

"... the two greatest impacts Standards have had on both my professional, as well as personal life, is to always try and produce the best end product I possibly can; and when put in a position where my ethics or integrity may be compromised, do the right thing."



**2018 ASPE
LEGACY
AWARD**

**MERLE W.
HECKENLIVELY
'FOUNDER OF
STANDARDS' AWARD**



was presented to

Ronald Trawinski, CPE
Chapter 61
Philadelphia
trawinski@ptd.net

For Excellence
in Promotion and
Utilization of
Standards of Ethics
and Practice
within the
Construction
Industry

Q and A with Ron ...

Can you share with us a little about your commitment to Standards?

The ideal of Standards is something I am committed to both personally, as well as professionally. Personally, a day does not go by where I don't evaluate if my actions were sincere, honest, and ethical; and if I erred, how can I correct myself to be a better person tomorrow.

On a professional level, I have had the pleasure of serving on the ASPE Standards Committee for three terms and was Committee Chairperson for publication of the 8th Edition of the *Standard Estimating Practice Manual (SEP)*. My fellow committee members were as committed as I to publishing a manual which could be used as a means for preparing detailed, accurate cost estimates in a standardized format. These volunteers put in many hours revising and updating the SEP and should all be recognized for their efforts to both ASPE as well as the construction industry as a whole.

What is the biggest impact of the implementation of Standards (ethics, integrity, values, and ideals) across estimating has made in your career?

As a Licensed Professional Engineer, I am bound by the Society's Code of Ethics. As one could summarize, there are many similarities between the Engineer's Code and the ASPE Code of Ethics. Having been brought up in the construction industry, my father, who never read either code, was still able to instill within me the values of what these documents are all about. Above all, the two greatest impacts Standards have had on both my professional, as well as personal life, is to always try and produce the best end product I possibly can; and when put in a position where my ethics or integrity may be compromised, do the right thing. Even if the result may hurt my professional career.

What is the greatest challenge facing the industry in regards to Standards?

Since the Great Recession of 2009, many of our fellow seasoned construction professionals have left the industry. With their departure, as well as society's increased appetite for everything digital, the idea of face-to-face interaction in order to develop personal relationships and trust have been replaced with e-mails, text messages, etc. This lack of human interaction makes it very easy to ignore personal commitments, integrity, and values with your clients and fellow construction professionals. For example, you can't look a person in the eye and know you have each other's trust to do the right thing when your interactions are via a computer.