



## State President's Message

Andy DiLeo, PE, SE  
SEAOA State President



Hello SEAOA,

It's Fall already! The mornings and evenings are cooling off and before you know it Thanksgiving will be here. It reminds me that I'm thankful for our profession. Structural engineering challenges us to use a blend of creativity, logic, critical thinking, and communication each day. We can feel good knowing that the projects we work on help support communities and ensure the safety of the public. Sharing this feeling ties in with part of SEAOA's

mission to promote our profession with students and the greater public. The ongoing pandemic has put in question some of the annual opportunities the SEAOA would usually have to connect with our communities. I'd like to challenge each of our members to find new or alternative ways to be advocates for our profession. If you would like to help SEAOA please reach out to members of your local chapter or the State Board.

### In This Issue

- ▶ [State President's Message](#)
- ▶ [Central Chapter Chairperson's Message](#)
- ▶ [Tucson Chapter President's Message](#)
- ▶ [YMG President's Message](#)
- ▶ [NAU Scholarship Recipient Letter](#)
- ▶ [Honorary Membership Award](#)
- ▶ [Newsletter Survey](#)



JOINT CENTRAL  
AND TUCSON  
CHAPTER VIRTUAL  
LUNCH MEETING  
October 20 2020  
12pm-1:30pm



### CONTACT US

PO Box 645  
Tempe, AZ 85280  
602-492-6732  
[www.seaoa.org](http://www.seaoa.org)  
[info@seaoa.org](mailto:info@seaoa.org)



JOINT CENTRAL AND  
TUCSON CHAPTER  
VIRTUAL LUNCH  
MEETING  
October 20 2020 12pm-  
1:30pm

## Central Chapter Chairperson's Message

David Grapsas, P.E., S.E.  
Central Chapter Chair



We are now entering the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2020. Like in sports, this can decide whether you win or lose. Lets all chose to win and put our best effort in to finish this year strong.

Our next virtual event is a joint meeting with

Central Chapter and Tucson Chapter on October 20<sup>th</sup>.

This presentation is on the 2016 Updates to AISC 360 and AISC 303. Please be sure to register on the SEAOA website as it is free for all SEAOA members.

The Central Chapter is continuing to monitor the ongoing situations and the ever-changing events and executive orders. We have not yet made a decision on the type of meetings we will have next year. They will continue either to be virtual or go back to in person.

Please check the SEAOA website for updates and calendar of events.

## Tucson Chapter President's Message

Jennifer McMahon Patronski, PE, SE  
Tucson Chapter President



Greetings SEAOA members! We have had an interesting start to our '20-'21 year, and are grateful for the coordination with the Central Chapter and State Board on moving to a virtual meeting format for the (hopefully!) short-term future. We will

likely maintain the virtual format through the end of 2020 and will assess the 2021 situation as more is known about appropriately proceeding..

I would like to extend a big *THANK YOU* to David Troxell, SEER Committee Chair and Structural Engineer at Caruso Turley Scott, for presenting *Structural Engineering Emergency Response – What is it? How can I get involved?* for our first joint-virtual meeting in September.

David shared his insight into the expectations and activities of second responders, as well as his personal experience reviewing the Tempe Town Lake Derailment. We hope you joined us. Please plan to be with us again on October 20 for our next joint-virtual meeting featuring Mike Gannon from AISC SteelTalk.

Also be on the lookout for more information on the (possible) Tucson Chapter Egg Drop Competition. Because of the positive feedback and results received the past two years, the Egg Drop Committee is looking to host a *modified* competition in February. With approval from U of A and barring future negative trends, the committee hopes to organize an appropriately “socially distanced” competition. As before, proceeds from the competition will be used for sponsorship of student activities and/or to expand the student scholarship fund.

Best wishes of health and safety to all our membership and their families!

## YMG President's Message

John Heck, PE, SE  
YMG President



The Young Members Group is continuing to pause on any in person events for the foreseeable future. We will continue to follow the lead of our chapters in moving forward with in person events. Along with our meetings, we plan to

host site tours, happy hours, and training.

Please consider attending the main chapter virtual events in lieu of our events.

Elections did not occur this summer due to the lack of in person meetings. I will continue as the Interim Young Member Group Chair until we can all attend an in-person meeting to hold elections.

