



April/May 2010 News Update

The Newsletter of the UpCountry South Carolina Section,
AACE International

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Becky Spencer, CCT

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President's Message

Members,

Well, we finished another year at the Upcountry AACE SC Section. I have completed my first term as being President of a section. Believe me, it has been a learning experience. I have learned many things and it has been a very rewarding experience. I have considered myself very lucky this year to have the officers and directors I had to help me get things done. I truly believe that we have one of the best groups of "support" people of any section in the organization. I would like to acknowledge the hard work of Becky Spencer who spent many hours on the web page, making sure the plaques were there for all the meetings and various other tasks. Also Sharon Owens who worked tirelessly to organize the financial books and spent days dealing with the IRS forms for the new 990-EZ submittal we had to do for the first time this year. Then there was Bob Boyd who faithfully cranked out the newsletters and the monthly flyers. And, not to forget, Rita Wheeler who faithfully made sure we all ate good at the meetings. There are many others I can mention of those special individuals who's answer was always "yes" when asked to help. We have truly been blessed with who we have in our chapter. I want to thank you all for the support you gave me and the chapter to make sure we accomplished all that we intended to. I look forward to the coming year which will be my second year as President. We will continue what we started and continue to grow and accomplish even more than we have in the past. There are many of you who deserve that "pat on the back" for a job well done. I look forward to meeting with all of you again next September.

Sincerely, Chris Swanson



Section Announcements

Certification!!

AACEI offers 7 certifications.

1. Certified Cost Technician (CCT)
2. Certified Cost Consultant (CCC) / Certified Cost Engineer (CCE)
3. Planning and Scheduling Professional Certification (PSP)
4. Earned Value Professional Certification (EVP)
5. Certified Portfolio, Program & Project Management (C3PM)
6. Certified Forensic Claims Consultant (CFCC)
7. Certified Estimating Professional (CEP)

For descriptions and requirements regarding each of these certifications go to the AACEI web page (<http://www.aacei.org/certification/certExplained.shtml>).

In recognition for those Section members that have AACEI certifications, we will now have an Honors Roll. The following Section members hold certifications and can be considered Subject Matter Experts, available to help you if you have any questions.

HONORS ROLL

CCE / CCE	PSP	CEP	EVP
Chris Swanson	Donald McDonald	Robert Boyd	Doug Findley
Donald McDonald	Robert Boyd	Jeff Bannister	Eric Marcantoni
Robert Boyd	Doug Findley	Walter Manning	
Doug Findley		Stan Ellzey	
Becky Spencer			

Please contact Chris Swanson (chris.swanson@fluor.com) if you have any questions or need assistance regarding any of the certifications or workshops mentioned above.

The next certification exam is currently scheduled for:

November 06, 2010 – Location of test in Greenville will be announced later

Deadline to sign up for a certification exam is 60 days prior to the above test dates

Continuing Education!!

Visit the AACE Online Bookstore (<http://www.aacei.org/technical/ppg.shtml>) where you can order Professional Practice Guides, Recommended Practices and other AACEI merchandise.

Note that the PSP Certification Study Guide (1st Edition) and the EVP Certification Study Guide (1st Edition) are now available. The Skills and Knowledge of Cost Engineering is now available “On-Line” at AACEI’s website.



AACE International's 54th Annual Meeting!!

Make plans to attend the next AACEI annual meeting in Atlanta, Georgia. It will be held from June 27th thru June 30th.

UpCountry South Carolina Section's Website!!

Please visit our web site that is being maintained by Becky Spencer. Becky continues to improve the website, including job postings. Feel free to provide feedback to Becky or Chris on comments/ideas that you believe would enhance the website.

<http://upcountry-aacei.org/welcome.html>

Section News!!

April's Section meeting was held at Fluor's Engineering office where 10 attended.

Chris Swanson, President, led the monthly meeting. Winner of the Time Share Raffle was Matty Forcina. Approximately \$840 was raised by this fund raising event.

At the April meeting, election of next year's officers and board members was held. Elected officers and board members are as follows:

President – Chris Swanson	2010-2012 Board Member – Janna Frasher
Vice-President – Becky Spencer	2010-2012 Board Member – Walter Manning
Secretary – Eric Marcantoni	
Treasurer – Sharon Owens	

Congratulation to our new officers and board members.

May's Section meeting was held at Jacob's Engineering office where 9 attended.

Chris Swanson, President, led the monthly meeting. General business was conducted with Sharon providing an update to the Section's financial status. AACEI has identified that the Section's 2nd place winner of the competitive scholarship was Becky Spencer.

