

SPECWORK



Little Rock Chapter Newsletter

March 2017



It's Time to Vote
CSI Annual Elections
Coming March 7th and
Gulf States Region
Elections Coming
around March 15th.

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Guest Message

Marvin Kemp, AIA, CSI, CDT

From the March Edition of the Construction Specifier

Because of the CDT

Last year, CSI's senior manager for marketing and communications, Christine Tanner (@ChristineLTanne), asked her Twitter followers to complete the sentence, "Because of the CDT..." My response? "I'm a better architect and better able to serve my clients & industry partners." I'd like to expand on those thoughts.

I was already a licensed architect when I earned my Construction Documents Technology (CDT) certificate in 2002. Why sit for an additional professional test after already passing a grueling nine-part Architect's Registration Exam? I was a good architect, but I knew I could get better. I knew a lot about construction documents, but not all there was to know. Having spent nearly 10 years practicing in the public realm (mostly at public universities), I knew from the American Institute of Architects (AIA) contract documents there were other ways, and I wanted to see what I was missing.

Since then, I have found I am a better architect. I am not a mindless robot that puts on blinders and follows the 'CSI Way' of practicing design and producing documents or does things the same way because 'that's how we've always done it.' With the CDT, I have the knowledge of how to do things the right way, so I better understand the risks and rewards of deviating from generally accepted standards. This helps me better serve my clients.

There are no cookie-cutter, boilerplate construction projects. In my office, we pride ourselves on producing great designs that creatively achieve our clients' goals within their budgets. This creativity often comes with experimenting in new materials or alternative documentation techniques. To be most efficient, we occasionally try new documentation through our modeling, drawings, and specifications to allow us to push the envelope with our designs and give the builders the information they need. The CDT has helped me provide better documentation, mitigating risk for our firm and for our clients.

I had mentioned "industry partners" in my initial tweet. One of my great joys in CSI membership has been getting to know all members of the industry, from owners and builders to manufacturer's reps and attorneys. We are all in this together—by working as partners, we can best serve our clients. The CDT taught me that, regardless of the contracts in place, all members of the team are responsible, whether contractually or not, to help each other reach the client's goals and budget.

While preparing to take the CDT exam, I was reminded of projects I had worked on, both good and bad. I began to reflect on what made the good ones good and the bad ones bad. A common thread wound through both— the quality of the team members. Good teams have good projects, and bad teams have less successful ones.

I firmly believe if the percentage of CDTs increased, so too would the number of good projects. There would be fewer adversarial teams and greater collaboration. More owners would have better buildings and spend fewer dollars to build those buildings. If we all hold the CDT, we all do our jobs better and make more money.

This year's registration deadline is March 14, with exam dates of March 27 through June 2. For more, visit www.csiresources.org/certification[2], and consider signing up to take the exam and earn this important certificate. You'll be better at work, and you'll further your career.

Marvin Kemp, AIA, CSI, CDT, is a principal with the multi-disciplinary design firm, Design Collective Inc. in Baltimore, Maryland. He is a long-time member and past-president of the Baltimore Chapter of CSI and is currently institute director from the Middle Atlantic Region. As an architect and project manager, Kemp has focused his career in higher education design and laboratory planning. He frequently blogs on construction collaboration and design leadership online at www.accidentaleader.blogspot.com[3]. He can be reached via e-mail at mkemp@designcollective.com[4].

Desire is the key to motivation, but it's the determination and commitment to unrelenting pursuit of your goal - a commitment to excellence - that will enable you to attain the success you seek.

Mario Andretti

The difference between involvement and commitment is like ham and eggs. The chicken is involved; the pig is committed.

Martina Navratilova

Member FYI

CSI Member Services has expanded its Member Service Center hours, and is now available 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM Eastern Time (ET), Monday through Friday.

YOUR CHAPTER BOARD OF DIRECTORS AT WORK

Your Little Rock Chapter Board of Directors is working hard to make the Little Rock Chapter more relevant to the local Construction Community. I don't know how many of you remember just a paltry 10 years ago. The Little Rock Chapter had over 140 members, with a central active body of over 30 members. We now sit at 77 members with a central active body of around 14-17 active members. That is a 50% drop in membership and active members. What this means is that through the tough economic times, aging out of members, moving of members to other locations, retirement of members, death of members, and burn-out of those who were once quite active, the Little Rock Chapter has hit rock bottom and is finally making a comeback. This has not been easy. It has required the constant attention of those members willing to stay involved and the involvement of new members who have stepped up and taken on leadership roles. Gone are the days when people start in Committees, taking over as Committee Chairs and moving slowly over a period of a few years to becoming Directors and Officers of the Board of Directors. Now we are bringing in people who are ready for leadership roles and only require mentors to aid them staying on track and not repeating past mistakes or missteps. With all of that said, your Board of Directors has started on a track to bring the Chapter back to its former level of participation. I suppose you are wondering what all of this intro is for, well I wanted to let you know some of the background that is driving the actions below.

