



SPECWORK

Knowledge for Creating & Sustaining the Built Environment
CSINet - Home of The Construction Specifications Institute

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Reports	2
PERSPECTIVES	3
November Minutes	4
GSR Info	6-7
CSI Leadership	8
Technical Articles	5 & 9

LRCSI Plant Tour



Rock Town Distillery Plant Tour

Learning Objectives:

Learn the origins of Bourbon, what makes Vodka - Vodka, and what is Gin anyway? These questions and many more are answered during the tour. The tour takes about 45 mins to an hour, and you'll get to taste all of Rock Town's spirits at the end of the tour. Ask questions, learn about spirits and have fun while touring at Arkansas' first "legal" distillery since prohibition.

Cost: \$7 per person

Tour starts Friday, December 13 at 2 pm.
Payments can be made at Rock Town Distillery.
1216 E 6th Street
Little Rock, AR 72212
501-765-5250 with questions.

MISSION OF CSI:

"Advance the process of creating and sustaining the built environment."

"CSI is a national association dedicated to creating standards and formats to improve construction documents and projects delivery.

The organization is unique in the industry in that its members are a cross section of specifiers, architects, engineers, contractors and building materials suppliers."

From CSI Website: csinet.org

President's Message



Leadership Seminar on Fundraising:

One of the critical components of a nonprofit organization is to be able to raise sufficient funds that ultimately will benefit its members. Every donation, whether it be from advertising, lunch meetings, tournaments or member dues, is an important piece of what makes our organization possible. One of the reasons our supporters contribute is because they believe in the CSI mission. Our acknowledgement of these individuals or companies is sometimes the only tangible return of their investment. In order to strengthen our fundraising for our Chapter, we need to familiarize ourselves with our sponsors and help them see how their contribution benefits and improves our industry and our professions.

Jerome Sorensen, AIA, CSI
WER Architects Planners

Upcoming Events

GRACE
Construction Products

A WORLDWIDE LEADER IN THE CONSTRUCTION PRODUCTS INDUSTRY



January 14th will be 11:30am Lunch with Craig Boucher of Grace Construction Products, Understanding the Critical Elements of Air and Vapor Barrier Systems & Exterior Wall Design Incorporating an Air and Water Barrier. Location to be decided.

The Gulf States Region Conference will be held in New Orleans, LA on May 16th and 17th of 2014. Please contact Cathy Joffray, Conference Chair at cathie.joffray@gmail.com with any questions regarding attendance or sponsorship.

The Construction Specifications Institute is a nationwide non-profit technical organization dedicated to the improvement of specifications and building practices in the construction industry through service, education and research. Founded in 1948, CSI provides a forum for architects, engineers, specification writers, contractors, suppliers and others in our industry. Membership is open to all who are involved in the built environment. Please contact Chapter membership Chairman, Kare White or any chapter officer listed on the "Officer, Directors and Committee Chairs" page of this newsletter.



PER-SPEC-TIVES

OTHER PERSPECTIVES, OPINIONS, EXPRESSIONS, IMPRESSIONS, THOUGHTS AND IDEAS ABOUT THE NOBLE PROFESSION OF SPECIFICATIONS WRITING-- OPEN FOR, AND SEEKING DISCUSSION

No. 198

THE DOG AS SPECIFIER

by Ralph Liebing, RA, CSI, CDT
Cincinnati, OH

“WOOF”! Bow-Wow! or “ARF”, as your dog may choose!

Clear; concise; complete; correct-- Good Lord, the dog is a Specifier!!!

No preamble; no opening act; no trumpeted entrance; no front-end; no introduction-- it's a prompt and valid response! And if those nearby are smart, they will transfer the bone, or open the door for the dog/specifier. We can learn a lot from that interaction

Age, and locale cause much the same type of responses; “yup and nope”; “depends”; “I don't knooooo” [remember Pa Kettle?]. Movie [and maybe real life] cowboys talk like that [Eastwood, Fonda, Wayne, etc.].

Verbosity [yes, I did look that one up] and spec writer are or should be mutually exclusive! Of course, in keeping with the 4 Cs. But looking at our canine friend again, we see unequivocal answers-- no hesitation; certainly unbiased; pointed; certainly imperative.