Although no formal announcement has been received from AACEI regarding the 1st place winner, it is assumed that Lauren Cannady is the winner. Becky will receive \$500 and Laura will receive at least \$1,500. Formal announcement will be made at the September meeting.



April 2010 UpCountry SC Section Dinner Meeting Recap

The Upcountry SC Section meeting was held on April 13, 2010 at Fluor's office. Our guest speaker was Kirstin Bolt. Kirstin is an Asset and Project Information Manager in Fluor's Power Group. She also supports the Sales & Marketing Team.

Kirstin provided a brief overview of Toastmasters International. It is a non-profit education organization that has been in existence for 85 years and is operating in 92 different countries. In South Carolina there are over 115 Toastmasters clubs. Typical membership will average between 12 and 20. Groups larger than this is not recommended and typically a new club will be created when a club gets too large.

The clubs will typically allow anyone interested in joining a club to be a guest at their meetings for as long as they want. There is no pressure to become a member and they leave it up to the guest to determine when they are ready to participate. Typically there are 3 speakers per meeting and the attendees of these meetings will provide constructive oral evaluations after each presentation. The purpose of the club is to provide a venue for improving and gaining confidence in public speaking and presentations. Membership fee is \$27 for 6 months.

Kirstin thanked the group for inviting her and providing her with this opportunity to practice and improve upon her speaking and presentation skills.

This concluded Ms. Bolt's presentation. Chris presented a plaque to Ms. Bolt, thanking Kirstin for her time and presentation.

May 2010 UpCountry SC Section Dinner Meeting Recap

The Upcountry SC Section meeting was held on May 11, 2010 at Jacob's office. Our guest speaker was Jeff Lutton. Jeff is Director of Sales for EcoSys and has over 20 years of experience in the project management industry. Jeff has held various leadership and contributor positions with Deltek, Artemis and other EPM start-ups.

Jeff's presentation focused on Innovations in Energy & Utilities Project Cost Management. EcoSys was founded in 2000 by designers of the Primavera enterprise project management suite and is considered to be a leader in enterprise project and operations financial management solutions for large organizations in both the public and private sector. Major users of their software application include Southern Company/Shaw, McDermott, B&W, Chevron, Marathon and Shell. They have offices in London, UK, Rye Brook, NY, San Francisco, Ca. and Atlanta, Ga.

Current Trends and Challenges that EcoSys believes is critical in today's environment include the Generation Gap and Learning Curve; Regulatory Compliance and Reporting; and Acquiring Stronger Cost Controls. Jeff's presentation also identified the following items that they believe Owners are asking for: Enterprise standards/consistency; better procurement strategies; stronger integration; resource optimization; improved financial performance; alignment to corporate and joint stakeholder visibility; and to operate more like EPC contractors. Jeff also stated that Effective Change Management Process is key to Project success.

Jeff then presented EcoSys's financial software application. This application has its own report writer and is simple, similar to Excel. A 5 user license would cost \$37,500 initially and then 18% per year annual fee.

Jeff thanked the group for inviting him and allowing him this opportunity to meet members of our section and to promote EcoSys's software program. Chris thanked Jeff for his time and presentation.



2009/10 Meeting Schedule for AACE UpCountry SC Section

Description	Day of Week	Date(s)	Presenter & Topic
UCSC Dinner Meeting	2 nd Tuesday	08 Sep 2009	Norm Powell, SRNS, Project Controls in the DOE, SRNS Site
UCSC Dinner Meeting	2 nd Tuesday	13 Oct 2009	Eric Marcantoni, Fluor, Nuclear Power – Past & Future
UCSC Dinner Meeting	2 nd Tuesday	10 Nov 2009	Robert Boyd, Fluor, Escalation; De-escalation; Inflation
UCSC Dinner Meeting	Saturday	12 Dec 2009	Social Dinner at Donald McDonald's house
UCSC Dinner Meeting	2 nd Tuesday	12 Jan 2010	John Dillewyn, Fluor, Topic – Habitat for Humanity
UCSC Dinner Meeting	2 nd Tuesday	09 Feb 2010	Richard Gerspacher, Fluor, Topic – Newmont – PMI's 2009 Project of the Year
UCSC Dinner Meeting	2 nd Tuesday	09 Mar 2010	Larry Philbin, Santee Cooper, Topic – Risk-Based Modeling Approaches for Determining Current Liability for Future Asset Retirement Obligations
UCSC Dinner Meeting	2 nd Tuesday	13 Apr 2010	Kirstin Bolt, Toastmasters Club, Topic – Communication and Leadership Skills
UCSC Dinner Meeting	2 nd Tuesday	11 May 2010	Jeff Lutton – Innovations in Energy & Utilities Project Cost Management