Letter from the President

Welcome to a new ASPE business year!

So much has happened since our last meeting including 2015 Annual Meeting & Estimators Summit (AMES) in San Diego and our Chapter Planning Retreat. Highlights of AMES are discussed elsewhere in this edition and more in October. Director and Certification Chair Ron Svarc, CPE will be covering the educational presentations in more detail.

The program was different this year with 4 speakers per day Thursday and Friday. The morning sessions repeated in the afternoon so we were able to attend all 8 sessions. It was nice not having to pick and choose, often missing out on something because there were two programs at the same time. The format was such a success it will be repeated next year. Speaking of which, it is not too early to start planning for 2016 Annual Meeting & Estimators Summit in Tampa, Florida. The dates have been set for July 14 - 17, 2016. More information will be available soon.

Once again the Southwest Region (of which our Chapter is a member) and the Northwest Region have joined together to plan the Fall Regional Conference in Seattle October 2 - 3, 2015. That is right around the corner. If you are planning to attend book your flight to arrive in time for the welcome on Thursday evening. Friday will start early with a full day of educational programs and Saturday will be a 1/2 day (ending at 2:00 pm) of ASPE business and a focus on the Chapters. The Seattle Chapter has done a great job setting this up! More information will be available right after the first of September and will be sent out. Hotel and registration information is included herein.

Continued

“In Professional Estimators and those in training shall conduct themselves with integrity at all times and not knowingly or willingly enter into agreements that violate the laws of the USA or the states in which they practice. They shall establish guidelines for setting forth prices and receiving quotations that are fair and equitable to all parties”

- Canon # 5

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During our Chapter Planning Retreat we laid out the basics for this year’s speakers and committees. We are still in need of committee chairs, co-chairs and members. I will include a listing of the committees and our new chairs so you can see what is available. If you see something that interests you reach out directly or send me an email for more information. We are in the process of finalizing some great educational speaker programs for our monthly meetings. Your input is important to help us put together topics that you are interested in. If you would like to be a speaker or if you know of or have heard someone who is a good presenter please let us know. Even a topic of interest is welcome.

On a personal note I am happy to announce that I was recently promoted to Assistant Chief Estimator at Cupertino Electric, Inc. In addition we have just moved to our new office in Whittier. The phone numbers remain the same.

Be sure to read this month’s Orange Speel newsletter for more information. Make plans to join us on September 9th for the first meeting of the 2015-2016 year. Invite a co-worker or customer and help us get the word out on the benefits of ASPE membership.

Until next month,

Carri

Recap of Annual Meeting & Estimators Summit 2015 in San Diego

This year’s format changed with the elimination of the “Estimating Academy” and incorporating the educational programs into the Annual Meeting. The speakers were top notch and there was plenty of opportunity to learn about new products from the sponsors and network with fellow estimators. Despite the difficulty to put together programs that appeal to such a broad range of interests and disciplines as are represented at our Annual Meetings the Society Business Office delivered! Patsy, Tanya and Tina again came through! Since our October educational program will go more into depth on some of the topics discussed this will only serve as an overview and perhaps a "teaser" so you will want to plan to attend the October meeting and next year’s AMES in Tampa.

One of the first presentations was on "Forecasted vs Actual Costs for Code Compliance for Hospitals" (Paul Coleman - Deputy Director, California Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development). This had information about OSHPD and was a great presentation. It is interesting to learn how the code changes following major earthquakes and especially as it relates to hospitals. As a result of the extensive damage caused in past events codes are revised to prevent or minimize future problems.

Continued
"Change Orders and Claims: How to Win Defective Documents, Conflicts, Omissions and Ambiguities Every Time"

The June 10 meeting featured Anwar Hafeez is the president and founder of SDC & Associates, Inc. and a nationally known and respected engineer and construction project manager.

ASPE National Website

The new website has been on line since mid-June. Have you taken the time to log in and check it out? Not only is it a good resource it has other features such as “instant chatting” and email between members. The National calendar lists upcoming events and classes available. The online rosters are always up to date – that is if you have updated your personal information. One of the many benefits of ASPE membership is networking and sharing information. If you have not updated your profile it will not be possible for others to reach out to you. Several of our members have consulting businesses that depend on referrals for business, yet their contact information is not on line or it is not correct. Make this a priority. It only takes a few minutes.

RECAP Continued

Some of the complications after an earthquake are logical when you think about them, but I never really considered them, including the fact that evacuating the seriously ill can be fatal and patients are exposed to additional risks and injuries. Issues with contagious disease, negative pressure, positive pressure, immune depressant patients, and critical equipment that needs to remain operational, such as life support. When you stop to consider the many different needs of a hospital it is no wonder they are so expensive and complex. Expect to see a 2016 code out soon. There will be many changes in the hospital industry in the future, some as a result of the new healthcare mandates and more modern approaches such as "video visits".