Problem is there is no written record! The bark response is there-- then gone! Now some dogs through training can sniff out drugs and even cadavers, but we need one to sniff out construction defects-- to enforce the specifications! Well, there are some that can track wrong-doers so there appears to be some possible help right there.

Another problem is the lack of construction knowledge and how to put buildings together. From a cause and effect angle the dog works, but anything subjective or decisive we lose 'em! Too bad but they just are cut toward right and wrong and don't care to deal with grayed shades between. And then of course, until some harm comes to the dog, he is friend forever-- something that, in construction, cuts both good and bad. We do need that business sense.

The dog can establish territory but the “puddle” will never replace the batter board-- too impermanent! The dog would have no hesitation in project meetings to fall asleep if bored-- but will immediately react to any raised voices or other adverse “signal”. The dog, too, prefers the come-and-go door, much like the doorless cubicle! But in the end the dog just speaks well to a point but not to enough points. His/her specifications claim to fame is the sharp, clear response-- a lesson to be learned!

So we say stuff like “Paint walls”-- some of you REALLY like that kind of talk!!! But what if we say, “Paint vertical walls”? Boy, oh boy, those of you who can still jump will leap 'pon that six times over; but hold on!!! This is a “gotcha” because--- on this project some walls were set with lasers and are askew-- and to be finished differently from them verticle walls!! Gotcha!

Much like the dog-- a clear crisp response! But then, like with dogs you have to watch out for those “extraneous circumstances”-- uuhhhh, you know what I mean!

November 2013 Minutes

LITTLE ROCK CHAPTER OF THE CONSTRUCTION SPECIFICATIONS INSTITUTE

Board Meeting Date: November 12, 2013

Meeting Time: 10:30 PM

Meeting Location: Innerplan

Attendees:

President: Jerome Sorensen

- Call to order.
- Welcome and Opening Remarks.
- Quorum Check-

Secretary: Wendell Poore

- Presentation of Minutes from Last Board Meeting. See attached email.
- Discussion & correction
- Voting on minutes:
- Presentation of correspondence:

Treasurer: Jan Sanders

- Financial Report.

Old Business:

- A. None.

New Business:

- A. 2013 - 2014 Budget Review:
- B. Golf Tournament 2013: Tim Davis Provide Update:
- C. Outstanding Chapter Commendation 2014: UPDATE:

Committee Reports:

- A. Academic Affairs (Kiem Kirkpatrick):
- B. Awards (Melissa Aguiar): Need NEW Chair
- C. Certification / Education (EMPTY: Jerome Sorensen): Need Chair
 - 1. Quarterly CEU Seminars: Wendell to investigate security symposium=

OPEN

- D. Electronic Communications (Mark Edds): None.
- E. Emerging Professionals (Jerome Sorensen): Need Chair
- F. Membership (Empty: Jerome Sorensen)= Need Chair
- G. Media Promotion (Mark Edds): None.
- H. Publications / Advertising (Bart Lusk): Provide Update
- I. Nominating (Tim Davis): PROVIDE Update
- J. Programs/Table-Tops (Kara White): NEED MEETINGS. New
- K. Fundraising / Golf Tournament (Empty: Jerome Sorensen): Need Chair
- L. Planning (Jerome Sorensen):
- M. Finance (Jan Sanders):
- N. Scholarship Reports (Jessica Jeffries): Awarded \$1000 to Chris Friemel UALR
- O. Technical (Karl Hanson):
- P. Historian (Jerome Sorensen):
- Q. Photographer (Bart Lusk): Provide Update
- R. Website (Mark Edds):

Meeting Adjourned

Architect / Consulting Engineer Coordination, Closing the Gap

Written by Billy J. Mathis, CSI, CDT President, Gulf States Region
Presented by Cherise Schacter, CSI, CDT

