Since 1956, ASPE serves the construction & engineering industries by providing education, training, fellowship and opportunities for professional estimating development.
Hello Everyone,

The May educational meeting speaker was Chapter member Ms. Kathleen Schneider who gave us an overview and understanding of the Cloud computing concept as it applies to construction estimating and business. As a construction business owner for most of my working life, I found what she said quite interesting and what a different environment we have in building and managing businesses in today’s world compared to when I founded a construction company in 1984. Check out the Meeting recap article for details of the meeting in this Newsletter. Thanks to Chapter members and guests, the energy at this year Dinner Meetings have been exciting, fun with much more networking. That is attracting new interest from industry professionals in our area. Keep coming back and we will keep producing interesting and informative programs.

As of this writing I have no report as to the success of the Membership Drive that ends May 31, 2012. This was a one time opportunity you would not want to miss. I hope you took advantage of it. In addition, I want to mention that the summer 2012 Certified Professional Estimator certification cycle begins in a month so get your applications submitted by July 1, 2012.

Our Chapter fiscal year ends July 31 so we are already rapidly approaching our year end. The IRS has told me
that our application for not for profit status is approved and the official paper work is forth coming. I am planning on finally procuring a Business Merchant credit card account early in June so we can make credit and debit card transactions at all of our events, have better control of Chapter expenses, make event transactions more convenient for our members, guests and vendors and easier to conduct Chapter Business in general. We will be filing our first IRS and State Franchise reports in August that support our not for profit status.

Chapter goals are to educate all those interested, local college students, industry professionals and the general public about estimating; support members in becoming Certified Professional Estimator’s and maintaining their certification; keep members current with new estimating technologies and methods, and increase the number and amounts of scholarships we award by being efficient in producing programs and in how we operate. We have some great events on the horizon you will not want to miss. The Board voted to suspend the dinner meetings in July and August to plan and prepare for the new fiscal years events, the July 4th holiday and to attend the National Convention July 11-14, 2012. Participating on event committees is really not a very large time commitment and is very rewarding. Contributing a little time and effort adds significantly to the success of the Chapter’s success in achieving its goals so please consider becoming active in the Chapter.

Every ASPE Chapter member is encouraged to attend at least one Board Meeting and serve as an officer, director or on a committee. Please contact me to talk about these positions and if you have any suggestions, questions or to visit one of our Board Meetings. You may also communicate to the Board members through the Chapter Face book page if you choose.

Gregory R. Clayton
Meeting Information

TOPIC
“LEED: Past, Present, Future”
PRESENTED BY KAREN BLUST

Date
Wednesday, JUNE 13, 2012

Time
5:30 p.m. Social Hour & Networking
6:30 p.m. Program & Dinner

Location
Ayres Hotel 325 Bristol St. Costa Mesa, CA 92626

Cost $40
(Includes Appetizer, Choice of Salmon filet, Hoisin BBQ Chicken or Vegetarian, dessert, coffee/tea)

RSVP at www.aspechapter3.org

Talking Points

- A brief history of the US Green Building Council and the Green Building Certification Institute
- An overview of the different LEED green building rating systems
- LEED-related challenges for project teams
- Examples of LEED applications in the Southern California area
- Anticipated future changes and LEED 2012
As a Green Building Consultant at Cadmus, Ms. Blust combines a background in green building and natural resource tourism to provide project management and analysis for sustainable and energy efficient building design. She actively assists architects, engineers, contractors, and building managers with LEED planning, documentation, and the certification process. One of her recent projects involved supporting the design and construction teams for the new LEED Platinum dormitory at Pomona College.

Ms. Blust contributed to the completion of the LEED New Construction (NC) v2.2 Rating System and Reference Guide. She also champions the review of completed LEED projects for the USGBC/Green Building Certification Institute (GBCI); she has provided oversight to more than 200 project teams regarding their LEED compliance.
Throughout history obtaining clean drinking water has been one of Mankind’s largest concerns. Contaminated drinking water has been and is one of the greatest sources of disease, illness and even death not only in underdeveloped countries, but also in countries with highly sophisticated water supply systems.

