

## President's Message

### NCSEA Provides Resources for Your Local Structural Engineering Association

Thomas Grogan Jr., P.E., S.E., F.ASCE, NCSEA President

The saying, “all politics are local,” resurfaces every election season as candidates are seen creating opinion polls to establish their position on the key issues. In the Structural Engineering Community, a similar refrain can be made that “all structural engineering is local and Structural Engineering Association (SEA)-based.”

Your local SEA is the go-to organization for your structural engineering needs. It helps provide for a key part of your professional licensure, continuing education requirements, and networking opportunities with other like-minded engineers. That is why NCSEA’s mission, as the national organization for structural engineers, is to help strengthen those local state-level SEAs (NCSEA’s Member Organizations or MOs), because the stronger they are, the greater the resources to which you have access.

In NCSEA’s pursuit to strengthen the state SEAs, we have established resources to assist with:

- licensure questions;
- young member group development and growth within your SEA;
- speakers for continuing education;
- best practices across SEAs (for annual conferences, dues, web-based learning, etc.)
- networking (face-to-face and web-based) across SEAs;
- committee interaction from SEA to national and among SEAs;
- grants for SEA project funding;
- scholarships for young members to attend national events.

An example of this state-to-state interaction, supported through NCSEA, is the information shared about Florida’s drive to create a structural engineering license. The Florida Structural Engineering Association (FSEA) moved a bill all the way to the Governor’s desk before it was vetoed. While Florida wasn’t successful in its efforts, NCSEA provided a forum for FSEA to present its lessons learned on the path to licensure so other SEAs could learn from it. Based on the response FSEA has received since that presentation, the information was deemed extremely valuable.

Another example of the power of the national-local coordination is the NCSEA Structural Engineering Emergency Response (SEER) Committee. At a national level, this committee is working to further develop and enhance its 2<sup>nd</sup> Responder Roster (pictured on the right), a comprehensive database of structural engineers across the U.S. with post-disaster training interested in assisting with post-disaster condition assessments

of structures. This database will be a critical tool for state-level SEER committees if their state is impacted by a disaster. They will need to look for help beyond their state for 2<sup>nd</sup> responders to support the assessment and recovery efforts. This national support for local initiatives defines the relationship between NCSEA and the state SEAs.

In addition, NCSEA itself is a resource for you. Your relationship with your SEA establishes your relationship with NCSEA.