Another great presentation was "Design-Build Best Practices for Estimators" (Greg Gidez, AIA - Director of Preconstruction, Hensel Phelps). It was interesting to get a GC point of view on some of the challenges faced in bidding Design-Build work. So much content was delivered it is difficult to even provide a condensed version to recap. Another presentation covered "Estimating and Managing Higher Ed/K-12 Construction Costs", in another we learned more about being an expert witness and in another how working with the different generations in today's workplace can make for a very positive work environment.

I hope you will consider attending 2016 Annual Meeting and Estimators Summit. It is certainly a great investment of your time and a great value. Don't discount the importance and benefits of the relationships that are made and nurtured at each one of our ASPE events. We certainly see it on the Chapter level and it is multiplied as you expand into the Regional and National level. Make the most of your ASPE membership. There are a lot of benefits that some people never take advantage of.

Chapter Newsletter Articles

We are always looking for articles for the Orange Speel newsletter. These can be information or technical in nature. Share a recap of a program/seminar attended, estimating tips, articles on ethics, or other construction/estimating related items. The deadline for submittal is the Friday following our membership meeting. Any arriving after that will be considered for the next month. Items can be sent to Will Beukman at wbeukman@cox.net.

Reminders:

Verify your information is correct on the National website.

CPE Proctors are needed for testing.

Contact:

Ron Svarc at kickerron@gmail.com
New Board of Directors
[2015/2016]:

President:
Carri Morones, CPE

1st Vice President:
Scott Porterfield, E

2nd Vice President:
Kevin Murphy CPE

Past President:
Steve Murow, E

Secretary:
Andy Heffel E

Treasurer:
Asoka Sellahewa CPE

Certification Chair:
Ron Svarc, LCPE

Membership Chair:
Kevin Murphy CPE

Directors:
Ron Svarc, LCPE
Wil Beukman, CPE
Tom Smithson E

Chapter Committees – Help Wanted!

We are still looking for Chairs, Co-Chairs and Committee Members. Please let Carri Morones know if you have an interest or if you need more information. The current Chairs and Co-Chairs are listed if applicable. They can always use more help if this is something you would like to be involved with.

Awards – Scott Porterfield and Bryan Barker.

By-Laws – Kevin Murphy, CPE

Certification – Ron Svarc, CPE

College or University – Open
Liaison between our Chapter and College/University with Construction/Engineering Programs

Chapter Historian – Wil Beukman, CPE

Education – Open
Develop and present educational programs 1 or 2 times per year.

Finances – Asoka Sellahewa, CPE

Hospitality – Tom Smithson, Scott Porterfield and Bryan Barker

Membership – Kevin Murphy, CPE and Scott Porterfield

Newsletter – Wil Beukman, CPE

Programs – Tom Smithson

Publicity – Open
Promote ASPE

Website – Open
We currently outsource the development and maintenance, but need a liaison to make sure it is up to date and relevant. We also need someone who can go through the current website and make sure all of the links are still working.

Fundraising Ideas?

Have you participated in or heard of any great, fun or interesting fundraising ideas? We would love to hear them! What do you like to do? Can we turn that into a money making event? Bowling? Miniature golf? Casino night? Perhaps you know of a place that will help us put something together?
National Partnerships

About RICS: RICS is the world’s leading qualification when it comes to professional standards in land, property and construction. In a world where more and more people, governments, banks and commercial organizations demand greater certainty of professional standards and ethics, attaining RICS status is the recognized mark of property professionalism.

112,000 professionals worldwide have already recognized the importance of securing RICS status by becoming members. Members are recognized by the designation after their name - FRICS (for Fellow of RICS) or MRICS (for Member of RICS).

Member Mingle:

Asoka Sellahewa, CPE

This month the spot light is on Asoka Sellahewa, the treasurer of the OC Chapter.

Asoka Sellahewa is the Principal of EQS Consultants, Inc. He has over 30 years of experience providing professional construction management support services as a Quantity Surveyor / Estimator in the Middle East, East Asia and in the USA. Asoka holds a Diploma in Civil Engineering from the University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka and a Diploma in Quantity Surveying from the College of Estate Management, England. Asoka is a Certified Professional Estimator since 2000. His areas of expertise include benchmarking, cost modeling, conceptual estimating, design phase estimating and value engineering. He has worked on numerous prestigious projects, including UCLA Medical Center in Los Angeles, Stanford Hospital & Clinics in Palo Alto, McCarran Airport Terminal 3 in Las Vegas and most recently Shanghai Disneyland in China.

Asoka grew up in Sri Lanka and is active in his high school alumni group in the USA and in Sri Lankan community in Los Angeles. He loves to travel and is a cricket fan and supporter of Sri Lanka cricket team. Asoka has one daughter who is a sophomore of Irvine High School.