

BY-LAWS
of the
Structural Engineers Association of Wisconsin (SEA-WI)



Drafted: August 21, 2009
Revised: March 6, 2017

SEA-WI

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ARTICLE I
LOCATION and OBJECT

SECTION 1. The name of this association shall be STRUCTURAL ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION OF WISCONSIN (SEA-WI). The office of the association shall be located in the State of Wisconsin.

SECTION 2. This Association is established for the following purposes:

- a. To advance the art and science of Structural Engineering and to safeguard the lives and property of the public through state wide initiatives and active participation in the activities of the National Council of Structural Engineers Associations (NCSEA).
- b. To encourage the pursuit of excellence in structural engineering work, and give recognition to the special achievements of our members.
- c. To provide input to local building codes for Structural related issues.
- d. To promote the idea that engineering services must be performed on the basis of mature practical and technical judgment, independent of commercial interest, and to assist the public in obtaining dependable Structural Engineering services.
- e. To provide assistance to the Wisconsin Department of Safety & Professional Services for Structural Engineering related issues.
- f. To encourage Structural Engineering education.
- g. To maintain the honor and dignity of the profession.
- h. To enlighten the public regarding the responsibilities of the Structural Engineer.
- i. To oppose improper legislation affecting Structural Engineering practice.
- j. To cooperate with other professional organizations in matters of legislation, education, public affairs, and other matters.
- k. To cultivate social contacts within its membership by closer association and better mutual understanding.
- l. To promote the principle of equitable compensation for engineering services.
- m. To secure uniformity of action upon the general principles herein set forth, and upon such policies as may be decided upon from time to time for the good of the profession and the public.
- n. To provide information and services for the common interest and benefit of SEA-WI members.
- o. To provide continuing education opportunities for Structural Engineers in the State of Wisconsin.

SECTION 3. The fiscal year of this Association will begin on July 1st.

ARTICLE II
MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1. Membership in the Association may be held by individuals only, and shall consist of the following grades: MEMBER and STUDENT MEMBER. A Member shall be a person of good character and reputation.

SECTION 2. A MEMBER in the Association shall be an individual who is actively engaged in engineering education or in the practice field of Structural Engineering.

SECTION 3. A STUDENT MEMBER at the time of admission to the Association, and while holding this grade, shall be an Undergraduate or Graduate Student interested in structural or related engineering who is a full time student in an accredited engineering or architecture school or college.

SECTION 4. Transfer from STUDENT MEMBER to MEMBER shall be automatic when the requirements for the higher grade of membership have been attained. The annual fees for the higher grade membership shall apply for the year following the year during which qualifications for the higher grade was attained.

SECTION 5. Any person desiring membership in the Association shall make application upon a form provided by the Association. Member applications shall be reviewed by the Membership Committee.

ARTICLE III RESIGNATIONS AND EXPULSIONS

SECTION 1. A Member of this Association may resign his/her membership by written communication to the Secretary, who shall present the same to the Board of Directors when, if all his/her dues and assessments have been paid for the current year, his/her resignation shall be accepted.

SECTION 2. The Board of Directors shall consider proceedings toward the expulsion of any member upon information coming to its notice, derogatory to the engineering profession.

The Board of Directors shall consider each case and if the circumstances appear to warrant further action, it shall advise the accused of the charges against him/her who may, if he/she so desires, present a defense either in person or writing, which shall be considered for final action at a meeting of the Board of Directors of which the accused shall receive due notice.

No member shall be expelled except by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the entire Board of Directors.

Should a member be expelled from this Association, he/she shall not again be entitled to membership, unless the Board of Directors decide that extenuating circumstances and/or subsequent record may favor an applicant for re-admission.

ARTICLE IV DUES

SECTION 1. The annual dues for this Association shall be set by the Board of Directors for all classes of membership, and shall be paid in advance by all members in accordance with a schedule approved by the Board.

SECTION 2. The Board of Directors at its discretion may remit part or all of the dues of any member or extend the time of payment of same.

