Professional Construction Estimators Association of America, Inc. (PCEA) was chartered in 1956 with 35 members from various construction disciplines in Charlotte, North Carolina. Some of the Charter members remain active today. During our early years, members rallied together to exchange ideas, promote educational endeavors and high ethical standards, while simultaneously developing new friendships. Under the leadership of Charlotte’s early presidents, the members set forth many goals to promote and support the industry while expanding the voluntary association. As a result of these efforts, a second chapter was formed during 1958 in Greensboro, North Carolina (now called the Triad Chapter). The Raleigh-Durham Chapter (now called the Triangle Chapter) followed behind in 1963. Subsequent chapters were formed in Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia and Florida. Vern W. "Bill" Helms of the Charlotte Chapter was elected as our first National President in May 1975 during the first annual convention at Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. Since then, PCEA has grown to almost 1,000 members with twelve chapters in five states. Current goals include active expansion to other market areas.

PCEA members have always been active in the promotion of construction education for the betterment of the industry. Each chapter individually coordinates, develops and establishes programs to assist and enhance the educational endeavors in their community while pursuing the educational goals of membership. PCEA Chapters support educational programs ranging from, but not limited to, scholarships to local students, endowed scholarships at several Universities, providing construction instructors, purchasing equipment for use in technical training and introducing construction as a trade to "at risk" students.
Professional Construction Estimators Association
PCEA-Triangle Chapter Social / Membership Drive
September 22, 2016
6:30 PM - 8:00 PM
Is being held at the
Floorscapes / Bonitz Flooring Group Office
10701 World Trade Blvd, Raleigh, North Carolina 27617

Directions https://www.google.com/maps/place/10701+World+Trade+Blvd,+Raleigh,+NC+27617/

We have missed you at our meetings! We invite you to our membership social to see some or your old friends and make new friends and contacts. Once you see how much information, networking and fun you have been missing we know you will want to come back and join in on our monthly meetings!

To register, visit www.pcea-triangle.org
Commercial construction sectors are projected to be the strongest performers in 2016, with the institutional categories in retreat from last year’s pace.

2017 Construction Outlook / AIA / AIA Economist Kermit Baker / Construction Forecasts

By Kermit Baker

The national economy seems to be on a slower growth path so far in 2016, in part due to a growing list of national and international vulnerabilities. The slower growth in the broader economy is beginning to put downward pressure on the construction industry.

After a solid performance last year, where most commercial and industrial construction sectors grew by 20% or more, activity was expected to moderate in 2016.

The year has gotten off to a solid start, but the American Institute of Architects’ Consensus Construction Forecast Panel anticipates that growth will moderate as the year progresses. Overall, building construction spending is expected to grow around 6% this year and stay in that range for 2017.

Commercial construction sectors are projected to be the strongest performers in 2016, with the institutional categories in retreat from last year’s pace. Next year, the commercial sectors are expected to see slower yet still healthy growth, while most institutional markets will accelerate.

Economic Roadblocks

There are many positive signs in the economy at present. Job growth continues to be healthy, the national unemployment rate is below 5%, consumer confidence levels are strong, the rate of inflation is extremely low, energy costs remain well below their average of the past several decades, interest rates are near record-low levels, stock prices remain high in spite of unusual volatility and the single-family housing market is poised for very strong growth.

Still, a growing list of issues threatens to unhinge the economic expansion, both national and international, as follows.

The U.S. manufacturing sector remains weak. The output of the nation’s factories has declined in 13 of the past 17 months, dating back to the beginning of 2015. As a result, business investment has dropped sharply since the third quarter of last year. Business confidence levels are suffering, with the Conference Board’s CEO’s Business Confidence Index lingering in negative territory since the middle of last year. International economies are starting to drag U.S. markets down. The sense of gloom in the manufacturing sector is reinforced by several emerging international economic trends that are likely to diminish U.S. exports. Key international economies—including China, Brazil, and Russia—continue to face difficulties. The recent decision by the UK to exit the European Union won’t have a direct effect on U.S. exports, but it may set off a new round of restrictive trade policies. Regardless, the strong dollar, which has strengthened as international economies have faltered, provides incentives for increasing imports, which further undermines the nation’s manufacturing sector.

- The upcoming presidential election is increasing uncertainty. Presidential elections tend to depress economic growth in the six months leading up to them because many investors are reluctant to move ahead with projects, given that policies may change. This time, the level of uncertainty about post-election policies is unusually high, which likely will depress investment even more.

