



May 2011 News Update

The Newsletter of the UpCountry South Carolina Section,
AACE International

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President's Message

Members,

As you will see from e-mails being sent over the summer, we have decided to continue with the section meetings in lieu of taking a summer break. I and the board members have agreed that providing this service to you is in the best interest of everyone. Please take a look at the last page of this newsletter to see the topics and presenters that are being planned for the balance of this calendar year. We hope that there are some topics that will interest you such that you will make a decision to check us out or to continue attending our meetings. We are even looking at potential tours and joint meetings with other professional societies in order to mix it up. Our goal is not only to attract you to our meetings, but to provide you with subject matters that will benefit you in your profession.

It is also our goal over the coming year to allocate at least one meeting to preparing you for the CCE certification test. This will not be a detailed training class but will at least give you some hints and insight into how to prepare for the exam. Detailed training classes are often held at other nearby locations and if you are interested, then I highly recommend you attend these classes which typically last about 16 hours and are usually held on weekends over a 4 week period. Typically the Atlanta Section holds these classes every year in the fall.

As your new President for the coming year, I entice you be vocal about your needs and desires. All you need to do is to contact either myself or any of our board members with your suggestions and we will endeavor to fulfill your requests.

Sincerely, Bob Boyd

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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>). And for educational literature to help you with these exams, 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.

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			
CFCC			
Doug Findley			

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:
 June 18, 2011 – Location of test is Anaheim, Ca. (AACEI Annual Meeting)
 November 12, 2011 – Location of test is Atlanta, Ga.
 December 10, 2011 – Location of test is Greenville, SC

Deadline to sign up for a certification exam is 60 days prior to the above test dates. If you want to take the test in Greenville, please contact one of our officers or our Certification chairperson.



AACEI Certification Hints and Other Educational Tidbits!!

This section is being established to offer you training on subjects that you may find useful. The first edition will be issued in next month's newsletter. So if there is anything you would like to know, please contact Bob Boyd (e-mail: robert.boyd@fluor.com).

As a precursor, do you know what a "byte" is? And is this the same thing as a "bit"? This is something that could be asked in a Certification Test.

AACE International's 54th Annual Meeting!!

Make plans to attend the next AACEI annual meeting in Anaheim, California (Disneyland). It will be held from June 19th thru June 22nd. Early registration ended on May 20th and now the late registration fees apply. Onsite registration is also available for an extra \$100 over the late fees.

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 Bob Boyd on comments/ideas that you believe would enhance the website.

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

Section News!!

One of the winners of AACEI's Competitive Scholarship Program was an entry submitted by a Clemson sophomore student. Mr. Eric Fletcher was selected as a winner of the \$2,000 scholarship award for the 2011-2012 academic year. In addition to winning this scholarship, Eric will also receive a 1-year student membership to AACEI. The Section will also be awarding a second scholarship for \$1200 to Mr. Robert McKinsey, another sophomore at Clemson University. He placed 2nd in the local competition and we will forward a check to Clemson University upon receipt of the matching fund check from AACEI.

July's meeting is currently anticipated to be a Social event. This will be discussed at the June meeting to see if there is an interest in attending a Drive baseball game on Tuesday, 12 July, or on another day in July. In lieu of the standard \$20 meeting fee, just come to the ball game to be with your fellow professionals and enjoy the game, the food and the atmosphere. And if we can get a group of 15 or more, group seating will be assured. Tickets are only \$7 for the reserved seating section. That plus a potential parking fee of \$5 will get you thru the gate. So if you can't make the June meeting but want to attend the game, please contact one of your board members.



Section Officers and Directors (Board Members) for 2011 and 2012:

The results are in and next season's officers and directors are:

1-year Term from June 1, 2011 thru May 31, 2012

President – Bob Boyd
Vice President – Eric Marcantoni
Secretary – Becky Spencer
Treasurer – Sharon Owens

2-year Term from June 1, 2011 thru May 31, 2013

Director 1 – Jeff Bannister
Director 2 – Steve Schnee

And continuing directors and board members are:

2-year Term from June 1, 2010 thru May 31, 2012

Director 1 – Janna Frasher
Director 2 – Walter Manning

Board Member Term from June 1, 2011 thru May 31, 2012

Past President – Chris Swanson

We want to thank everyone who participated in the election process by voting for their candidates.

And although all the elected positions are filled, it is never too late to volunteer or get involved with our section. There are a number of committees that can use you and your point of view. So please volunteer if you are interested by contacting any of the officers or board members.

We also want to thank last year's officers and directors for their efforts and dedication. And for those returning, we need to applaud them for making a long term commitment to our organization.