LRC SI Board Meeting – February 3, 2017

1. President Call to Order:

Meeting called to order at 12:06 by President Clark Wood.

Quorum present:

2. Secretary's Meeting Minutes:

No comments – Minutes approved.

3. Reading of Financial Report:

Treasure's Report.

Upcoming expenses – Memphis Conference in April. Allocation of \$2,500 to the Memphis Conference. Treasure's Report – approved

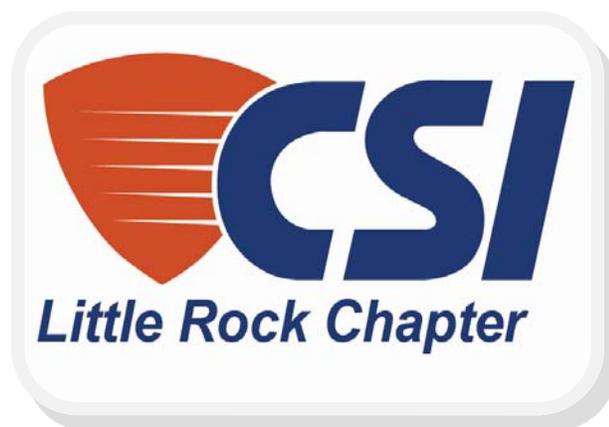
4. Secretary: No Correspondence to review.

5. Old Business:

a. No Old Business to Discuss

6. New Business:
- a. Strategic planning with the Committee Chairs.
 - 1. Looking to fill vacancies in the committees.
 - b. Upcoming Activities:
 - 1. Habitat for Humanity—Rock the Block
 - 2. Awards—Region and Institute:
 - 3. Golf Tournament—May 12th
 - 4. Region Conference Allocation
 - c. New members. To use cash reverses to provide incentive for persons to take the CDT exam and become members.
 - 1. Discussed what this would pay for. CDT exam? Training and study materials? 1st year membership paid?
 - 2. Clark suggested to pay for 1st year membership first and then the CDT exam.
 - 3. Possibly limit to have 3 people, and if successful possibly more the next time. Try to promote.
 - 4. Implementation. Advertise the application on the CSI Newsletter.
 - 5. David to motion that \$2,000 be used to make a program that would pay half dues to those who agree to take the CDT exam – Motion approved 12:27.
 - 6. Discussed that this would not interfere with the scholarship fund.
 - 7. David to put together a small committee to get this rolling.

Meeting adjourned at 12:45.



Little Rock Chapter, CSI Annual Golf Tournament

Where: Country Club of Arkansas
Maumelle, Arkansas

When: Friday, May 12, 2017
Registration: 07:00 a.m.
Shotgun Start: 08:00 a.m.

Entry Fees: (Includes Complimentary: Lunch, Range Balls, Green Fees, Cart, and Bottled Spring Water)

4 Man Team: \$450.00

Single Player: \$125.00

Registration Deadline is Thursday, May 4, 2017.

Registration Information:

Captain _____

_____ Single Player Name

Player 2 _____

Player 3 _____

All Players must be paid in full prior to the day of the Tournament. Make checks Payable to the Little Rock Chapter, CSI.

Player 4 _____

Name of Company: _____

Team or Single Player

Amount Included: \$ _____

Payment can be made by Check or through PayPal. Contact Mr. Mathis or Mr. Wood for invoice for PayPal payment. For further information please contact Mr. Billy Mathis, bjmathis@taggarch.com or Clark Wood, cwood@cromwell.com

Little Rock Chapter, CSI Annual Golf Tournament

Where: Country Club of Arkansas
Maumelle, Arkansas

When: Friday, May 12, 2017
Registration: 07:00 a.m.
Shotgun Start: 08:00 a.m.