This rising unrest can already be seen in Federal Reserve actions. The Fed has postponed short-term interest rate hikes so far in 2016. While low interest rates have many positive benefits, they underscore the weak demand throughout the U.S. economy. They also have inflated the value of real assets like stocks and real estate, which leaves the economy more vulnerable to a downturn, should a negative event materialize.
Construction Outlook

In spite of a growing list of threats to the U.S. economy, and therefore the construction sector, the outlook remains reasonably favorable overall. For example, AIA’s Architecture Billings Index (ABI)—an indicator of construction activity that leads spending in the nonresidential sector by nine to 12 months—continues to send off positive signals.

It has remained in the growth range since mid-2012, and in spite of recent volatility, the ABI still documents increases in design activity at U.S. architecture firms. There are signs that progress in design activity may be slowing: the average ABI score of 51.8 for the first half of 2015 dipped to 51.3 for the second half of last year and continued to ease to closer to 51 for the first half of this year.

Still, the new design contracts index introduced by AIA, which measures new project activity coming into architecture firms, remains above the billings index. This suggests that architecture firms are increasing their backlog of projects.

Some evidence indicates that gains in construction activity will continue to slow in the coming quarters. A consensus forecast of real-estate trends conducted by the Urban Land Institute suggests that the country is in the latter stages of the current real-estate cycle. ULI’s forecast sees vacancy rates rising and rent increases slowing for the multifamily and hotel markets through 2017 and 2018. The office and retail sectors are projected to see more stable vacancies with slower rent gains, so they, too, seem to be in the latter stages of the current cycle.

Commercial property values also could affect future growth in the sector. Nationally, they are about 10% above their prerecession highs, according to data from Core Logic. International economic concerns—particularly with emerging weakness in Europe following the UK vote—may drive more capital to U.S. real estate markets, coaxing prices even higher in the coming months.

The AIA Consensus Construction Forecast Panel sees healthy but slower growth in nonresidential building. After an estimated 17% growth in 2015, the consensus is for 5.8% growth in overall building construction activity this year, declining modestly to 5.6% in 2017.

The commercial sectors are expected to be the strongest performers, with an 11.7% gain this year and 6.5% next year, paced by continued strong performance in office and retail. Industrial construction, which saw growth last year in excess of 40%, is projected for essentially flat levels of construction this year and next.

Healthy single-digit growth is expected from the institutional sector in 2016 and 2017. An optimistic outlook remains for education facilities, with gains in excess of 6% projected for both this year and next. The outlook for the health care sector has dimmed a bit, with growth forecasts falling to just over 2% this year before ramping up to 5% in 2017.

*Kermit Baker is the chief economist for the American Institute of Architects and part of the AIA Economics and Market Research Group, which provides AIA members with insights and analysis of the economic factors that shape the business of architecture.*
PCEA–Triangle Presents
5th Annual “Meat, Skeet, Greet” Fundraiser
& Sporting Clay Spectacular

Hosted by the Professional Construction
Estimators Association – Triangle Chapter

OCT. 14th ~ DRAKE LANDING
1:00 – 2:00 PM ~ Registration & Practice
2:00 PM ~ Event kickoff
4:30 PM ~ Steak Dinner catered by Drake Landing

- $150 / person – Includes Ammo, Clays, Snacks and Dinner
- All ammo and sporting clays must be provided by Drake Landing. (Please include Shell Gauge with Registration)
- Prizes will be awarded individually
- Fundraiser supports PCEA-Triangle Programs and Scholarships
- Can you offer more support? On site, you can purchase:
  - Practice tickets – $5 for five shots

Become a sponsor!
Level 1 – Station sponsor $100 Sponsor Name__________________________
Level 2 – Special activity sponsor $200 Level & Amount_________________
Level 3 – Lunch sponsor $300

Complete this form and mail (along with payment) to: PCEA-Triangle, PO Box 18701, Raleigh, N.C. 27619
Please make checks to: PCEA-Triangle Chapter.
Registration and payment by credit card is also available online at http://www.pcea-triangle.org

Questions? Call Rick Embrey@ 919-522-7102 or rick@mr-dirt.com
Money and form must be received Friday, October 7th

Name__________________________ Company__________________________ Email__________________________

Name__________________________ Company__________________________ Email__________________________

Name__________________________ Company__________________________ Email__________________________

Name__________________________ Company__________________________ Email__________________________

3146 Chalybeate Springs Rd.
Fuquay Varina, NC 27526
For Directions go to
www.drakelanding.net
Members Corner
Please keep the following members in your thoughts and prayers;
Marc Marotta and Family - Father Passed Away
Jason Graham and Family - Uncle
Kevin Sherron and Family - Father
Tom VonCannon and Family - Father and Uncle

PCEA recognizes that one of the greatest problems facing our industry is a shortage of interested and well qualified employees at all levels. To that end, our mission is to extend Scholarships to persons interested in pursuing a career in the construction Industry.

