



October, 2012

CHAPTER 7 – NEWSLETTER

“DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF THE PROFESSION OF ESTIMATING AND TO THE BENEFIT OF THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY”

Last Meeting’s Recap

Our 2012-2013 meetings began with a presentation by Melissa Roberts from Euclid Insurance Agencies. Melissa covered General Contractor’s Risk Management. Thanks to Melissa for the presentation and thanks to Tom McGing for setting it up.

Please join us at our next meeting:

When: October 18th, 2012

Where: Brio Tuscan Grille
330 Yorktown Center.
Lombard, IL 60148

Topic: Elevator Estimating presented by
Otis Elevator.

Refer to attached meeting invitation for
more details. . . .



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MESSAGE FROM CHAPTER PRESIDENT

Hello ASPE Chicago Chapter:

The Chicago chapter is going to be switching their meetings to Brio for the 2012-2013 meetings. We have one meeting in November that will be held at Anyway's but the balance of the meetings (October and January -May) will be at Brio. October's meeting will be regarding "Elevator Estimating" - Presented by Otis Elevator. November's meeting will be regarding "Estimating in the Canadian Oil Field" - Presented by Chris Kinney. We will take a break for December and continue our meetings in January.

There are three members of the Chicago Chapter (Mel Cowen, Bryan Mixer and Jim Rogers - All CPE's) going to the regional meeting in Cincinnati on Saturday. Bryan will be giving a brief update about our chapter. There are 15 chapters that make up the Central Plains (CP) Chapter and they are: Chicago, Detroit, St. Louis Metro, Columbus, Cleveland, Kansas City, Omaha, Cincinnati-Dayton, Minneapolis-St. Paul, Indianapolis, Ft. Wayne, Grand Rapids, Davenport-Moline, Des Moines and Milwaukee.

Thank you,

Marvin Fitzwater II, CPE



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“Remembering Your Canons”

Canon # 7 – Professional estimators shall not engage in the practice of “Bid Peddling” as defined by this code. This is a breach of moral and ethical standards, and this practice shall not be entered into by a member of this Society.

Connect with us on Linked in!
Chicagoland Estimators Group – This is our local ASPE group created by Chapter 7 member and CPE, Luke Hosty.

It’s a great way to stay connected with fellow ASPE members and estimators alike.

“Monthly Estimating Tip”

This month’s tip comes from Bryan Mixer. A possible monthly estimating tip is the not shown hoist beam for the elevator, and steel supports for ceiling mounted toilet partitions and folding/moveable partitions. The structure is almost never shown, but is required for the project.



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CERTIFICATION

Two Certificates and pins were passed out at the September 20th meeting - one each to Derek McLoughlin, CPE, and Seamus Wallace, CPE. Congratulations to both. They are the 18th and 19th (or is it 19th and 18th?) Certified Professional Estimators in the Chicago Chapter. Congratulations to both, you have earned it.

In addition, we will be awarding the 20th Certificate at the October meeting to Josh Houston, CPE. Please come to the meeting and be a witness to this historic event.

While the Chapter has one member in process this cycle, the next cycle will begin in January. The program consists of the application, a workshop, a 2,500 word paper on “How to Estimate the Cost of _____”, a four hour test covering General Estimating (known as the GEK), an eight hour test for the specific discipline you wish to be certified in (known as the DST). If you have at least five years of estimating experience, and are interested in getting certified, please contact Bryan Mixer, CPE (bmixer_rvc@msn.com or 312-242-4171) or any CPE in the Chapter for more information.





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NOTES FROM THE FALL REGIONAL – BRYAN MIXER, CPE

The Fall 2012 Regional for the Central Plains Region of the American Society of Professional Estimators (wow, what a mouthful) met in Columbus, Ohio the weekend of October 5-7. Chapter 27 (Buckeye) hosted the event, and did a wonderful job.

Three members of Chapter 7 attended – Mel Cowen, CPE, Jim Rogers, CPE, and Bryan Mixer, CPE.

Friday evening's activities were limited to an informal dinner at the Champ's restaurant in Columbus. Lively and spirited conversations were scattered around the table, leading to new ideas and options for each chapter.

Saturday included breakfast, then the morning business meeting, which began with the Pledge of Allegiance and introductions. Without going item by item from the agenda, the high points were:

The SBO would be holding funds from chapters that are not in compliance, or making strides to be in compliance, with the IRS rules. Chapter 7 is mostly in compliance, and is working to complete the requirements.

The Certification Rep announced that the testing for CPE status will be done online in 2013, but not sure if it will be in time for the Spring Cycle.

Two people present announced their intention to run for Governor in April – Del Farley II of the Cincinnati chapter, and our own Mel Cowen, CPE.

The Sustainability Rep announced that the committee is developing credits and credit information for LEED projects to help achieve certification. More information to follow as the information gets vetted.

The region is trying to start chapters in Springfield, MO as well as Iowa City/Cedar Rapids in IA, Wichita, KS, and Louisville, KY.

Christian Lutz, the Associate Director of ASPE was in attendance, and mentioned that the magazine we all receive "The Estimator" will be 100% digital from now on, a move that is expected to save between \$ 50,000 to \$60,000 per year. Also, the membership directory will now be in an 8-1/2" x 11" format, with instructions on how access the membership list from the website; advertisements, consultants, and other associations will be the only things in the new "hard copy". This change is for two reasons – first, the directory is out of date as soon as it gets bound – people changing jobs, moving, changing classifications all led to part of the change, as does the saving of an additional \$15,000 to \$25,000 annually. In addition, this makes it harder for a recruiter to get a directory without paying to join the organization.



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NOTES FROM THE FALL REGIONAL, CONTINUED.....

After lunch, the afternoon session was lead by attorney Christopher McCloskey of Bricker & Eckler in Columbus who walked us through two different projects where the estimate was the key point of the case. In the first case, two clauses in the bidding documents contradicted each other as to which prime contract would be responsible for a portion of the work; the second was about what constitutes bid shopping, and can a subcontractor refuse to honor a sub-quote if it has been shopped. This case is relatively new, and the precedent is in the state of Ohio, but the court has stated that if a subcontractor has it's number and scope "shopped", they can walk away with no liability, leaving the GC liable for making up the difference in the bid. DO NOT TAKE THIS AS LEGAL ADVICE, but talk to your attorney about this should the situation arise. While the court did not say that bid shopping is illegal, the GC cannot expect the sub to accept it without recourse. Interesting, especially if this becomes common tactic for the low sub in the future.

The Spring Regional will be in Des Moines, IA in March. More details will be forthcoming, as the exact location and date have not been finalized. The 2013 Convention will be in Philadelphia, 2014 will be in Indianapolis, and 2015 will be in San Diego. Registration information for Philly will be on the national website soon.

Please send your suggestions to John Salazar, CPE at salazarjj34@yahoo.com