In order to put on this event, we need companies to be sponsors and help offset the costs associated with the Tournament. The Little Rock Chapter, CSI, holds an Annual Golf Tournament in order to raise funds for two purposes. The first is the replenishment of our Scholarship Funds and the second is to replenish our Operating Fund so we can sponsor Member attendance to Region and Institute Events as well as provide assistance to those desiring to attain one of the Certifications CSI offers.

EVENT SPONSOR: \$600.00
(Hole Sponsorship Sign and 2 Complimentary Lunches)

HOLE & TEAM SPONSOR: \$700.00
(Includes 4 Player Team with Lunch and Hole Sponsorship)

FOOD AND BEVERAGE CART SPONSOR: \$400.00
(Includes Custom Sign on Beverage Cart and 2 Complimentary Lunches)

HOLE SPONSOR \$300.00
(Includes Hole Sponsorship)

All Sponsorships will also receive placement on the Tournament Sponsors Billboard, a write-up in the Next LRCSI Newsletter, and a "shout out" during the Tournament Trophy Program.

Name of Company: _____

Level of Sponsorship: _____

Amount of Sponsorship: \$ _____

Payment can be made by Check or through PayPal. Contact Mr. Mathis or Mr. Wood for invoice for PayPal payment. For Information please contact Mr. Billy Mathis, bjmathis@taggarch.com or Clark Wood, cwood@cromwell.com

LITTLE ROCK CHAPTER
CONSTRUCTION SPECIFICATIONS INSTITUTE

Lunch and a Seminar—March 14, 2017

Lunch	11:30 am
Seminar	12:00 p.m.

SPEAKER:

Lucy Beth Owen, ASID, ImageWorks
Cindy Burns, RN BSN, Steelcase Health



PROGRAM:

Thinking Outside the Bus Station: Seating Preferences + Perceptions in Waiting Spaces—A Steelcase Health Seminar

Please make reservations online at [Http://littlerock.csinet.org](http://littlerock.csinet.org)

Cost of the Meal is being Sponsored by ImageWorks Commercial Interiors

Questions or Problems should be sent to Billy Mathis - bjmathis@taggarch.com

PROGRAM Description:

HOW CAN SPACE IMPROVE THE PATIENT EXPERIENCE AND PERCEPTIONS OF CARE?

Healthcare experiences are made up of more than moments of care – they also include the time spent in transition between those moments. Waiting to meet with the care provider. Waiting for a diagnosis. Waiting to check out. These transitional spaces are often uncomfortable and unappealing, increasing feelings of stress and negative mindsets. With a focus on patient and family experience and satisfaction, designing spaces that deliver value is paramount.

Insights gathered by Steelcase Health – through research with a major academic medical center – show that addressing seating preferences and behavior impacts environmental perceptions in the healthcare journey. In this course, you will learn about seating choice and arrangements across multiple settings, discover a new tool for capturing and visualizing spatial behaviors, and explore the relationship between built environment affordances and perception.

How will you use space to improve the perceptions of healthcare? Join in this conversation as we think outside the bus station to create waiting spaces that work.

LOCATION:

ImageWorks Commercial Interiors

1 Allied Drive
Building 3, Suite 3200,
Little Rock, Arkansas

Reservation Deadline: Please RSVP by Noon, Monday, March 13, 2017. (LRCSI must guarantee meal count for the Presentation)

Credit for the Program:
1 AIA CEU - HSW

NEW MEMBER OF THE MONTH

According to the February Member Roster for the Little Rock Chapter, we have added the following member:

Bridget Fuller, CSI
Contract Administrator & Legal Assistant
Nabholz Construction Corporation
Conway, Arkansas

If you see here, give her the full Little Rock Chapter welcome.

If you are interested in following the Little Rock Chapter, our links are as follows (*for Facebook and LinkedIn look for the Little Rock Chapter*):

Website: <http://littlerock.csinet.org/>

Facebook: www.facebook.com

LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com

If you are interested in Joining CSI or if you are just interested in keeping up with the information provided by CSI, See the slides shown from the “Why CSI” presentation

Connect with CSI

-  CSI's LinkedIn Group at www.linkedin.com
-  Follow CSI at www.twitter.com/CSIConstruction
-  Like CSI at www.facebook.com/CSIConstruction

Subscribe to CSI's E-newsletter at www.csinet.org/weekly

SUBSCRIBE



Ready to Join?