If you live in a small village where the water source is a single well which becomes contaminated, the entire village population may become ill. However, if you live in a highly developed society such as we do with a water source that supplies water to millions of homes and the water becomes contaminated, a much greater number of people can become ill or infected before the problem is discovered and corrected.
By Tom Smithson

2011 - 2012

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HOW DOES CONTAMINATION OCCUR?

In the village, the well is open and relatively unprotected from the elements which allows for any air born agent or perhaps a small animal to violate the well water and thus contamination occurs. In a society such as our own the potential for contamination is, in reality, far greater when considering all the businesses, factories, industrial plants, farms and homes that use the same water supply on a daily basis. When a potable water system is connected to anything that is a source of contamination, the contaminated water can be siphoned back into the potable water system because of pressure drops and fluctuations in the main water supply.

HOW IS CONTAMINATION PREVENTED?

By eliminating situations known as cross connections through installing backflow prevention devices, contamination can be greatly minimized if not prevented all together. The simplest of all these “devices” is called an air gap which is a measured
space between a potable water supply and a source of contaminated water. For example, a bathtub full of water represents a source of contaminated water which under the right conditions could be siphoned back into the water supply. However, the tub filler spout outlet is required to be about an inch above the bathtub rim creating an air gap between the spout outlet and potential height of the water in the bathtub. This would allow the bathtub to fill with water and overflow on to the floor without the water siphoning back through the tub spout.

Many mechanical backflow devices have been developed for use in specific situations. Anti-siphon valves are used in toilet tanks and small irrigation systems. For larger systems, double check valves are used where the water source is connected to a fire sprinkler system. A reduced pressure backflow preventer is used for large irrigation systems and industrial / commercial businesses. These larger system devices are required to be tested and certified once every year to insure they are functioning properly. Many of these devices can be rather large and are highly visible, generally installed in front of the building served and near the street.
A much smaller and less visible device is one that is installed on every hose bibb (outside faucet) on every new home and is known as an atmospheric vacuum breaker. Many home owners remove these devices as they tend to limit the flow of water from the hose bibb. Considering the number of homes with pools, fish ponds or other water features which homeowners tend to refill with the use of a garden hose typically submerged in the water, you can see the increased potential for water system contamination. As a result, many water districts are now installing check valves at the water meters to protect the main water supply. The water system in the house however is still subject to contamination.

We are all responsible for helping to keep our water supply free of contamination. For more information and education you can google, backflow prevention and / or contact the American Backflow Prevention Association.

Tom Smithson
Last month’s Educational Dinner Meeting featured Ms. Kathleen Schneider, President of Richman Knoll Associates as our guest speaker. Ms. Schneider was introduced and the group was briefed of her extensive background as the Director of Human Resources subsidiary of Chemed and a Corporate Officer of a third party administrator that works with businesses in increasing business efficiency, cost restructuring such as, Prevailing Wages, profitability and streamlining operations in the complex contracting environment. She holds a B.A. in Psychology, a Masters in Business Administration, is a lifetime Senior Professional in Human Resources (SPHR) and holds insurance licenses in 40 states.

Kathleen began by answering the questions, what’s in the Cloud and how can cloud computing be used in the construction industry? She informed us that, every two days we create as much information as we did from the dawn of civilization to 2003. For example, a typical $10,000,000.00 construction project creates 50 different document types and 56,000 pages of information that six 20” diameter trees fifty feet tall would have to be harvested to produce all of that paper. Technology is rapidly evolving to where all data storage, computing, management, business administration software and IT services are being transformed into a single outsourced service in lieu of each business owning, operating and paying for individual business servers, hardware, software and related support services.
The concept is referred to as Virtualization. The magnitude and speed of this virtualization can be seen by the magnitude the Federal and State government departments are investing in this technology service. One of the largest providers of cloud based services is Amazon who provides over 100 government offices including the Treasury and State departments with these services. The Washington Post estimates that the US Government will shift $20 of its $80 Billion IT dollars to cloud computing this year.

