

# Specigram

Newsletter of the Pittsburgh Chapter,  
Construction Specifications Institute  
February 2016



## CSI Speed Dating! February 9, 2016

Architects and Spec Writers:  
Meet new contacts and learn about the  
latest products and technologies for your  
current projects.

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**If you are interested in this great event, please fill out the form on the next page and return it to Lynn Fulton.**  
[LFulton@PortAuthority.org](mailto:LFulton@PortAuthority.org)

Cefalo's Restaurant  
428 Washington Ave  
Carnegie, PA 15106

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

Cost: \$35/person

# Register for Speed Dating!

## Fifth Annual CSI Pittsburgh Speed Dating

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

*Architects and Spec Writers:* Meet new contacts and learn about the latest products and technologies for your current projects.

*Product Representatives:* Meet architects and spec writers who would benefit from learning more about your products.

CSI Speed dating works like this: Each “couple” will have 4 minutes to meet and talk about their current projects and products to see if they are compatible, and when the buzzer sounds, the architect/ spec write will move to the next table.

Come join us for a great networking event and a chance to **win door prizes** at the end of the evening.

If you are interested in this great event, please fill out the form and return it to Lynn Fulton.

[LFulton@PortAuthority.org](mailto:LFulton@PortAuthority.org)

### Registration Deadline:

**CSI Members: January 19, 2016**

**All other registrations: February 3, 2016**

***Only 25 spots available, so register soon!!***

*Hor d'Oeuvres will be served during the speed dating event*

**Where:** Cefalo's Restaurant  
428 Washington Ave  
Carnegie, PA 15106

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

**Cost:** \$35/person

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Name:

Organization:

Email:

CSI member: Yes / No

# President's Message

February 2016

by Bill Vernon, CSI

**Mentoring** is a topic that seems to ebb & flow from “a necessary expense that needs to be assigned to senior staff” to “a life changing experience”. As usual, the truth lies somewhere in between, based upon the effort that is put forth. Mentoring has value for both the Mentor and the Mentee but I would also argue that mentoring can be a two-way street from old to young or junior up to senior. One example could be the detail that is transferred into Revit. The junior staff can learn from a hand-drawn detail while the senior person can benefit from the development of the detail into three dimensions.



The benefits to the Mentee are obvious, from the passing down of wisdom and institutional knowledge to avoid mistakes, or a simple understanding of what needs to be done to achieve the common goal, to valuable feedback, insight and support. However the benefits to the Mentor are a little more subtle. In firms flattened by the recent economic realities, senior staff have often taken on larger or more challenging roles. High-potential / senior staff move around more and have more complex projects, gathering experience but often missing out on time to reflect on what they are learning. As such, situations can be both exciting and overwhelming – and when they arise, they demonstrate that you are never too old or too experienced to be mentored.

Mentoring provides you opportunity / requires one to reflect on and articulate expertise and experiences something today's reality does not permit us time to do otherwise. Mentoring can help everyone view the organization with a fresh eye toward its functions, politics and culture. Mentors usually gain an understanding of how people from different generations or backgrounds approach their work and careers. Mentoring relationships help staff both adapt and learn, If you're feeling burned out or cynical, mentoring can give you a fresh perspective and renewed interest in your life's vocation and your career a boost. Effective Mentors tend improve their own leadership skills. As you assist your Mentee, you may see patterns you didn't spot before.

Mentoring is a valuable endeavor -- even my personal hero Ben Franklin had mentors. from the Quakers who help set him up in business in Philadelphia, to nobles in Europe who aided in the negotiations with the French & British.

