



2015-16  
ANNUAL  
REPORT





# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

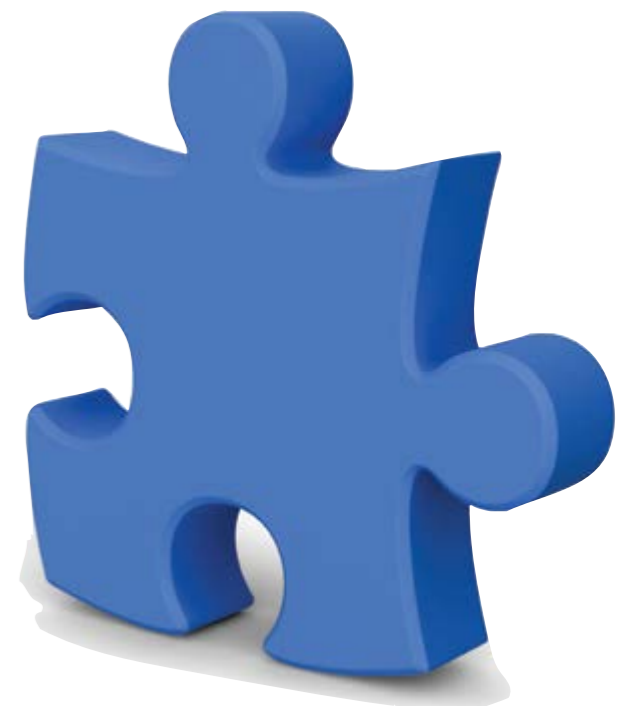


It's my pleasure to introduce to you SEAOI's 2015–16 Annual report. In this document you will find a summary of SEAOI's activities during the past year including a summary of the activities of our committees, the Structural Engineers Foundation, and SEPAC/Government Affairs.

This past year was one of transition. SEAOI turned 50 years old in 2015, and we now embark on our next 50 (and hopefully more) years. Our Executive Director of 10 years, Elizabeth O'Connor, stepped down, and Stephanie Crain was hired as our new Executive Director. Our parent organization, NCSEA, has also turned over its Executive Director this past year, with Jeanne Vogelzang retiring and Al Spada taking her place. Two of our Board members, Craig Vespa and past-President Ken Nizamuddin, completed their terms, and we welcome two new Board members, Kevin Conroy and José Medero onto the Board. We also welcome John McLean as the new President of SEPAC and chair of the Government Affairs Committee.

Our Board and members at large continued to work hard this past year to serve and represent the structural engineering community in Illinois and at a national level. Our financial health, while always a work in progress, is good. I encourage you to review the Annual report and feel free to call or e-mail SEAOI's office with any questions and comments. Most of all, I encourage you to be as active as you can in the profession, both for your benefit and the benefit of other structural engineers. I enjoyed serving SEAOI this past year and look forward to contributing to more good years in the future, starting with next year.

**Dave Horos**



# ABOUT US

**Mission Statement:** To advance and advocate excellence in structural engineering and to aid in safeguarding the public.

In order to accomplish its mission, SEA0I endeavors

- To uphold and preserve the Illinois Structural Engineering Act and carry out its prime purpose of safeguarding the lives and property of the public.
- To promote legislation conducive to the good practice of engineering.
- To encourage engineering education and advance the art and science of structural engineering.
- To maintain the honor and dignity of the profession.
- To familiarize the public with the role and abilities of the membership and inspire confidence in the profession as a whole.
- To cooperate with other professions when the goals and aspiration coincide with SEA0I and are in the interests of public safety.
- To do all of the above in the spirit of the SEA0I purpose as stated in the SEA0I By-Laws.

## **PROVIDING VALUE TO MEMBERS:**

Members of SEA0I have access to significant resources and tools to help advocate and advance excellence in structural engineering and aid in safeguarding the lives and property of the public in a supportive, collaborative environment.



# MEMBERSHIP

SEAOI had over 800 members in the 2015–16 membership year. While the majority of members were located in Illinois, members from 27 other states were represented, as well as members in Germany and England.

