

editorial

Case Wants Your Firm!

By Lance Atkins, CASE Chairman



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Editorials are provided by the leadership and staff of the STRUCTURE Editorial Board, NCSEA, CASE and SEI on a rotational basis.

Is your firm a member of CASE? If the answer is no, we want you to join us in our exciting endeavors. Recently, at our summer meeting, the range of discussion topics and committee activities was extremely varied. In order to give you the flavor of activities that took place, I'll give you some of the highlights from that meeting.

The Contracts Committee revised our standard contracts to align with changes that have occurred in the practice of our profession. This is a full time endeavor for that committee in that the "how we practice" changes with each project in which we are involved and every client that we meet. The Committee maintains the current CASE documents and is continually developing new agreements. The Committee's members are structural engineers and insurance specialists. ACEC's Legal Counsels Forum provides legal reviews to the Committee. If you spend your day negotiating contracts, resolving disputes and providing consulting services; this Committee could use your help.

The Guidelines Committee answered a request for assistance from AISC to edit and comment on sections of the *Code of Standard Practice* that will be published in their next edition. This Committee also edited guidelines for specialty engineers, construction administration and inspection services. Participating in the formulating and organization of a practice guideline will bring you a new understanding of what other structural engineers believe are the important steps and processes involved in the delivery of our services. If you want to hear engineers discuss the reality of their practice versus the current standards and then put this into words, this Committee is for you.

The Programs Committee organized future AISC breakfast meetings around the country to present the recent CASE publication *A Guideline Addressing Coordination and Completeness of Structural Construction Documents*. These sessions are given by the Committee members and local AISC representatives. The Committee is also writing an article for the Architectural Record magazine to allow architects to further their structural knowledge and

gain CEUs at the same time. If you like thinking on your feet and realizing there is always another opinion or one more story to be told, then you would enjoy being with this group.

The Public Relations Committee is in the process of revising our CASE webpage and preparing news articles for *STRUCTURE* magazine. Marketing of the magazine and development of new subscribers appears to be a real focus for this year. This committee is always on the lookout for engineers that can write and bring a new and creative approach to the publications. How about you?

The Special Inspections Committee is presently focusing on an educational session at the Structures Conference. Along with the Contracts Committee, they are reviewing the new inspection requirements and helping to align our agreements with the structural engineering practice. If your business provides inspection services, then come join this Committee.

The new Risk Management Program Committee is organizing the year ahead and finalizing the RMP Convocation that is scheduled for November 5 and 6, 2004. The programs being offered will be educational and interesting to the practicing professional. Leaders in the insurance and risk management industry will offer guidance and provide an understanding of the factors that control your insurance premiums. The practice of structural engineering is about managing risks, and the more we all learn about the risks the better our practice and the profession will be. We should all be participants in risk management and can you think of a better way to do that than to join CASE's RMP Committee?

You can tell from the examples I have presented that CASE is looking at the future with a memory of the past in order to provide the leadership and guidance that the profession will need in the years to come. The mission is in front of us, and to continue our charge we need your help. Join us in taking that next step to keep our profession one in which we are proud.

Did I get your attention? Interested? Join us now. CASE membership information is available at www.acec.org/case, or call me today at 305-444-6260 to get involved. ■