So here I sit at 10:00 a.m. on a Thursday, having spent 12 hours on my feet and in classes the previous day, wondering if this topic is going to be as interesting as we all think it sounds. Then the speaker starts and we all realize at this time this is going to be a good one. The basics of the presentation are not new. Architects and Consulting Engineers need to coordinate their efforts, however, in today's fast paced design and construction world, this does not always happen. So what we end up with are Change Orders, Lawsuits, and angry Clients. If we had taken a little time in the beginning to get on the same page, we could have prevented a lot of this from occurring. Not all of it, sometimes things just happen. But, if we had communicated and coordinated on the front side of the Design, the back side of Design and Construction should flow smoother. So what can we do? As Architects, we can't be afraid to share basic information such as the Owner / Architect Agreement (minus the financials if desired) as well as the standard Division 1 and General Conditions to be used on the Project. Why this information you ponder. Well, a lot of coordination and communication issues could be resolved if everyone was working off of the same script.

Architects, let the engineers know what is expected and when. Get samples of their specs, edit them for format and such, and send back. That way they know what is expected. Engineers, if the Architect doesn't send this information to you, request it. If you don't know what your duties and responsibilities are, how can you provide your services.

Architects, when sending out RFPs for services, think about granting bonus points if the Consulting Engineer has CSI Certified (CDT, CCS, etc) staff members. You may not find any immediately, but if you ask for it often enough, the Consulting Engineers will make the move. Consulting Engineers, you might consider getting your administrative staff CSI Certified so you can use their expertise to better market your services.

These are just a couple of the recommendations made. The biggest recommendation made was to meet early, meet at defined intervals depending on the complexity of the Project, and constantly update and prepare your specifications and drawings. If your Consulting Engineer sends over the unedited master specification at a 50% review, then you have a problem in that coordination will be impossible. Make sure that what has been drawn has also been incorporated into the specifications. Also, make sure everyone is on the same page when it comes to format, terminology, and what sections are actually included and that their Specs reflect this information.

Basically it boils down to the following sentence

If you can't take the time to communicate and coordinate early, you can't afford the time and money it will take to correct issues later.

Gulf States Region Conference - Event Information

The annual Gulf States Region Conference is being held in New Orleans in the Spring of 2014!

Dates: May 16th-17th.

Location: **Four Points Sheraton**, located in the heart of the French Quarter.

You can book a room right now and secure the low, low early bird rate of \$169/night!

>> Click here for the Hotel Registration Form <<

CONFERENCE ATTENDEE REGISTRATION FEE:

\$190 - Early Bird Conference Attendee Registration, CSI Member (ends April 11th, 2014)

\$225 - Late Conference Attendee Registration, CSI Member

\$250 - Conference Attendee, Non-Member

\$95 - Conference Attendee, Student (with valid Student ID)

NOTE: All Conference Attendee Registration Fees include the following:

Saturday Meals:

Continental breakfast, lunch and awards banquet.

* Separate costs assigned for additional guest and meals.

FRIDAY EVENT - Eligible for 1 CEU: \$75

Building Tour + Open Exhibits of the Louisiana Pavilion at the **World War II Museum** (recently named Traveler's Choice - top 7 museums in the US!) followed by a cocktail **reception with heavy hors d'oeuvres catered by the celebrated local chef, John Besh!** For more information on the museum, visit www.nationalww2museum.org

AGENDA:

Friday, May 16th

2:00 pm - Board Meeting, followed by Opening Session / Region Committee Reports

4:00 pm - 5:30 pm - Building Tour, WWII Museum

5:30 pm - 7:00 pm - Cocktail Reception at the Louisiana Pavilion (WWII Museum)

8:00 pm - Midnight - Hospitality Suite is open

Saturday, May 17th (all at Four Points Sheraton, French Quarter)

8:00 am - Breakfast

9:00 am - 10:30 am - Session I

11:00 am - 12:30 pm - Session II

12:30 pm - 1:30 pm - Lunch

2:30 pm - 3:30 pm - Region Annual Meeting / Chapter Reporting Session

4:00 pm - 5:00 pm - Hospitality Suite is open

6:30 pm - Cocktail Hour

7:00 pm - Awards Banquet

* Hospitality Suite will be open throughout additional breaks in the day.

download the "GO NOLA" things-to-do app by clicking on this icon!



