Our Mission
Since 1956 ASPE serves the construction & engineering industries by providing education, training, fellowship and opportunities for professional estimating development.
President’s Message

As I write this month’s blog, it is a few days before the Thanksgiving Holiday. It’s hard to believe that another year is coming to a close. Where does the time go? It’s been three years since I first joined ASPE. I have belonged to other professional organizations, many groups that are large in membership and cater to multiple disciplines. I was looking for something else. I wanted to get involved with estimators because that is what I do for a living. My first year at ASPE, I became a board member and then I became the chapter president. Becoming involved with ASPE, I met new people and have made new friends. Not only have I created a fellowship with other professionals in estimating, I have learned many new aspects about the estimating industry from attending the dinner meetings. I have attended two national conventions, and I look forward to attending the 2009 meeting in St. Louis. I have learned many things at the conventions, which include new trends in estimating, listened to key industrial speakers, and I have gained some new friendships with national members. If you are an estimator, ASPE is a great organization for you.

The first year of my membership, I decided that I needed to get certified. Thanks to Art Quinion I attended his Saturday workshop to find out more about the certification process. It was definitely worthwhile. He does a great job in explaining what is required and gives an excellent overview of the curriculum. Saturday, December 6th Art will be holding a workshop about the certification program. If you are even somewhat interested or curious about the certification process, you should consider signing up. More information is provided below.

In November, we had our first GC Advisory Board meeting. Board Members Gary Casper, Ron Svarc, and Wil and Anita Beukman were there to help out. General Contractors that are involved with building construction and heavy civil were present. Their main consensus was that there are not enough young people that are involved with estimating and that it is difficult to find individuals that are interested in estimating as a profession. We will continue with the GC Advisory Board and our next meeting should be in the first quarter of 2009. The purpose of this GC Board is to get an estimating panel of experts from the top Contractors in Orange County. Their input will supplement our chapter by providing more depth and diversification.

As a follow-up to comments from the GC meeting, one of our goals for 2009 is to reach out to students in construction, introducing them to the field of estimating. We would like to offer a nominal scholarship to a worthy student working towards an engineering or construction management degree. Board member Peter Garan has graciously volunteered to head up this task. If you have any suggestions, feel free to contact Peter.

On December 10th, board member Tom Smithson will be giving a dinner presentation on estimating for plumbing. Tom is the Chief estimator for RCR Mechanical. More information about the meeting is included below.

Everyone in the construction industry are welcome to attend our meetings. If you would like to attend, just sign-up on our website, www.aspechapter3.org.

Dinner meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month. We meet at the Mezzanine Building at the Newport Gateway Towers, in Irvine (see enclosed map for details). December’s meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 10th. Social hour starts at 6:00 PM with dinner at 6:30 PM. We finish by 8:30 and parking is complementary. We hope to see you at our next dinner meeting. We also hold a raffle. The winner receives half of the proceeds; the chapter gets the other half.

Dan Schottlander, CPE
President, ASPE Orange County Chapter
Notes from the President

Chapter Website
ASPE reservations can be booked on line. Our chapter website is www.ASPEChapter3.org. Monthly newsletters are posted on the site. If you have any questions or ideas on what to include in our website, feel free to contact our Webmaster Paulette Rutlen. The national website is www.ASPENational.org. Be sure to check out both websites for current announcements.

In Summation
Happy Holidays and Merry Christmas. See you at our next meeting on December 10.

Certification Workshop
Chapter 3 is offering a free Certification Review Workshop that will be held on Saturday, December 6th. The workshop will begin at 9:00 am and will last approximately two to three hours. The presentation will concentrate on what to expect from the certification process, reviewing both the technical paper and the four and eight hour exams. You do not have to be examination registered with ASPE national to attend. Becoming a Certified Professional Estimator (CPE) is an excellent opportunity to gain industry recognition. The next testing cycle is scheduled for March 2009. The location for this workshop will be at Earth Tech | AECOM, 21064 Bake Parkway, Suite 200 in Lake Forest. If you are interested in attending, please email Art Quinion at artq@phoenix-planning.com by December 3rd.

Problem of the Month
What is the bar designation for a piece of rebar which is 5/8” in diameter?

a. #3
b. #7
c. #6
d. #4
e. #5

See answer on page 9.
Tom Smithson
Chief Commercial Estimator
RCR Plumbing & Mechanical

Tom is a Southern California native born in Pomona. He began his plumbing career in 1976 with a union shop in Irvine, CA as a warehouseman and delivery driver. While serving his plumbing apprenticeship he worked in the field and in the office learning installation of plumbing products, estimating, plan check and design. In 1983 he was promoted to Design Manager and was responsible for all project estimating, plumbing design for field installation and plan check drawings for plumbing, firesprinklers, hydronics and methane gas venting systems.

In 1993 he went to work for RCR in the Design Department at their Riverside office. He worked in the Riverside office for nine years before accepting the Design Manager position in the RCR San Marcos Division where he spent the next five and one half years. His responsibilities increased when his Division Manager asked him to begin consulting and value engineering for RCR’s San Diego area clients. Tom went back to the RCR Riverside office in September 2007 to accept his present position as Chief Commercial Estimator.

Tom is presently a member the Orange County Chapter of ASPE and began serving as a Committee Chair in September, 2008.

Quote of the Month

“If it keeps up, man will atrophy all his limbs but the push-button finger.”

~Frank Lloyd Wright, American Architect
AMERICAN SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL ESTIMATORS
Invites you to join the
ORANGE COUNTY CHAPTER’S
next meeting at:

Date: Wednesday, December 10th, 2008
Social Time: 5:30 p.m. - Program & Dinner: 6:30 p.m.
Location: 19800 MacArthur Boulevard, Irvine, CA
The Mezzanine @ Newport Gateway Towers
Restaurant is located on the lower level of the Mezzanine Towers

Topic: Estimating for Plumbing
Presented by: Tom Smithson, RCR Plumbing and Mechanical

A brief summary or outline of plumbing estimating procedures from invitation to bid to final estimate and proposal.

