

Specigram

Newsletter of the Pittsburgh Chapter,
Construction Specifications Institute

August 2015



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President's Message

August 2015

by *Bill Vernon, President*

To write this month's message I reflected back to one of the first ones I wrote around this time, and it still rings true:

This organization is not just the proverbial "them" that people join to gain instant credibility; WE are the organization, WE make things happen or if WE don't do anything all of us suffer. CSI truly is an organization that the more you put into it, the more you learn, grow and make things happen.

We need YOU, our members, to be involved. We need members on our committees.

-Our Awards Committee could use at least two more members for institute awards and organizing the spec competition.

-The Holiday party would like help recruiting attendees and corresponding with responding supporters.

-The Student Outreach committee is looking for a chairman.

If you have ever wanted to lead a committee or be on the board, but were not sure how to get started, CSI puts on a great educational conference to provide information on just how to do that. This conference is called [LOS \(or Leadership Orientation Seminar\)](#) for the Mid. Atlantic Region and is happening August 15th in York PA. Information is available at the Region website.

I hope to see you at the CSI national conference [CONSTRUCT](#) which is happening at the end of September beginning of October and is another great location to meet and network with people from all over our nation. This is also a great chance to become more involved with our organization, be heard and learn what is happening at the institute level.

One change that is coming impacts the institute certification program. The institute's board has committed to align credentials with requirements for accreditation that did not exist when the program began. These changes are essential to broaden acceptance throughout the construction industry and by governmental agencies. In addition, the institute is reviewing the membership model and will complete a member benefits analysis. The goal of these initiatives are to determine what discourages a construction professional from becoming engaged with CSI.

These are examples of what is happening this year and what you can become involved in. We need you to be involved to grow our chapter, region and national organization.

"Without continual growth and progress, such words as improvement, achievement, and success have no meaning." -Benjamin Franklin



Member News

August 2015

August Anniversaries

34th	Dennis Buirge	CDM Smith, Inc.
14th	Frank Hughes	Hughes Sales & Service
13th	Ronald Maroni	Allegheny Restoration, Inc.
12th	Benjamin Policicchio	Conemaugh Health System
10th	Eric Ghise	Ghise Associates
1st	David Moyer	Stanley Security

Correction

In the July issue, local architect Walter Boykowycz was incorrectly listed as being employed by Overhead Door Co.

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Member Profile: *Mike Desiderio*

August 2015

What is your company and what is your position?

I am with Caldwell's Windoware, Inc and I am Director of Sales.

Tell us about your job.

I manage a group of sales people in PA, West Virginia and Ohio.

I spend a significant amount of the rest of my time with architects and specifying products that would work for their particular project.

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

When I first started, I was making arrangements for a residential call and the 85-year-old lady I was visiting told me to get there early because "she takes all her clothes off at 11:30 a.m. when it's hot out." Then, when I got there, her parrot pooped on me!



What part of your job do you most enjoy?

Working with architects and owners in finding the best product for their projects.

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

Remove the cheaters!!!

What year did you join CSI?

I don't remember... over 20 years ago?

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

Beer buyer.

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

I would be an opera singer LOL!

Member Profile: *Mike Desiderio* (cont'd)

August 2015

Why did you join CSI?

Bob Tench (of Burt Hill) demanded I join! I will think fondly of him forever for that.

What people influenced you most?

Bob Tench for getting me involved in CSI and Bob Bailey for getting me working at CS I. My father reminding me that lying requires a memory far better than mine.

What do you see as the value of CSI membership?

Friendships, relationships and knowledge of the other guys predicament creates a better understanding of your own duties.

What would you want somebody considering CSI membership to know?

It's far more important and far more fun than you can imagine (and I have a pretty good imagination!)

What's your favorite city?

Florence, Italy.

If I could afford it, I would move tomorrow.



Tell us about your family.

My wife Karen has more patience than Job.
My two children are Sara and Mike Jr., never been arrested. (I love them dearly.)

Tell us a memorable CSI experience:

Phil Dorenkott sinking in quicksand at a CSI golf outing.

What's your passion?

Unfortunately it's golf.

What's a true sign of success?