Visit www.csinet.org/join for Current Dues

Membership Levels:

- Professional
- Emerging Professional
- Student

Find a Chapter at www.csinet.org/chapterlocator

10+ Employees Joining?
Consider CSI's Corporate Partner Program



CSI ELECTIONS ARE UPON US

CSI's next election will open March 7, 2017 and will close March 21, 2017. Members who were in good standing on Jan. 1, 2017, and who had a valid email address on file with CSI on that date, will be eligible to vote. To ensure your vote, update your contact information and verify your membership standing on your profile on www.csiresources.org.

National Election Ballot

The following members will appear on the national ballot during the spring 2017 election. Officers are nominated by CSI's Nominating Committee. Each Institute Director from a Region is nominated by the Region.

Officers and Directors-at-large

Secretary

- William DuBois, CSI, CCS
- J.W. Mollohan, CSI, CCPR
- Anne Marie Roeper, CSI, CCPR

Director-at-large

- Cherise Lakeside, CSI, CDT
- James Rains, Jr., CSI
- Lee Ann Slattery, CSI, CCPR

Directors from Regions

Great Lakes

- Gary Beimers, FCSI, CDT
- Jack Morgan, CSI, CCS, CCCA

Middle Atlantic

- Marvin Kemp, CSI, CDT

North Central

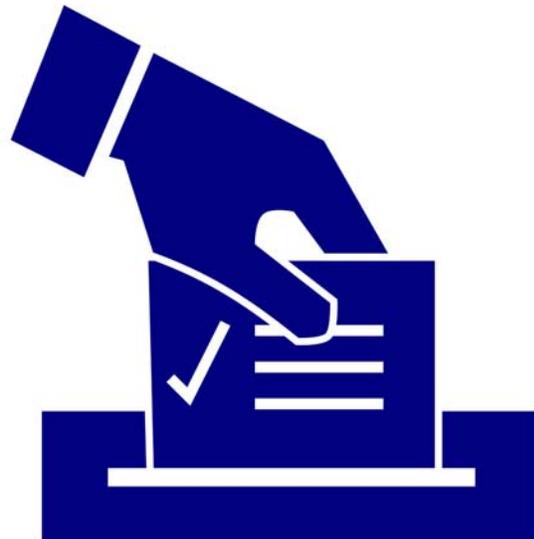
- Alan Itkowitz, FCSI, CCS, CCCA
- David O'Bryan, Jr., CSI, CDT
- Jon Rao Papke, FCSI, CCS

South Central

- Kirby Davis, CSI, CDT

Southwest

- Jori Bernat-Lipka Smith, CSI, CDT



A Message from One Candidate

Dear CSI Colleagues,

The Institute Ballots will be out soon and I encourage you first and foremost to vote in this election for officers on our national board of directors.

Secondly, the nominating committee has done a great job slotting three candidates for each open position. Myself, along with Bill DuBois out of central NJ and JW Mollohan, formerly of KC and now Atlanta, are on your list of candidates running for Institute Secretary.

We are all very qualified - having served or currently serving on the national board of directors at CSI. All of us can offer continuity with new policy governance adoption, which at this juncture is key to our future success as an organization and working closer with Staff and our Executive Director.

I'd like to say I'm more qualified, but in honesty, we all share many years of experience and a common passion for CSI. I think the difference is having just a little more passion to speak up for positive changes that CSI needs to be successful in the years ahead. My experience includes serving 2 regions, several chapters and at the institute on the national level. This also includes active participation with several institute committees and task teams during my 20 year tenure in CSI leadership. I'm confident we are going to need thought-leaders who will also work hard to accomplish the challenges ahead for CSI. I am seeking your support and vote for institute secretary in the weeks ahead.

Please read the candidate statements at www.csiresources.org and make sure to vote!

Thank you for your support!!

Anne M Roeper

Anne Roeper, CSI, CCPR

ROXUL Architectural Manager

C 740-627-6071

E anne.roeper@roxul.com



What is the Institute Doing for You?



One of the main ideals associated with the new governance is that the operations of the Board and the Institute Staff will be as transparent as is possible within the confines of operational requirements. What this means is that we will make every attempt to keep you, the member and our primary customer, up-to-date with what is going on and what is being planned. As a part of the change being implemented, the Board and the CEO took notice of the unfulfilled promises made to the membership previously. Basically, there were promises made and programs started that could not be fulfilled. The Board is working hard to make sure that when we promise something that it will come to fruition. Sometimes the time frame may slip, like the beta testing of the new Chapter and Region Microsites, but the progress will be reported and if required the time required to implement reset.