**Member types:** SEAOI offers seven types of membership:

**MEMBER** Illinois-licensed Structural Engineers

**LOCAL MEMBER (MEM)** Living or working in Illinois, and home or work ZIP code is under 61000

**NON-LOCAL MEMBER (MEO)** Both residential and work addresses are out of state or have ZIP codes of 61000+

**ASSOCIATE MEMBER** Individuals practicing in the field of Structural Engineering but not licensed in Illinois

**ASSOCIATE (ASC)** Received baccalaureate degree 8 or more years ago

**ASSOCIATE (ASI)** Received baccalaureate degree within the last 7 years

**AFFILIATE MEMBER (AFI)** Individuals who work outside the Structural Engineering profession

**STUDENTS (STU)** Individuals who are enrolled full-time in a college or university degree program

**LIFE MEMBERS (LIFE)** Awarded by the SEAOI Board of Directors  
Requirements include 10 consecutive years of membership, retired from active practice, and a written request to the SEAOI Board, which should include a CV, resume, or bio that highlights the candidate's career accomplishments.



## **BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP**

SEAOI provides a multitude of member benefits. Whether you're a licensed SE or working towards licensure, in an affiliate profession or a student, SEAOI has something unique to offer you.

- Discounted pricing on high-level education courses and events showcasing important and innovative engineering concepts
- Networking and social events
- Proactive protection of the SE Act and monitoring of legislative activities that may affect the profession
- Connection to our vibrant, well-established Young Engineers Committee and programming
- Admittance to our free Structural Engineers Foundation lectures
- Access to the 800+ Member Directory
- Discounted pricing on the best in class SEAOI SE Exam Refresher Course
- SEAOI's monthly newsletter, *The Bulletin*
- Public outreach and volunteer opportunities
- Career management events and workshops
- Access to the SEAOI Library, which contains historical texts and documents pertaining to the practice of structural engineering
- Membership in NCSEA
  - *Structures Magazine* and *Structural Connection* newsletter

# COMMUNICATIONS/PUBLICATIONS

- **SEAOI.org** is the hub of information dissemination and online member interaction. Our new website and integrated member database were launched at the end of 2015 to universal acclaim. The current SEAOI calendar and event registration, job postings, Find an Engineer, news and issues affecting the structural engineering community and other resources are found here. Members may also access their account history, current and past issues of the *Bulletin* and approved Board minutes.
- **The SEAOI Bulletin** is a monthly newsletter reporting events and issues important to the structural engineering community and SEAOI members. The *Bulletin* is available in print and online.
- **Tuesday Update** is a weekly online journal detailing upcoming events, announcements and hot topics.
- **Press Releases** are issued for important SEAOI announcements, awards and events to increase visibility of the profession and organization within the structural engineering community and the general public.





# COMMITTEES

SEAOI offers many volunteer opportunities that allow our members to directly contribute to the success of SEAOI, advance and advocate the profession of structural engineering and engage with peers and the public. Committee highlights of the 2015–16 year activities:

## **ANNUAL MEETING/AWARDS BANQUET COMMITTEE**

Plans the Annual Awards Banquet, which includes the SEAOI Special Awards presentation and the induction of the new President and Board Officers.

CHAIR—Shane Farr

- Hosted close to 200 attendees at the 2016 Annual Awards Banquet
- Secured Venue SIX10 on June 3, 2017

## **AWARDS COMPETITION COMMITTEE**

Prepares, publicizes, and distributes information allowing SEAOI members to submit sample projects on behalf of a company for recognition in the SEAOI engineering excellence awards annual program.

CHAIR—Terry McDonnell

- Facilitated call for, submission of, presentation and judging of all 2016 project award submissions.
- Secured panel of qualified third-party judges to preside over the project award presentations.
- Evaluated new project award categories.
- Organized committee in review and selection of the Palmer Award, Young Engineer Award, Service award and special awards recipients
- Began development of new submission process and time line for implementation in 2017

## **BRIDGE SYMPOSIUM COMMITTEE**

Responsible for scheduling and arranging this annual day-long event. The Committee solicits and reviews abstracts, selecting presentations that cover a broad range of bridge engineering issues.

CHAIR—Soliman Khudeira

- Hosted over 150 attendees at 2016 event
- Prepared a working schedule, developed guidelines for presentation slides and finalized new on-site registration for 2017 event
- Secured Maggiano's on April 27, 2017



### **BUILDING CODES COMMITTEE**

Makes recommendations for amendments to the Codes which would incorporate new developments in various aspects of the design of structures and specifications used in the practice of Structural Engineering.