Ask yourself if you are happy.

Best advice anyone ever gave you:

See the second part of my answer to "what people influenced you most?"

What would people be surprised to know about you?

I am a practicing Luddite!!

Region Report

August 2015

by Gail Lynn Nagie, President, CSI Middle Atlantic Region

Summer is suddenly almost over.... I think. Not sure where it went but my calendar says it's August already!


The Middle Atlantic Region is in full swing in August with a face-to-face board meeting on August 14th, following the early-bird tour of Intertek Architectural Testing Lab in York, PA.

Twice a year the 14 chapters gather to conduct business.

The annual Leadership Orientation Seminar (LOS) takes place on August 15th. This all-day session teaches our future leaders how the chapters and the Region operate.

Region committees are still being selected. If you have interest, please contact Gail Nagie.

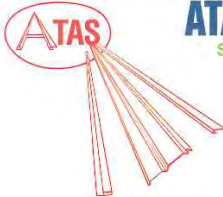
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Opportunities

August 2015

Help Wanted!!

Do you want to make a difference in this Chapter?

Volunteers are needed on our Chapter committees!

Are you interested in [Education?](#) [Hospitality?](#) [Publicity?](#) [Membership?](#) [Certification?](#)

We can find a spot for you! Contact President [Bill Vernon](#) to discuss the best fit for you.

The Awards Committee ([Marty Thornton](#)) is looking for at least one good person.

Program Meeting Sponsors wanted!!

Are you interested in getting your name and face and products in front of the group?

Take advantage of our program sponsor opportunities!
For only \$50 you will receive sponsorship credit for the meeting,
3 minutes to address the meeting audience at the podium,
and the opportunity to have a tabletop display if you so choose.
Contact [Bob Bailey](#).

Upcoming CSI Events

Pittsburgh Chapter Membership Meeting – September 8, 2015
Topic: BSD SpecLink Location: Cefalo's, Carnegie.

CONSTRUCT 2015 – St. Louis – September 30 – October 3, 2015
Registration is open now!

Pittsburgh Chapter Tour of Redland Brick plant – October 13, 2015

Certification Exams – September 30 – October 31, 2015
Registration is open now!