Gulf States Region Conference - May 16th-17th, 2014

Registration Form

Thank you for registering to attend the Gulf States Region Conference being held in New Orleans! We hope to make the process as easy as possible. Please note, you will need to complete a **separate reservation form for lodging, which can be found here: <http://neworleans.csinet.org>**

Your Full Name (include credentials): _____

Affiliate Chapter: _____

* Please fill out a separate registration form for each conference attendee.

Contact Information:

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

eMail _____ Phone _____

MAY 16th - 17th CONFERENCE REGISTRATION: (Please check a box. You may also click shopping cart icon to pay online)

- \$195 - Early Bird Conference Attendee Registration, CSI Member (ends April 11th, 2014)
- \$225 - Late Conference Attendee Registration, CSI Member
- \$250 - Conference Attendee, Non-Member
- \$95 - Conference Attendee, Student (with valid Student ID)

* Conference Attendee Registration fee includes all Saturday Meals.

FRIDAY EVENT: (Please check box. You may also click shopping cart icon to pay online)

- \$75 - WWII Museum tour, cocktail reception including heavy hors d'oeuvres.

* Event is eligible for 1 CEU.

ADDITIONAL GUESTS: (Please check appropriate box(es). You may also click shopping cart icon to pay online)

- \$75 - Additional Friday Event attendee
- \$95 - Dining Guest, Full day Saturday
- \$60 - Dining Guest, Saturday awards banquet only

TOTAL (please combine and enter all costs)

PAYMENT METHOD (check one): Online (PayPal) Check

Completed Form, along with a Check if you did not pay online, should be filled out and mailed to Chuck Hite, or:
CSI New Orleans
c/o Chuck Hite
365 Canal Street, Suite 3150
New Orleans, LA 70130

[Submit form via email.](#)



LITTLE ROCK CSI CHAPTER

OFFICERS, DIRECTORS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS 2012-2013

President	Jerome Sorensen, AIA, CSI, LEED AP, NCARB	501-374-5300	jsorensen@werarch.com
President Elect	Jonathan Lowery, CSI, CDT	501-374-8677	jlowrey@baldwinshell.com
Vice-President	Kara White, CSI, CDT, CPC	501-765-5250	whitekdeane@yahoo.com
Past President	Tim Davis, CSI, CDT	501-374-8677	tdavis@baldwinshell.com
Secretary	Wendell Poore, CSI	501-786-7901	wpoore@archsecurity.com
Treasurer	Jan Sanders, FCSI, Member Emeritus, CCPR, SEGD	501-329-5645	sanders2kjan@aol.com
Director: 1-Yr Ind	Laura Kirk, CSI	501-224-0227	lkirk@archwaygraphic.com
Director 1-Yr Prof	Bob Morris, CSI, BS, BS	501-607-1612	bob@innerplan.com
Director 2-Yr Ind	Bart Lusk, CDT	501-224-0227	blusk@archwaygraphic.com
Director 2-Yr Prof	Jimmy Klawetter, CSI, CDT	501-224-2217	jimmy_klawetter@irco.com
Board Advisor	Doyle Phillips, CSI, CCCA	501-374-8677	dphillips@baldwinshell.com
Board Advisor	Michelle Christen, FCSI, CCCA	501-217-5576	michelle.christen@nabholz.com
Board Advisor	Mark T. Edds, CSI, CDT, BS	501-804-7889	medds@weatherizationpartners.com