CHAIR—Jim Hauck

- Strengthened relationship with the City of Chicago Department of Buildings
- Maintained consistent awareness of amendments to Codes
- Revitalized committee with call for volunteers for 2017

### **CENTRAL ILLINOIS CHAPTER AND TRADE SHOW COMMITTEE**

Organizes the annual Central Chapter Trade Show & Symposium, and helps to coordinate continuing education events held in central Illinois.

CHAIR—Joe Lowrance

- Hosted over 60 attendees and 14 Sponsors / Exhibitors at 2015 Trade Show & Symposium and close to 20 attendees at Structural Masonry Seminar on April 29, 2016, in Springfield, IL
- Improved marketing and communication to members outside Chicagoland area
- Developed more effective planning process for 2016 Trade Show and Symposium event
- Concerted efforts to increase events offered to central Illinois members

### **CHICAGO TRADE SHOW COMMITTEE**

Responsible for organizing this annual exposition, where Structural Engineers can talk with participating vendors about the products or services they offer.

CHAIR—Craig Vespa

- Hosted close to 50 attendees and 20 vendors at the March 4, 2016, event
- Secured University Club for March 3, 2017
- Coordinated efforts with SEAIN Spring Conference scheduled around the same time



### **CONTINUING EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

Plans SEA0I seminars and workshops throughout the year. The committee selects topics and recruits instructors to meet the continuing education needs of structural engineers.

CHAIR—Larry Kirchner

- Offered 8 events, serving close to 300 attendees during 2015–16 Program Year
- Created Co-Chair position for 2016–17 Program Year to ensure equal representation of Bridges and Structures programming.

### **DINNER MEETINGS COMMITTEE**

Determines topics and secures speakers for the monthly Dinner Meetings.

CO-CHAIRS—Carol Drucker and Bill Walton

- Hosted six dinner meetings, with over 400 attendees in 2015–16 Programming Year
- Topics and speakers included: Christine Reed on IDOT, Rob Chmielowski on 150 N. Riverside, Robert D. Turton on The Hoover Dam Bypass, Mike Mulhern on Advances in Construction, Bill Baker on Chicago as World Leader, and Jeffrey Callow on Hudson Yards

### **MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE**

Encourages those in the practice of structural engineering and allied professions to become members of SEA0I to advance the profession, maintains a membership list and publishes the SEA0I membership directory.

CHAIR—Derek Boeldt

- Developed and implemented Recent Graduate discount promotion for new young members
- Improved online membership application and renewal process for 2016–17 year
- Welcomed over 60 new members in 2015–16



## **PUBLIC RELATIONS/OUTREACH COMMITTEE**

Serves as liaison between the profession and various other stakeholder groups including the general public, students, government agencies, peer organizations, and the media, initiating activities that promote the value of Structural Engineering as a profession, an expertise and a service. Generate awareness and appreciation in these groups for Structural Engineers.

CHAIR—Jan Blok

- Represented SEA0I and participated at various events in 2015-2016, including The Future City Competition, IIT Rice E-Week Exhibit, Illinois State Science Fair and Des Plaines Science Expo
- Populates Engineering in the News section of the SEA0I website
- Creates and distributes SEA0I press releases promoting SEA0I events and awards
- Collaborate with peer organizations on various joint initiatives
- Enable communications with the boards of peer organizations

## **BULLETIN / PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE**

Collects and edits appropriate news and other material for inclusion in the SEA0I *Bulletin*.

CHAIR—Cathleen Jacinto

- Began redesign of *Bulletin* for 2016–17 for an enhanced digital version
- Developed Annual Report

## **SPONSORSHIP COMMITTEE**

Provides information and communication to potential affiliate sponsorship companies that have a history or interest in supporting SEA0I as well as the structural design and construction industry in general.

CHAIR—Terry McDonnell

- Implemented annual Affiliate Sponsor program
- Began development of comprehensive sponsor database
- Continued to strengthen relationships with existing sponsors



### **STRUCTURES SYMPOSIUM COMMITTEE**

Responsible for scheduling and arranging this annual day-long event. The Committee solicits and reviews abstracts, selecting presentations that cover a broad range of structural engineering issues.

