

# Washington Capital Area Chapter Newsletter

Fall 2014

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**Chapter Activities:**

- Monthly Luncheons
- Local Training Opportunities
- Conferences
- Newsletter



## President's Message

*David Stem, Chapter President*

This is the time of year when the weather starts to get crisp and we prepare for another winter. The Washington Chapter is also preparing for several upcoming initiatives and events as we enter those colder months.

One initiative that we will institute is developing and sending out a survey to our chapter membership. We strive to be attuned to the needs and desires on how to make the chapter better. As such, we've developed a survey that will help us to gather information on the composition of our diverse membership as well as information to help us plan upcoming activities. I hope that you will take a few minutes to complete the survey so that we can better serve you. Our membership leader, Whiticar Darvill, will be sending out the questions on Survey Monkey.

One of the best benefits of ICEAA is our monthly luncheon series. It continues to provide an opportunity for members to hear of lessons learned and sharpen their

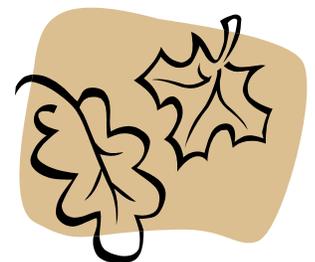
tools in their jobs. It is also an enjoyable way to keep your network vibrant. Tim Anderson, our program chair, has detailed the luncheon topics in the past few months as well as upcoming luncheons. Please keep Tim in mind if there is a topic that you might want to present to the larger body in the field.

We must also say "goodbye" to one of our board members who has moved on. Jen Strawn, our web master, is ending her work which began when she took on the role to revamp our website. Her role will be filled by David Anderson. You can read more about David in his bio which follows.

For those who have been wondering how the ICEAA certification process works, we have included an article that gives a rundown of some of the details. The CCEA and PCEA continue to be well recognized certifications that allow our members to have the training and experience they need to be professionals in their field.

It is also near that time of year when we hold our annual business meeting. The board will present to the membership our work for the past year and will allow for the membership to have a direct line of communication with the board. We will again be gathering nominations for annual awards to recognize the best in our chapter. Please see the article that details the nomination process and provide write ups for the nominations.

I hope these activities give your further confidence in the value of being a member of ICEAA. As you chapter president, please let me know of any ideas on how we could make it even better.



## Luncheon News

Brrrrr! Winter is here! What better time than to come in from the cold and have a nice lunch, with some of the local cost community's "hottest" speakers at the Washington Capital Area Chapter Luncheon Series. The Washington Capital Area Chapter would like to give special thanks to **Technomics, Inc, MCR, LLC, and The Aerospace Corporation** for hosting the last five events! Since our last newsletter we have had the following Luncheon Presentations:

### May 2014: Software Test Costs and Return on Investment (ROI) Issues

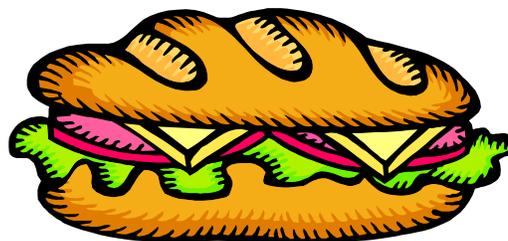
The May 2014 luncheon, hosted by **Technomics, Inc.**, was given by **Mr. Bob Hunt of Dulos, Inc.** According to Mr. Hunt, the recent Affordable Health Care Web Site issues had recently again raised the issue of adequate testing (not the first such problem, just the most visible "recent" problem). Since there is no such thing as "bug-free" software, the question becomes, how much testing should be done and is there a measurable ROI from this testing. Hunt's presentation looked at various types of testing and presented a matrix and cost formula to determine how much testing should be done on a given software system and what it should cost.

### August 2014: The Cost Assessment Data Enterprise (CADE)

The August 2014 luncheon, also hosted by **Technomics, Inc.**, featured **Ms. Bess Dopkeen of OSD CAPE.** Ms. Dopkeen describes the Cost Assessment Data Enterprise (CADE) as a DoD cost community initiative led by OSD CAPE with the aim of increasing analyst productivity and effectiveness by collecting, organizing and displaying data in an integrated single web-based application. The CADE project works to increase analyst productivity and effectiveness while improving data quality, reporting compliance and source data transparency. Ms. Dopkeen described how CADE offers the analyst a reduction in the time spent on ad-hoc data collection and validation, allowing more time for in-depth, meaningful analysis in support of DoD's mission.