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Academic Affairs	Kiem Kirkpatrick, CSI, CCCA	501-680-7738	kkirkpatrick@tmecorp.com
Awards Committee	Melissa Aguiar	501-251-8237	mjaguiar@prodigy.net
Certification/Education	Jonathan Lowery, CSI, CDT	501-374-8677	jlowrey@baldwinshell.com
Emerging Prof	Jerome Sorensen, AIA, CSI, LEED AP, NCARB	501-374-5300	jsorensen@werach.com
Membership	Laura Kirk, CSI	501-224-0227	lkirk@archwaygraphic.com
Media Promotion	Mark T. Edds, CSI, CDT	501-804-7889	medds@weatherizationpartners.com
Programs/Tabletops	Kara White, CSI, CDT, CPC	501-765-5250	whitekdeane@yahoo.com
Fundraising/Golf	Kay Young, CSI, CDT	501-912-8534	kayyoung3@sbcglobal.net
Planning	Jerome Sorensen, AIA, CSI, LEED AP, NCARB	501-374-5300	jsorensen@werach.com
Publication Editor/ Advertising	Bart Lusk, CSI, CDT	501-224-0227	blusk@archwaygraphic.com
Technical	Karl Hanson, CSI, CCS, CCCA	501-455-2850	Karl_Hanson@swbell.net
Website/ Media Promotions	Mark T. Edds, CSI, CDT	501-804-7889	medds@weatherizationpartners.com
Nominating	Tim Davis, CSI, CDT,	501-374-8677	tdavis@baldwinshell.com
Scholarship	Jessica Jeffries	501-666-6776	jjeffries@tmecorp.com
Photographer	Bart Lusk, CSI, CDT	501-224-0227	blusk@archwaygraphic.com
Product Show Task Team	Kelly Phillips, CSI	501-376-6858	kellyp@ascohardware.net
Product Show Task Team	Sally R Bowen, CCS, LEED AP	501-372-0272	sbrppy@sbcglobal.net
Finance	Jan Sanders, FCSI, Member Emeritus, CCPR, SEGD	501-329-5645	sanders2kjan@aol.com
Historian/Archives	Jerome Sorensen, AIA, CSI, LEED AP, NCARB	501-374-5300	jsorensen@werach.com

iTunes Store Now Features International Codes eBooks

Construction industry iPad and iPhone users now have easy access to many International Code Council codes, commentaries, standards and handbooks in Apple's iTunes Store. Titles available include the International Codes, among them the debut of the 2012 International Green Construction Code and 2012 *International Swimming Pool and Spa Code*.

"Mobile and digital access is a must today. Whether you are a building official, inspector, architect, engineer, designer or other construction industry professional, when you need information, you need it now, especially codes and key references. To meet that need, International Codes, several custom state and local codes and many popular I-Code references are available as eBooks in the iTunes store," said ICC Executive Vice President and Director of Business Development Mark A. Johnson.

The latest series of International Codes and references now available in the iTunes store include:

- 2012 International Codes and Code and Commentaries
- 2009 International Codes, Q&A's, and IBC Handbooks
- ICC Referenced Standards
- 2011 Ohio Codes
- 2010 Florida Building Codes
- 2009 Michigan Codes
- 2009 Virginia Codes
- 2009 New Jersey Codes

To purchase an ICC product in Apple's iTunes store, customers need an Internet connection and iTunes account, which can be set up simply and quickly.

The International Code Council is a member-focused association dedicated to helping the building safety community and construction industry provide safe and sustainable construction through the development of codes and standards used in the design, build and compliance process. Most U.S. communities and many global markets choose the International Codes.

Contact Steve Daggers: 1-888-ICC-SAFE (422-7233), ext. (4212)

Reprinted from: International Code Council News Release dated May 21, 2012.

<http://www.iccsafe.org/newsroom/Pages/05112012-NR-iTunes.aspx>

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Construction SpecWork is the monthly newsletter of the Little Rock Chapter of the Construction Specifications Institute, Inc. Opinions and advertising expressed in the newsletter are those of the contributors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions, policies or practices of the Construction Specifications Institute or the Little Rock Chapter. The newsletter is funded, in part, by the sponsors listed within this newsletter. *Bart Lusk, Editor*

Open Letter to the Gulf States Region

Is Change in our Future?

After many good and challenging days at CONSTRUCT 2013 in Nashville, TN, I felt that I needed to address the entire Region to discuss several things. The first of which is Change.

Change – this is one word that invokes many differing reactions. For some, it is as simple as straying from their normal day-to-day course. For others it is working in a new way to make a difference in some aspect of their lives. For many, however, change is a very scary proposition and one which can cause anxiety. Well, from the many discussions I was party to, I can tell you that change is in the air and CSI is fully committed to leading the way. Change involves many of the Challenges our organization faces. These challenges include, but are not limited to, Membership, Education, Leadership, and making CSI Relevant to the Industry. I order to bring you up to date, let me discuss what I learned from my experiences:

We have talked and talked about the challenges faced by many Chapters today in both membership recruitment and retention. Well, it is time for the talk to end. As an organization we have to get the Gen X, Gen Y, and Millennium Generation to see the value of membership in CSI and get involved at all levels. There is no way around that challenge. The million dollar question is “How do we do that?”.

