



The Volunteer

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AACE International East Tennessee Section Newsletter

Message from the "Prez"

Mark Plemmons, ETS President

January is the time of year at my company when people are reviewed for their performance during the previous year and hope to get a bump in their paycheck. I work for the government so admittedly the bump is more like pebble-like than boulder. Despite that, it reminds me how lucky I am to have a bit of job security and a decent benefit plan.

At these times, I also remember a former neighbor who worked at another government facility in the area. Like mine, his work involved computer support—not a bad profession. A number of years ago, he was one of the unfortunate ones who lost their job in a "reduction in force" (layoff). He struggled to find a job to resume his

career. Determined to provide for his family, he ended up selling meat out of the back of his truck as a temporary job. Things never worked out for him though, and for years now he has worked at Dominos delivering pizza. Nothing wrong with that job, of course, but it's just not the same. I place orders for delivery now with trepidation because sometimes he's the one who shows up at our door. He's always friendly but I feel awkward. A nice tip doesn't replace a nice income.

I tell this story because I realize that his situation could easily have been my own, or any of ours actually. It can take one unfortunate event to permanently alter a person's—or a family's—situation.

I take my career seriously for a number of reasons. I want to do something that I enjoy and that has value. I hope for a job with minimal stress and one that I can look forward to continuing in the future. More than anything though I want to provide support for my family the best way I know how. I think paying attention to—focusing on—my career helps me do this. It increases the chance of good things happening for me and mine while reducing the chance of dealing with a terrible ordeal like my neighbor. It's one reason I am active in AACE. Keeping skills current, my certification active, and rubbing shoulders with others are all positive things for a number of reasons. Employment is certainly one of them.

January Section Meeting

Andrea Bach, ETS Vice-President

Please plan to join us on January 23rd for the January section meeting. The meeting will be held at [Gondolier](#) in Oak Ridge starting at 11:30am.

Out speaker will be Steve McCracken, General Manager of Kingston Ash Recovery Project, Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA). Mr. McCracken, a native of

Oak Ridge, is responsible for all aspects of TVA's role in the ash recovery project at the Kingston Fossil Plant in Harriman, Tennessee. He oversees the integration of all TVA activities on the site, which includes working with the plant manager on plant operations and the scrubber project and being closely involved in the conversion to dry ash

storage and closing of existing ash impoundments. Mr. McCracken is a nationally recognized leader on clean-up and remediation projects, with successful decontamination and remediation projects completed in previous positions with the Department of Energy in Tennessee, Ohio and Missouri.

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.aace-ets.org

Director Dispatch - Why Professional affiliation and why get involved?

Bob McCoy, Director of Activities

Recently it was reported that over 91,000 trade and professional organizations exist with millions of members on the rolls participating to one degree or another in their own niche or specialty. In today's world of intense competition in the workplace, total cost management is the concern of all businesses and companies. It is becoming essential to have professional employees that are proficient in the principles and practices of total cost management. What is a "professional" - **a calling requiring specialized knowledge and often long and intensive preparation including instruction in skills and methods as well as in the scientific, historical, or scholarly principles underlying such skills and methods, maintaining by force of organization or concerted opinion high standards of achievement and conduct, and committing its members to continued study and to a kind of work which has for its prime purpose the rendering of a public service** — From Merriam Webster's Third New International Dictionary.....

One organization focused on in-depth coverage of all aspects of the cost and management profession is **AACE International**. AACE is essential and progressive in meeting the needs of cost and management professionals. With more than 50 years of industry service, AACE represents more than 7,500 professionals worldwide and has members in nearly 80 countries and currently includes 80 local sections. As one of the premier sections, award winning, top rated **East Tennessee Section** can afford you the opportunity to excel professionally. Members of the local Section are AACE professionals work in every aspect of cost and management including owners, corporate executives, project controls managers, cost managers, cost engineers, planners, schedulers, claims and dispute resolution, project managers, educators, litigators, private consultants, risk analysts, value engineers. The East Tennessee Section of AACE International is committed to professional staff development; where professionals and students come together to enhance their careers, their business, and the cost and management profession learning the best business practices and giving you the tools to make your company an industry leader.

One of the ways we accomplish this is by our annual **Technical Training Seminar**. Acclaimed and attended across the region, we remain committed to providing opportunities that will assist you with enhancing your skills and knowledge. AACE's professional opportunities are focused on delivering technical information in time-sensitive formats; with top quality presentations with approved Education Provider (AEP) Program and Continuing Education Seminar curricula that allow you to learn in a classroom atmosphere from a qualified instructor; many courses preparing and training for professional Certification in a variety of professionally accredited certification programs. Independently accredited by the Council of Engineering and Scientific Specialty Boards (CESB) and International Cost Engineering Council (ICEC), the CCCTM/CCETM, EVPTM, PSPTM, and CCTM are the only internationally-recognized certifications for cost management professionals. AACE CERTIFICATION – An Investment In Your Career. Certification is verification of proficiency. It provides assurance that the person performing the work is qualified and up-to-date on the latest techniques and has the experience and knowledge to apply them.

