

Specigram

Newsletter of the Pittsburgh Chapter,
Construction Specifications Institute
April 2015



April 14th Meeting Student Outreach Event



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Are You Smarter Than A Specifier?

Come watch our Masters of Interior Architecture student guests from Chatham University test their knowledge of the construction industry. Our program will explore construction specifications knowledge in a fun game show-styled program.

Student contestants will be teamed up with a volunteer product rep. as a partner, who they can call upon for help. Our own Bob Shrock 'worthy' will ask each team three questions. A volunteer specifier will be available for advice on the correct answers. Just like in the familiar TV show with 5th-graders, contestants may use one of two cheats, and have a peek at the specifier's answer before deciding on an answer, or use a cheat to copy the specifier's answer. If the contestant answers incorrectly, against the correct advice of the specifier, they have one opportunity for a save.

If you know the answers, you just might be smarter than a specifier!
(But wait to hear what the students think are the correct answers...)

Learn about the variety of construction types often encountered, and expand your appreciation for the collaborative resources available to the design team's communication tools.

Location: Cefelo's, Carnegie, PA
5:00 Board Meeting 5:30 Social
6:15 Dinner 7:00 Program

Cost \$35
Reservations: MAZell@NationalGypsum.com
(412) 951-8715

President's Message

February 2015

by Bill Vernon

Why should we CSI?

"The doorstep to the temple of wisdom is knowledge of our own ignorance." -Benjamin Franklin

The board appreciates all our members and while product representatives, contractors, code officials and others are important members, I would like to direct this message to the architectural community.

When asked "Why do our members belong to CSI?" networking is one of the top responses, but outside of our group, who knows what architectural networking results can be expected from being a part of CSI? If you want to network for perspective projects with developers you would attend a NAIOP meeting. If you want to meet realtors or facility managers you would attend a BOMA meeting. This is great for getting the projects, but is only part of the equation. Producing details and completing designs take a lot of time and effort, which can be decreased by working with experts that you will come in contact with by being a part of CSI.

By networking through CSI, you can establish relationships with these industry experts. One of the types of industry experts whom you will come in contact with are technical industry peers like a specification writer or a project manager who writes specifications. Another, perhaps more valuable set of resources to a detailer, young architect or specification writer is a product manufacturer or a service representative. Lastly, is a product representative. By knowing and forming relationships with these individuals, who we sometimes depend upon heavily, we can save time by not having to research to find someone to get us that unique item we need. Also they can better help customize presentations to us and keep us in-the-know on the latest things that are relevant to the types of projects we do. An example is our recent Speed Dating event, in which our members met with over 20 product representatives in a 90 minute span. All representatives came well prepared and everyone felt it was worth the time.

At a CSI Pittsburgh meeting you can meet many vendors, product and service representatives that really know their product, show up when invited, and keep their promises. This is a great way for architects and specifiers to feel confident that products are properly incorporated into the project design.

Through CSI I have come to know a lot of good people whom I can trust to provide me with good advice and solid information. Networking with these professionals is not only enjoyable and fun, it helps me stay on top of what is happening in the construction industry. Whether it is a discussion about how installers of products are coming in out of state to help keep contractor's installation budgets low or a new product that I would not have otherwise known about, I have found my time at meetings valuable. That is what I do know. What I don't know is how to convince firms that having a member(s) of their team to be a part of CSI is as valuable as I and our members know it to be. One of our region presidents said it best, "if you didn't have fun at a CSI event you didn't show up." I look forward to seeing you at our next meeting.



Region Conferences

April 2015

AT LAST IT'S SPRING!

Have you made your Reservations for MARC15 near Philadelphia? It's only about 4 weeks away. Don't be left out.

Start to think about attending LOS August 14-15 in York Pa. LOS is an opportunity to come together as a Region, learn and become a Chapter Leader. Give it some thought. If you are interested let Bill Vernon know. We can send as many to LOS as we want. The Region is planning some new and exciting ideas this year.

The **Middle Atlantic Region Conference** will be hosted by the Philadelphia Chapter, **April 30 - May 3, 2015.**

[click here for more info](#)

The **Leadership Orientation Seminar (LOS)** will be in York, PA, **August 14 & 15, 2015.**

Pittsburgh Chapter will host the **Middle Atlantic Region Conference in 2017.**



DETAILING INNOVATION

CSI Philadelphia invites you to join us to engage with leaders from across the region and nation in a conference aimed at sharing the latest innovations of the building and construction industry.