There are many ideas out there but the first and foremost concept is that CSI needs to make sure that these younger generations know that this organization is out there and that it has value for them. We want them to seek us out and join with us to keep CSI moving forward. We want them to get involved in making the jump from the Boomer Generation’s version to their new modern and in much more tech savvy version.

How we bring up leaders also has to change. The old ways of a structured training program and belonging to the organization for a specific time period before stepping into leadership roles is no longer valid. The younger generations want to step into leadership roles earlier, effect change and make an impact on not only the organization but society as a whole. This is evidenced by their desire to give back to the local communities through volunteer efforts. We, the Boomer Generation, need to realize that our ways are just a foreign to them as our parent’s were to us. We effected great change not only in CSI but in society as a whole, now we have to give them their turn. Bring the next generations in, let them step up to leadership roles when they say they are ready. As the “old timers” in the Chapter, our role will then be that of advisors, help them to move forward but not make the same mistakes we did. We should not dictate policy but provide guidance and possibly even play the “devil’s advocate” in the decision process. We have to learn to let go.

This leads to the next part of the challenge, which is to get involved in the community. CSI needs to be recognized as an organization out there in the community making a difference. Help organizations such as Habitat for Humanity, Goodwill, your local Food Pantry, etc. These organizations are out there helping people in the community and should be our first steps in getting involved. Our local Chapters need to have a presence at these and many other community activities to get us out of the shadows and let the world know who CSI is and what we stand for.

Education is another challenge our organization faces. For years we have developed and depended on the CDT, CCS, CCCA, and CCPR certifications as the mainstays of our education programs. While we have provided avenues in monthly meetings for AIA CEU presentations, we have not really evolved beyond these narrow scopes. We have to expand beyond the monthly meeting CEU presentations and the CDT, CCCA, CCS, and CCPR certification realms. The Institute has recognized this and is currently taking steps in that direction with their CDT+G Certification and the new education program involving not only specifications and documents, but how a building comes together from the ground up. Much more is coming down the pipeline on these and other initiatives that are in the works and which should give CSI Chapters the opportunity to become the industry educators.

Leadership is another arena where we face many challenges. Chapters have to look at their local construction community and identify those areas where CSI can exercise leadership. Our leaders must be well informed and able to bring together a team that can take on the challenges identified locally. If this means changing the structure of the Chapter and/or reorganizing some committee relationships, then the local chapter leadership must act. Think both inside and outside the box, communicate with your members, provide for the membership's needs and the Chapter will grow and be healthy.

Making CSI relevant to the construction community is an ever evolving process as the construction community is an every evolving entity. Stay in contact with the sister organizations (AIA, AGC, ASHRAE, NAWIC, etc). They can help you keep up with changes.

But what can I do personally, you may ask. I am just one person and I really can't have that great an impact on CSI. If you noticed in this last election year, several elections came down to one or two votes. Each person is a powerful entity, one who can change the course of an organization. The difference between just existing as an organization and being relevant could boil down to one or two dedicated people willing to step up and get involved. There is a saying about Evil and what it takes for it to succeed that I would like to paraphrase:

"All that is needed for CSI to fail is for good members to do nothing".

Get out there, get involved and make CSI the organization it desires to be. Become an organization builder and not just a watcher following along with so many others.

Thank you for all you do and will do.

Billy J. Mathis, CSI, CDT
President, Gulf States Region





SpecWork is now all electronic and will be sent out via e-mail and available on our web site at www.csilittlerock.org.

Interested in providing an article or placing an ad in the next newsletter?
Please notify Bart Lusk.

Bart Lusk, Editor
501-224-0227
blusk@archwaygraphic.com

Please visit our web site: www.csilittlerock.org

Please consider the environment before printing this newsletter!