

Washington Capital Area Chapter

Washington Capital Area Chapter, ICEAA



President's Message

David Stem, Chapter President



International Cost Estimating and Analysis Association

As always, summer brings more time off from work for vacations. However, this summer, the time off included sequestration for many in the cost community in the Washington Chapter. It also affected the ICEAA annual conference, limiting participation from many members. Fortunately, the organization was still able to clear the costs involved with putting on the conference. Even though many are taking time off from work, the chapter is still providing members valuable training and networking meeting opportunities.

In this edition on the chapter newsletter, you'll read about a summary of the luncheon presentations that have occurred over the last few months with a peak at the luncheon presentations to come. Tim Anderson, our program chair, led the effort to line up great speakers who provided our members current information in various areas of cost analysis. In March, Steve Oxman from NCCA provided members an overview of the Major Automated Information Systems (MAIS) programs

and provided real-life examples to illustrate his points. Next, Bob Hunt from Dulos Inc. provided a discussion on how Price-to-Win (PTW) is used in cost analysis. Finally, in July, Dan Harper and Ruth Dorr from Mitre Corporation gave a luncheon talk on how knowledge management can be used to access the various types of information necessary to perform cost estimates. Our luncheon series will continue into the fall with quality presentations that not only inform, but provide a valuable means for networking with other chapter members. Thanks also to Technomics and Mitre for allowing us to use their conference rooms for the luncheons mentioned above.

Also in the newsletter, Meghan Kennedy, our Vice President and training lead, gives an overview of the training the chapter has provided over the summer. The chapter has teamed up with the Technomics Training Institute (TTI) to provide cost estimators training in the various modules from the Cost Estimating Body of Knowledge (CEBoK).



Finally, we are working toward providing candidates for the various board of director positions for the Washington Chapter. We will be providing more biographical information on the slate of candidates recommended by the board as well as sending a request for nominations and, eventually, the voting process to select the next board. So be on the look-out for the e-mail requesting your vote.

In closing, I hope all have a safe and enjoyable summer and we have a good new fiscal year (given no government shut down)!

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Chapter Activities:

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Check us out online!
www.washingiceaa.com

Luncheon News

Summertime in Washington, DC is sizzling! What better reason do you need than to drop into a nice, cool, conference room for a monthly ICEAA Luncheon? If that's not enough for you, then how about the opportunity to hear from some of the movers and shakers in the DC area cost community? The Washington Capital Area Chapter Luncheon Series had some great luncheon presentations in March, May and July. We are now off to another great quarter with some exciting upcoming presentations. We intend to continue bringing you a mix of presentations and tutorials covering a variety of cost estimating subjects. Since our last newsletter, we have had the following Luncheon Presentations:

March 2013: MAIS Hardware and Software Cost Development 101

The March luncheon featured Mr. Steve Oxman of the Naval Center for Cost Analysis (NCCA). He gave a talk entitled "MAIS Hardware and Software Cost Development 101." Mr. Oxman led a discussion of the political/organizational and Information Technology technical basics/issues that affect Major Automated Information System (MAIS) Hardware and Software development, and which directly affect cost development, using an actual historical program as an example. The information he presented can provide Cost Estimators with a better appreciation of relevant underlying issues, in order to be able to more effectively estimate the cost of a MAIS program. Topics included: legislation, standards, policies, architecture and data management, development environments, development methodologies, developer productivity, and testing and certifications.

May 2013: Price-To-Win: A Cost Estimator's Perspective

The May luncheon was presented by Mr. Bob Hunt of Dulos, Inc. Bob gave a presentation entitled, "Price-to-Win: A Cost Estimator's Perspective." Price-To-Win (PTW) is a strategic assessment of what price will win the bid based on an assessment of the competition, the

contract environment (LPTA, Best Value, Technical Excellence (sections L&M from the RFP)), and probable Government funding. The presentation, assisted by representatives from Kalman & Company, and Galorath, Inc., included real-life experiences in completing PTW analyses. Mr. Hunt outlined the PTW process from a cost analyst's position and illustrated how the process is executed in the Federal bid process. He also described how the process is both similar to and different from CAIV, ICE, and other cost analysis activities.

July 2013: Getting (and Sharing!) the FACTS: Factors, Analogies, CERs, and Tools/Studies

The July luncheon was given by Mr. Dan Harper and Ms. Ruth Dorr of The MITRE Corporation. Their presentation was entitled, "Getting (and Sharing!) the FACTS: Factors, Analogies, CERs, and Tools/Studies." In the cost community, it is often a huge challenge when it comes to sharing or finding useful cost data within one's own organization, much less outside of one's own company. Mr. Harper and Ms. Dorr introduced an internally funded MITRE research project designed to overcome this knowledge management challenge and facilitate the sharing of Factors, Analogies, CER's & Techniques/Studies (FACTS) throughout the cost community. They defined the FACTS project in detail, including challenges that had to be overcome, as well as some remaining hurdles. Ultimately the goal of FACTS is to get as many organizations contributing and benefiting as possible, engaging easy to use open-source social media as a platform to help lower our natural instinct to "close-hold" non-proprietary studies and factors that could be used across the cost community, including FFRDCs and other non-profits, Government and contractors.

More Luncheon Information

Be on the lookout for invitations to the following upcoming luncheons in the next few months:

- Valerie Reinert of MITRE, with a presentation on methods to analyze services portfolio cost drivers and



efficiencies,

- Mike Thompson, Dan French, and Ben Netherland of Cobec Consulting, with a discussion of the use of function points in EVM for software development, and

- A representative from the GAO Cost Organization with a talk about the latest in the updating of the GAO Cost Assessment Guide.

As always, the Washington Area Chapter luncheon series provides a great venue for local speakers and guests. If you have never attended an ICEAA luncheon, then I invite you to check it out. Washington Area Chapter members receive monthly invitations in their e-mail in-boxes. If you are not yet a member, or your e-mail address has changed, you can sign up to receive invitations at the chapter website, www.washingtoniceaa.com, or by contacting your program chair, Tim Anderson, at timothy.anderson@iparametrics.com.

Finally, if you would like to give a presentation at an upcoming Washington ICEAA luncheon, please contact your program chair. We are always looking for interesting speakers and topics, and as a speaker, your lunch is "on the house!"



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Training

For the past year or so, the Washington Capital Area Chapter of ICEAA has taken advantage of Technomics' offer to allow our members to attend their Technomics Training Institute (TTI) in lieu of offering our own separate training program. To date, over 15 sessions have been offered with a particular focus on CEBoK modules and preparation for taking the PCEA and CCEA exams. We'd like to extend a big "Thanks!" to Technomics for including our chapter members in their training series. This method of training, with many sessions covering one or two topics at a time, is very different than what we have offered in the past. Traditionally

we have offered a few weekend sessions over the course of a year that would last all day and cover several topics. Now, after offering these two different methods of training, we'd like to hear from you! What do you prefer? Do you have suggestions for another way to approach training for our chapter? Please contact Meghan Kennedy, Chapter Vice President, at Meghan.kennedy@pentagon.af.mil with your comments, concerns, or questions.



Elections

The Washington Capital Area of ICEAA will be presenting a slate of candidates and soliciting nominations for the election of chapter officers for the 2013-2015 term within the coming months. The chapter has six positions available:

President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Committee Chair, and Program Committee Chair. Please keep an eye out for more information regarding the position responsibilities and nomination process.

Suggestions?

If you have comments, ideas, or would like to contribute an article to the newsletter, please contact the secretary, Mike Yanavitch, at Secretary@Washingtonscea.com.

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.washingtoniceaa.com