

Specigram

Newsletter of the Pittsburgh Chapter,
Construction Specifications Institute
December 2015



CSI / IIDA ANNUAL HOLIDAY GALA



Tuesday December 8th

The Chadwick
1 Wexford Square
Wexford, PA

6:00 pm- 9:00 pm

\$10 a person

RSVP to Marc Zell
(412) 951-8715

MAZell@NationalGypsum.com

THIS MONTH

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LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

PRODUCT DISPLAYS

HORS D'OEUVRES & DESSERT TABLES

President's Message

December 2015

by Bill Vernon, President

Ben Franklin:

"A man wrapped up in himself makes a small bundle."

Thanksgiving is an opportunity to realize that we have much that we can be thankful for. This holiday allows us to focus on our blessings and the freedoms we enjoy and I get to thank board members, committee members and everyone for the support, commitment, and dedication of the past 12 months.

I would also like to thank our members we would not be where we are today without the trust you have given us. We on the board realized that this is not be something that is taken for granted, and will continue to do our best to promote CSI and your goals.



I look forward to seeing you at the Holiday Gala!

Highlights from the Board

November 10, 2015 at Cefalo's, Carnegie, PA

President: Vernon will try to use calendar to send out deadlines. Membership ambassador is (loosely) Brett Wygal.

Treasurer: Working to collect fees from Golf Outing.

Programs: December is Holiday party. Nothing for January yet; Bailey looking at 3 possible tours.

Membership: Vernon has put together a sheet of new / expiring / expired members.

Tech/Ed: Dorenkott still working on venue for roofing seminar.

Awards: Bartley will help Thornton.

GBA Liason: Dorenkott met Aurora Sherard; seems to be more approachable.

Old Business: Vernon presented modified Org Chart.

Holiday Gala: Flyers and tickets are at November meeting. Everyone is expected to RSVP to Marc Zell. DJ needs a contract.

Member News

December 2015

Lynn M. Fulton, CSI, 2nd Vice-President of CSI Pittsburgh, is now a project architect with Port Authority of Allegheny County.

December Anniversaries

| | | |
|------|---------------------|-------------------------------|
| 29th | Brian Trimble | Brick Industry Association |
| 25th | Richard Florida | Florida Consulting |
| 24th | Philip Dorenkott | Atlas Wholesale Supply |
| 19th | Matthew Matlak | VEKA Inc. |
| 17th | Bob Schrock | PPG Paints |
| 12th | Steve Nearhoof | Stantec |
| 9th | Dawn Danyo | Gerard Assoc. Architects, LLC |
| 9th | Michaelleen Vargo | Gerard Assoc. Architects, LLC |
| 4th | Thomas Christiansen | ASSA ABLOY |
| 2nd | Steven Reinstadtler | Bayer MaterialScience |
| 1st | Shirley Stern | PPG Industries |

SPEC WRITERS & CHANGES



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Member Profile - *Josh Telenko*

December 2015

What is your company and what is your position?

I work for Baer & Associates, LLC. Our main office is in Buffalo, NY and a few years ago my wife and I moved back to Pittsburgh and I run our Pittsburgh operations. I am a Senior General Construction Estimator and the Vice President.

Tell us about your job.

My day-to-day role involves conceptual cost estimating of construction projects for architectural firms, engineering firms and owners. Baer works with a lot of building owners and construction managers so we tend to be brought in during construction to review change orders or to verify them. On the legal side we provide litigation support, which involves applying our knowledge and experience to aide law firms in recognizing problem areas in their cases and assigning real-world costs to any damages. A majority of my time is spent doing take-offs, talking with contractors, product representatives, and pricing and/or reviewing estimates. I am working to grow our list of clients in the Pittsburgh area so any additional time I have (or can manage to schedule) goes into business development and networking.

What part of your job do you most enjoy?

I really like working with our clients and helping them keep their project 'alive' as it moves from Concept to Construction Documents. I like knowing about projects years in advance and then seeing them be built; that is mainly what keeps me excited about coming to work every day.



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

I would be involved in construction at some level. After graduating college I was in sales and working my way up the standard corporate ladder but growing up on a construction site and being around it my whole life made it difficult to get away from. I would be just as happy swinging a hammer as I am working in an office; as long as the complexities of construction are involved, I will be there.

What year did you join CSI?

I joined CSI in 2011 after opening our office in Pittsburgh.

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

I am the Secretary and have been for about a year-and-a-half.

Why did you join CSI?

When we opened our office in Pittsburgh I did not know a lot of people in the local design community so I joined to meet architects, local product representatives and to generally assimilate to the area better. It has helped tremendously.

Member Profile - *Josh Telenko* (cont'd)

December 2015

What people influenced you most?

I would have to say that my dad has probably influenced me more than anyone. He worked as a construction superintendent up and down the east coast for most of my younger years. I would travel with him and spent a lot of days in a construction trailer seeing the construction process. I was a place kicker in high school, college, and played some arena football and my dad was also my coach. I would work for him during the day in the summer, come home and then head out to the field for practice. By the end of the summer we would be ready to strangle each other but, looking back, I learned more from him than anyone else; personally and professionally.