So why do estimators care about IT on demand services? Construction is becoming very complex with BIM and related engineering, construction and construction management systems requiring diverse teams to work and communicate closely most having in house IT systems and software. Integrating their efforts through a single outsource service increases efficiencies that are needed for data to be stored and retrieved and turn that data into useful information in real time. For example, estimators need reliable search engines to locate vendors, current technical data and other information to prepare their estimates and the estimate information needs to be accessible to those constructing and managing projects in real time to produce the best product with in budget on time. As you can see traditionally companies have to be constantly paying for up grading hardware and software, for software license fees, IT services and internal education and dealing with down time and damages. Now companies can purchase all of this, as a monthly service with a higher degree of security and reduced risks that are now the vendor’s responsibility.
The real benefit is the real time 24/7 access to data and management applications that are created specifically for your company or project. This state of technology will bring efficiencies and access to information almost anywhere increasing mobility and time freedom for estimators, project engineers, project managers to focus on things that make you and your company successful. For more information of what it takes to integrate into the service based environment of the cloud contact Kathleen Schneider at  kschneider@richmanknoll.com.

Gregory R. Clayton
PE, CPE, LEED-AP
www.4cei.com
The meeting began like normal Board meetings do with going through the agenda items of approving the previous Board Meeting Minutes, 501C6 Corporation nonprofit status report, Programs report, the Treasurer report, President report and Committee Chairs reports followed by new business where we made plans for the 2011-2012 year and beyond.

The big news is our not for profit status was approved by the IRS back in January but the IRS failed to send us the determination letter. I followed up and learned we had been approved so I immediately filled out and sent the necessary paper work to get the determination letter in hand so we can get the credit card merchant account started and begin conducting business using credit cards. We expect to receive the letter by May 25th or sooner and hopefully have the merchant account up for the Golf Tournament June 25, 2012. You may recall the merchant credit and debit card service for the Chapter through our F&M Bank is predicated on the IRS approval of our not for profit status.

ASPE 2-4-1 Membership Drive ends May 31, 2012. As of this writing we have no report as to the success of the drive. If you receive this article prior to the deadline you can find details of the Membership Drive on the National website at (www.aspenational.org/).
The Board discussed the ideas of Educational Dinner Meeting topics and speakers for the rest of the year and next year. The Programs Committee recommended having the field trip at The Ranch Project next fall, the speaker on new estimating technology about “GPS infrastructure project management technologies” in the fall and because of the July meeting being close to Independence Day and the ASPE Convention the July and August dinner meetings will be dark.

Be sure to invite your golf friends to the Aliso Viejo Country Club for the ASPE Chapter 3 Monday June 25, 2012 Golf Tournament. It is a first class private course worth playing at least once in your golfing career so be there, besides Steve always prepares a great tournament with lots of prizes and fun. The event is a major source of funding for educational events and scholarships at local colleges and in the future even high schools.

The 11th hour bid day simulation event will be held this fall and be sponsored by this Chapter as next year’s Academy event. Past President Mike Mills agreed to chair the committee is going forward with the event by soliciting 6 General Contractors to jointly sponsor and participate at various levels at the event. Chapter wide participation is imperative in bringing these events together and getting the word out of these events out to the public.

Again, all of the funds earned from the efforts of the Chapter are used to increase the 2011-2012 scholarship funds and to educate and serve its members.

Gregory R. Clayton, CPE
President/Secretary
Thoughts or Suggestions?

We are looking for your ideas and input regarding our newsletter and dinner programs. Do you have an idea for an upcoming dinner meeting? Would you like to be a presenter at one of our dinner meetings? Is there a topic of discussion that we should write an article about? Would you like to be a contributor to our newsletter?

Please contact ChiaYen Yuan at ChiaYen.Yuan@fgould.com.

Membership

Applications for membership can be downloaded from the national website- www.aspenational.org, or on our local website- www.aspechapter3.org. For more information, contact Greg Clayton at gclayton@4cei.com.