Please send me the contact information of any new engineers that are interested in joining our group. Guide them to the SEAOA website for event registration and meeting invitations.

## NAU Scholarship Recipient

*Each year the Central and Tucson chapters of the SEAOA honor civil engineering students at U of A, ASU and NAU with a scholarship to support their structural engineering goals as they work towards their BSCE. The following is the letter received from this year's recipient of the Central Chapter's scholarship, Kyle Julle.*

Dear Donors of the Structural Engineering Association of AZ Scholarship:

As the recipient of the Structural Engineering Association of AZ Scholarship, I would truly like to thank you for your kindness and support. Your generosity will help me as I continue toward the goal of attaining a college diploma.

The degree I am working towards is a Bachelor of Science in Engineering: Civil Engineering. My future goal after graduation is to give back to the community in which I was raised by working in the Kingman area as a civil engineer after attaining a master's degree in engineering. This summer I will be hopefully interning with a local engineering firm working on developing my skills in the professional engineering world. I am excited to be able to apply what I have already learned and to be mentored by engineers with a great deal of field experience. The infrastructure of Kingman is aging and needs to be rehabilitated, so I am hoping to give back to

my community by one day making roads, bridges, and flood control projects viable. This scholarship will help me reach my goal because funding is always a challenge when college starts back up in the fall. Now, without that worry, I will be able to focus just on my studies.

When I am not studying at the Engineering Building, you can find me biking on the Flagstaff's bike trails or hiking in the peaks. I really like to go outdoors. I am also involved with Northern Arizona's Student Chapter of ASCE. I enjoy being part of ASCE and going to the Pacific Southwest conference in the spring with ASCE.

Once again, I would like to thank you for your investment in me and your support of the students attending the College of the Engineering, Informatics, and Applied Sciences. I will use the money to help me reach my educational goals and what I wish to achieve. I am very thankful for your willingness to invest in my future.

Sincerely,

Kyle Julle

## Honorary Membership Award

Mark Sipes, PE, SE  
City of Tempe

The Structural Engineers Association of Arizona was established in 1955 with many visions in mind, one of which is to recognize those members who contribute outstanding service to the SEAOA. Our bylaws allow the Board of Directors to award an Honorary Membership to such persons. Section III.7 reads:

7. An Honorary Membership may be awarded by the Board of Directors to any person who is a person of acknowledged eminence in some branch of engineering or the science related thereto or a person who has been a member in good standing of this Association for 20 years or more and who, in the opinion of the Board of Directors has contributed outstanding service to the Association. An Honorary Member will have the voting rights of a Full Member provided they had previously qualified to be a Full Member of the Association and would receive a complimentary annual membership to the Association and would receive member rates for all Association sponsored events. Nomination of individuals for consideration may be by individual members or upon nomination by a Chapter.

A very powerful section in our bylaws that is seldom used. It is true that we as engineers do what we do for the challenges and the fun of solving problems is the accepted reward.

Take a few minutes to think about those members of the SEAOA you have worked with, for, and even those in competing firms that you shared a table with at a monthly meeting, state convention, or participated with at one of the many tournaments over the years. We compete in business but are united in the practice of structural engineering. Our membership is run by volunteers who keep up with their regular duties at work and then provide us with meetings, seminars, and conventions to further our knowledge and skills in structural engineering. How many board members have you known over the years? We also have members who work or have worked outside of our organization. Our membership includes those who continue to contribute to and provide support for other organizations such as ACI, AISC, ABET, AZBTR, ASCE, FEMA, AIA, AZBO, and the list goes on. These members represent us and the practice of structural engineering outside of our group. Also, remember that a non-member person of acknowledged eminence in some branch of engineering or the science related thereto can be honored as well

The SEAOA website will contain a fillable pdf form for nominating that special person for honorary membership. You are encouraged to read over the criteria once more and decide if there is a nominee, past or present, that has made a difference.

### SEAOA 2020 NEWSLETTER SURVEY

Typically, the Newsletter Committee takes a newsletter survey at the state convention. The purpose of this survey is to collect opinions from our membership as to how it is being received. Please take a couple minutes to complete this survey here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/B9RMWFC>. All info sent will remain anonymous.

SEAOA Newsletter Committee