



The Society of Cost Estimating and Analysis

The Dayton Coster Greater Dayton Chapter

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2007 - 2008 DAYTON CHAPTER

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President's Message: Ed Weeks

As the new President of the Dayton SCEA chapter, I am excited about the opportunity to serve our Chapter as well as the cost professionals in the Dayton Community. My goal this year is simple. Increase participation at our monthly meetings and mixers through a combination of guest speakers and news that the Cost Community can use. As an example, check out this newsletter for information on the upcoming changes in our certification testing process.

You will continue to see chapter newsletters, quarterly luncheon meetings, sprinkled with a few other 'fun' events to round out the year. If you have any articles, photos or news items to contribute to the Dayton Coster, please send them to me or Amy Smith – your contributions will strengthen our newsletter, and will certainly add interest for our readers.

While our cost community has shrunk over the past decade Air Force leadership has take several exciting steps that will allow our profession to again grow. The Director of Cost and Economics for the Air Force recently added over 100 cost positions to the Air Force's manpower roster to grow the Air Force's cost capability. Additionally, HQ AFMC has secured another 65 plus positions that begin to appear on the Air Forces manpower rolls this year. These positions will be spread across the Product Centers and the ALCs. These additions are a realization of the vital roll cost estimators play in the decision making process of multiple billion dollar programs.

Additionally, I would like to hear from you our membership in how we can make your SCEA chapter better. What improvements you would

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Upcoming Chapter Events

Membership MixerMid-November
 Adopt-a-Family Charity EventMid-December
 Bowl-for-Kids' Sake.....March 2008
 LuncheonTBD

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President's Message (continued)

like to see the chapter make, are there particular guest speakers you would like to hear from, etc. Please e-mail me directly, at weeks_ed@bah.com. I promise to work with the SCEA Dayton board members to put your suggestions for improvement into action.

I would also like to personally welcome Ross Jackson, of the Aeronautical System Center, as the chapter's new Vice President. Ross will bring energy and enthusiasm to his position and will be a real asset to our organization.

I look forward to seeing you at our next SCEA luncheon or mixer and hope that you will find your association with SCEA as rewarding as I do.

Spotlight: Mr. Eric Nardi



My name is Eric Nardi and I am this year's Charity board member. This will be my first year of being involved with SCEA.

I have been working for the government for about two and a half years. I was first assigned to the 655th Aeronautical Systems Squadron (Commercial Derivatives) as a co-op student while working on my undergraduate degree at Wright State University (WSU). Following graduation with a BS in Accounting and Management Information Systems in November 2006, I began my first ASC/FM trainee rotation in the 654th Aeronautical Systems Squadron (LAIRCM). In addition, I am enrolled in WSU's Master of Accountancy program. My community involvement also entails spending time once a week with an under-privileged child in the Miami Valley's Big Brother/Big Sister program.

When I am not working or studying, I enjoy spending time outdoors and working on my home. I am an avid sea kayaker and fisherman, and love to explore new waters.

I am really looking forward to working with SCEA and its charitable involvement within the surrounding community. If you have any ideas for improving the positive impact we have on those in need, please get in touch with me.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Ways and Means Update

By
Scott Boyd

We are planning several fundraising activities that will keep our chapter financially healthy. The Krispy Kreme donut sale last year was an easy, straightforward way to raise money. Once a quarter, beginning in October we'll hold a donut sale from 0700- until they are gone. Currently planned locations include the acquisition complex at ASC, and at the HQ AFMC building. We need members to help identify other places to hold sales. The City Bar-B-Que near the Fairfield mall sponsors fund raising activities as well, and 25% of our purchases on a given day are refunded to our chapter for fundraising. This is a good way to have a nice lunch, network, and raise some funds all at the same time. More details to follow.

Synopsis of Board Meeting Minutes

By
Ryan Rueve

The Greater Dayton Chapter held two board meetings this past quarter. Meetings are typically held on the second Tuesday of each month and last about an hour. Here are some highlights of topics discussed and issues being worked by the Board:

- The Board is working to improve the diversity of speakers at monthly luncheons. Speakers with backgrounds in program management, business management, contracting, financial management, and cost estimating are being sought for upcoming luncheons. If members have additional suggestions on topics they would like to hear, or other ideas on how to improve the quality of the SCEA luncheons, please send an email to the Director of Programs, Greg DeBusk, at gregory.debusk@wpafb.af.mil.