CHAIR—Derek Boeldt

- Hosted 90 attendees at 2015 event
- Developed new Abstract submission process for 2016 event
- Secured Maggiano's on October 26, 2016

### **TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE**

Works to improve and expand the technological capabilities used in SEAOL's classes and events, including the availability of live class recordings.

CHAIR—Christine Freisinger

- Launched SEAOL's new website
- Improved existing technology to make recorded versions of live SEAOL events available online
- Developed tech support training tools for onsite volunteers

### **WOMEN'S NETWORKING GROUP**

Provides a forum for networking in the context of educating our members.

CO-CHAIRS—Christine Freisinger and Jennifer Traut-Todaro

- Recipient of 2015 NCSEA grant
- Hosted sold-out Persuasive Writing Workshop
- Launched E-Week Girl Day Instagram Photo Contest to depict how entrants were encouraging young women to become an engineer



In addition to these committees, the following groups are under the SEA01 umbrella, but have their own Boards:

### **STRUCTURAL ENGINEERS FOUNDATION (SEF)**

An independent, non-profit charitable organization dedicated to one goal: the advancement of structural engineering. SEF has committed to sponsoring and funding scholarships, lectures, awards, publications and research.

PRESIDENT—James Pawlikowski

- Awarded four scholarships, totaling \$10,000
- Hosted two free lectures: 432 Park Avenue by Silvan Marcus on November 3, 2015, and Structural Engineering at Mid-21st Century: Reengineering Our Roles by Glenn Bell on April 12, 2016

### **GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS/STRUCTURAL ENGINEERS POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE (GAC/SEPAC)**

The Government Affairs Committee meets on a regular basis and engages the Political Action Committee when needed to fight pending legislation in Illinois as well as affect judicial rulings by funding *amicus curiae* (friend of the court) briefs. SEPAC was formed in 1987 to represent the interests of structural engineering and allied professions in the political and legislative arenas in Illinois. SEPAC is an independent, bipartisan organization.

CHAIR—John McLean

- Evaluated pending legislation throughout the year as identified by our consultant hired to monitor Illinois legislative items affecting Structural Engineering.
- Implemented Legislative Update section of SEA01 website, which alerts members to the most recent changes and updates in Illinois legislature that have the potential to affect our profession.
- Partnered with AIA Illinois to travel to Springfield, Illinois for a day of meeting with Illinois legislators by SEA01 members at no cost to members.
- Funded an *amicus curiae* brief in conjunction with our colleagues at AIA Illinois, ACEC Illinois, ISPE and IPLSA regarding an implied warranty of habitability case. Achieved favorable results.
- Funded an *amicus curiae* brief in conjunction with our colleagues at AIA Illinois, ACEC Illinois, ISPE and IPLSA regarding a case that could diminish the rights of design professionals under the Mechanic's Lien Act. Achieved favorable results.
- Hosted close to 40 attendees at the September 1, 2015, Dinner Meeting event; Christine Reed, P.E., Deputy Secretary of the Illinois Department of Transportation, was the speaker



## **YOUNG ENGINEERS COMMITTEE (YEC)**

Works to provide a forum for young practicing structural engineers to promote the structural engineering field, as well as learn from both young and experienced members of the Structural Engineers Association of Illinois (SEAOI).

CO-CHAIRS—Will Kolbuk and Elizabeth LaCrosse

- Hosted several networking and professional development events such as the biannual Post SE/PE Exam Celebrations, site visit to Wilson Red Line Station, a panel discussion on preparing for the SE Exam, a Holiday Happy Hour and Toy Drive and a Blackhawks game outing
- Developed and launched Young Engineer survey to better serve current and potential members' needs
- Created a succession plan to allow for a more orderly transition between committee members which will help ensure the retention of institutional knowledge and promotion of fresh ideas
- Served as liaison between SEAOI Board and Young Engineer members, ensuring interests, activities and goals of each group were communicated and coordinated
- Managed SEAOI's social media platforms
- Selected as a finalist for the 2015 NCSEA Young Member Group Chapter of the Year Award

The following committees are comprised of appointed members, per the SEAOI By-Laws:

### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Composed of the Board President, President-Elect, Treasurer, Secretary, and the immediate Past-President.

CHAIR—David Horos

### **NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

Prepares a list of nominees for future officers and Board of Directors for the annual elections.