FEATURING KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Jerry Yudelson
President
Green Building Initiative
[Friday Luncheon]

AND

Francis Rabuck
Futurist, Visionary, Communicator
Technology/Strategy Research Analyst
[Saturday Luncheon]

Conference venue is the **Best Western Concordville Inn**, Concordville, PA nearby to the beautiful Brandywine Valley and Kennett Square

Visit www.marc2015.org for more info



CSI 2015 Mid-Atlantic Region Conference
April 30-May 3, 2015



Highlights from the Board

April 2015

MARCH 10, 2015 CEFALO'S RESTAURANT, CARNEGIE, PA

HOSPITALITY:

Deposit given to Chadwick for Holiday party. ASID interested in partnering. Possibly advertise sooner so that AIA, IIDA, YIF etc are aware.

PROGRAMS:

April student outreach with Chatham U. students.

WEBSITE

Reports still not working correctly from Institute website.

CERTIFICATION:

Registration deadline for spring exams is March 13. Exam dates are March 30 and May 9, 2015.

TECH/ED:

Josh Telenko shooting for May estimating presentation, will get dates from MBA as wot when available, will try to get AIA credits to attract younger architects.

AWARDS:

Chapter received several Region awards; won't know what they are until after the Region Conference in April. Outstanding Chapter credentials due by July 15.

LONG RANGE PLANNING:

Vernon to reach out to Arwen Davis via email to move forward.

GOLF OUTING:

Will be May 14th.

REGION CONFERENCE

Prindible, Nagie, Vargo & Strayer will be attending.

OLD BUSINESS:

Leadership Orientation Seminar (LOS) in York August 15th, 2015.

NEW BUSINESS:

SketchSpec competition is now open.
Marvin Kemp is new incoming Institute Director from Middle Atlantic Region.

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Member Profile: Ken Nagie

April 2015

What is your company and what is your position?

I took my final retirement in January 2008.

Tell us about your job.

I was the chief specifications writer for a major architectural/engineering firm that specialized in educational facilities.

What part of your job did you most enjoy?

I love problem solving. There is also a rush that comes when a completed set of specs goes out the door on time.

If you weren't in your current job, what would you be doing?

Traveling with Gail and building my dream garden railway in our woods. I'm still contemplating building the infamous missing staircase.

What is the funniest/oddest thing that has happened in your professional career?

At one point I worked for the Community College of Allegheny Country as Asst. Director of Facilities and Security in the main office. Each morning our office would receive the security reports for previous day from each campus. The Allegheny Campus reports were always entertaining to say the least. One morning the guard reported about an odor in the basement of one of the older buildings. Each hour he had noted in his report the odor was getting stronger. Finally he noted he tested for gas but found none. The next question was "How did you test?" We called his home, woke him up, only to find out he had flicked his Bic and nothing blew up! This is what you get when you accept the lowest bidder! Then there was the guard who noted in his report he found water in the basement when he came on duty at 11 p.m. Each hour he measured the water but did not report it to anyone. By 6 a.m. he recorded that since he did not swim he could not check the basement anymore that night. He waited until he went off duty at 7 a.m. to report the water to anyone. Be thankful these guards didn't carry guns!

If you could change one thing about your profession, it would be:

I would convince landscape architects that parking lots need not be so "beautified" with plants, trees, and odd shapes, making driving through them an obstacle course.

What year did you join CSI?

1970

What position(s) do you presently hold with CSI?

None- I'm enjoying the peace of my final retirement. I consider my status to be Member Emeritus.

Why did you join CSI?

I wanted to expand my specifications knowledge level and CSI gave me that opportunity and much more, including endless contacts.



Member Profile: Ken Nagie (cont'd)

April 2015

What people influenced you most?

My grandfather Howard Tyson, Jr. He taught me hunting, fishing, and woodworking while my father was serving in the Navy during my first five years. Grandfather was a great influence. He was an engineer on the Pennsylvania Railroad and took me a couple of times on his runs to Altoona in the train cab. A great experience for a young child.

What do you see as the value of CSI membership?

CSI benefits are limitless. You can get out of CSI as much as you choose to, and more.

What CSI certifications have you earned?

CCS (Certified Construction Specifier). I was also the first member of the Pittsburgh Chapter to earn my Fellowship in the Institute.

What would you want somebody considering CSI membership to know?

CSI will give you the opportunity to learn as much or as little as you want about construction. You can develop professionally through education and friendships. Professional certifications can be earned by members as well as by non-members. Members share their knowledge even with competitors. In CSI everyone is equal.

