



OCTOBER 2026 SEA OCC Newsletter

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello SEA OCC Community,

Fall is in the air, and SEA OCC will soon turn a new leaf as we transition to a new website platform. At the end of this month, we will launch our new website and member portal, powered by Novi AMS. This will be a shared platform for all SEA OCC members across California. You should have received a heads-up email recently and we'll follow up with more announcements once the website goes live. Please keep an eye out for the emails and follow the directions to activate your account.



I'd like to take a moment to thank Dave Miller, Kendall Johnson, and Heather Caya for their hard work behind the scenes to make this transition as seamless as possible. I also want to extend a heartfelt thank you to Krystinne Mica (SEA OCC Executive Director) and Selena Silva-Ortega (SEA OCC Director of Strategy and Operations) for all their efforts throughout this process.

The SEA OCC Board and transition team are committed to making the change as smooth as possible. If you encounter any issues, please reach out to us. If you have not yet renewed your membership, please do so soon through the current website.

Beyond the website transition, SEA OCC's fall programming is well underway. Last week's SAP Evaluator Training Seminar had a great turnout. Thank you to our instructors, Matt Melcher and Hussain Bhatia, and to Lionakis for hosting.

Our October dinner meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 20th, featuring a presentation from this year's T.R. Higgins Distinguished Lecturer, Dr. Caroline Bennett – there is still time to register. On November 2nd we'll host a full-day, in-person seminar on the new SEAOC Structural/Seismic Design Manual. Our November dinner meeting returns to our regular second Tuesday



schedule, on November 10th, with a presentation on The Resources Building Renovation, one of last year's SEE Awards winners. Finally, as the Holiday season approaches, please save the date for our Holiday Party on December 8th.

As we look ahead to SEAOC's 80th anniversary in 2027, our Reflections from a Fellow article series continues this month with a contribution from John Weninger. Please take a moment to read it, and watch for the next one in November.

Thank you for reading and for being part of the SEAOC community. We have some exciting milestones ahead, and I look forward to seeing you at one of our upcoming events. Until then, enjoy the fall weather.

Alban Gjongecaj, S.E.
2026-2027 SEAOC President

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SEAOC DINNER OCTOBER 20, 2026 AISC T.R. HIGGINS LECTURESHIP: FRACTURE BEYOND FATIGUE

October 20, 2026

5:30 PM to 9:00 PM

The Spaghetti Factory

1625 Watt Avenue

Sacramento, CA 95864

SEAOC Dinner October 20, 2026 AISC T.R. Higgins Lectureship: Fracture Beyond Fatigue

[READ MORE](#) [REGISTER NOW](#)

**SE3 SYMPOSIUM – BRIDGE THE GAP: CONNECTING ENGAGEMENT TO RETENTION
OCTOBER 27, 2026**

October 27, 2026

12:30 PM to 5:00 PM

Hilton Union Square, San Francisco

SE3 Symposium – Bridge the Gap: Connecting Engagement to Retention October 27, 2026

[READ MORE](#)

**SEAOC STRUCTURAL/SEISMIC DESIGN MANUAL IN-PERSON SEMINAR MONDAY
NOVEMBER 2, 2026**

November 02, 2026

8:00 AM to 5:00 PM

West Sacramento Community Center

1075 W Capitol Ave

West Sacramento, CA 95691

[Venue website](#)

SEAOC Structural/Seismic Design Manual In-Person Seminar Monday November 2, 2026

[READ MORE](#) [REGISTER NOW](#)

**SEAOCC DINNER MEETING NOVEMBER 10, 2026 “THE RESOURCES BUILDING
RENOVATION PROJECT - A SEISMIC RETROFIT OF A 17 STORY BUILDING UTILIZING
DAMPERS”**

November 10, 2026

5:30 PM to 9:00 PM

The Spaghetti Factory

1625 Watt Avenue

Sacramento, CA 95864

SEAOCC Dinner Meeting November 10, 2026

[READ MORE](#) [REGISTER NOW](#)

SEAOCC HOLIDAY SOCIAL DECEMBER 8, 2026

December 08, 2026

5:30 PM to 8:30 PM

Mix Downtown

1525 L Street

Sacramento, CA 95814

SEAOCC Holiday Social December 8, 2026

[READ MORE](#) [REGISTER NOW](#)



SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



Annual Sponsorship Program



SEAoCC Structural Engineering Firms and Industry Partners have a reputation for integrity, dependability, and quality of service.

**STRONGER TOGETHER.
BUILDING OUR COMMUNITY.**

THREE SPONSORSHIP LEVELS



PLATINUM



GOLD



SILVER



**Support SEAoCC and
gain year-long visibility**



Promotional advertisement appears on the SEAoCC website Home and Sponsor pages.



Monthly exposure in SEAoCC's Newsletter and Dinner Meetings.



10% of receipts are donated to the SEAoCC Scholarship Fund for Disbursement to deserving collegiate candidates.



The sponsorship program runs July 1 through June 30 and benefits are for the calendar year.



Industry Partner Platinum, Gold, or Silver Sponsorships qualify for priority and discounted Seminar Vendor Registration.

Limited quantities may exist and will be accepted on a right of first refusal basis in the following order: Platinum, Gold, and Silver, on a first-come first-serve basis within each sponsorship category.



Add-ons are available to all sponsorship levels or can be acquired separately.

Add-ons are available for special events such as the annual Golf Tournament, SEE Awards Dinner, Student Competition Awards Night, and the Holiday Social.

We are always open to future suggestions. Explore all available sponsorship opportunities by following the links below.