SECTION 3. Any additional moneys required to carry on the activities of this Association shall be raised through assessments. Any assessments levied by the Board of Directors shall be referred to the Members by a letter ballot. If two-thirds of those voting, vote favorably provided at least 50% of the Members vote, the assessment shall be declared carried. Any assessment or remittance of dues shall be prorated.

SECTION 4. The Board of Directors shall provide an annual budget to all members, at the request of any individual member.

ARTICLE V
ORGANIZATION

SECTION 1. The Officers of this Association shall be a President, a President-Elect, a Secretary, and a Treasurer. All Officers must be MEMBERS.

SECTION 2. The Board of Directors shall consist of the President, the President-Elect, the Secretary, and the Treasurer, and the most recent Past President, and the Southeast, Southwest, Northeast, and Northwest Regional Directors.

SECTION 3. The term of Office of the President and President-Elect shall be one (1) year. The term of office of all other Officers and Regional Directors shall be two (2) years, with the term of Office of the Secretary, Northeast Regional Director, and Northwest Regional Director starting on odd numbered years, and the term of Office of Treasurer, Southeast Regional Director, and Southwest Regional Director starting on even numbered years.

SECTION 4. The President-Elect shall succeed to the office of President on July 1st of each year. The term of Office for Officers and Regional Directors shall also begin on July 1st.

SECTION 5. All elected Officers and Regional Directors shall be ineligible to succeed themselves, unless they are re-elected.

SECTION 6. The election of Officers and Directors shall be done as set forth in Article XI.

SECTION 7. Any Officer or Regional Director of this Association shall be removed from the Board of Directors by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the entire Board of Directors.

SECTION 8. A vacancy in any Office, Officer or Regional Director, shall be filled by the Board of Directors, and the Officer or Regional Director so appointed shall hold office for the unexpired term, or until a successor is duly elected, except where succession is otherwise provided by these By-Laws.

SECTION 9. This association shall also include a Delegate and Alternate Delegate to the National Council of Structural Engineer Associations (NCSEA). The Delegate shall be appointed by the Board of Directors and shall serve a three (3) year term. The President-Elect shall serve as the Alternate Delegate and shall serve a one (1) year term.

ARTICLE VI
AMENDMENTS

SECTION 1. The By-Laws may be repealed or amended by two-thirds majority of the member vote cast.

SECTION 2. By-Law changes shall be initiated by petition signed by at least ten (10) members or by action of the Board of Directors.

SECTION 3. Proposed By-Law changes in writing shall be sent to all MEMBERS at least fifteen (15) days before voting takes place.

SECTION 4. Voting on changes to the By-Laws shall be by anonymous ballot.

ARTICLE VII
VOTING

SECTION 1. Only members who have paid all dues and assessments shall be entitled to vote.

ARTICLE VIII
MEETINGS

SECTION 1. Regular meetings shall be held at times and places hereafter determined by the Board of Directors. Special meetings may be held either at the call of the President or the Board of Directors. .

SECTION 2. Twenty percent (20%) of the members shall constitute a quorum at any meeting of the Association. Three (3) members of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum at any meeting of the Board of Directors. A majority of committee members shall constitute a quorum at any committee meeting. A majority of the members present at any meeting of the Association, of the Board of Directors, or of any committee shall be sufficient to take any action except as otherwise provided. In the event the Board of Directors takes action contrary to the wishes of members of the Association, an affirmative vote of two-thirds of all members present at a subsequent meeting of the Association, but no fewer than 20 percent (20%) of the total members of the Association, shall be required to overrule the action of the Board.

ARTICLE IX
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

SECTION 1. The Association By-Laws hereby provide for an Executive Committee consisting of the President, the President-Elect, the Immediate Past President, the Secretary and the Treasurer.

ARTICLE X
**POWERS AND DUTIES OF OFFICERS, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS,
THE DELEGATE, AND THE ALTERNATE DELEGATE**

SECTION 1. The powers of the Association shall be exercised, its property controlled, and its affairs conducted by the Board of Directors, except as limited by these By-Laws.

SECTION 2. The President shall be the chief governing Officer and shall preside at all meetings of the Association and of the Board of Directors.