As I have said in the past, the new governance model is one that stresses responsibility and makes sure that the Board not only knows what the Staff is doing, but have set the goals and the parameters for attaining these goals so we can all work off the same page. Mark Dorsey is responsible for the actions of the Staff and reports to the Board. This way, the staff has one leader and one direction which not only makes for a better work environment, but also allows them ownership of their work.

We just recently spent two hard days in Tucson Arizona, being updated on the status of the Staff and the various programs being implements, briefed on the compliance with the goals established by the Board, and hammering out various pieces of the governance puzzle which have yet to be put into place. The Board and the Staff spend many hours working together to turn CSI around and make it one of the preeminent construction organizations out there.

In the coming paragraphs, I will be discussing individual components of the work we have done and are still doing.

EDUCATION

One of the primary Pillars of CSI is Education. Recognizing that what CSI has been doing is not performing all around the Institute, some changes to Education are in the works.

- A. Plans for the next 12-18 months to reimagine CSI's learning (education) programs:
 1. An assessment phase has been underway during the past four months. This phase included an examination of past programming and exploring new techniques to support adult learning. Assessment is still underway.
 2. The next phase will include development of pilot programs. The final phase will be to expand programming, once successful programming has been tested, measured and evaluated.
 3. Specific program offerings will be communicated as they develop.
 4. Initiatives under consideration include a refresh of web-reach program, developing content or curricula to be syndicated to regions/chapters, reimagining the Academies, developing an e-learning platform. It should be emphasized that CSI has yet to commit to any specific program, as staff ability to develop and support education is being completely rebuilt.

CERTIFICATION

Another of the Pillars of CSI is Certification. The Institute is working hard to bring the Certification Program back to life. In order to do that, there are certain changes and upgrades that must occur and must occur in a specific order.

- A. Consistent with the Board Governing Policies, wherein the Board envisions CSI's credentials are recognized as "gold standards" of competence, staff shared definitions related to credentialing that are vital to understanding where we are versus where we are trying to get to. These are:
 - 1. Certificate – a non-renewable educational offering that presents information and then tests against it to evaluate how well the individual learned
 - 2. Certification – a renewable credential that tests knowledge and capabilities against an existing body of knowledge
 - 3. Accreditation – approval for a credential program based on a standard provided by a third party
- B. One of our problems is that the CDT is not technically a certification, it is a certificate. In order to raise all the Certifications to the "Gold Standard" and be accredited, there are some things which must be done.
 - 1. The long-standing plan to transition CDT from an education-based certificate to a certification continues.
 - 2. More specifics about the timing of this transition and what it means to certificate holder will come at a later date though, ideally, such a transition would occur in 18 to 24 months. It is possible the transition could occur earlier.
 - 3. No transition will occur without clear and consistent communication to members, chapters, and regions.
- C. Stated improvements enable CSI certifications to be conducted in a manner consistent with independent standards for accrediting personal credentials. These include:
 - 1. Develop code of ethics and standards of professional conduct. The purpose is to provide publicly available documented standards of behavior for CSI certification holders. Governs both the behavior of those being certified and policy documents for the impartial administration of the certification program.
 - 2. Establish appeals and complaint process. Two independent processes must be put in place to help provide independent hearings for any examinees who have problems with their certification testing experience, as well as to provide a venue for complaints about the behavior of certification holders.
 - 3. Auditable management parameters. Additional guidelines enacted to improve the already good documentation and support of CSI's certification programs, ensuring both their value and longevity.
 - 4. Improved test policies. Ensure test scoring process is based on the knowledge needed to effectively perform at the professional level defined by the certification. Test forms are to be assembled so that their content and difficulty is balanced each year, allowing for better measurement of outcomes and identification of problematic items, thus making the tests more effective and fair.

- D. Certification work is currently focused is on the CDT. Work to refresh a CDT Body of Knowledge Analysis (BOKA) will start in early February will continue through 2017. Activity to develop curriculum for community college construction management and architectural assistant programs as part of the National Science Foundation Grant will begin in late spring 2017 and continue through summer 2017.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Information Technology is one of the most important things that the Board and the Staff are trying to make sure work.