Tell us a memorable CSI experience:

Back in the 80's the Blue Ridge Chapter hosted the Region Conference in late October. Instead of a formal dinner, the final event was a costume party. These were the days of Ronald Reagan. Gail and I attended as two bags of Western jelly beans. The hotel staff lined the lobby as attendees came down the elevator to the ballroom. One very prominent architect dressed up in a long gold dress, long white gloves, a wig, and full makeup. Politely put, he looked like a street walker. Not a pretty sight. A sight still in my memory even today.

Tell us about your family.

My wife Gail and I were married in 1969. Our son Ty (our greatest production) came along in 1975. Today, Ty is a commander in the United States Coast Guard, soon coming up for retirement. As for Gail, you know her – what more should I say?

What's your favorite city?

My favorite place is not a city but a place. Of all the places I have traveled to I loved Jenny Lake in the Grand Tetons the most. A simple description would be "God had a good day when he created Jenny Lake." Gail took me back to Jenny Lake in 2012 so I will be at my favorite place forever.

What's your passion?

Garden Railways in my woods, watching our red-tail hawks hunt in our woods, and our annual squirrel-shooting contest with Gail shooting off our second-story west deck.

Member Profile: Ken Nagie (cont'd)

April 2015

What's a true sign of success?

To me, my best success surfaced when I became a mentor. I realized others valued my knowledge. I took pride in seeing my "students" succeed and go on to bigger and better things. The ability to instill confidence in others is a great feeling.

Best advice anyone ever gave you:

Be yourself. Set a goal and go for it. Never stop reaching for the sky.

What would people be surprised to know about you?

If I could do something a little "off the wall" it would be to sit and talk to Frank Lloyd Wright and question some of his decisions. However, knowing Wright he would not likely take that too well. He didn't like to be questioned.

Another would be following my health event in 1998 I had little to no feelings in my hands. Doing drawings became a problem but Gail mastered that too. Gail and I frequently would shoot sporting clays together (as well as hand guns). We would never tell the trapper about my inability to feel the shotgun in my hands until after we were done shooting. We never had any problems but the expressions on the trapper's faces when they learned I could not feel the gun in my hand was always entertaining. You can overcome anything. I became a better shot after I lost the feeling in my hands than before. I made my disability work for me, not against me.

Special thanks to Gail Nagie, CSI Middle Atlantic Region President-Elect, and Commander K. T. Nagie, Jr., United States Coast Guard, for bringing this profile of Ken to life.

Previous Member Profiles

May 2013	Lynn Fulton	May 2014	Deborah Merges
June 2013	Frank Hughes	June 2014	Bill Vernon
July-Aug 2013	RonnaLeah Prindible	July 2014	No newsletter
Sept 2013	Larry Justice memoriam	Aug 2014	George Merges
Oct 2013	Tracy Spencer	Sept 2014	Kristian Reed
Nov 2013	Mark Womer	Oct 2014	Joe Kostuch
Dec 2013	Kate Schuster	Nov 2014	Charles Brown
Jan 2014	("Progeny Profile" Liberty Prindible)	Dec 2014	Kelly Brown
Feb 2014	Mike Moyta	Jan 2015	Matt Lander
March 2014	Damian Carnegie	Feb 2015	Gregg Scharrer
April 2014	Jim Geist	March 2015	Dante Amato

Member News

April 2015

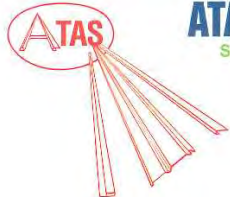
APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

35th	Brian Joos	Retired
29th	Martin Thornton II	WTW
27th	Michael Bosco	Michael C. Bosco
25th	S. Philip Hundley	DRS Architects
19th	Joseph Kostuch	The K Group PGH LLC
17th	RonnaLeah Prindible	McGraw-Hill Construction
18th	Barbara Matejka	HHSDR Architects/Engineers
18th	Mark Viola	Source Architechnology
18th	James Geist	The Sherwin-Williams Co.
10th	Maria Holupka	HoLampCo International
5th	Alexandra Apostolou	Apostolou Associates Inc
4th	John Bliss	R.I. Lampus Company
3rd	Joseph Beerens	Univ. of Pitt. Facilities Mgt. Division
2nd	Valerie McKee	Laface & McGovern
2nd	Kevin Spence	Marvin Windows and Doors
1st	Pamela Neely	Inpro

NEW MEMBERS

Brett Wygal

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Construction Consultants

May 12th Meeting

April 2015

Level of Development Specification for BIM

presented by **Ronald F. Dellaria,**
Chief Compliance Officer for Astorino



Ron Dellaria is the inspiration behind a guide to help eliminate “BIM babble,” is passionate about paperless deliverables. He predicts they will define a new standard of care in the buildings sector.