SECTION 3. The President-Elect shall fulfill the duties of the President in the absence of the latter. In the event of the President's death or resignation, the President-Elect shall succeed the President for the remainder of the President's term.

SECTION 4. The Secretary shall keep an accurate record of all meetings of the Association and the Board of Directors. A copy of such minutes shall be preserved in a location to be determined by the Board of Directors. The Secretary shall preserve the membership lists and have charge of communications to members.

SECTION 5. The Treasurer shall be the custodian of all funds and financial records of the Association, and shall make disbursements when authorized by the Board of Directors.

SECTION 6. Regional Directors shall serve as representatives for members in each of the four geographic regions of the State of Wisconsin; Southeast, Southwest, Northeast, and Northwest.

ARTICLE XI
NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

SECTION 1. Nominations shall be made by members and by the Board of Directors.

SECTION 2. Nominations made by the Board of Directors shall be appointed not later than April 1st and published to the membership not later than April 15th. Additional nominations submitted by members must be received by May 1st for inclusion on the ballot.

SECTION 3. A ballot listing the nominees for the various offices shall be sent to the membership not later than May 15th. Marked ballots shall be submitted by June 1st. The results shall be announced in June and the elected Officers and Regional Directors shall take office on July 1st.

SECTION 4. A majority of the votes cast shall be necessary for the election of Officers and directors.

SECTION 5. In the event of a tie between two or more candidates for the same office, the Board of Directors shall immediately cast a secret ballot to select one of the candidates.

SECTION 6. The results of the balloting for all elections shall be reported to the membership.

SECTION 7. The Delegate shall be responsible for casting NCSEA votes on behalf of SEA-WI and for keeping the Board of Directors apprised of NCSEA activities. The Alternate Delegate shall fulfill the duties of the Delegate in the absence of the latter. Both the Delegate and Alternate Delegate shall attend the NCSEA Summit each year.

ARTICLE XII
CANDIDATES-ELECT

SECTION 1. In the event that a candidate receiving a majority of the votes is unable to take office, the Board of Directors shall nominate, within thirty (30) days, one or more active members to fill said vacancy. An election to fill such vacancy shall then be held conforming to the general procedure as outlined in Article XI.

ARTICLE XIII
COMMITTEES

SECTION 1. The standing committees of this Association shall be:

- a. Advocacy: The Advocacy Committee works to improve and enhance the image of Structural Engineers and of the profession itself to a broad audience consisting of students, the general public, prospective clients, and other engineers.
- b. Basic Education: The Basic Education Committee seeks to determine and promote the core curriculum that should be offered to, and required of, structural engineer students.
- c. Code Advisory: The Code Advisory Committee reviews and promotes code changes.
- d. Continuing Education: The Continuing Education Committee provides opportunities for Structural Engineers to obtain a minimum of ten (10) continuing education credits each year.
- e. Structural Engineering Emergency Response (SEER): The SEER Committee existing to engage, train, roster and promote the involvement of structural engineers as second responders to perform damage condition assessments in the wake of disasters.
- f. Structural Licensure: The Structural Licensure Committee works to influence the adoption of consistent laws and rules related to the licensure of structural engineers.
- g. Young Member Group: The Young Member Group Committee facilitates the growth of the SEA-WI Young Member Group.

SECTION 2. Additional Standing or Temporary Committees may be created or existing committees eliminated by the Board of Directors.

SECTION 3. The membership and number serving on committees shall be at the discretion of the Board of Directors.

SECTION 4. Each committee shall submit a written annual report of its activities for publication on the SEA-WI website. This report shall be due on June 1st.

ARTICLE XIV
STUDENT CHAPTERS

SECTION 1. Student Chapters may be organized by Student Members of SEA-WI on any accredited college or university campus within Wisconsin, where there is sufficient interest to warrant such a chapter, and such a chapter is approved by the Board of Directors.

Student Chapters may organize activities consistent with the aims of SEA-WI, including technical programs and social events.

SECTION 2. The internal organization of the chapters shall be determined by the chapter members and shall be subject to approval by the Board of Directors.

End.