- A. The new website has been rolled out. If you haven't been there, you need to go to "CSIResources.org" and check out the new layout and intuitive design. The topics discussed at the last board meeting include:
 - 1. Content is updated regularly and there is growth in the use of online communities. Examples of the types of communities include areas of practice, CDT, specific events such as MSR.
 - 2. CSInet.org no longer has current information and is likely to be sunset in the next 60 days. A communication plan to alert members is under development.
- B. The next item our Information Technology Staff people are tackling is the Chapter Microsites. Here there was a problem and the expected dates of testing, beta testing and rollout were missed. This process is ongoing and still a high priority for the Staff, however delays and issues not associated with the microsites delayed the start of the testing.
 - 1. Microsite beta testing with a handful of chapters was scheduled to begin in fourth quarter 2016 and be complete by December. The target dates were missed.
 - 2. Staff is regrouping regarding chapter communities and microsites and update will be provided to leadership, as well as the affected regions/chapters, by February 22, 2017.

MEMBERSHIP

The results of the Membership Survey was one of the more interesting items briefed and discussed at the Board Meeting. In case you missed the survey, here are the key facts concerning the survey:

- A. A survey of the membership was conducted in November 2016. Key findings from the survey are:
 - 1. CSI's Net Promoter Score (NPS) is 28 among current members, improved from 24 in March 2016.
 - a. NPS tracks the willingness of individuals to recommend something—such as membership in CSI—to a colleague or friend.
 - b. NPS values range from -100 to 100 (no one achieves either extreme). NPS values above 0 are positive NPS.
 - c. NPS ranges differ by industry sector. Examples: Fast food chains range from -11 to 59, with an average of 23. Investment firms range from 22 to 49, with an average of 32. <http://temkingroup.com/research-reports/net-promoter-score-benchmark-study-2015>.

2. CSI's Net Promoter Score appears to correlate with age. The older the individual the higher the NPS. Compared to the NPS average score of 28:
 - a. Members over the age of 70 score 43.
 - b. Members over the age of 60 score at 34.
 - c. Members between 50-59 scored 16.
 - d. Members between 40-49 scored 3.
 - e. Members between 35 - 39 scored -1.
 - f. Members under 35 scored -8

Negative NPS scores were identified with the 40-49 and under 40's.
3. CSI's next step is to dig into what activities would raise NPS among those under 50. Some of what was discovered is shown below.
 - a. Respondents indicate attributes identified by the younger members as being important include: visionary, innovative, diverse, and thought leading. CSI scores lower with these attributes, even though they are important to the membership as a whole.
 - b. Respondents indicated the attributes most strongly associated with CSI include reliable, professional, and practical. Although CSI scores high with these attributes, these are viewed as less important to the younger members.
 - c. The result is CSI's brand experience doesn't connect what CSI does well to what the respondent views as important. This provides guidance to us in building a strong brand.
4. Few of CSI's products, programs and events rate higher in execution and importance to respondents. Chapter events and chapter newsletters rank higher in both; that could be related to their regularity and visibility.
5. Respondents reported that the single most important activity that could improve their experience is improvement in chapter programming.
6. Lessons learned:
 - a. Transition from a one-size-fits-all approach. Greater care should be taken to move from single messaging and offers across all groups to customized targeted offers for targeted groups.
 - b. Services need to bear in mind the attributes that are important to members (more energetic and building upon reliability).
7. Short term priorities include:
 - a. Development of a content communication strategy
 - b. Further developing online communities
 - c. Clearly defining the value proposition for member/customer audiences
 - d. Exploring opportunities to syndicate content to local components (chapters and regions)
 - e. Deeper dive into underlying reasons behind the quantitative results

- B. One of the key issues facing CSI is a decline in our Membership. Below are some Membership trends as observed from the Institute level.
1. Membership Numbers:
 - a. CSI had 9,179 members at the beginning of the fiscal year (July 2016).
 - b. During the fall, member numbers were as high as 9,278
 - c. Before ending December at 9,047.
 2. During November, and following a successful pilot program in September, a multi-month lapsed calling campaign was executed.
 - a. 824 members were called and three attempts were made to reach each member.
 - b. 184 members renewed (22% of those called).
 - c. Early indications are that we are likely to recover to FY2016 levels.
 3. Lessons learned from the calls:
 - a. Members are often unaware their CSI membership has lapsed
 - b. When calls are made at the end of the 30-day grace period, members are expressing the thought that they had “more time” to renew
 - c. Retirement and career change are often mentioned reasons for allowing membership to lapse
 - d. Many members remain “on the fence” regarding whether or not to reinstate their membership
 - e. Poor service from CSI was rarely mentioned as a reason for lapse (although we must remain focused on providing excellent service).
 4. The lapsed member calling program will be continued on a monthly basis. Members will be contacted at the beginning of the month after their membership expires.
 5. The Board was also given some Strategic Questions to be asked as we engaged with members and leaders at the Chapter and Region levels.
 - a. What engages people most effectively at the region and chapter level; what are the incentives and disincentives to participation?
 - b. What should the members experience look and feel like, as one considers the chapter/region/institute in total?
 - c. What are the barriers to entry into CSI, and how might they be overcome?
 6. These are fairly broad questions for a reason. The Institute is focusing their data gathering and assessment on the customer (in this case the individual Member) as opposed to the Chapter or Region. Questioning and data gathering for the Chapter and Region needs and desires will be forthcoming in the future.