CHAIR—Terry McDonnell



# EDUCATION

SEAOI hosts several live and online seminars, courses and workshops throughout the year, providing best in class content presented by industry leaders. We are very proud of our overall event attendee satisfaction rating—100% of all surveyed events presented by SEAOI received a rating of Excellent/Very Good.

Events offered in 2015–16 include:

- Continuing Education classes
- Bridge Symposium
- Structures Symposium
- Dinner Meetings
- Central Chapter Trade Show
- Chicago Trade Show
- Webinars
- SE Exam Refresher Course





# AWARDS COMPETITION/ANNUAL BANQUET/SPECIAL AWARDS

The SEA0I Annual Banquet is held each June to honor and recognize recipients of the **Excellence in Structural Engineering Award Competition** and **Special Awards**.

**Excellence in Structural Engineering Awards** is a design competition that recognizes excellence in structural engineering. Awards given at the 2016 Annual Banquet:

- **Jurors' Favorite/Most Innovative Structure**—150 N. Riverside; Magnusson Klemencic Associates
- **Best Renovation/Retrofit Project**—LondonHouse Hotel; TGRWA
- **Best Bridge/Transportation Project**—130th and Torrence Avenue Grade Separation; Alfred Benesch & Company
- **Best Project—> \$150 Million**—Tanana River Bridge; Hanson Professional Services
- **Best Project—\$50 Million to \$150 Million**—Northwestern University, Ryan Center for the Musical Arts; Thornton Tomasetti
- **Best Project—\$5 Million to \$50 Million**—NEIU El Centro; FOREFRONT Structural Engineers
- **Best Project—\$1 Million to \$5 Million**—Ethelbert Cooper Gallery of African and African-American Arts; Simpson, Gumpertz & Heger
- **Lavicka Award (up to \$1 Million)**—New Splayed Steel Frame Glass Canopy; Probe Consulting Engineers, Inc.

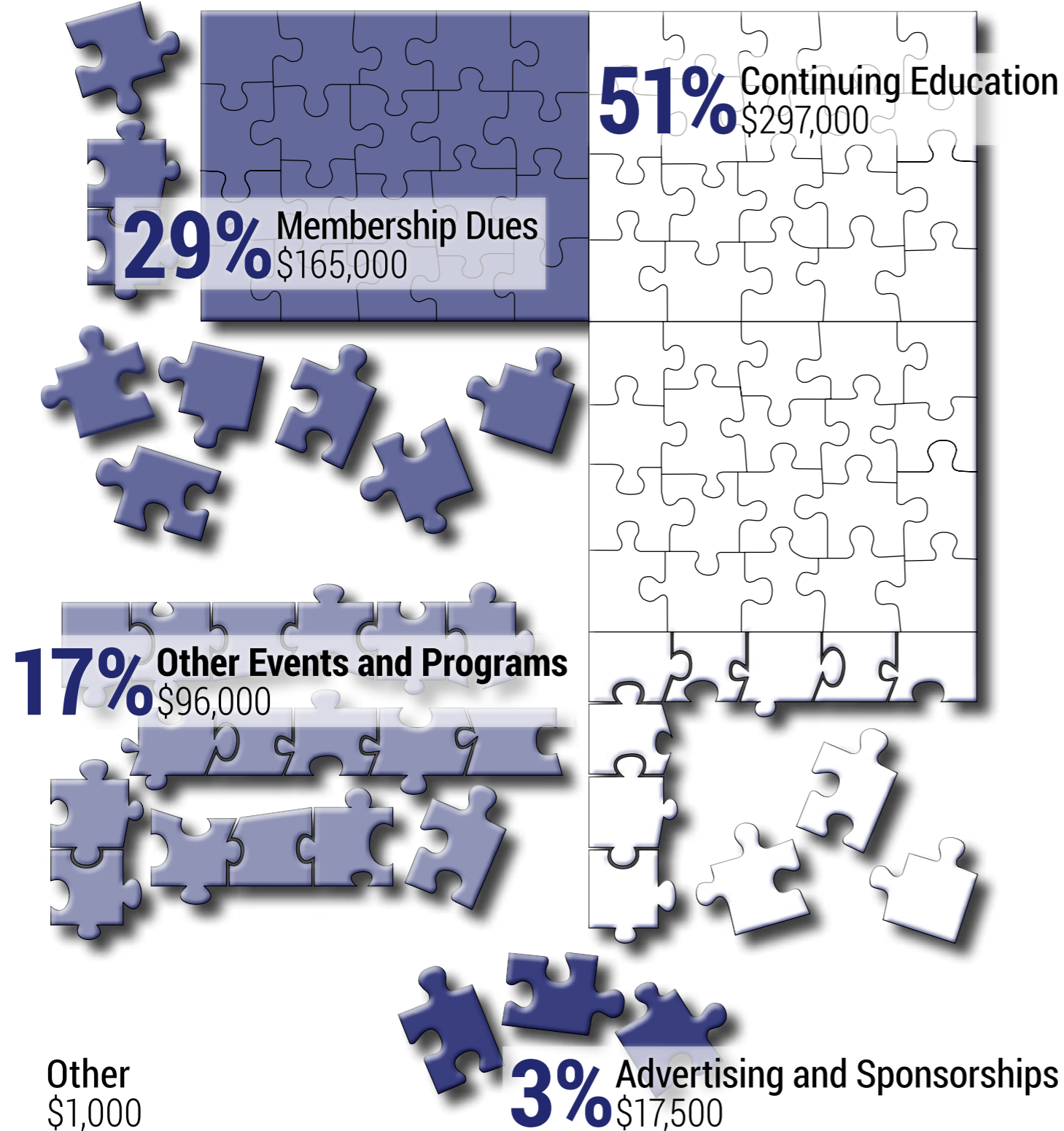
**SEA0I Special Awards** are given to individuals who have demonstrated extraordinary service and achievement in the field of structural engineering.

