



THE STRUCTURAL ENGINEER

Texas Board of Professional Engineers on Professional Ethics

The Texas Board of Professional Engineers will identify key updates concerning Board rule changes within the past year. Guidelines for Professional Practice and Engineering Ethics will be illustrated. Additionally, there will be a general update about Board Initiatives in conjunction with enforcement statistics. The Engineering Code of Conduct will be emphasized.



Rick Valdes is an Investigator IV with the Compliance & Enforcement Department, Texas Board of Professional Engineers. He has over 24 years of experience as an investigator with the State of Texas; eleven of those years with the Board. As an investigator, Rick ensures that the TPBE Act and Board Rules are followed and also investigates complaints that are received by the Board regarding violations to the Act and or Board Rules.

Rick has worked for the Travis County Sheriff’s Department, and the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation and while there, was the Program Manager of Professional Boxing for the State of Texas. Additionally, Rick was also the Supervising Investigator for the Texas Real Estate Commission before joining our team.

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MEETING INFO

WHEN:	WHERE:	COST:	RSVP:	UPCOMING MEETINGS
March 19, 2015 6:00 pm Social 6:30 pm Dinner 7:00 pm Program	HESS Engineering and Scientific Society 5430 Westheimer Houston, TX 77056 713.627.2283	Members: \$25.00 Non-members: \$35.00 Student members & Non dinner guests \$10.00	Click Here to register online. The deadline is 12:00pm, the Tuesday before	April 16, 2015 TBD May 21, 2015 TBD

[CLICK HERE](#) TO REGISTER FOR THIS MEETING

President's Corner

Al Bustamante, PE

Make Lemonade out of Lemons. I recently heard this term at a technical presentation referring to make the best out of your available resources. We have a lot of resources in SEAOt that you can use. The best resource that we have is our members. When someone asked me what the benefits of being SEAOt members are, my first response is you'll have the opportunity to meet and exchange ideas with bright engineers.

Take advantage of the meetings to meet new people and invite others to join the meeting and become members. The best way to continue to grow our chapter is by "spreading" the word about our chapter. Also, take the time to meet our sponsors and understand more about their work.

Our sponsors make a significant contribution to our chapter and we continue to have great support from them. Feel free to contact me if you have any thoughts/ ideas on Sponsors. We continue to have great attendance from the Texas A&M Student Chapter. I really appreciate the effort the Texas A&M Students make to attend our meeting and contribute to our chapter. They are the future of our chapter.

I'd like to remind you that there is a free seminar (4 PDHs) for all SEAOt members on April 14, 2015 at the Houston Hilton Garden Inn Westbelt. The title of the seminar is High Modulus Marine Geostructures presented by JD Fields and sponsored by SEAOt.

As always, I encourage everyone to participate in our chapter in order to continue to grow our organization. As president of the chapter I speak for all board members that our goal is to leave the chapter in a better position that it was before our tenure. If you have any input or have any questions about our chapter, please don't hesitate contacting me at houston@seaot.org.

Al Bustamante, PE

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Secretary's Corner

Rick Miles, PE

March is underway and hopefully you've stayed dry over the last couple of weeks. Between being the host chapter for the SEAOt State Conference this year, the 84th Texas Legislature being in session over in Austin, and the pending local adoption of the 2012 IBC, there is lots of information to stay on top of – issues that directly affect SEAOt Houston and your professional practice. Coming to the meetings is the best way to stay on top of these topics. Tan has been doing a fantastic job of rounding up speakers and sponsors, so come out to the meetings, enjoy a beverage and scintillating conversation, and stay informed. There are lots of opportunities to get involved as well.

Our February 19 meeting had a solid turnout, and we continue to get good participation from the Texas A&M student chapter. The students are particularly engaging and the meetings are a great opportunity to learn what they are working on while providing them different perspectives on our profession. Another great reason to come to the meetings!

VoidForm Products, Inc. was the meeting sponsor and Rob Gates was on hand to provide a brief introduction to VoidForm's history and product offerings – including a new water-resistant carton form and inspector-friendly forms for plumbing voids. VoidForm will be back in April to present on the topic of foundation isolation from expansive soils; feel free to contact Rob Gates with any questions regarding VoidForm Products. Rob.g@voidform.com

Ed Ulrich a.k.a "Dr. Dirt" provided an excellent presentation on Tall Buildings and Braced Excavations in the Houston area. A large number of interesting project profiles were provided making note of a wide variety of challenges. Some pertinent take-aways: a successful project requires the structural engineer to work in harmony with the geotechnical engineer, and means & methods are critical to success. To learn more about the full services a geotechnical engineer can (and should) provide, you can follow up with Ed at www.ulrichengineers.com.

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Secretary's Corner (Continued)

Rick Miles, PE

This month's ethics presentation promises to bring a larger than usual turnout so please make your reservation early. It also represents a good opportunity to invite those colleagues needing their ethics hour for renewal and introduce them to our chapter.

Finally, one of my tasks as secretary this year will be maintaining updates on the chapter LinkedIn Group. LinkedIn has become a significant resource for the A/E/C community and we hope to build the chapter presence. If you're a LinkedIn member, please search for the group Structural Engineers Association of Texas - Houston / Gulf Coast Chapter and join so that our updates will show up in your feed.

Thanks for your participation and see you in March!

Rick Miles

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