What do you see as the value of CSI membership?

Being a member of CSI doesn't mean much, participating in CSI as a member is where the value is. I never leave a meeting feeling like it was pointless to go. The programs are typically very good and from talking to a few people at the meeting I walk away with learning about some type of new product, a new use for an existing product, new projects that are on the horizon, industry news, etc. By joining CSI and participating, these meetings and conversations with people within the industry are possible.

Tell us about your family.

My wife Sherri and I have been together since high school, we went to college together and have been married for 8-1/2 years. This March we will have been together for 18 years. We have two great kids, Blake (4-1/2) and Cole (2) along with our chocolate lab Hunter (7-1/2). They are awesome to watch grow up and seeing their personalities come out as they get older is more enjoyable than anything.

What's your favorite city?

Of course Pittsburgh is one of my favorites but I don't think I could have just one. I grew up in a coal mining town of 600 people, and I still like going back there but I love to travel and there are interesting things about every city I have ever been. My wife and I started our married life in Buffalo, and I liked the lake, outdoor activities and the winters (I used to be an avid snowmobiler). We went to Europe a few years ago and London had great food, the beers of Brussels were amazing and the history of Paris, and most of Europe for that matter, was surreal. Without too much rambling, I guess the next city I go to is technically my favorite, then I will just add it to the list.

What's your passion?

I love building things, like actually building them. I have a sizable woodshop built into my house where I make cabinets and furniture and when the weather is nice I build things outside. This year I spent the second half of the summer forming concrete, tying rebar, pouring concrete and then teaching myself how to lay block. I am back in the woodshop for the winter but will be outside in the spring building the rest of my garage. I like the planning process just as much as the actual hands-on portion, I typically provide my wife with sketches and then drawings to get her "sign-off" before I really dig in on anything and we have fun with it.

What's a true sign of success?

It depends who you ask and what stage of life they are in. Five years ago I would have said money, piles of money. Today, with two young boys in my house and trying to figure out what is best for them, I would say raising two responsible, hardworking, and caring sons that can contribute more to society than they expect to get back.

Best advice anyone ever gave you:


Do the best you can and don't worry about what anyone else is doing, they have nothing to do with your success (or failure).

Region Report

December 2015



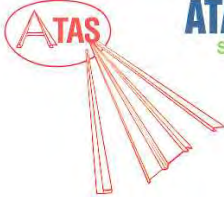
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Last Month's Program

December 2015



Stacey L. Bowers, AIA, NCARB, of MSES Architects, Fairmont, WV, spoke on Cross-Laminated Timber and how it was used in the construction of the Franklin Elementary School in Franklin, WV, the first school in the country to feature this material technology.



CSI Speed Dating!

December 2015

Fifth Annual CSI Pittsburgh Speed Dating



Come join us **Tuesday, February 9, 2016** for our fifth annual CSI Speed Dating event.

Product Representatives; Meet architects and spec writers out there who would like to learn more about your product!

Architects and Specifiers; Meet new contacts and learn about the latest products and technologies!

CSI Speed Dating works like this: Each "couple" has 4 minutes to meet and talk about their current project and products to see if they are compatible, and when the buzzer sounds the architects/spec writers move to the next table.

If interested, please contact Lynn Fulton lfulton@portauthority.org

Early Registration for CSI members only: January 19, 2016

All other Registrations: February 3, 2016

Where: Cefalo's, Restaurant
428 Washington Ave
Carnegie, PA 16106

4:45 Registration
5:30 Speed Dating Begins
7:00 Dinner
8:00 Board Meeting



Horse

d'oeuvres

Only 25 spots are available, so register soon!



DOOR PRIZES!



Cost: \$35/person



Plans for Lower Hill District redevelopment

The Bjarke Ingels Group proposes doubling the green space from the preliminary land development plan and creating eight structures of terraced housing to give residents in 1,200 units views of the city.

An extension of Wylie Avenue would end closer to Downtown at Festival Street, which is being built now to connect Centre and Bedford avenues. Each building of terraced apartments — 20 percent of which would be set aside for incomes between 60 percent and 80 percent of the area median — would have a courtyard and shared balconies.

Construction of the first apartments is expected by the end of 2016.

Connections to Downtown include a wide, zig-zagging footpath that reduces the 14 percent grade to about 5 percent for accessibility.

The \$500 million project includes more than 1 million square feet of offices, retail and a hotel, with parking beneath all the buildings.

A meandering footpath network from Crawford to Ross Street Downtown creates triangles within the grid for public use — basketball and other court sports, a plaza similar to Market Square, a large public lawn, a park to cap Interstate 579 and a rainwater feature that mimics a stream bouncing over rocks.

The landscaping plan for Centre Avenue is designed to make crosswalks at sidewalk grade and widening sidewalks for more trees, seating and lighting, cutting lanes from six to four.

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