures Congress)
Orlando, FL



CASE Executive Committee

The following CASE Executive Committee members are here to serve your needs. Please feel free to contact any of the members at their email addresses shown below.

Chair:

Doug Ashcraft, Walter P Moore, dashcraft@walterpmoore.com

Secretary-Treasurer:

David Mykins, Stroud, Pence and Associates, dmykins@stroudpence.com

Past Chairman:

Chris Poland, Degenkolb Engineers, cpoland@degenkolb.com

Committee Members:

Brian Schmidt (Contracts Cmte. Chair), G. C. Wallace, bschmidt@gcwallace.com

Corey Matsuoka (Toolkit Cmte. Chair), SSFM International, cmatsuoka@ssfm.com

Michael Planer (Programs & Communications Cmte. Chair), Pruitt Eberly Stone, mplaner@pesengineers.com

Andy Rauch (Guidelines Cmte. Chair), BKBM Engineers, Inc., arauch@bkbm.com

Executive Director:

David Bixby, ACEC, dbixby@acec.org