



March 12th Monthly Business Meeting Market on Main

Please join us for our Monthly Business Meeting
on **Thursday, March 12th**

Guest speaker:

To be announced

Chapter Officers:

President – Will Clayton
President-Elect – Chris Lefevers
1st Vice President – Stacey Walker
2nd Vice President – Steve Smart
Secretary – Melissa Swanson
Treasurer – Randall Williams
Newsletter Editor – Melissa Swanson

When:	Thursday, March 12, 2015
Where:	Market on Main 535 Main Ave SW Hickory, NC 28602

Social Hour: 5:30 - 6:30 PM

Dinner & Meeting: 6:30 PM

**PLEASE REGISTER/RSVP NO LATER
THAN TUESDAY, March 10th!**

Bring a guest/potential member!

Register online at:

www.pcea-catawbavalley.org

Professional
Construction Estimators
Association
Catawba Valley Chapter



PCEA-Catawba Valley Chapter
PO Box 547
Hickory, NC 28603
www.pcea-catawbavalley.org

Email: pcea-catawbavalley@charter.net

UPCOMING PCEA EVENTS

**March 12th —Monthly
Business Meeting**

**April 9th —Monthly
Business Meeting**

**May 14th—Monthly
Business Meeting**



HEALTH & HAPPINESS

CONGRATULATE WILL CLAYTON ON HIS NEW
POSITION WITH CATAWBA VALLEY
ENGINEERING

Please send any Health & Happiness to Rick
Fraday, Catawba County Building Inspections
rfrady@catawbacountync.gov



HAPPY
ST.PATRICK'S
DAY

Community Outreach

Catawba Valley PCEA gives back to the local community through many avenues. In addition to the scholarships we award each year to students from Catawba County, we are also involved with local charities and other non-profit organizations.



Catawba Valley PCEA to Help with Renovations at Sipe's Orchard Home

Sipe's Orchard Home was founded in 1943 by Mr. & Mrs. V.O. Sipe in Conover, North Carolina to provide care for neglected, abused, or homeless boys. The home admitted its first boy in July of 1945. Like most children's homes of the 1940s, Sipe's was a working farm. The boys kept busy feeding chickens, milking cows, picking peaches, or other chores.

Over the years, Sipe's has evolved to meet the changing needs of children in our society and community. The Home accepted only boys for nearly 50 years, but in 1993, Sipe's began admitting pre-adolescent sisters of current male residents. The goal was to help keep families together. In May 1995, Sipe's opened the Hazel T. Houston Cottage for the care of teenage girls. This was the first major program expansion in many years.

Today, the "**Houston Transitional Living Center**" offers a supportive, residential, co-ed program for homeless, disadvantaged youth, providing them tools and opportunities to learn and practice successful independence. This program is designed for ages 17-21 who do not have the financial, academic, emotional, or behavioral skills necessary for independent living.

This experiential learning environment offers numerous opportunities and resources, including independent living and vocational training, educational advancement, meals, transportation, recreation, computer & internet access, support groups, and workshops.

While the current facility is at maximum capacity with 10 residents, there were over 40 teens & young adults referred to the program in 2014, meaning over 30 had to be turned away.

For many years, the Catawba Valley Chapter of Professional Construction Estimators Association of America, Inc. (PCEA) has raised money for Christmas presents for the residents at Sipe's Orchard Home and the residents of the Houston Transitional Cottage. Now we are asking for your help to raise money for repairs and renovations to existing buildings on the grounds, in order to help them increase their ability to house an additional 10-15 residents.

The ultimate goal is \$100,000.00, and PCEA would like to help raise at least \$25,000.00 to help towards this goal! ANY donations you can make are greatly appreciated and will go a long way to help these teenagers to gain the life skills they need for successful independent living, while they are working and attending school (requirements of the program).

If you are unable to help financially but would like to donate your time/labor, please contact [Will Clayton](#) (Catawba Valley PCEA Chapter President), [Patty Delgado](#) (PCEA National President), or [Jamie Brown](#) (President-Sipe's Orchard Home).



Scholarships

Kenneth N. Houston Memorial Scholarship

The Catawba Valley Chapter of Professional Construction Estimators of America (PCEA) again this coming spring will award scholarship money to deserving high school seniors and college undergraduates preparing to enter construction related careers.