The following Scholarships are funded by the PCEA Triangle Chapter fundraisers and events. (Please see a Faculty Representative at these schools to receive an application).

PCEA Member Dependent Scholarship
The PCEA Member Dependent Scholarship is available to immediate family members of PCEA members in good standing. The recipient of this Scholarship does not have to be pursing a degree in the Construction Industry.
Nothing is impossible, the word itself says “I'm possible”!

-Audrey Hepburn
Our August Speaker did not disappoint. If you were lucky to be present, there were a good many questions from the membership. She currently serves as a Senior Project Engineer at Underwriters Laboratories (UL) in Research Triangle Park, NC. UL is a global independent safety science company with more than a century of expertise innovating safety solutions from the public adoption of electricity to new breakthroughs in sustainability, renewable energy, and nanotechnology. Denice works within the Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) group where she is responsible for handling projects related to the certification of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and Personal Flotation Devices (PFD) including garments/components, PFD components, structural fire-fighter hoods, and other materials used on devices within the industry. Denice holds Bachelor of Science (B.S.) degrees in Textile Engineering and Materials Science & Engineering as well as Master of Science (M.S.) degrees in Materials Science & Engineering and Chemical Engineering from North Carolina State University. An avid Wolfpack fan, Denice enjoys traveling, running marathons, and also serves as a mentor for current engineering students at NCSU.
Statistics

• Over 17 billion UL Marks appear on products each year
• UL conducts more than 110,000 product evaluations
• More than 5,900 staff work in the UL family of companies
• UL evaluates over 18,500 types of products
• UL customers can be found in 99 countries
• There are currently 840 UL Standards for Safety
• Close to 50 laboratory, testing, and certification facilities are in the UL family of companies
September's Social was held as part of our membership drive. We had several guests which we hope will join our group of professionals.

As always, Wally Mills and Rick Emery were the Grill Master's. Their dedication and efforts are the heart of our Triangle Chapter.
October Membership Meeting

Next Meeting 10-20-2016
Pre-meeting Social
starts @ 6:30 PM
Meeting starts @ 7:00 PM

Address:
6019-A Glenwood Ave
Oak Park Shopping Center
Raleigh, NC 27612-2601

October Speaker is Set
Mr. Frank Princiotta
Representing - EPA

Frank Princiotta

Frank Princiotta retired from EPA in 2015 after a 43-year career with the agency as Director of the Air Pollution Prevention and Control Division (APPCD) of the National Risk Management Research Laboratory. He has a degree in Chemical Engineering and a Nuclear Engineering Certificate from the Oak Ridge School of Reactor Technology. He has received a gold medal, five bronze medals and the President’s Meritorious Executive Award on two separate occasions. He played the leadership role in the development and demonstration of sulfur dioxide pollution control technology for coal-fired boilers, which has been the mainstay of SO2 control worldwide. An author of many scientific papers on air pollution control, he has been a frequent speaker before technical societies and conferences and has chaired numerous symposia and has testified before House and Senate Committees on air pollution control. In recent years he has been a key expert in the control of mercury from coal-fired power plants. Most recently he has focused on global climate change which he considers the most important environmental issue of the century. He has analyzed the role that technology will need to play, if we are to avoid the potentially catastrophic impacts associated with an unconstrained use of energy.
November Membership Meeting
Scheduled
November Meeting 11-17-2016
Pre-meeting Social
starts @ 6:30 PM
Meeting starts @ 7:00 PM

Tentative Speaker: Laura Jackson PHD
The Effects of
The Built Environment on Both
Human and the Ecological Health.

Have you ever wondered how our Buildings effect out health and the impacts of our building related to the environment?
Network Distributors, Inc.
Commercial Lumber & Plywood Supply
Fire Retardant, Pressure Treated & Untreated
NETWORKLUMBER.COM
177 Lake Wheeler Road, Raleigh, NC 27603
919-832-4443 networklumber@bellsouth.net
126 American Way, Fletcher, NC 28732
828-376-3727
331-2 Metro Circle, Wilmington, NC 28401
910-762-4002

Space For Rent
Customers will not call
If they don’t know who to call!

Advertise your business card on this page for $100 per year. Contact Thomas VonCannon for information. (919) 901-8090 TAVonCannon@VSCFS.com