*"Tell me and I forget, teach me and I may remember, involve me and I learn."*  
- Benjamin Franklin

# President's Message (cont'd)

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Below are some ideas from a recent article on how to improve mentoring:

1. **Develop and manage the mentoring relationship.** Initially, this involves assessing your own readiness and interest, selecting someone to mentor and getting to know each other. Over time, it means working to build trust, set goals and keep the mentoring relationship on track.
2. **Sponsor.** Opening doors and advocating for your Mentee can allow them to develop new skills and gain meaningful visibility. You can create and seek new opportunities for them and connect them with people in your network.
3. **Survey the environment.** Mentors keep a watchful eye on the horizon, looking for both threatening organizational forces and positive opportunities. You want to be on the lookout for include rumors, people taking an adversarial position relative to the Mentee, shortcuts through the system, low-visibility or no-win assignments and high-visibility or win-win assignments.
4. **Guide and counsel.** You may serve as a confidant, sounding-board and personal advisor to your Mentee, especially as the relationship grows deeper over time. You may help your Mentee understand conflict or explore ways to deal with problems, for example. You also can warn your Mentee about behavior that is a poor fit with organizational culture.
5. **Teach.** Many Mentors enjoy the teaching aspects of mentoring, which mean not only imparting their knowledge but also sharing their experiences and recommending assignments.
6. **Model.** Just while observing, your Mentees pick up many things: ethics, values and standards; style, beliefs and attitudes; methods and procedures. They are likely to follow your lead, adapt your approach to their own style, and build confidence through their affiliation with you. As a Mentor, you need to be keenly aware of your own behavior.
7. **Motivate and inspire.** Mentors support, validate and encourage their mentees. When you help your Mentees link their own goals, values and emotions to the larger organizational agenda, they become more engaged in their work and in their own development.



# Highlights from the Board

February 2016

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January 12, 2016 at Cefalo's, Carnegie, PA

## **FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS**

Strayer noted that he anticipates open positions for next year. Anticipated openings are for positions of 2nd Vice-President as well as 3 board positions. Bartley expressed interest in seeking another term for his current board position. Dorenkott stated he did not intend to seek an additional term. McNamee was not present to state her intention. Miller expressed an interest in running for a board position. Miller stated he will coordinate a meeting with Geist and Chelsea Adkins of IIDA to discuss next year's plans for the Holiday Party.

## **TREASURER**

Proceeds from the 2015 Holiday Party will result in a \$300 donation to The Pittsburgh Food Bank on behalf of the Chapter.

## **PROGRAMS**

Bailey reported tonight's program will be by GBA on the 2030 District. February will be Speed Dating. Tentative plan for March is tour of Scott Hall at CMU. April may be One Hour to Bid program with Bill Brightbill. Tour of Drury Hotel (former Federal Reserve Building) likely for May. Narcisi Winery suggested for June Awards event.

## **PUBLICITY**

Miller requested that members cease responding to the e-mail blasts. Kudos on the Specigram.

## **TECHNICAL/EDUCATION**

Dorenkott provided details on upcoming Technical Seminar on steel studs on February 18th. Requested help from Publicity to put on website and send him a link.

## **AWARDS/SPEC COMPETITION**

Region Submission made on December 30th. Chapter submitted 6 candidates for consideration.

## **GBA LIASON**

Dorenkott reported he continues to attend GBA events.

## **STUDENT OUTREACH**

Vernon reports that Laurie Kraus from Chatham has requested that an instructor is needed for the Specifier 101 Course. Chatham will be in attendance at the April Meeting (One Hour to Bid program).

## **REGION CONFERENCE**

Nagie reported that we must develop a "Pittsburgh Promotion Presentation" to be shown at upcoming Region Conference in Baltimore. Presentation should entice CSI members to attend future Region Conference in Pittsburgh.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Vernon reported that LOS was enjoyable. Tour of testing lab facility very interesting. Next LOS to be held at Heritage Hill GC in York, Pa August 19-20.

# Member News

February 2016

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## February Anniversaries

22nd	Michael Moyta	Design 3 Architecture, P.C.
7th	Gregg Scharrer	United States Gypsum Company
6th	Richard Kernick	Kernick Architecture LLC
5th	Brian Joyce	PPG Paints
4th	Joshua Telenko	Baer + Associates, LLC
3rd	Greg Koledin	Wesex Corporation
2nd	Brad Bartley	AGC Flat Glass North America, Inc.
2nd	Walter Postufka	GAF
1st	David Turner	84 Lumber Company

## New Members

Ariel Sherman Graduate in Interior Architecture  
Andrew Glass Dimensional Metals, Inc.

