

Benefits of Membership in SEASC – What's in it for Each of Us

There are benefits to membership in the Structural Engineers' Association of South Carolina (SEASC) even if there is not a "local" chapter close enough for you to regularly participate in local meetings. Attached is a flyer from NCSEA listing some of the benefits of membership on a national level. The local chapter portion of the annual dues is set by each local chapter as they see fit to cover local chapter expenses; however, the State Chapter & National Chapter dues go to cover a lot of things going on behind the scenes for the benefit of structural engineers and the industry. NCSEA has many committees working on things such as SE licensure issues, building code issues (helping write the I-Codes), basic education to help Universities set the required curriculums, continuing education, advocacy, etc. More information on these may be found on the NCSEA website (<http://www.ncsea.com>). SEASC also has committees working on SE licensure, the building codes as adopted by SC (making modifications and/or resisting proposed modifications to the codes as originally published by ICC), emergency response to natural disasters, etc. While all of these positions are voluntary, both NCSEA and SEASC try to offset the expenses of participation (travel costs, lodging costs, etc). We have SEASC members serving on national committees for NCSEA. SEASC also sends two representatives to the National Conference to represent our state in the meetings & round-table discussions that happen there concerning things that can affect us all. So as a member of SEASC, you are also a member of NCSEA and have a voice in state and national affairs affecting our profession. By the way, both SEASC & NCSEA are looking for members to participate on committees.

When an organization such as NCSEA or SEASC presents an opinion or stance on an issue to a governing body (national, state, or local), it has more impact than just a lone individual voicing an opinion. That is because the organizations are recognized as speaking for a collective group of licensed professionals, and that the opinions or stances proffered have been vetted by experts in the organizations.

All of that being said, please consider taking time to get involved in the organization in whatever way you are able. We all have different time constraints, but if we all give just a little, the load is easier to bear.