

# Chapter News

## “Value Engineering 101” presented by San Diego Chapter

By Ronald J. Tanenbaum, Ph.D., PE, GE, CVS, FASCE

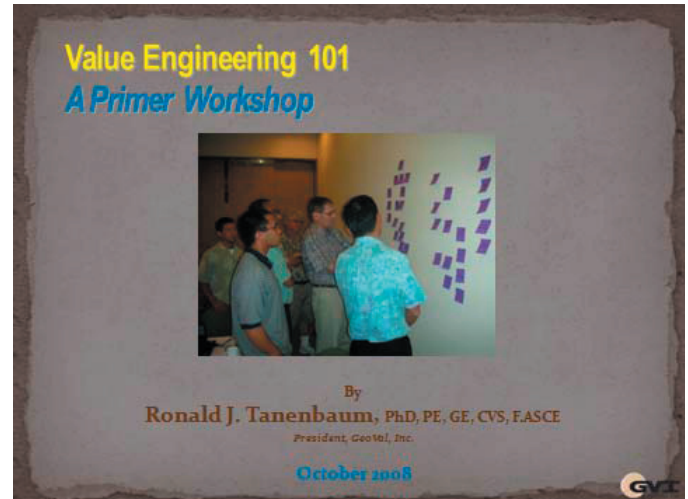
The SAVE San Diego Chapter is committed to providing its members, and those who express an interest in value engineering and value analysis, opportunities to learn more about the VE process and the potential for improved project performance at reduced project cost that the methodology offers. As part of this effort, Dr. Ron Tanenbaum, vice president of membership for the chapter, presented a two-hour educational seminar to introduce the methodology and its benefits to those attending the workshop. The session sought to address what value engineering is, how it works, and what it can do to enhance the performance of their projects while increasing project value. The primer on the VE process was developed to introduce the methodology to those who have not previously participated in a VE workshop (Tanenbaum refers to them as “newbies”) and to reinforce the knowledge base of those who have already enjoyed the experience.

Held in the conference room of URS Corporation (thank you!), the training seminar covered a number of important and interesting topics. Discussions began with a very important assessment of what value engineering is; more significantly, what it is not; and, the reasons for poor value in design and construction. This discussion then transitioned into a pre-

sentation of the value engineering objectives and timing of the VE workshop in the design process, followed by a presentation of the step-by-step VE job plan. Emphasis was placed on two important components of the plan: function analysis and the FAST diagram and the importance of life cycle costing.

Following the completion of the formal portion of the seminar, the members took advantage of the experience of its senior members in the audience. Particularly, George Bartolomei, CVS-Life (and SAVE Honor Member), and Tanenbaum, with over 300 workshops under their collective belts, led discussions of a number of case histories and success stories to enhance the benefits of the VE process. The session concluded with a discussion of how the process can be used in many other

applications besides engineering and construction, including the making of important decisions in the participants’ everyday lives. In the end, each participant received a copy of *Value Methodology, A Pocket Guide to Reduce Cost and Improve Value Through Function*



*Analysis.* The participants agreed that this workshop, though certainly not a substitute for the Module I course, should be a regular, annual (if not semi-annual) feature of the chapter’s programs; and other chapters of SAVE, and engineering and construction firms, should be encouraged to participate in similar introductory seminars.



Seminar attendees.

## Metro NY Chapter meeting announcement

The Metropolitan New York Chapter will next meet on Monday, January 12, 2009. The discussion topic for the meeting is value management during the construction process.

Please contact chapter president Jerrold Ratner with questions and meeting location information at (201) 599-2232 or emwood101@optonline.net.