[Click here for more details](#)



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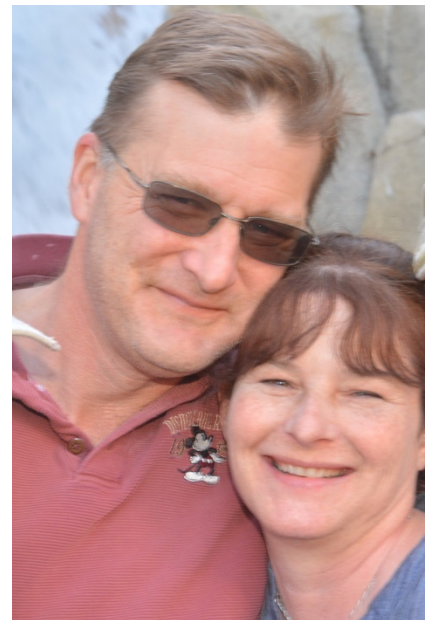
REFLECTIONS FROM A FELLOW

THE COMMUNITY THAT SHAPED MY PATH

By John Weninger, S.E., Member SEAOC, SEAOC College of Fellows

My involvement with SEAOC goes all the way back to my college days and has been a steady part of my career ever since. I've always felt I owed a great deal to the organization, and I try to return that support whenever I can. My advisor, Dr. Ajit Virdee—a past SEAOC president and one of the early SEAOC Fellows—was the first to introduce me to the community. At the time, the only way a student could attend a SEAOC meeting was through a professor's invitation. I'm glad to see how much more open and inclusive things have become since then.

Dr. Virdee also connected me with one of his former partners, David Crane. Before I realized it, he hired me for my first engineering job. A few



years later when I was looking for a new opportunity, my friend Ed Nicholson, then the Newsletter Editor and a future SEAOC Fellow, tipped me off to an opening at Lionakis Beaumont. That led me to working under Tim Fry, who strongly supported my involvement in SEAOC.

In SEAOC, I consecutively volunteered for the roles of Secretary, Newsletter Editor, Treasurer, Board Member, and eventually President. I even found myself serving as both Convention Chair and local President in the same year—something that probably tested Tim Fry's patience at least once or twice in spite of his support. Even with all that support, I could not have succeeded without the wholehearted support of Executive Secretary Lori Campbell, who is just incredible.

When I eventually left Lionakis, it was to work with Bill Warren. Bill was a former SEAOC president, NCSEA president, and SEAOC Fellow. He highly encouraged SEAOC involvement to the degree that it was expected as part of employment, and I was happy to oblige.

Over the years, I gravitated toward the technical side of the annual conventions. I've run the technical program several times, and the Central Section Convention Committee is already busy planning next year's Monterey Convention. If you're interested in helping with the convention, please contact Kendall Johnson.

I also spent about two decades organizing dinner meeting presentations by finding topics and recruiting speakers. Eventually, I stepped aside and thereby encouraged the Board to find a replacement to bring new perspectives and topics to members.

I strongly encourage SEAOC members to attend at least two dinner meetings each year. They're an easy way to stay connected, see what others are working on, and keep learning. SEAOC is a volunteer-driven organization, and it thrives when more people take part.

Like a concrete beam made from many materials, we are stronger together.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

NEW YEAR MAKE THIS THE YEAR YOU JOIN SEAOC

New members Posted Members October 13, 2026

Haylie Rockwell - Associate, HED

Maxwell Hardy - Dewberry, Member

Alejandro Ruiz - San Jose State University, Student

New members Approved Members

Arth Belvi - Student, UC Davis

Michael Auchter - Member, Ardurra

An Chuong - Student, UC Davis

Ronald Belknap - Member, Belknap and Assoc

JOB FORUM

JOB POSTING FOR MEMBERS

Job listings are submitted for SEA OCC approval before being posted. Once approved by SEA OCC your listing will be posted for two months from the approval date. For listing to be reposted please resubmit your job listing.

The member fee for a 2 month posting is \$150. You will be prompted for a credit card payment after clicking on the "Submit" button.

JOB POSTING FOR NON-MEMBERS

Job listings are submitted for SEA OCC approval before being posted. Once approved by SEA OCC your listing will be posted for two months from the approval date. For listing to be reposted please resubmit your job listing.

The nonmember fee for a 2 month posting is \$250. You will be prompted for a credit card payment after clicking on the "Submit" button.

[SUBMIT AN AD – MEMBERS](#)

[SUBMIT AN AD – NON-MEMBERS](#)

Senior Structural Engineer - Sacramento, CA

CYS Structural Engineers, Inc.

Job Posting

Sep. 23, 2026

Experienced Professional/Structural Engineer

PZSE, Inc. Structural Engineers

Job Posting

Sep. 22, 2026

Designer / Professional/Structural Engineer

Buehler Engineering, Inc.

Job Posting

Sep. 15, 2026

GOLD SPONSORS



ASK SEA OCC LEADERSHIP

WHAT IS YOUR GO-TO COMFORT FOOD WHEN THE WEATHER GETS CHILLY?

When the weather gets chilly, I'm all about the chai! Each mug is like Thanksgiving in a cup." - Megan Chang

"Spaghetti." - Heather Caya

"Chicken Adobo and rice." - Catherine Smith

SEA OCC GEAR AVAILABLE

Looking for SEA OCC gear? Our Lands' End company store offers a selection of apparel and accessories featuring the SEA OCC logo.

Visit business.landsend.com/store/seaocc to browse and order your custom SEA OCC apparel today.

Show Your
**SEAOCC
GEAR**



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