## Membership Up For Renewal

Lee Lundberg	Veolia Water NA
Steven Reinstadtler	Bayer MaterialScience
Bob Schrock	PPG Paints
Deborah Merges	Architectural Resources, Inc.
Stacy Jordon	Armstrong World Industries
Fred Smith	Allegheny Millwork & Lumber
Shirley Stern	PPG Industries
Joshua Telenko	Baer + Associates, LLC
Greg Koledin	Wesex Corporation
Raymond Stander Jr.	The Wiremold Company
Ben Mack	Ardex Americas
David Mosovsky	Daltile
Harry Walsh	ASSA ABLOY DSS

## CSI's 2016 Honors & Awards Changes and Call for Nominations

CSI's Honors & Awards Program recognizes the talent, achievements, and notable contributions to the construction industry that support the mission of CSI. Participating in the Honors & Awards Program is a great way to let members and others in your community know they are appreciated and valued. Download the 2016 Honors & Awards Guide for submission information.

Again this year, there are two different deadlines for nominations.  
Please note: The deadline time is 2 PM Eastern.

Any awards submitted after that time will be disqualified.

May 6, 2016 2PM Eastern: Deadline for all awards nominations excluding the FY 2016 Outstanding Chapter Commendation.

July 15, 2016 2PM Eastern: Deadline for FY2016 Outstanding Chapter Commendation

If you have any questions, or suggestions for improvement to the awards program, please email [awards@csinet.org](mailto:awards@csinet.org). We would love to hear from you!

# Region Report

February 2016

by Gail Lynn Nagie, CDT, CSI

As I write this article we are digging of a "Snowmageddon". The Middle Atlantic Region has been pelted with snow, sleet, and just plain cold. Although parts of the Pittsburgh region are buried in snow other parts got little more than just a basic covering, proving Mother Nature has quite a sense of humor.



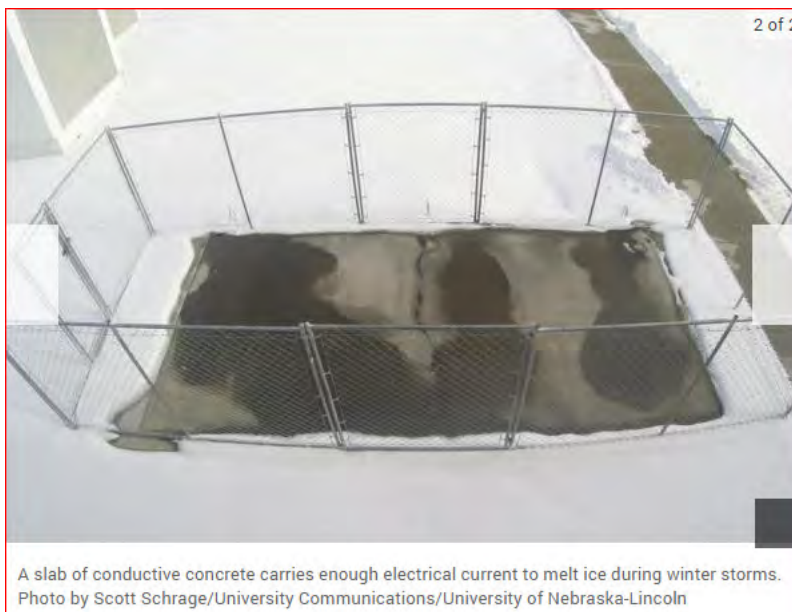
The Region is about eight weeks away from gathering in Baltimore for our Region Conference 2016. Mark your calendar to save April 8 and 9. Pittsburgh would like to have a large attendance at this conference.