- The Board President, Mr. Ed Weeks, would like to increase member involvement in the Greater Dayton SCEA Chapter and welcomes any ideas to enhance the value of the organization to members. Please feel free to contact Mr. Weeks at weeks_ed@bah.com if you have ideas on how the Chapter can better serve the cost estimating community in the Dayton area.

- Eric Nardi joined the Board as assistant to the Director of Charity Events. Eric works in the LAIRCM program (654 AESS) and will be assisting Janet Marshall with organizing, advertising, and executing charity events. Members should send charity event ideas to either Eric at eric.nardi@wpafb.af.mil or Janet at janet.marshall@wpafb.af.mil.

- The Chapter held a membership mixer at the Quaker, Steak, & Lube restaurant on Thursday, 20 Sep. Attendance was lower than expected at this luncheon due to the short notice provided to members. Future events will be scheduled and advertised well in advance of the event.

That's it for last quarter. If there is a topic you think the Board should be discussing, please let me know and I will put it on the agenda for one of the upcoming Board meetings. You can contact me at ryan.rueve@wpafb.af.mil.

SCEA CCE/A Certification By Jeremy Mitchell

Local SCEA Certified Cost Estimator/Analyst (CCE/A) Certification Exam Opportunities Available:

The National SCEA office allows local SCEA chapters to host examinations in April, June, and November. Each local SCEA chapter can hold an examination when the following three conditions exist:

- 1) a qualified proctor is available to host the exam
- 2) a room available on the exam date for five hours with enough tables and chairs to accommodate “every other” seating
- 3) one or more enthusiastic, qualifiable examinees

As Director of Education for the Greater Dayton Chapter, I will ensure that conditions #1 and #2 are met. If you are interested in taking the exam, please ensure that you have met all of the requirements listed at www.sceaonline.org/certification/certification.cfm and contact me via email at jeremy.mitchell@wpafb.af.mil. The National Office must be notified that all three conditions are met two months prior to the examination date for administration purposes.

If you need additional information on the exam, certification process, or test tips, please do not hesitate to contact me.

New Certification Program In Works By Ed Weeks

At the [annual](#) SCEA-ISPA Conference held last [June](#) in New Orleans, the SCEA Board of Directors unanimously endorsed a plan to revamp the certification program and has targeted the summer of 2008 for its implementation. Up until this time the old certification exam will continue to be used.

A major reason for strengthening the exam is that over the past several years concerns have been raised by government, commercial, and academic employers that the CCEA designation does not sufficiently assure the competency of the individual to develop a credible cost estimate. To remedy these concerns, and subsequently make holders of the CCEA more desirable to employers, SCEA is reengineering the Certification Program.

Listed below are the key points of the new certification program:

Increased work experience requirements – (from 2 to 5 years) to recognize the value of on-the-job experience and to correct perceived deficiencies that applicants can ‘test-out’ without ever having worked on generating a cost estimate.

Revised test questions – to test more directly against the new Cost Estimating Body of Knowledge (CEBoK) and assure test questions are relevant, accurate, and consistent with current training and reference materials.

Improved testing instrument – to include a case study or practicum segment wherein applicants will be rewarded for their ability to synthesize responses from multiple learning sources and reduce the amount

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New Certification Program In Works (Continued)

of rote or regurgitative responses.

Realigned renewal (recertification) standards – to better motivate, reward and balance active participation in hands-on cost estimating work, professional development, and cost community service activities.

Grandfathering of current CCEA – to assure no one's professional designation or standing in the community is diminished as a result of our actions.

Additionally, SCEA is pursuing the development of ***optional specialization examinations*** that can be taken at the option of the individual. These specialty designations will benefit the holder in two ways:

It recognizes subject matter expertise in a particular functional area (e.g., parametrics or software estimating) or market area (e.g., Dept. of Defense or Intelligence community cost analysis standards) that can make the designee more attractive to employers; and

It makes recognition and potential reciprocity from sister organizations (including government training entities) easier to achieve.