### September 2014: Modeling Software Maintenance Costs in the O&M Phase

The September 2014 luncheon, hosted by **The Aerospace Corporation**, saw a return of our 2013 Luncheon Speaker Award winner, **Mr. Greg Bell of MCR.** According to Mr. Bell, many RDT&E programs create a large body of software code. Much of this code could be described as "OFP" or operational weapons



system codes, but there are also considerable amounts of support software that are not installed in the weapons but are used to maintain the weapons, plan missions, or train personnel, and there are simulation codes that play an important role in the continued evolution of the weapons systems over time. All of this ancillary code requires maintenance during the O&M phase. Bell's presentation explored forecasting, budgeting, data collection issues, and how software platform and complexity can influence software Operation and Maintenance costs.

### October 2014: GAO Cost and Schedule Guide: Best Practices and Recent Audit Findings

For our October 2014 luncheon, hosted by **MCR, LLC**, we had **Ms. Karen Richey** of the **Government Accountability Office (GAO)** - one of the lead authors of the GAO Cost and Schedule Estimating Guide. Ms. Richey described the GAO as responsible for assisting the Congress in its oversight of the federal government, including agencies' stewardship of public funds. To use public funds effectively, the government must meet the demands of today's changing world by employing effective management practices, including measuring program performance. In March 2009, GAO published the GAO Cost Guide based on best practices that can be used across the federal government to develop, manage, and evaluate program cost estimates. In this presentation, Ms. Richey discussed how government managers and auditors should find principles in the Cost Guide to guide them as they assess, (1) the credibility of a program's cost estimate for budget and decision making purposes; and (2) the program's status using EVM.

*Continued on page 3*

## Luncheon News - continued

### November 2014: Joint Agency Cost Schedule Risk and Uncertainty Handbook

The November 2014 luncheon, hosted by **Technomics, Inc.**, featured **Alfred (Alf) Smith** of **Tecolote Research, Inc.**, one of the primary authors of the “Joint Agency Cost Schedule Risk and Uncertainty Handbook (JA CSRUH).” According to Mr. Smith, since 2007, the Air Force Cost Analysis Agency (AFCAA) Cost Risk Uncertainty Handbook (CRUH) has been used throughout the cost community as cost estimating guidance. Following the publishing of the GAO Cost Guide, the Naval Center for Cost Analysis (NCCA) and AFCAA adjudicated hundreds of suggestions from government and industry experts to improve and modernize the 2007 CRUH. The result, the JA CSRUH, was published in 2014. Smith’s presentation provided an overview of the key guidance, best practices and utilities delivered with this new handbook.

### More Luncheon Information

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](http://www.washingtoniceaa.com)**, or by contacting your program chair, **Tim Anderson**, at **[timothy.p.anderson@aero.org](mailto:timothy.p.anderson@aero.org)**.

Finally, if you would like to give a presentation at an upcoming Washington ICEAA luncheon, or if you would like to offer up your organization to host a 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” making this, truly, the last “free lunch” in town!

## Training continues at TTI

The Washington Capital Area Chapter of ICEAA continues to take advantage of the Technomics Training Institute (TTI), in lieu of offering our own separate training program. Attendance is available to all Washington Area Chapter members free of charge. To date, sessions corresponding to CEBoK Module 2: Cost Estimating Techniques and Module 15: EVM have been open to Chapter members. The next session will be held on Tuesday, December 4th and will cover Module 4: Data Collection and Normalization. Thank you to **Technomics** for including our chapter members in their training series. This method of training differs from the few weekend sessions previously offered over the course of a year in the past.

We are interested in feedback on this approach from Chapter membership. Which approach do you prefer? Do you have suggestions for another way to approach training for our chapter? Please contact William Laing, Chapter Vice President, at **[wlaing@technomics.net](mailto:wlaing@technomics.net)** with your comments, concerns, or questions.



## Get Credentials: Give Me a C-C-E-A

Are you new to cost estimating? Have you been a cost estimator for a while but haven't become a certified cost estimator? Regardless of your path, now it's time to take the next step. The ICEAA website has a plethora of information available to anyone seeking to become a certified cost estimator. While wading through the various pages and information can be a bit daunting here are a few helpful hints to streamline the process.