- **John F. Parmer Award** honors a structural engineer whose distinguished career is acknowledged by their peers to be an example of excellence. **2016 recipient—Jay Paul**
- **SEA0I Service Award** recognizes a person in design, construction, or a related field, who has achieved outstanding success and distinction, and has made a significant contribution to the advancement of structural engineering. **2016 recipient—Steve Elver**
- **Outstanding Young Engineer Award** recognizes an engineer aged 35 or younger for outstanding achievements in structural engineering. **2016 recipient—Benton Johnson**

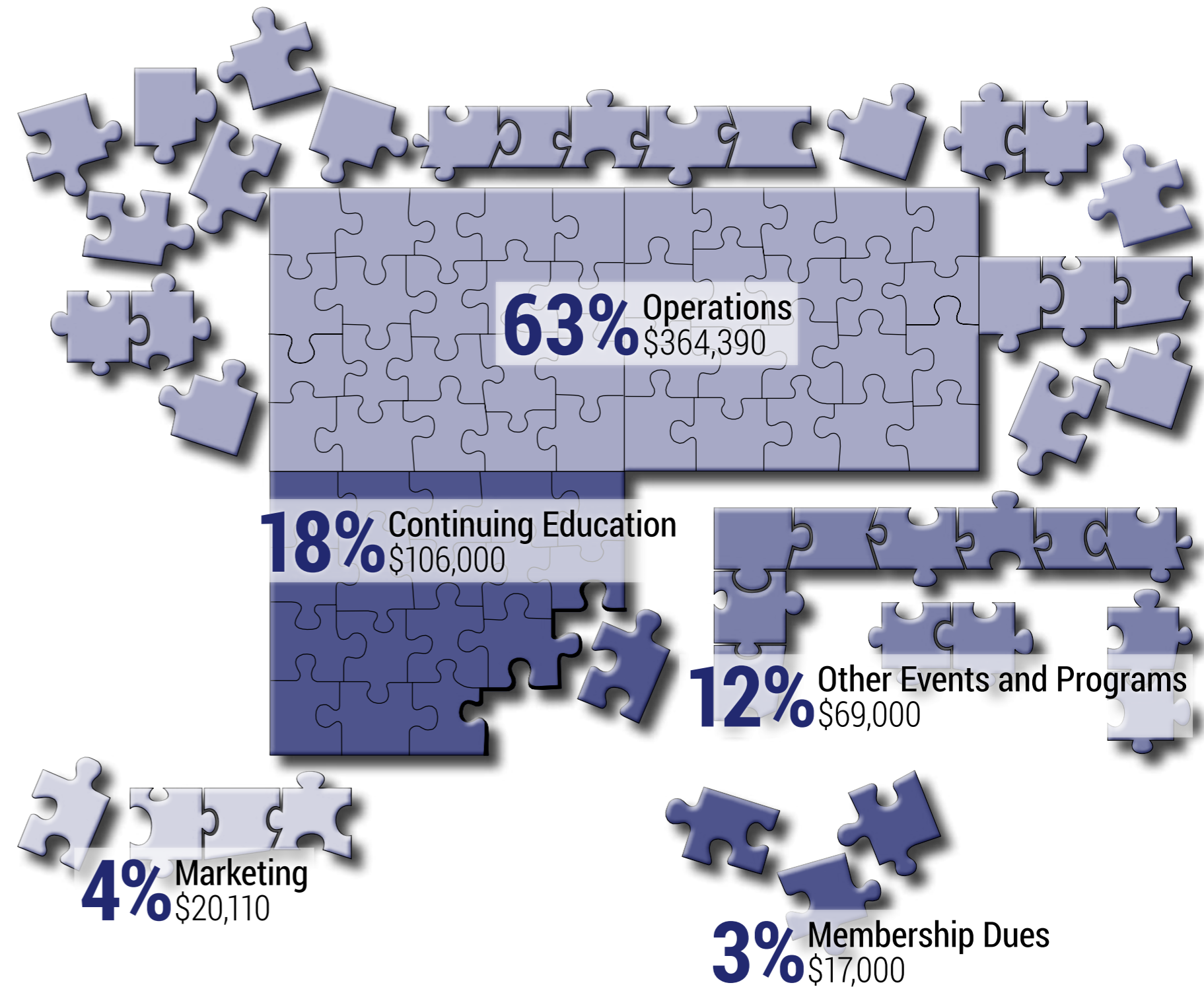


# BUDGET/FINANCES

2015-16 REVENUE—\$576,500



2015-16 EXPENSES—\$576,500





# BOARD & STAFF

## **CURRENT BOARD MEMBERS**

President—Salvatore Di Bernardo

President-Elect—Tony F. Shkurti

Treasurer—David Nickell

Secretary—Christine M. Freisinger

## **Directors to 2017**

Jan I. Blok

Carol Drucker

Bill Walton

## **Directors to 2018**

Derek Boeldt

Lawrence Kirchner

Joseph M. Lowrance

## **Directors to 2019**

Kevin Conroy

Soliman Khudeira

José A. Medero

## **Past Presidents**

John F. Duntemann

Terry R. McDonnell

David R. Horos

## **STAFF**

Stephanie Crain, Executive Director

[scrain@seaoi.org](mailto:scrain@seaoi.org)

312-488-9839

Donna Childs, Executive Assistant

[office@seaoi.org](mailto:office@seaoi.org)

312-726-4165

Marsha Harman, Programs & Technology Coordinator

[mharman@seaoi.org](mailto:mharman@seaoi.org)

312-488-9838