Gulf States Region Vice President Candidate:

Bruce Martin, CSI, CDT, RRC:

Current Member of the Chattanooga Chapter and active member in both the Chattanooga and Gulf States Region.



M. Keith West, FCSI, CCPR
GSR Awards Chair

It Awards Time!

Well, it's that time of the year again, the time to announce the deadlines for award submittals both at the Region and at the Institute level. The information listed below provides you with the necessary dates for submittals. Note that each deadline is the date that the submittal should be IN THE HANDS of the award committee. Since the majority of the awards are submitted electronically these days, it really does eliminate the old question of postmarked by the due date. It means by the end of the deadline date, you can relax since your submittal has been sent and now, the anticipation of receiving your good news is all you have to worry about.

Region Award Submittals: Submittal deadline is March 15, 2017. All submittals need to be emailed to the Region Awards Chair, ME! Email address and contact information are shown below. No exceptions to the deadline, and there will NOT be an extension to the date this year due to the Region Conference in Memphis being April 20. Review the awards section in the Region Operating Guide (on the website) for submittal information and requirements.

Institute Deadlines: Institute Awards and Fellowship nominations: Submittal deadline is May 5, 2017. Please check the Institute website under Awards and Honors to review the requirements and submittal locations.

Outstanding Chapter Commendation: July 17, 2017 deadline. Please check the Institute website for requirements, forms, and locations.

I fully expect EVERY chapter to submit for a region award. EVERY chapter, regardless of size, does something that deserves some recognition. Awards are not, for the most part, anyone puffing out their chests and saying look at me, but rather one of the very few ways we have for thanking members who have given of themselves with their time and efforts to make their chapter or the region better because of their efforts. So let's use the awards to say thanks to them for their dedication and efforts. And even the smallest chapter in the Region does something to be recognized. Call me, I can certainly assist in talking about things that your chapter has done that would deserve an award.

Every chapter in our region deserves the Outstanding Chapter Commendation for what they do. This award does not focus on large chapters only; it understands smaller chapters and the way they operate. So PLEASE review the qualifications for this award and fill the form out and see how you stack up. GSR led the way last year with 6 chapters receiving the award. I personally think all 16 chapters deserve it, but I live in the real world. Any gain on 6 will be great. The ONLY way to guarantee not getting the award is to NOT submit. So don't let that be the excuse.

Now the last bit of information is that requirement #1 is to READ THE RULES. Then, FOLLOW THE RULES, to a tee! We pride ourselves in providing complete information in the various disciplines of the construction industry that each of us practice, so why should an award submittal be any different. Do not allow your submittal to be disqualified due to an improper submittal.

I am available for answering questions and heading you in the right direction. Don't hesitate to ask! I will certainly do what I can to assist. My contact information is located in the committee page of this publication.

Thanks and call with any questions.

Tel: 601-853-9908 Email: keith@westarchspec.net

**Recognize those who have
made contributions to your
Chapter and Region**



**Article Submitted by Sheldon Wolfe,
FCSI, CCS—Construction Specifier,
Curmudgeon, Heretic Architect**



Tower of Babel

Come, let Us go down and there confuse their language, that they may not understand one another's speech.

I recently enjoyed watching a [video clip of a senate confirmation hearing](#), in which Scott Pruitt, EPA Administrator nominee, was being grilled by Joni Ernst, Senator from Iowa (the fun starts at about 2:14). At issue was the term WOTUS, or "Waters of the United States." Not knowing at the time I watched it what the term meant, it was amusing to see that 97 percent of Iowa would be governed by expansion of the existing definition. Further discussion focused on puddles and on a definition of a parking lot puddle as a "degraded wetland."

