

# Washington Metro Chapter Newsletter



The Society of Cost Estimating and Analysis

## Washington Metro Chapter, SCEA

### President's Message



How is 2010 going for you? I imagine that you are very

busy working on important cost estimates in between shoveling pounds upon pounds of heavy fluffy white stuff commonly known as SNOW. Are you happy with where you are in your career? Are you getting the information and experiences that you need to keep up with the ever changing profession of cost estimating? The Washington Metro

Chapter of SCEA is dedicated to help you with professional development in 2010. The National Conference and Training Workshop will be held this year in San Diego. This is the premier cost estimating event for all cost professionals and a great way to refine your estimating skills and develop yourself professionally. The conference will be held on 8 – 11 June at the Sheraton San Diego Hotel and Marina in San Diego, CA. This newsletter contains a brief summary of some of the

major SCEA events.

We have an exciting upcoming training event and big plans for several luncheon speakers in the coming months. Our Vice President Dave Stem has taken his show on the road, providing other chapters with updates on Air Force Cost Estimating. I look forward to seeing many of you at our chapter events and/or in San Diego at the National Conference in June.

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#### Chapter Activities:

- *Monthly Luncheons*
- *Training*
- *Conferences*
- *Quarterly Newsletter*

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### Upcoming Events

- *Mar. 13, 2010 — SCEA Certification Exam Training, VT/UVA Center, Falls Church, VA*
- *Mar. 27, 2010 — SCEA Certification Exam, Application due Feb. 12, 2010*
- *Jun. 12, 2010 — SCEA Certification Exam, Application due Apr. 30, 2010*
- *Mar. 31, 2009 — Mar. Luncheon: "Bad Estimates Don't Just Happen"*
- *Apr. 21, 2010 — Apr. Luncheon: Topic TBD*
- *Jun. 8-11, 2010 — ISPA/SCEA Joint Conference*

## Washington Area Luncheon News



Following a brief break for the holidays (and a new arrival at the Program Chair's household!), the Washington Area Chapter of SCEA has plans for some interesting speakers in the coming months.

The March luncheon will be held on March 31 at the MCR office at L'Enfant Plaza in Washington, DC, and will feature the internationally recognized speaker, Joe Lukas, of PMC Centers USA. Joe's talk will be entitled, "There is No Such Thing as a Bad Estimate." An excerpt from Joe's abstract is given below:

"When was the last time you worked on a project with a bad estimate? The speaker will present his theory that there really is no such thing as a bad estimate. Instead, project estimate

failures are directly related to either bad project teams or a bad project process & procedures! The speaker has over 30 years experience in project management and has been on both sides of estimates: the preparation side and the customer side. One of his prior job assignments was forming and managing a conceptual estimating department for a fortune 500 company. This talk will present a light-hearted look at the facts of life when it comes to estimating. This interactive talk will include a discussion on why bad estimates occur, and discuss some case histories on the impacts of estimate failures. The talk will finish with some tips on preparing quality estimates to ensure the project team has a realistic project budget."

Following Joe Lukas' talk, the April luncheon will be held on April 21, and will feature a speaker from TASC, Inc. The

topic and speaker are still being worked out, but both are guaranteed to be highly interesting.

As always, the Washington Area Chapter luncheon series provides a great venue for local speakers and guests. If you have never been to a Washington SCEA luncheon, you are cordially invited to attend. If you are already a member of the Washington Area Chapter, then be on the lookout for monthly invitations in your e-mail inbox. If you are not yet a member, you can sign up at the chapter website, [www.washingtonsceca.com](http://www.washingtonsceca.com). Signing up will place you on the luncheon mailing list.

Finally, if you would like to give a presentation at the Washington SCEA luncheon, please contact the program chair, Tim Anderson, by e-mailing [tanderson@mcri.com](mailto:tanderson@mcri.com). He is always looking for new speakers!

## Expand Your Own Body of Knowledge



Is your success on the Certified Cost Estimator/Analyst (CCEA) exam in "jeopardy" because you're a little rusty on the math?

Would you like to brush up on your analytical skills and test them out in a collegial atmosphere? Are you looking to get practice answering typical exam questions without sitting in front of the same old sample tests? Then the upcoming SCEA Washington Chapter training course is for you.

First, you'll get a refresher on "The Math You Need to Know,"

covering key topics from the SCEA Cost Estimating Body of Knowledge (CEBoK) taught by the editorial team, including:

- Linear functions: rates, factors, ratios, and linear cost estimating relationships (CERs)
- Piecewise linear functions: contract types and sharelines
- Power functions and logarithms: learning curve, non-linear CERs
- Exponential functions: inflation, escalation, and discounting
- Ordinary least squares (OLS) regression and analysis of variance (ANOVA)
- Probability distributions: risk and uncertainty

After you've boned up on your math, how about a game of CEBoK Jeopardy?! CEBoK Jeopardy contains 30 qualitative and quantitative questions from highly tested subject areas, with categories including: Regression, EVM, learning curves, and contracts & pricing. There are also basic training and random SCEA questions categories to capture other topics covered on the exam.

For details on this training, please see page 3 of the newsletter.