Stay tuned for more information about the certification process from our National office in the coming months.

A Message from the Vice President on Active-Engagement
By
Ross Jackson

Since this message to the organization is from the Vice Presidential perspective it is perhaps appropriate that its inspiration is drawn from the 1992 Vice Presidential debate. In that debate James Stockdale (Ross Perot's running mate) posited what might be considered the most profoundly existential utterance in American politics, when he asked, "Who am I? Why am I here?" (MacNeil/Lehrer Productions, 2000). As I think about this existential concern and our local chapter of SCEA two questions emerge, "why does SCEA exist?" and perhaps more importantly from a self-awareness perspective, "why am I a member of SCEA?" The answers to these two questions and a tracing-out of one potential implication of these answers are the focus of this brief message.

The answer to the first question, "why does SCEA exist?" is relatively easy to answer. According to the purpose statement of SCEA, the organization exists, "to further the effectiveness and efficiency of cost estimating and analysis and related disciplines in the public and private sectors" (SCEA, n.d.). In a more general reduction of this statement, one might claim that SCEA exists to improve the art of cost estimating. Since there are many issues and concerns with the current state-of-the-art of cost estimating, there are many opportunities and many different ways one could improve the "effectiveness and efficiency" of cost estimating. A little more will be said about this at the conclusion of this message. Before that concern can be addressed, the second question should be answered (if only provisionally).

Unlike the relatively straight forward answer for question one, the second question, "why am I a member of SCEA?" is less amenable to easy answers. This line of questioning is further complicated when one generalizes the question to "why would one become a member of SCEA?" William Reddy (2001) notes that, "the logic of action is serendipitous and combinative" (p. 11). What this means in a more common parlance is that there are often more than one reason behind an action (i.e., combinative), and that there is an element of randomness associated with the timing of an individual decision (i.e., serendipitous). In addressing the potential combination of factors leading to one joining this organization one would likely need to address several psychological, sociological, and professional drives. Rigorously addressing these drives is certainly beyond the scope of this message. While these complex motivations are acknowledged as essential, these multiple drives are grossly aggregated into the following assumption: people likely join SCEA as a means of fulfilling some desired end. These ends may range the spectrum from simply being a "card-carrying member" to actively improving the discipline. It is the active-engagement type of end which represents the call-to-action of this message.

As the Vice President, I would like to call you toward a more active-engagement with your society. How you decide to express this active-engagement is up to you. There are many opportunities (e.g., community/charity involvement, social events, publications, etc.) where you can contribute your talents. Within this organization there is certainly room for you to find the creative-space necessary for an authentic expression of the unique contribution you can make in cost estimating. It is perhaps the case that through your active-engagement in the society you will be able to create a meaningful answer to the question "why am I a member of SCEA?"

References:

MacNeil/Lehrer Productions. (2000). *Debating Our Destiny: The 1992 Vice Presidential debate*. (1992, October 13). PBS [Online]. Retrieved October 11, 2007, from <http://www.pbs.org/newshour/debatingourdestiny/92debates/vp1.html>

Reddy, W. M. (2001). The logic of action: Indeterminacy, emotion, and historical narrative. *History and Theory, Theme Issue 40*, 10-33.

SCEA (n.d.). The Society of Cost Estimating and Analysis. Retrieved October 11, 2007, from <http://www.sceaonline.net/>

SCEA 2007 National Conference Photos



Jeremy Mitchell, Ed Weeks, Jim Otte, Damian Gainer, and David Krueger at this year's SCEA National Conference in New Orleans



Greater Dayton Chapter's Jim Otte presenting "A Process for Mapping COCOMO Input Parameters to True S Input Parameters"



The Dayton Coster
Greater Dayton Chapter

If you have comments, ideas, or are interested in contributing an article to "The Dayton Coster", please direct them to Amy Smith at Amy.Smith4@wpafb.af.mil.