The labyrinthine regulations of the federal government reminded me of regulations we in construction deal with every day. They are similarly complex and obscure, differing only in extent. I was not surprised that I didn't understand the subjects of the senate hearing, but on further thought, I realized I really don't know much about the countless codes and regulations that govern construction.

Nor, I'm sure, does anyone else. The picture that accompanies this article shows just a few of the code books we use at my office. In the picture are a few versions of the IBC, a couple of Wisconsin code binders, several books of Minnesota codes, a few versions of NFPA 101, an elevator code book, and a few books that explain what's in the codes. This collection is nowhere near complete; we have many additional code books for Minnesota and Wisconsin, plus others for North Dakota, South Dakota, and Iowa, as well as for a couple of other states. I can only imagine what national and international firms have in their libraries.

Presumably, when someone certifies documents, that certification implies that the responsible person (or someone under that person's direct supervision) understands everything in every statute, code, rule, and regulation governing the work of the project, and that the project complies with all of them. What does that tell us?

First, I think it's safe to say that most of most regulations simply codify what was already common practice, much of which was based on empirical evidence. We build walls of 2 x 4s at 16 inches on center because it's been done that way a long time and it seems to work. Later additions were added after due consideration; someone probably tested walls with framing at 24 inches on center and that worked, too.

Many requirements were added in response to building failures. Even then, I suspect much of what's in the code is based on intuition, rather than on basic research beginning with the question, "What is required?" Though useful for comparative evaluations, code requirements often are not based on real-world applications. (See "[Faith-based specifications](#).")

I also think it's safe to say it's unlikely that any building complies with all regulations. Regardless of the source or value of those requirements, it's clear that there are too many for any one person, or even several people, to understand. Making things more difficult is the fact that some information is restated in different codes, often in slightly different fashion, and some codes are more restrictive than others.

The International Code Council (ICC) publishes a dozen or so building and fire codes, which reference hundreds of standards published by ASHRAE, ASCE, and various other organizations, including about 50 of the [375 published by NFPA](#). These secondary codes also cite other standards, and so on, and so on, and so on. States then modify the basic codes, as do local jurisdictions. Some variations are required by local seismic and weather conditions, but many make little sense. All of these form the basic reference library for everyone involved in construction. Codes are continually being updated, usually on a three-year cycle. But not everyone is on the same cycle; some states update to follow the major codes more quickly than others, and different states will use different versions of the same codes.

My firm does mostly medical work, which must comply not only with the IBC and state codes, but also with NFPA 101, dictates of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services and the Joint Commission, as well as requirements of individual clients. I'm sure we're not alone, and that other types of construction have similar additional requirements.

Is all of this really necessary? I concede that there are special situations that require special treatment, but it's hard to believe there are enough special circumstances to justify the mountain of code books we must deal with. While it is somewhat understandable that we have codes for specific conditions, there is no excuse for conflicts between different codes.

Several years ago, I was told that one part of one local code required an elevator room to have sprinklers, while part of another code prohibited sprinklers in elevator rooms. I have been told that that contradiction had been eliminated, but only after it had existed for many years.

A few years ago, one state had unique requirements for grab bars. Were there things about the residents of that state that prevented them from using the same grab bars used in other states? Some states have lower limits for VOCs than others. Do VOCs stop at state borders? If VOCs are hazardous, doesn't it make sense to limit them everywhere?

If we want to fix construction, clear, consistent, non-conflicting codes would be a good start.

In a future article, we'll look at a couple of examples of problems with code requirements and conflicts. If you have examples, please send them to me, or post them as a comment to this article

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[Agree? Disagree? Leave your comments at http://swconstructivethoughts.blogspot.com/](http://swconstructivethoughts.blogspot.com/)

Tips for Running Effective Meetings

Email an agenda 24 hours in advance.

Arrive 5 minutes early

Start and end on time.



Come prepared.



Bring paper and a pen.

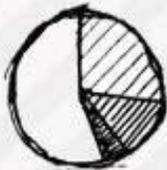
Share all relevant data.

No smartphones.

Stay on topic.

No

interrupting.



Be brief and concise.

Silence = agreement



Disagree without being disagreeable

Challenge ideas rather than people.

No side conversations or comments



Everyone participates.

Follow-up by email within 24 hours.



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Chapter Board Meeting Day and Time:	1st Friday of each Month unless otherwise specified by Chapter President

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