ASPE ORANGE COUNTY#3 GOLF EVENT MONDAY, JUNE 25, 2012

Aliso Viejo Country Club at 33 Santa Barbara, Aliso Viejo off the 73 Tollway at Pacific Park/Glenwood, turn left to Golf Drive and turn left and follow into the course; 949-783-9686; www.alisogolf.com

11:00AM Registration

12:30PM Shotgun start in Scramble Format, Lunch served and Italian Buffet dinner to follow

Goodie Bag to all Players

Mulligan Package Available

Raffle Tickets for Fabulous Prizes

HOLE-IN-ONE on any of the four Par-3’s pays $5,000

Same player’s fee as last year at $145 per player

Sponsorship Opportunities available; contact Steve Murow at 714-932-9992
Advertising Opportunities

If you would like to advertise with us, contact ChiaYen Yuan at chiayen.yuan@fgould.com

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COMPANY MEMBER REPRESENTATIVES

Our chapter Facebook account is up & running—ASPE Chapter 3, Orange County—we have added a few friends from last month and we need more! If you have an account, look us up, so you can follow our status for upcoming events!

Canon #1
Professional Estimators shall perform services in areas of their discipline and competence.

Canon #2
Professional Estimators shall continue to expand their professional capabilities through continuing education programs to better enable them to better serve their clients, employers and the industry.

Canon #3
Professional Estimators shall conduct themselves in a manner, which will promote cooperation and good relations among members of our profession and those directly related to our profession.

Canon #4
Professional Estimators shall safeguard and keep in confidence all knowledge of the business affairs and technical procedures of an employer of client.

Canon #5
Professional Estimators shall conduct themselves with integrity at all times and not knowingly or willingly enter into agreements that violate the laws of the United States of America or of the states in which they practice.

Canon #6
Professional Estimators shall utilize their education, years of experience and acquired skills in the preparation of each estimate or assignment with full commitment to make each estimate or assignment as detailed and accurate as their talents and abilities allow.

Canon #7
Professional Estimators shall not engage in the practices of "bid peddling" as defined by this code. This is a breach of moral and ethical standards, and a member of this society shall not enter into this practice.

Canon #8
Professional Estimators and those in training to be estimators shall not enter into any agreement that may considered acts of collusion or conspiracy (bid rigging) with the implied or expressed purpose of defrauding clients. Acts of this type are in direct violation of the Code of Ethics of the American Society of Professional Estimator.

Canon #9
Professional Estimators and those in training to be estimators shall not participate in acts, such as the giving or receiving of gifts, that are intended to be or may be construed as being unlawful acts of bribery.
We need your help! Anyone who is interested in serving on a committee for the OC chapter, please contact Greg Clayton at gclayton@4cei.com for more information. This is a great way to give back to ASPE both personally and professionally. We encourage you to attend a board meeting to see what it’s all about. We meet every other month in a physical location and all ASPE members are welcome to attend.

We look forward to seeing you at this month’s dinner meeting.

Do you Tweet? With the advent of all of the social networking going on I figured we should be keeping up with the technology. For those of you not in the know, Twitter is a website that allows postings, called tweets, of no more than 144 keystrokes (yes, spaces count). With Twitter you can find individuals such as ASPE’s national Executive Director (ASPENatExecDir), other chapters (ASPE12Reno or ASPE51SLCUtah), construction related organizations such as NAWIC, MC2, or McGraw Hill.

I intend on finding links to individuals and organizations that may be of interest to our membership. If you find an organization that you think would be of interest to our chapter membership let me know. Just post a tweet to ASPE3OrangeCty and I’ll be sure to link us to the account.

Do you have insights to pass on to our membership regarding the construction industry in Orange County? With a Twitter account you can pass them along quickly. After all, how long can it take to type 144 characters? See a website or blog you think may be of interest, post the link with one tweet and the whole chapter can see it too.

Try it out. Even if you never post anything, you can follow the postings of whoever you may find interesting. Hopefully, one of those will be ASPE3OrangeCty.

Thank you for reading ASPE OC Chapter3.
If you would like to advertise with us, contact

**ChiaYen Yuan** at
chiayen.yuan@fgould.com