Over the last thirty plus years the Catawba Valley Chapter of PCEA has awarded thousands of dollars in scholarship money to local students. In 1995, the Chapter's Board of Directors elected to name the scholarship program in memory of Kenneth N. Houston, who twice served the Catawba Valley Chapter as president, who had been an active member and supporter of the chapter's education committee, and who had been a respected member of the North Carolina construction community, before his untimely death from cancer in 1994. The chapter is proud to memorialize Ken Houston in such a fitting manner.

At least one scholarship, usually in the amount of one-thousand-dollars is awarded each year. In choosing recipients, the selection committee considers academic performance, desire to enter construction related fields, financial need, community activities, and letters of recommendation and character reference.

Applicants are urged to be thorough in providing information that documents academic performance, financial need, and service to the community. Applicants should include a letter written to the selection committee that makes clear the applicant's plans for the future, reasons for pursuing a construction related career, and that may also relate some of the applicant's personal philosophy. Applications that are neat, complete, and thorough are appreciated.

Completed applications should be mailed to the address above before the end of April. The scholarship committee will announce recipients by the end of May.

If you have questions or would like to obtain information about PCEA's National Scholarship, contact Lynn Nash at (828) 324-1564.

Dependent Scholarship

The Catawba Valley Chapter of Professional Construction Estimators of America (PCEA) will award scholarship money this year to deserving high school seniors and college undergraduates, who are dependents of Catawba Valley Chapter members.

At least one scholarship, usually in the amount of one-thousand-dollars, has been awarded each year. However, the chapter will award scholarship money only if a deserving application is received. In choosing recipients, the selection committee considers community service, field of study, academic performance, financial need, extracurricular activities, letters of recommendation and character references.

Completed applications should be mailed to the PCEA before the end of April. Applications will be reviewed and recipients selected by an independent judging panel, not associated with PCEA. The scholarship committee will announce recipients by the end of May.

* Dependents of PCEA members may apply for the chapter Dependent Scholarship, but are not eligible for the Kenneth N. Houston Memorial Scholarship.

If you have questions or would like to obtain information about PCEA's Dependent Scholarship, contact Randall Williams at (828) 270-1527.

Construction Industry Growth Trends

Qualified Workers Sought in Industry Surge

In 2014, the construction industry grew, adding jobs and increasing in the number of projects across many sectors. This growth is projected to continue throughout 2015 and beyond. With more and more companies seeking qualified construction workers, and more work to be completed, updated and comprehensive cost estimating data has become an indispensable asset to help plan, budget and bid for projects efficiently.

The construction industry added jobs every month in 2014, an increase that has not been seen since 2005¹. In just the first month of 2015, 39,000 construction jobs were added, making this the highest construction total since February 2009². In addition to job growth, construction revenue is expected to rise through 2015, with an 8.1% increase over 2014³.

Increased construction spending is anticipated to affect various industry sectors including highways, schools and universities, hospitals, water and sewer, public and private building, retail and manufacturing and power. With such a widespread growth, firms are planning on expanding beyond their typical geographic markets⁴, and perhaps target new market segments, as well.

The news for the construction industry is great: more jobs, more projects and more revenue. But are the right people available to work? While 80% of construction firms are planning for expansion this year, many struggle with difficulty finding qualified workers⁵.

Industry growth and a changing market also means more competition and the need to ensure accurate budgeting and planning for the years ahead. Cost Data Engineers at RSMeans from The Gordian Group have reported significant price changes for many building materials for 2015. While some prices dropped 40%, others have increased 19% over last year's prices. With such expansive price fluctuations, those who have access to the latest cost data will gain an edge in this competitive market.

Contractors and A/E firms can set themselves apart and tap into industry growth by accessing trusted, up-to-date construction cost estimating data. RSMeans from The Gordian Group is the most up-to-date construction cost estimating information, and will help contractors make themselves more competitive in a growing market, by providing current cost data for estimates and proposals. Equipped with the latest cost data, A/E firms can deliver more exact data to their clients. Facility Owners can use this data to validate planning for budgets and lifecycle building costs more precisely. Using relevant and updated cost data, construction firms and individuals can demonstrate their competence and expertise in planning and budgeting. Each year, new line items are added to provide those in the construction industry with useful information to keep them competitive.

Armed with the right resources, construction firms can be part of this growth trend in the industry. Cost estimating data provides those in the construction industry with the right tool to plan, budget and bid for construction projects using timely and thorough information.

Article found on RS Means website 3-2-15

Board of Directors Meeting Dates
(Please Save these Dates)

March 25th

April 29th

May 27th

June 24th

July 29th



PCEA - Catawba Valley Chapter

PO Box 547
Hickory, NC 28603