## Vice President of Washington Chapter Briefs St. Louis Chapter on Air Force Cost

On December 8, 2009, Dave Stem, the Vice President of the Washington Chapter joined others in briefing the St. Louis Gateway Chapter membership in a one-day session about the latest developments in cost estimating. Dave's briefing gave an overview of the recent state of cost analysis in the Air Force including the downturn in the field during the 1990s and the current upward vector of Air Force cost analysis capability. Due to high cost growth, especially for the recent Air Force programs, Congress has passed several laws culminating with the Weapons System Acquisition Reform Act (WSARA) in 2009 to reign in the problem. Dave gave an overview to what will be expected from the Air Force cost community to fall in line with WSARA.

In addition to Dave's presentation, several others gave talks regarding their view of changes



*Dave Stem Instructs the St. Louis Chapter on the Intricacies of the Cost World*

in the field, new estimating techniques, and a review of military ranks for those new to working with the military. Wendy Kunc, the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Cost and Economics and the head of the Naval Center for Cost Analysis gave an overview of the resurgence of her or-

ganization to provide independent cost analysis at the Navy headquarters level. Eric Levin, Vice President of Finance, Boeing Global Strike Systems, St. Louis, informed the group on his push to improve quality cost estimating in the proposal process. Mike Brozyna, a cost analyst for the U.S. Army and member of the St. Louis Chapter board of directors, gave a lively discussion on military ranks for those in the audience who had little experience dealing with the military on a daily basis. Finally, Eric Druker, a consultant with Booze Allen Hamilton and the St. Louis Chapter President provided a synopsis of a cutting edge technique for performing joint cost and schedule risk analysis.

For more information and a copy of the briefings presented, please see the St. Louis Chapter website at: <http://www.sceaonline.org/>



## March SCEA Training Details

**When:** Saturday, 13 March 2010, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

**Where:** UVA/VA Tech Falls Church Campus - Northern Virginia Center, 7054 Haycock Road, Falls Church VA, 22043, (703) 536-1100, <http://www.scps.virginia.edu/maps/nvdirections.htm> Parking at the University lot is free on Saturdays.

**How Much:** \$90 for SCEA members, \$145 for non-SCEA members (includes cost of membership).

Attendees with CEBoK should bring their electronic copies for viewing on their computer or those not having CEBoK are encouraged to buy their own copy of CEBoK. However, hard copies of the excerpts of CEBoK being taught will be provided as part of the course.

**How To Sign Up:** Please RSVP to Dave Stem, VP for the Washington Chapter at 703-604-1037 or [Vice-President@Washingtonscea.com](mailto:Vice-President@Washingtonscea.com)

# 2010 ISPA/SCEA Conference & Training Workshop

June 8 - 11, 2010 • San Diego, CA

The 2010 Joint Conference and Training Workshop will be a learning opportunity you won't want to miss. Cost community experts from government, industry, and academia will be there to network and share ideas. Key-

note speeches will be given by Charles Bolden, NASA Administrator, Dave Burgess, Director of NAVAIR 4.2, and Stan Soloway, President and CEO of the Professional Services Council. There will also be a panel discussion, "The Widening Role of Cost Estimating in Program Execution and Contracts, An Industry Mini-Panel."

Training, designed to appeal to all experience levels, will help attendees stay abreast of the latest techniques in their field and prepare for the CCEA or CPP exams. Like last year, CCEA study sessions will be held, and this year we will feature similar sessions for CPP test takers. And, for the first time ever, CEU credits will

be given not only for training but also for certain professional presentations. On Tuesday attendees can sit in on Tools Track presentations given by some exhibitors. The Professional Papers will begin on Wednesday and be presented through Friday.

In addition to professional development opportunities, attendees will have the chance to network at the Tuesday night Attendee Reception and the Reception and Awards Banquet on Thursday night. This year, the Reception and Awards Banquet will be held offsite at the San Diego Air and Space Museum. Shuttle service will be offered to and from the museum for attendees and paid guests. At the museum, attendees will be able to enjoy hors d'oeuvres while browsing the museum exhibits. The reception will be followed by the Awards Banquet, to be held in the museum's main pavilion.

This year's Conference hotel is the Sheraton San Diego Hotel & Marina in San Diego, CA. The Sheraton is located on Harbor Island Drive and offers spectacular views of San Diego Bay as well as easy access to the San Diego International Airport. Attendees can take public transportation or rental cars to visit area attractions like Mission Beach, the San Diego Zoo, the Gaslamp District, Temecula Wineries, and theme parks like Sea World and Legoland. The conference hotel features 120,000 sq. feet of meeting space, biking and jogging

paths, tennis courts, sailboat rentals, and 2 pools. We have negotiated a discounted room rate of \$199 per night plus tax at the Sheraton, but make sure to book by May 17th to get this discount. Reservation information can be found at <http://www.sceaonline.org/events/conference/2010splash.cfm> under "General Information."

Attendees can register online for the 2010 ISPA/SCEA Conference by going to <http://www.sceaonline.org/events/conference/2010splash.cfm> and clicking on "Conference Registration." The registration fee for SCEA or ISPA members, as well as government/military attendees, is \$895. For non-members, the fee is \$975, and for groups, the fee is \$825. To establish a group, employers must contact Erin Whittaker at [erin@sceaonline.org](mailto:erin@sceaonline.org). For more information about the hotel, registration, or exhibiting/sponsorship opportunities, please visit <http://www.sceaonline.org/events/conference/2010splash.cfm> or email [scea@sceaonline.org](mailto:scea@sceaonline.org).



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**Washington Metro Chapter**

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