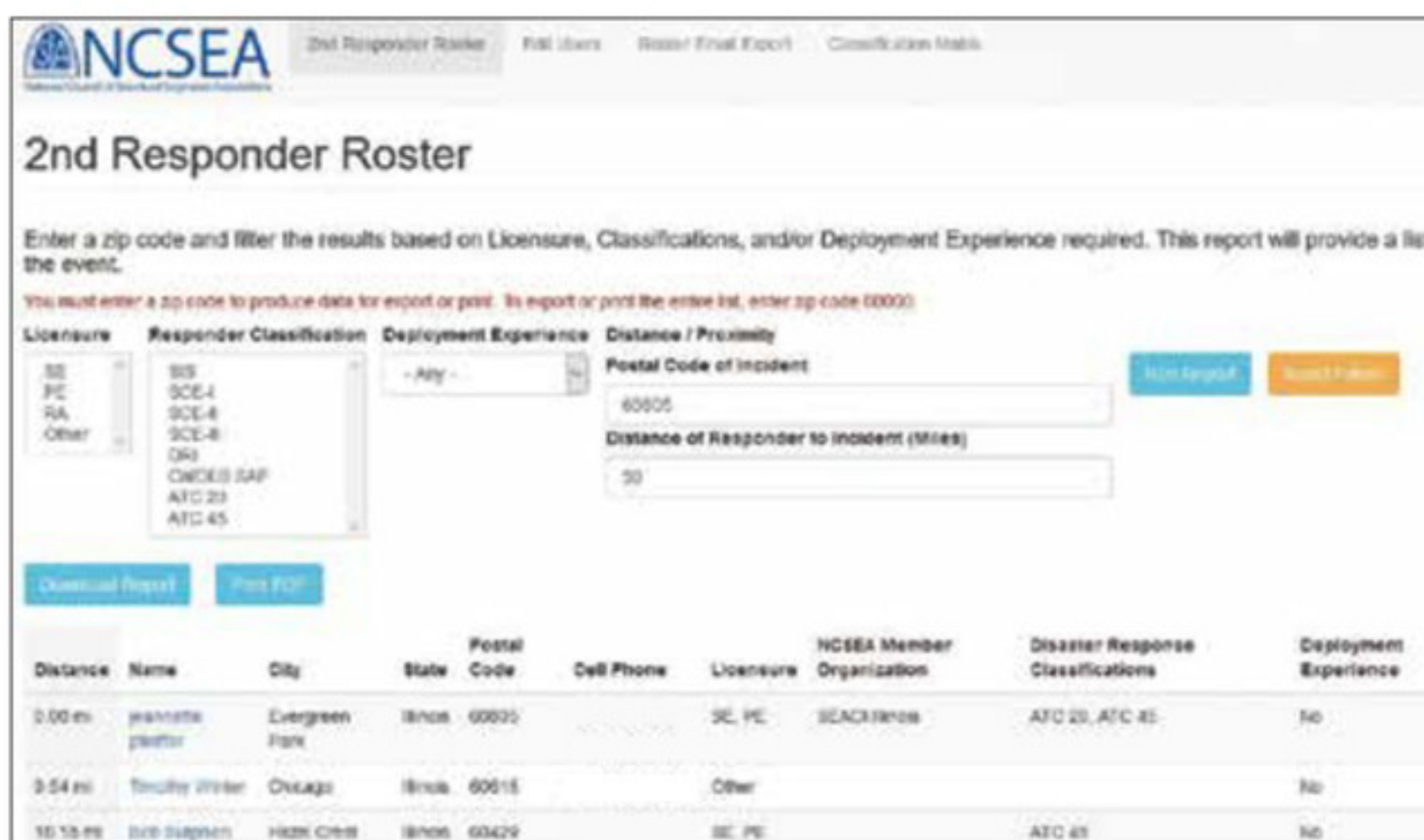
As a national organization, NCSEA can also be a source of information to you on topics like continuing education, licensure and networking. NCSEA is an association with full-time staff ready to be utilized as a resource to the volunteers and part-time employees of your local association.

A final example of the support NCSEA provides to the volunteer leaders of your local SEA are the monthly MO Communication Webinars. These webinars are provided at no cost and focus on providing practical tools that your local SEA can use to operate more effectively. A recent webinar focused on best practices for continuing education, including discussions on webinars, annual conferences and on-demand learning. Attendees were pleased with the value of that webinar.

As a practicing structural engineer, you have two great resources at your fingertips – your local SEA and NCSEA. Take advantage of them to help you professionally because they exist to support you.



Thomas Grogan,  
NCSEA President



The screenshot shows the NCSEA 2nd Responder Roster web application. It includes a search bar for zip codes, filters for licensure, responder classification, and deployment experience, and a table of results. The table columns are Distance, Name, City, State, Postal Code, Cell Phone, Licensure, NCSEA Member Organization, Disaster Response Classifications, and Deployment Experience.

Distance	Name	City	State	Postal Code	Cell Phone	Licensure	NCSEA Member Organization	Disaster Response Classifications	Deployment Experience
0.00 mi	jeannette pafford	Evergreen Park	Illinois	60022		SE, PE	SEACK181018	ATC 20, ATC 45	No
0.54 mi	Timothy Winder	Chicago	Illinois	60615		Other			No
10.13 mi	Eric Guagnen	Hazel Crest	Illinois	60429		SE, PE		ATC 45	No

The efforts of the NCSEA SEER Committee to support local SEA SEER committees defines the working relationship between NCSEA and the state SEAs.