## LOOKING AHEAD 2016–17



Our Board constantly looks at the future of our Association in a fast-changing world. This year we will re-engage in a long-range strategic planning effort following our first in 2012. In the meantime during 2016–17 we will make a constant effort to engage more of our members in our activities. Active participation in our committees is the best way to stay involved and support SEA0I staff in putting together an outstanding program for all of our members. Our Young Engineers and Women's Networking groups will continue to provide the energy and ideas that we have seen in the most recent years.

We will continue to improve the quality and availability of our online classes. Our goal is to reach a larger audience outside of Chicago and Illinois. With our new website it is easier for our members to renew their membership, sign up for events, read the *Bulletin* and access their professional development hours earned by participating in SEA0I events. We will make bold steps in reducing and eliminating printed material.

We will continue our recently started Tuesday Updates and issue periodic press releases to reach out to our members and beyond. One of my goals is to get SEA0I and our members more involved in interaction with other professionals, governmental agencies, architects, contractors, steel erectors and fabricators, precast producers and other vendors. Currently our Trade Shows, Dinner Meetings and Symposia are the best venues for a larger involvement of these players. We will also look into stronger partnerships with other associations to organize common events and increase our ability to reach out to policy makers.

I believe that our Board members and the other volunteers will work with SEA0I staff on a great 2016–17. I encourage all of our members to follow SEA0I activities, visit our website, join our events and Board meetings and to reach out to your colleagues and encourage them to join SEA0I.

**Salvatore Di Bernardo**