May 2011 UpCountry SC Section Dinner Meeting Recap

The Upcountry SC Section meeting was held on May 10, 2011 at Jacob's office. Attendance at the meeting was very good with 16 attendees. Our guest speaker was Dan Springer. Mr. Springer is a Project Director with Fluor and has performed Project Controls and Estimating functions before moving on to Project Management.

Dan has been working on the South Texas Project, a Nuclear Power Plant Project, for the past 3 years and wanted to share with us his recent experiences. His presentation focused on the Communication and Cultural Challenges he saw and the Needs required to mitigate these Challenges.

STP was a 2 unit ABWR nuclear power plant with a gross power output of 2,700MW. Owners (NINA) were initially NRG and CPS and eventually Toshiba/TANE became a part owner. The Project was structured such that the Owners entered into an EPC contract agreement with TANE, and Fluor was a S/C to TANE. Establishment of a DOR was a major challenge and was still not fully resolved after 3 years. Other challenges included finalizing the project scope, execution plan, masterequipment list and schedule float.

Project alignment meetings were not successful due to language barriers. Decisions were slow since most decisions had to be sent back to Japan for final approval. TANE's lack of fixed price execution experience impacted their whole work process and when blended with cultural differences, made the Change Management process a very difficult process.

For Mega projects, it is very important that project baseline documents be prepared early and incurs either none or minimal changes. Alignment meetings have to be successful, so you need to understand the background and experiences of the project participants so that proper communication can occur. Need to provide a cross-cultural and cross-business practice training to all team members. And in some cases, ensure that translators are readily available to minimize misunderstandings. Alignment sessions should have follow-on sessions with all project team members in order to ensure the communication process is working. Also need to have adequate and qualified staffing of experienced project control team members. And finally, it is very important that on Mega projects which have no precedence or references, that the entire Team is able to communicate effectively and in a timely manner. It is also necessary to understand the Owner's Business Plan very early so that any misinformed expectations can be addressed quickly so as to help the Owner adjust their Plan.

This concluded Mr. Springer's presentation. Chris Swanson then presented a plaque to Mr. Springer, thanking him for his time and presentation. A copy of Dan's presentation is available upon request to Bob Boyd or Eric Marcantoni.



2010/11 Meeting Schedule for AACE UpCountry SC Section

Description	Day of Week	Date(s)	Presenter & Topic
UCSC Dinner Meeting	2 nd Tuesday	14 Sep 2010	Cancelled
UCSC Dinner Meeting	2 nd Tuesday	12 Oct 2010	Bob Boyd, Fluor, Nuclear New Build Challenges
UCSC Dinner Meeting	2 nd Tuesday	09 Nov 2010	Bob Boyd, Fluor, Small Modular Nuclear Reactors
UCSC Dinner Meeting	Saturday	14 Dec 2010	Cancelled
UCSC Dinner Meeting	2 nd Tuesday	11 Jan 2011	Cancelled due to Weather Conditions
UCSC Dinner Meeting	2 nd Tuesday	08 Feb 2011	Eric Marcantoni, Fluor, Certification Testimonials
UCSC Dinner Meeting	2 nd Tuesday	08 Mar 2011	Edward Storer, Financial Planner
UCSC Dinner Meeting	2 nd Tuesday	12 Apr 2011	Cancelled
UCSC Dinner Meeting	2 nd Tuesday	10 May 2011	Dan Springer, Fluor Mega Project Challenges – Nuclear PP
UCSC Dinner Meeting	2 nd Tuesday	14 June 2011	Ward Lambert – Harper, Lambert & Brown What a Lawyer Wants in an Expert
UCSC Social Meeting ??	2 nd Tuesday	12 July 2011	Ball Game ?? Drive vs. BlueClaws
UCSC Dinner Meeting	2 nd Tuesday	09 Aug 2011	Speaker – Bob Boyd Solar Power – PV Plants
UCSC Dinner Meeting	2 nd Tuesday	13 Sep 2011	Christel Allen – A ² Consulting, LLC I-385 SCDOT Project
UCSC Dinner Meeting	2 nd Tuesday	11 Oct 2011	Mark Spencer Topic – TBD
UCSC Dinner Meeting	2 nd Tuesday	08 Nov 2011	Donald McDonald ?? Panel Discussion – Topic – TBD
UCSC Social Meeting ??	2 nd Tuesday	13 Dec 2011	Social Gathering ??
			Future Tour of BMW’s International Center for Automotive Research
			Future Joint Meeting with NCMA is being discussed with Mike Criss
			Future Presentation on How to Prepare for the CCE exam