To that end, the volunteer LOD Working Group of the Associated General Contractors’ BIM Forum released last summer the Dellaria-inspired guide, “Level of Development Specification.”

The spec, offered free of charge, is like architectural graphic standards for building information modeling. It is intended to facilitate targeted model creation and management and provide confidence for BIM users.

Dellaria, who is a member of the LOD group, says the spec will enhance prescribed reliability, which he defines as the “minimum required level of accuracy necessary for a 3D intelligent object to achieve the purpose of its intended use.”

5:00 Social

5:30 Board Meeting

6:15 Dinner

7:00 Presentation

Location: Cefalo’s in Carnegie.

428 Washington Avenue

412-276-6600

Cost: \$35

Reservations: Marc Zell by Friday May 8.

MAZell@NationalGypsum.com 412-951-8715

Last Month's Meeting

April 2015



Speaker:

David Stutzman, Principal of Conspectus, Inc., President of SCIP (independent specifiers), and Thought Leader of CSI's Specifying Practice Group.

“Evolving Specifications – What’s the Future?”



SketchSpec Competition

April 2015



**Do you know what this is?
Can you write a specification for it?**

We invite you to enter CSI Pittsburgh's "SketchSpec" competition, whereby contestants will be asked to write a single specification section that best describes this object.

Entries will be evaluated on conformance to CSI format as well as content and creativity.

Entries will be judged by a panel of individuals from another chapter in our region.

The competition is open to all members.

Topic: It's a duck blind!

Submission forms are now available.

May 2015 meeting - All entries due.

June 2015 meeting - winner announced.

For information contact Courtney Watson

cwatson@wondoor.com

724-691-0934

SketchSpec Competition

April 2015

Specification Competition Entry Form Title: Duck Blind

SECTION A

Name(s) of Entrant(s): _____

Address of Entrant(s): _____

Firm Name of Entrant(s)
and Address: _____

Position/Title: _____

Entrant's Email: _____

Entrant's Signature: _____ Date: _____

SECTION B

Submit to:

Courtney T. Watson, CSI, CDT
1268 Maywood Lane
Greensburg, PA 15601
724-691-0934
Email: cwatson@wondoor.com

Preferred format and method of submission: PDF via email; Courtney will confirm receipt via email response

Spring Golf Outing

April 2015

Time to look for the special buys on new clubs!

May 14th, 2015

Strawberry Ridge Golf Course

135 McNulty Ln, Harmony, PA 16037
(724) 452-4022

\$85.00 per Person
\$320.00 for foursome
\$40.00 hole sponsor

Steak dinner
Hot dog and drink at turn

Shot Gun Start at 9:00am
Scramble format
Please arrive 1/2 hr. before start.

Door prize donations can be brought to golf outing,
but Mark needs to know what you are donating.

Send checks to:

Mark Womer
526 Stirrup Drive
Greensburg, PA 15601
mwomer@dsstristate.net
(724) 708-6106

You can also pay at the golf outing with check or credit card.



Build Pittsburgh 2015

April 2015



Build Pittsburgh 2015
Thursday, April 23, 2015 – David L. Lawrence Convention Center, Pittsburgh

Join us and AIA Pittsburgh on Thursday, April 23rd at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center for Build Pittsburgh 2015, AIA Pittsburgh's annual continuing education conference and exhibitor show.

With effective collaboration and communication within the design/build industry, greater value and reward can be achieved. We invite architects, engineers, owners, and other design professionals to join us for a full day of continuing education. Be a part of the conversation, collectively learn, and promote collaboration!

Join us for Build Pittsburgh 2015!

- VISIT aiapgh.org to learn more.
- DOWNLOAD the Build Pittsburgh 2015 Registration Brochure.
- REGISTER today!

Members of AIA, GBA, CSI, MBA, and AIA Pittsburgh Industry Partners ALL receive member pricing!

Receive Continuing Education Credits:

- Earn AIA/CES Learning Units
- Maintain your LEED Credentials
- Self-report the courses to potentially earn GBCI CE credits
- Obtain Certificates of Completion

Explore New Products & Services at the Exhibitor Show!

The Build Pittsburgh 2015 Exhibitors will be available throughout the day to show you their latest products and services.

Learn More: <http://aiapgh.org/aia-programs-events/build-pittsburgh-2015/>

Facebook Page

April, 2015



Dont' forget to visit the Chapter Facebook page!

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/CSI-Pittsburgh/180876287787>

Chapter Leadership

April 2015

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