- Enhance professional credibility by meeting the challenges of outside agency review of experience & knowledge.
- Validate your knowledge of cost engineering and the capability to professionally apply the principles of total cost management or your chosen specialty.
- Verify that you're an individual dedicated to improving your cost engineering skills and professional development.
- Distinguish yourself, as a cost engineering professional, to employers, clients and the industry.
- Increase your opportunities for career advancement and for increased earnings.
- Enhance chance for employment opportunities as well as continued employment in challenging economic times.
- Improve the profession by promoting best practices and repeatable processes.
- Allow your employer to improve their professional credibility and reputation with clients by advertising that their cost engineering functions are executed and managed by certified individuals.
- Allow you to be identified as a subject matter expert and granted "expert witness" status.
- Pre-qualify your expertise to potential consulting clients.
- Comply with job postings that require certified individuals.
- Certification is verification of that proficiency. It provides assurance that the person performing the work is qualified and up-to-date on the latest techniques and has the experience and knowledge to apply them. AACE

Technical training, professional specialty certification, professional networking and collaboration – just a few of the many benefits of professional organization affiliation/membership. But it's like anything else in life – you will get out of it what you are willing to invest into it. Get involved. One of the best ways is volunteering your time and skills in the upcoming East Tennessee Section Spring Technical Seminar. Contact Bob McCoy 574-9715. We need you.

Each month we will feature an example certification exam question.

Exam Question

Which of the following is not a form of acceleration?

- Crashing.
- Compression.
- Constructive baselining.
- Directive acceleration.

Look for the answer on page 5.

Certification News

Melissa Buckner, Director of Education

The East Tennessee Section awards academic scholarship to full-time students pursuing degrees in engineering, construction management, building construction, computer sciences, business, quantity surveying, information technology, and other related degrees to cost engineering.

If you know a student who is currently pursuing a degree in one of these areas, please ask them to visit the website below to view the on-line scholarship application on **December 15th**.

<http://www.aacei.org/awards/scholarships/online.shtml>

Once the scholarship application is submitted, the student will be entered in the both the local and international competition. Important dates are listed to the right.

December 15 – On-line scholarship becomes available.

January 1 to February 15 – Submit on-line scholarship

February 15 –By this date, fully completed applications, including any required supporting documentation such as transcripts must be received by AACE International.

The mailing address is:
ATTN: Staff Director-Education, AACE International
1265 Suncrest Towne Centre Drive
Morgantown, WV 26505-1876 USA

February 17 – Applications received electronically and by mail will be forwarded from AACE Headquarters to the appropriate local AACE Section (chapter) for the first round of judging.

February 18 to 29 - The local sections determine winner of sections competition.

March 1 – After the local sections' judging committees have reviewed all applications received, they submit the names of up to four semi-finalists to AACE International Headquarters office by this date for the international competition.

March 1 to 15 – AACE Headquarters distributes semi-finalists applications to Education Board for second round of judging.

March 16 – June 30 - The Education Board Meeting – Education Board identifies finalists, and makes determination of international awards.

July 1 – All candidates are notified of the results of both local and international competitions.

August 1 – The scholarship checks are mailed to schools where winners attend.

Around the Section

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.aace-ets.org

As we are ever striving to keep our members informed about what is happening in the organization, we hope this newsletter will help us do that. If you have any announcements regarding seminars, members receiving a special recognition or award, members moving or changing jobs, job opportunities or anything

else deemed appropriate to share with the East Tennessee AACE members, provide this information no later than the 3rd Monday of each month to Suzanne Patton. Suzanne can be emailed using the ETS Board link on the ETS website. Just click on contact under the phone number.

Contact Information

President	Mark Plemmons, CCE	241-9432
Vice President	Andrea Bach, CCC	241-5737
Secretary	Joy Grubb, EVP	241-4366
Treasurer	Jeff Baldwin	934-3400
Past-President	Larry Sheron, EVP CCC	632-6241
Regional Rep.	Chad Miller, CCC	576-9916

Directors

Membership	Candy Slagle	576-2855
Education	Melissa Buckner	574-8300
Communication	Taylor Burson	576-0983
Activities	Bob McCoy, CCC	574-9715

Committee Chairs

Publicity	Del Dreke, EVP	241-9522
Newsletter	Suzanne Patton	576-2437

Exam Answer

Answer:

c. Construction baselining.