### How to Apply

- ❖ To become certified one must complete two different tests
  - Part I/PCEA – Professional Cost Estimator/Analyst
  - Part II/CCEA – Certified Cost Estimator/Analyst
- ❖ Tests are presented separately but may be taken in succession on the same day
  - Pass both to get PCEA with automatic upgrade once the experience requirement is met
- ❖ PCEA and CCEA Application

| CCEA Examination            | Members, Military and Government Non-Members | Non-Members | Retake Fees |
|-----------------------------|--|-------------|-------------|
| Part I/PCEA                 | \$125.00                                     | \$250.00    | \$ 65.00    |
| Part II                     | \$150.00                                     | \$250.00    | \$ 75.00    |
| Part I and Part II Combined | \$225.00                                     | \$400.00    | \$115.00    |

- ❖ Exam Preparation – Study Materials
  - Professional Certification Program Handbook
  - Cost Estimating Body of Knowledge (CEBoK®)
- ❖ Keeping Your Credentials and Keeping Current
  - CCEA must be renewed every five years to ensure continued expertise
  - Never stop learning and furthering our body of knowledge method of training differs from the few.

## New Chapter Webmaster – David Anderson

The Washington Area Chapter of ICEAA Board of Directors is pleased to introduce its newest member, David Anderson, as chapter Webmaster. David lives in Springfield, Virginia, and is a December 2014 graduate of George Mason University, with a B.S. in Information Technology. David hopes to work for an IT consulting firm in the Washington Capital region. In the meantime, David is a sales associate at the GMU Computer and Software Store.

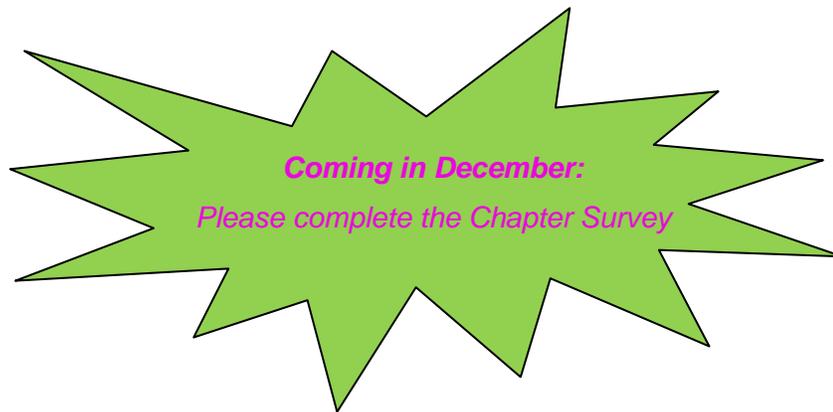
As a recent graduate, David represents the cutting edge in information technology and website design, and has already made big improvements in the content and functionality of the chapter website ([www.washingtoniceaa.com](http://www.washingtoniceaa.com)). Be on the lookout for even more improvements to our website in the months ahead.

Welcome aboard David!



## Feedback Requested: Membership Survey Coming Soon

The ICCEA Washington chapter wants to hear from you. Look for an invitation to a web based survey within the next few weeks. We want to know how we can better serve you. The survey is designed to be quick yet allow for suggestions on ways to improve the chapter. Please take a few moments and complete our brief survey so that we can better understand how to meet the needs of our members.



### ***Suggestions?***

*If you have comments, ideas, or would like to contribute an article to the newsletter, please contact the secretary, Aileen Donohue, at [Secretary@Washingtonscea.com](mailto:Secretary@Washingtonscea.com).*

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## Washington Capital Area Annual Meeting and Annual Awards

The 2015 annual meeting will be held this coming February at the Washington Golf and Country Club in Arlington, VA. It will feature complimentary light refreshments and beverages, updates from each chapter board member, a keynote speaker, and the presentation of annual chapter awards. Stay tuned for further updates on the date and agenda.