For reservations, please go to the website to book your spot at www.aspechapter3.org.
Contact Shantha Suraweera at 949.476.2094 or via email at ssuraweera@ocmi.com if you have any questions.
MEETING INFORMATION

Speaker: Tom Smithson, RCR Plumbing & Mechanical
Date: Wednesday, December 10th, 2008
Social Time: 5:30 p.m. - Program & Dinner: 6:30 p.m.

Location: 19800 MacArthur Boulevard, Irvine, CA
The Mezzanine @ Newport Gateway Towers
Restaurant is located on the lower level of the Mezzanine Towers
P: 949 724-1066
405 Freeway @ MacArthur Junction between MacArthur & Fairchild

Dinner:
Steak $35 | Chicken $35
Vegetarian Lasagna $35

For reservations, please go to the website to book your spot at www.aspechapter3.org.
Contact Shantha Suraweera at 949.476.2094 or via email at ssuraweera@ocmi.com if you have any questions.
Calendar of Events

December 6, 2008  Certification Workshop
December 10, 2008  Dinner Meeting - Estimating for Plumbing
January 14, 2009  Dinner Meeting - “Building Technology into Estimates: TECH features that keep you competitive.” By James Benham
January 31, 2009  Job site walk
February 11, 2009  Dinner Meeting – Concrete Estimating
March 11, 2009  Dinner Meeting - Electrical Estimating
March 28, 2009  Certification Workshop
April 8, 2009  Dinner Meeting - Estimating Interiors with Steel Studs & Drywall
April 2009  LEED Workshop – (tentative)
May 13, 2009  Dinner Meeting – Mechanical Estimating
May 23, 2009  Estimating Academy
June 10, 2009  Dinner Meeting - 50 Sustainable Building Features in a Gold Rated LEED Residential Home by Travis Taylor
July 9 – 11, 2009  National Convention, St. Louis, MO.
August 2009  Golf Tournament (tentative)

Advertising Opportunities

Advertising Opportunities:

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## 2008-2009 Board Members and Committee Chairs

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<td>President</td>
<td>Dan Schottlander, CPE</td>
<td>Earth Tech / AECOM</td>
<td>949 330 2299</td>
<td><a href="mailto:dan.schottlander@AECOM.com">dan.schottlander@AECOM.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>1st Vice President</td>
<td>Wil Beukman, MRICS</td>
<td>Faithful + Gould</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:willem.beukman@fgould.com">willem.beukman@fgould.com</a></td>
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<td>Secretary/Treasurer</td>
<td>Shantha Suraweera, CPE</td>
<td>O’ Connor Construction Management</td>
<td>949 476 2094</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ssuraweera@ocmi.com">ssuraweera@ocmi.com</a></td>
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<td>Immediate Past President</td>
<td>Ron Svarc, CPE</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:kickerron@cox.net">kickerron@cox.net</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Board of Directors</td>
<td>Paulette Rutlen, CPE</td>
<td>The Austin Company</td>
<td>949 451 9055</td>
<td><a href="mailto:paulette.rutlen@theaustin.com">paulette.rutlen@theaustin.com</a></td>
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<td>Board of Directors</td>
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<td>O’ Connor Construction Management</td>
<td>949 476 2094</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jmauk@ocmi.com">jmauk@ocmi.com</a></td>
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<td>Board of Directors</td>
<td>Paul Steele</td>
<td>Rayomond Interior Systems</td>
<td>714.771.7670</td>
<td><a href="mailto:pauls@raymond-co.com">pauls@raymond-co.com</a></td>
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<td>Chapter Certification Chair/ BOD</td>
<td>Art Quinion, CPE</td>
<td>Phoenix Planning</td>
<td>949 581 9370</td>
<td><a href="mailto:artq@phoenix-planning.com">artq@phoenix-planning.com</a></td>
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<td>Danielle Leyva</td>
<td>HMC Architects</td>
<td>951 317 7691</td>
<td><a href="mailto:dleyva@hmearchitects.com">dleyva@hmearchitects.com</a></td>
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AGC San Diego Plan Room
American Constructors
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RCR Mechanical
Rider Levett Bucknall
Ronald Fedman Associates, Inc.
Rosenthal Masonry
The Austin Company
The Clark Construction Group
Timko, Inc.
Any Program Ideas?

In order to make our chapter work for everyone we are looking for your ideas and input. What topics would you like to see discussed? What programs would you like? If you are a General Contractor, Subcontractor, Consultant, Architect or Engineer, what topics are you interested in? Any suggestions that you have, we would be appreciated.

Membership

If you are not currently a member, perhaps you may want to consider joining ASPE. Applications for membership can be downloaded off of the National website, www.aspenational.org.

Joke of the Month

Before going to Europe on business, a man drives his Rolls-Royce to a downtown New York City bank and asks for an immediate loan of $5,000. The loan officer, taken aback, requests collateral. “Well then, here are the keys to my Rolls-Royce,” the man says. The loan officer promptly has the car driven into the bank’s underground parking for safe keeping and gives the man the $5,000. Two weeks later, the man walks through the bank’s doors and asks to settle up his loan and get his car back. “That will be $5,000 in principal, and $15.40 in interest,” the loan officer says. The man writes out a check and starts to walk away. “Wait, sir,” the loan officer says. “You are a millionaire. Why in the world would you need to borrow $5,000?” The man smiles, “Where else could I find a safer place to park my Rolls-Royce in Manhattan for two weeks and pay only $15.40?”