



# NCSEA

National Council of Structural Engineers Associations

**STRUCTURAL CONNECTION**

March 2017

## **SE Progress? The License-sure Is!**

Contributed by NCSEA Structural Licensure Committee Chairs: Kristin Killgore and Alan Kirkpatrick

A strong undercurrent of activity kept the Structural Licensure Committee busy during the past year. The committee remains committed to tracking the latest licensure activities, setting meaningful goals, and empowering states to adopt consistent licensure laws. Right now, there are currently 23 states with some form of structural licensure distinction and 13 that have an active SE licensure effort. The committee has set forth goals to understand the unique set of conditions and stakeholders in each state and to help others recognize the collective importance of holding structural engineers to a higher standard of practice.

During the past year, the committee has made plenty of changes, only some of which are mentioned here, but all of which kept our attention focused on advancing structural licensure. Many changes came after long-standing committee member and chair, Joe “Cool Hand” Luke, stepped down to devote more time to the Structural Engineering Certification Board (SECB) and Kristin Killgore and Alan Kirkpatrick agreed to co-chair the committee.

The transition of chairs has been smooth thanks to Joe and his predecessor, Susie Jorgenson. Joe provided tremendous leadership and invaluable insight to the committee during his tenure as chair, and we are grateful for his contributions. He remains active with the committee as his home state of Texas continues along the path to meaningful structural licensure. Hook ‘em Joe!

In September of 2016, the committee met during the NCSEA Summit at Walt Disney World where each represented state gave a comprehensive report on their progress. The annual meeting provided an excellent forum for the exchange of ideas which fostered many meaningful discussions about current licensure activities. Among the issues discussed was NCEES Motion 12, which was defeated in August of 2016. Approval of the measure would have amended the Model Law and Model Rules by adding language for structural engineers that parallels language for professional engineers and professional surveyors. Reasons behind the motion’s defeat have served to make us more effective and wiser in our support of SE licensure.

*The forum at the Summit also brought to the committee’s attention multiple issues that relate to basic licensure concepts:*

- *Who are the primary stakeholder organizations interested in SE licensure?*
- *Why are they interested?*
- *What common language can be used to cultivate consistent messaging?*
- *What does it mean exactly to be a “Roster State”?*
- *What are the most commonly asked questions about licensure?*
- *How can we simply describe legislative acts that promote licensure?*

*These are issues the committee continues to discuss with consideration from all sides.*

*Momentum from the Summit helped shape our priorities for 2017. Our first goal for the year is to clearly define licensure issues to Member Organizations by identifying frequently used terms in the licensure lexicon. This will serve to create a consistent message and an understanding of objectives with all players, including outside organizations. Next, we are developing an easily accessible document of facts, questions and answers. Finally, we are improving our part of the NCSEA website so that it can effectively communicate essential information to anyone seeking it, but more specifically to Member Organizations who want to begin pursuing structural licensure.*



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The NCSEA Summit was a great success and very insightful for everyone who attended. Possibly one of the most insightful moments came when committee member Greg McCool, a throaty baritone, impersonated Katy Perry. Roar! (You can find the video on NCSEA's Facebook page.) But we were most astonished to learn that concrete at Disney does two things: it gets hard and then quacks; pretty Goofy, huh?

The next Summit in October may be far away, but we know that deadlines creep deceptively quick. The committee continues to work on articles that provide insightful points for anyone who wants to become a persuasive voice in their community. We are looking to visit Member Organizations that are not pursuing SE Licensure to discuss efforts moving forward and we hope to pick up some new members along the way. Our goal is to draw feedback from these visits so that we can better address our goals for 2017 and, after the next Summit, refine our goals for 2018.

When we meet in Washington this fall, it only seems fitting for Greg McCool's next Katy Perry performance to be her song "Fireworks"...an inspiring tune for all those ready to take on structural licensure.