



ASPE President's Newsletter

Information for Chapter Presidents

From Julius Ballanco, P.E., President

Do You Want Grass Roots?

Larry Oliver started a new concept when he was President by hosting a grass roots budget meeting. The idea was to present the budget to the Chapters and have them provide the Board with input.

The Grass Roots Budget meetings were initially well received by the Chapters. However, within the past two years, there seems to be very little interest. At last years Grass Roots Budget meeting, only 12 chapters were represented.

With such little interest shown by the Chapters, the question is, "Do you still want to have a Grass Roots Budget meeting?"

Holding the Grass Roots Budget meeting requires additional time by the members of the Board. While they don't mind putting in the time, I would prefer to only

ask them to give up another Saturday if the Chapters show an interest.

What I have considered is presenting the Grass Roots Budget meeting in another format. That format would be to have a webcast that every Chapter can join in from their home or office. I would also invite anyone to attend in person at the ASPE Headquarters in Chicago.

The webcast would show the presentation being made in Chicago. You would be able to ask questions through a conference call.

What I need to know is whether the Chapters would participate for three hours on a Saturday with such a webcast. If only 12 chapters are interested, I don't see the purpose of having the meeting.

So please let me know ASAP whether you would participate. The plan is to have the Grass Roots Budget meeting on March 17 from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm Eastern time. That translates to 8:00 am to 11:00 am Pacific time.

I would appreciate hearing back from every Chapter. Please send a copy of your decision to your

Region Chairman. If they don't hear from you, expect them to contact you.

Off Year Budget

One of the most difficult tasks for a new president is to prepare an off year budget. We call it an off year budget because there is no income from the EPE in the odd years. As a result, ASPE needs to find other means of having adequate income. Similarly, we need to cut our expenses.

It is my intention to submit a positive budget to the Board. However, I will need the members' help. It is important for our membership to grow in order to do the things we would like to as a Society. One of the first places to start is with membership retention.

I would ask every Chapter to do whatever they can to retain all of your current members. If you receive notice that a member of your Chapter hasn't paid their dues, give them a call, talk up the Society, invite them to participate.

We also need new members. I have challenged all of the members to bring in just one new

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member over the next two years. By the way, that goes for me too. Although I just signed up two members last week, and I plan to continue wherever possible.

Keep ASPE strong. Keep our membership strong.

Traveling to Chapters

Since the last Newsletter, I have had the opportunity to visit three Chapters. On the Tuesday before Thanksgiving, I was the guest speaker at the Eastern Michigan Chapter meeting. They had an excellent turnout for their meeting.

This past week, I flew to California to speak to the Orange County Chapter prior to their Product Show. Again, another great turnout. That afternoon, I flew to New York.

The following evening, I attended the joint Holiday Party of the New York City ASPE and ASSE Chapters. They had a huge attendance. The party was a lot of fun seeing some old friends. Many of you may not be aware that my first engineering job was in lower Manhattan.

This week, I will finally get a chance to visit my own Chapter at their December meeting. I missed the last few having attended other Chapter meetings on the same evening as my Chapter meeting. I enjoy the opportunity to visit our Chapters and speak directly to the members. Thanks for inviting me.

Technical Symposium

The next Technical Symposium is scheduled for November 2007, in Atlanta, Georgia. The Board selected Atlanta because it is a hub airport and easy to get to from any part of North America. We also have great prices on the hotel rooms.

It was brought to my attention that less than 5 percent of our membership attends the Technical Symposium. Actually, it is closer to 4 percent. In contrast, more than 10 percent attended the Convention.

I would like to see the attendance at next year's Technical Symposium skyrocket. The question is, how do we get more members to attend? How can we convince company owners to send their employees for this wonderful educational experience?

The Technical Symposium Committee would like to know. So would I. They put in a lot of time and effort to run the Symposium. We need to promote the Symposium and draw a large attendance. My hope is that each chapter will send at least 8 members to the Technical Symposium, including the various Chapter officers.

CPD Exam

Next April, ASPE will hold the first CPD exam by electronic method. The exam will be

available at various CompUSA stores. In Canada, the exam will be at other facilities, as well.

It is time to start promoting the CPD exam. With the implementation of the electronic exam, the CPD exam will no longer be offered at the Convention and Technical Symposium. Realize that there will be more test sites than we have ever had in the past.

More details on the CPD exam will be available shortly.

New E-mail Address

If you missed my first newsletter, I have a new e-mail address that you can reach me at regarding ASPE business. That e-mail address is PrezASPE@aol.com. If you haven't changed my contact information, please do. Thanks.

Your Comments

I want to hear from you from time to time. Feel free to contact me at any time. No matter what the reason, concern, interest, or problem, please don't hesitate to e-mail or call. I can be reached at PrezASPE@aol.com. My office number is 219-922-6171.

I wish all of you a very Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, Happy Holidays, and a Happy New Years.