Middle Atlantic Region Conference – Baltimore – April 8 & 9, 2016

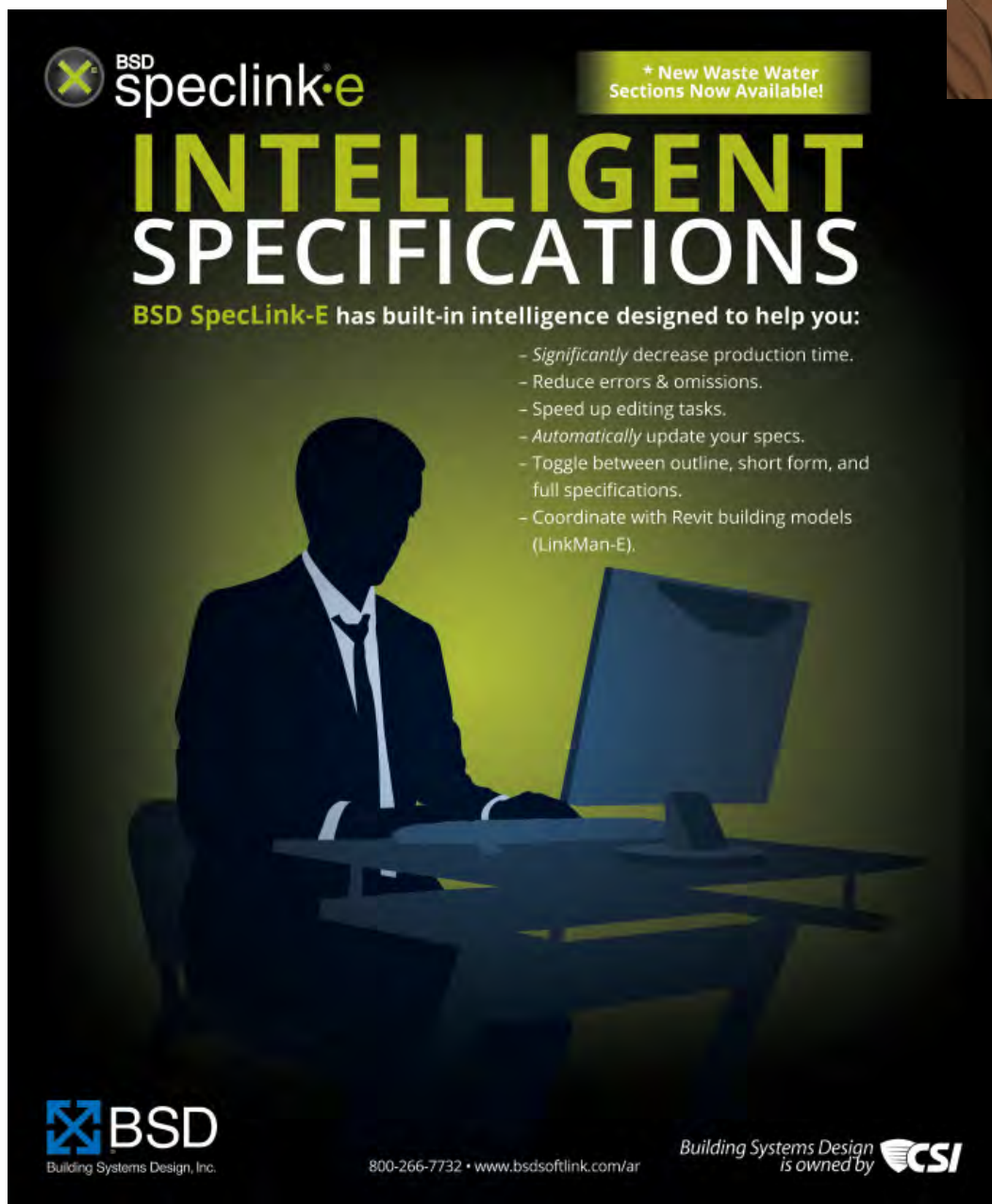
September Meeting - Sept. 8, 2015

August 2015

Join Derek Seiling, Product Consultant for BSD SpecLink, as we kick off the 2015-2016 year. BSD is owned by CSI.

Learn how SpecLink works and how it can benefit architects and specifiers.

Find out how BSD can also benefit building product manufacturers.



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Location:
Cefalo's
Carnegie, PA

5:00 Board Meeting
5:30 Social
6:15 Dinner
7:00 Program

Cost \$35

Reservations:
[MAZell@
NationalGypsum.com](mailto:MAZell@NationalGypsum.com)
(412) 951-8715

Around Town

August 2015

Pittsburgh to Host National Conference for Emerging Construction Professionals

On September 17-19, the Master Builders' Associations and Constructors Association of Western PA will host the annual Construction Leadership Development Conference at the Westin Convention Center.

This three-day event unites emerging construction leaders from across the country from various construction sectors to network, learn, and share.

This event features a keynote address from four-time Super Bowl Champion Rocky Bleier, six educational seminars, a building tour of Carnegie Mellon University Scott Hall, and two evening receptions (one aboard the Gateway Clipper and the other on the terrace of the David L. Lawrence CC).

This conference is an excellent opportunity for young construction leaders to meet their peers and gain valuable insight into career development.

For more information visit [Construction Leadership Development Conference](#) or contact [Jon O'Brien](#) of the MBA.



In the News

August 2015



Are you a Lord of the Rings fan? Remember the city of Minas Tirith?

[CLICK HERE](#) to find out how architects in England are crowdfunding to build a life-size replica.



Ok, we've seen 3-D printing of building models, but an entire bridge, life-size? They're going to do it in Amsterdam.

[CLICK HERE](#) to find out how.



Seen any good construction goofs lately? [CLICK HERE](#) to see 31 crazy fails.

Google Search Now Shows You When Local Businesses Are Busiest.

[CLICK HERE](#) to learn about this new feature.



What kind of bridges only get stronger with the passing of time? Bridges made from the living roots of a specific species of rubber tree in India.

[CLICK HERE](#) to see more of these amazing bridges.

Chapter Leadership

August 2015

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