

Structural Engineers Seem Tireless

By James E. Trant, P.E., S.E., CASE Chairman

This is my last article for STRUCTURE® magazine as the Chair of CASE. I find writing my thoughts very scary. Don't know why. Expressing my opinion has never been an issue for me, as those who know me can attest. Maybe the lasting attributes of the written word causes me concern. Anyway, I would like to take the 2 or 3 minutes that it takes to read this article to express my wonderment at who and what Structural Engineers are, and the energy that they invest in improving the conditions for the practice of our profession. From my earliest exposure to structural engineers, when I was a civil engineer, not a structural engineer, I was amazed at the dedication and

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commitment of the structural engineers whom I met. They seemed driven, focused, caring, generous with their time and attentive to minor details. If it is true that "God is in the details", then structural en-

gineers must have some knowledge of God.

My many observations of structural engineers involved with the National Council of Structural Engineering Associations (NCSEA), the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying (NCEES), the Structural Engineering Institute of the American Society of Civil Engineers (SEI) as well as the Council of American Structural Engineers of the American Council of Engineering Companies (CASE) lead me to conclude that structural engineers are dedicated: dedicated to safety of the public; dedicated to education of themselves and their peers, even their competitors; and, dedicated to the advancement not only of their profession but to the betterment of anyone touched by their profession. I have seen examples from each of these organizations where structural engineers have undertaken tasks which had to have impacted their ability to perform for their firms, yet the tasks were cheerfully done. Very little outside recognition is assessed to those who work so hard for our benefit. But you know who you are. You can be depended upon to continue to act selflessly.

Structural engineers are inquisitive; if not by nature, then by training. They seem willing to expose themselves to criticism if it

"...structural engineers are dedicated..."

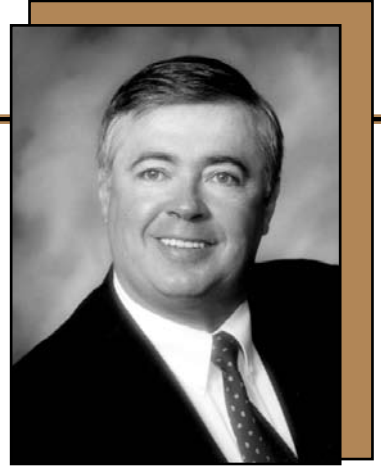
means improving the practice of structural engineering. Structural Peer Reviews are mandated by building regulations for many structures in Massachusetts and Connecticut. The ability of the profession to undergo

this scrutiny, mostly from competitors, without significant distress, seems a testament to the drive to improve and better society.

There seems to be a core pool of structural engineers in each organization which changes slightly from year to year. Each organization would benefit from an infusion of newer and younger structural engineers. I met recently with

a manager of another firm and, during our discussions, he confided that he was active in his local organization but had had some difficulty getting his younger staff members to participate. Certainly family, church and educational time can limit the ability of some. But there is a need for more participation. I would like to encourage those of you who are not currently active in a professional society to consider checking out the websites of the organizations that I mentioned earlier, learning where there are needs and investigating where you might benefit your profession. ■

"Structural engineers are inquisitive..."



Check out these organizations

National Council of Structural Engineering Associations (NCSEA)

www.ncsea.com

Council of American Structural Engineers of the American Council of Engineering Companies (CASE)

www.acec.org/about/case.cfm

Structural Engineering Institute of the American Society of Civil Engineers (SEI)

www.seiinstitute.org

National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying (NCEES)

www.ncees.org



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