We are now accepting nominations for our Annual Awards, which recognize exceptional achievement in our local cost estimating community. These awards will be presented at the Annual Meeting in February (details for which will be announced soon). To nominate a coworker or colleague, please fill out the nomination form below and send it along with a 2-page (maximum) write-up to the chapter secretary at [secretary@washingtonscea.com](mailto:secretary@washingtonscea.com) by **JANUARY 16th**. The categories for the awards are as follows:

### Luncheon Speaker

- Will be decided by BoD the first year, but will be decided by luncheon attendees in subsequent years

### Leadership/Management

- Promote & enhance the profession
- Fostering the growth of members
- Integration of estimating & other cost disciplines
- Recognition & certification of achievement
- Promote cost estimating discussion forums
- Promote standards of proficiency and performance
- Fostering, promoting, and conducting research and educational
- Interacting with other related organizations
- Establishing standards in the terminology, conduct and application of cost estimating and analysis

### Team Achievement (Consisting of three or more people)

- Demonstrating outstanding accomplishment within the field
- Promoting high impact on organization represented or the organization supported
- Show how the work was key toward influencing the management vision, goals, and objectives
- Demonstrated improvement in decision support services provide

### Junior Analyst (3 years or less of experience)

- Working toward proficiency in the field through job related activities and education
- Demonstrating an upward trajectory on increasing levels of skill and impact to cost field

### Technical Achievement

- Promoting a Common Body of Knowledge as standard for individual excellence
- Promoting integration and synergy among cost estimating and analysis disciplines
- Developing and maintaining standards of proficiency and performance
- Establishing standards in the terminology, conduct and application of cost estimating and analysis
- Conducting cost estimates using innovative approaches
- Improving methods for cost analysis (CERs, models, data bases, new approaches)
- Communicating methods to the wider cost community



# Washington Capital Area Annual Awards – Nomination Form

## INTERNATIONAL COST ESTIMATING AND ANALYSIS ASSOCIATION WASHINGTON CAPITAL AREA CHAPTER AWARDS PROGRAM

Nomination Type (check one):

Leadership/Management  
 Technical Achievement

Team Achievement  
 Junior Analyst

**Nominee Information:**

Full Name \_\_\_\_\_

Current Job Title \_\_\_\_\_

Organization/Company \_\_\_\_\_

Company Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone Numbers    Work    \_\_\_\_\_    Home

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

**Nominator Information:**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Numbers    Work    \_\_\_\_\_    Home

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE ATTACH A SUMMARY OF THE NOMINEE’S ACHIEVEMENTS.**  
Summary must be two pages or less. Include items such as job description, professional affiliations and certifications, articles and publications, awards, contributions to ICEAA, etc.  
**PLEASE SUBMIT NOMINATION BY January 16th, 2015 TO THE CHAPTER SECRETARY**  
[Secretary@washingtonscea.com](mailto:Secretary@washingtonscea.com)





## ICEAA's 2015 Professional Development & Training Workshop

**June 9-12, 2015**  
**Sheraton San Diego Hotel & Marina**

Don't miss out on the year's most in-depth cost estimating and cost analysis workshop!

### Keynote Speakers Announced!:

**Dennis Conner**, Captain of the Stars and Stripes America's Cup yacht

**Greg Cotton**, N03, Deputy for Undersea Rescue at Submarine Squadron ELEVEN

- ⚙ Comprehensive training sessions featuring content from CEBok® and the Parametric Estimating Handbook
- ⚙ Professional papers written and presented by your peers in the industry
- ⚙ A roundtable of premier authors from the cost community will describe their books and the process of getting from idea to published work

- ⚙ Prepare for the CCEA® or PCEA® exam and earn CEU credits for recertification
- ⚙ Discuss the latest tools and technologies directly with the companies generating these valuable resources

### Call for Papers!

Present your paper at the 2015 ICEAA Professional Development & Training Workshop

Demonstrate your expertise, contribute to the advancement of the profession and expand your network with a paper presentation. Space is limited, and we expect a high number of quality submissions, so be sure to submit your abstract early!

### Important Dates:

- Dec. 1, 2014:** Call for Papers Deadline: Abstracts, bios and release forms due
- Dec. 31, 2014:** Earlybird registration rates end
- Jan. 15, 2015:** Announcement of accepted abstracts
- March 30, 2015:** Papers/presentations due

For details, registration, or to submit a presentation for consideration, visit:

[www.iceaaonline.org/sd15](http://www.iceaaonline.org/sd15)

