Letter from the President

“WELCOME TO ASPE - Dedicated to the promotion of the profession of estimating and to the benefit of the construction industry.

The American Society of Professional Estimators serves construction estimators by providing education, fellowship, and opportunity for professional development. Education, Ethics, Standards, Certification, Fellowship...these lead to the ultimate goal Professionalism. We think you’ll agree...If all estimators were more professional, budget and other problems of the construction industry would be greatly reduced.”

Does this sound familiar? It should. This is on the main page of the Society website and the core of our belief system. It is one of the many reasons that I joined and remain a member. We all have different reasons for joining. What is yours? Why do you continue to renew? What would you tell someone else about the benefits and why they should join? Why do I ask all these questions? Simple. We are all a part of the Membership Committee and if we value what ASPE has to offer we should be telling everyone why they should join!

I would like to share a bit of my story with you. In 1998 I met Patsy Smith in China as part of a NAWIC delegation, invited by the China Women’s Association for Science and Technology. In 2004 while attending the NAWIC annual meeting in New York I noticed that she was working for the American Society of Professional Estimators (our Executive Director). I asked about the Society since I had been an estimator for some time. I was interested, but knew that there was not a local chapter in Bakersfield where I was living at the time. She mentioned some of the benefits and encouraged me to join as a Member-At-Large. Afterwards on the website I learned about the Certification Program and knew I had to sign up. I applied for acceptance into the program, got started right away and earned my CPE the following July. While I did not have monthly chapter meetings to attend I did take advantage of the Regional and National meetings. When I moved to Las Vegas I became involved with the local chapter and discovered more benefits. In 2011 I returned to California and joined the Orange County Chapter. It is interesting to experience the difference between the chapters and to have met so many different people who are my peers in the construction industry. I know that they are available if I have questions and we are mutually supportive in many ways.
Congratulations

On behalf of the ASPE, the Society Business Office and Orange County Chapter #3 we wish to extend congratulations to the following recipients of the ASPE service/tenure pins. Your dedication and continued support of ASPE and the Orange County Chapter are appreciated!

Carri Morones, CPE 10 years  
Ronald Svarc, LCPE 20 Years  
Ronald Fedman 20 Years  
James Freund, CPE 15 Years  
Art Quinion, CPE 20 Years  
Surinder Kanda 25 Years
Board of Directors:

President:
Carri Morones, CPE

1st Vice President:
Scott Porterfield, E

2nd Vice President:
Vacant

Past President:
Steve Murow, E

Secretary/Treasurer:
Erica Passavanti

Certification Chair:
Ron Svarc, LCPE

Directors:
Dan Schottlander, CPE
Wil Beukman, CPE
Mike Mills, E
Tom Smithson E
Ron Svarc, LCPE

Job Walk

Educational Opportunities

Most of us are aware of the Certified Professional Estimator (CPE) program that ASPE offers, but did you know that ASPE also offers other educational opportunities? There are several Estimating Training Certificates as well. Some are available anytime and some only during specific dates. There is a variety of topics available to members and nonmembers. One of the benefits of membership is the discount we receive on registration.

The next cycle for Certified Professional Estimator has a deadline of July 10 to submit your professional evaluation application and fees. Additional information is available on line at www.aspenational.org. Don’t wait until the last minute – now is the perfect time to begin!

Please note that we are looking for members who have received their CPE to proctor the exams for future applicants. Please contact Ron Svarc at kicker-ron@gmail.com if you are interested.

Certified Professional Estimators must renew their certification every 3 years. Be sure to check the web site for updated requirements. See “The Growth Coach” presentation along with the audio for more information.
National Partnerships

ASPE and NAWIC (National Association of Women in Construction) have a National Partnership. The local Orange County Chapter has some great educational programs at their monthly meetings held on the 4th Tuesday each month at the Embassy Suites in Anaheim (3100 East Frontera Street). This year’s topic is: “NAWIC Builds... From the Ground Up – A Construction Education Series.” NAWIC meetings are open to men and women, members and nonmembers. Register at www.nawicoc.org by the Tuesday before.

March 19, 2015  The Grand Pour – A Behind the Scenes Look
April 28, 2015  MEP – Utilizing BIM
May 26, 2015  LEED & Green Building
June 16, 2015  Construction Claims
July 28, 2015  New Technologies in Interior Finishes
August 25, 2015  Exterior Finishes

September 22, 2015  Landscape, Hardscape, Erosion Control

Cupertino Electric recently donated $60,000 USD to Feed the Children (www.feedthechildren.org), following a video-based social media competition in honor of the company’s 60th anniversary. Feed the Children was chosen by Cupertino Electric employees from 40 nonprofit organizations that entered the $60K Nonprofit Giveaway with personalized video submissions. On January 29, 2015, Southern California VP of Operations Jeremy Camper and Philanthropy Committee Member Debbie Alvarez delivered the news and the check from Cupertino Electric to Feed the Children’s distribution center team in Ontario, California.

With a mission of providing hope and resources to those without life’s essentials, Feed the Children is one of the largest charities based in the United States. With Cupertino Electric’s $60,000 donation, Feed the Children will provide 3,000 homeless children in Southern California with backpacks filled with school and personal-hygiene supplies. For more information, visit: www.cei.com/about-cei/media-room.

Member Mingle:

Carri Morones, CPE, CIT

This month the spotlight is on Carri Morones, CPE, CIT who recently stepped in as our Chapter President. Carri began her career in the construction industry in the early 1980’s and has continued to work almost exclusively for electrical contractors ever since. Her most interesting projects include estimating the Los Angeles Convention Center Expansion and working as part of a project team on the Metro Red Line Hollywood & Vine and North Hollywood stations. In the late 90’s Carri headed to Bakersfield working as an estimator and project manager for 10 years. The highlight of her career so far is when she moved to Las Vegas in 2006 and was a project manager on the Cosmopolitan Resort Hotel and Casino. Carri returned to Southern California in 2011 and now works as a Sr. Estimator for Cupertino Electric, Inc.

In her spare time Carri enjoys volunteering as an usher at the La Mirada Theatre and sings in her church choir. She is active in her high school alumni group and is also a member of the Orange County Chapter of the National Association of Women in Construction (NAWIC). Carri has 1 son who is an electrician in Bakersfield and 2 grandsons.