The Region LOS Committee has begun to work to put together a weekend of requested sessions to help train our future leaders. Mark August 19 and 20 on your calendars. This year's event will again take place in York Pennsylvania. All CSI members in good standing are welcome to attend. This events expenses are picked up by the Region, so your only cost would be transportation and hotel. Talk to Bill Vernon about help to reduce that expense which can be provided by the chapter.

On the bright side as I look outside at the glaring white snow there is only 57 days till spring (even less by the time you read this). Mother Nature's pranks are almost over for this winter.

## Electrified concrete paves way for snow-melting streets

[http://www.upi.com/Science\\_News/2016/01/26/Electrified-concrete-paves-way-for-snow-melting-streets/5951453822528/?spt=sec&or=sn](http://www.upi.com/Science_News/2016/01/26/Electrified-concrete-paves-way-for-snow-melting-streets/5951453822528/?spt=sec&or=sn)



A slab of conductive concrete carries enough electrical current to melt ice during winter storms.  
Photo by Scott Schrage/University Communications/University of Nebraska-Lincoln

# 2016 Region Conference

February 2016

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Registration now open!!!!

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/marc-2016-tickets-21068990919>

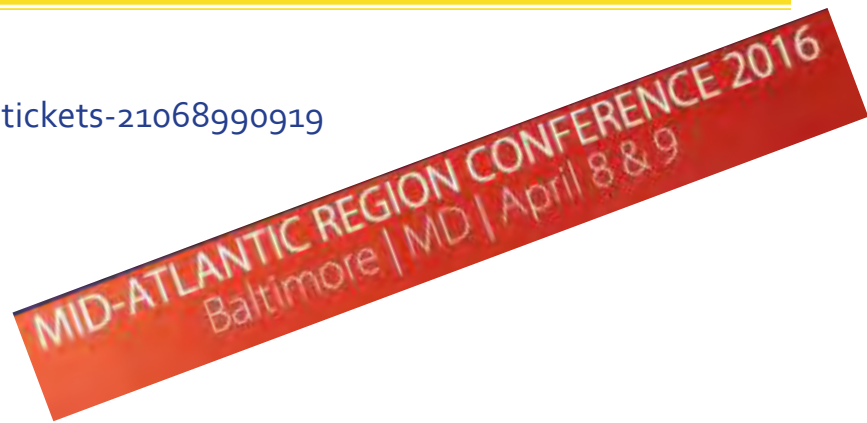
## WHEN

Friday, April 8, 2016 at 12:00 PM  
thru Saturday, April 9, 2016 at 4:00 PM

## WHERE

Lord Baltimore Hotel  
20 West Baltimore Street Baltimore, MD 21201

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Come join us for the Mid-Atlantic Region Conference! Held annually, the conference will be a wealth of learning experiences, including AIA CEUs for those who need them, socializing, and fun!

This year's conference will hold a big pack in a small bundle. Over the course of two days, you may attend up to eight education sessions, a welcome reception, a lunch, and more. We are also pursuing pre and post conference tours that will be open as soon as possible.

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## Friday's Education tracks (ALL RUN CONCURRENTLY):

**TRACK 1: Professional Development:** What emerging professionals need to know about their bosses and how to advance their careers; and what their bosses need to know about emerging professionals and how to retain them.

**TRACK 2: Advanced Topics in Building Science:** Things you never learned in college about how buildings are actually built and actually perform, based upon chemistry, physics, and technology.

## Saturday's Education tracks (ALL RUN CONCURRENTLY):

**TRACK 3: Digging Deeper on Going Green:** The difference between LEED and IgCC; Mining for EPD's and HPD's; and Growing Healthy Buildings.

**TRACK 4: Additional Dimensions to Project Management Delivery:** Learn how to manage additional dimensions of costs, delivery logistics, installation sequencing, and maintenance.

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# 2016 Region Conference

February 2016

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In addition to the education sessions, we will be offering CCCA and CCCS Bootcamp! If you're looking to test in April, but don't have the time to devote to weekly meetings, this is your perfect opportunity to fit it all into eight hours. Same great instructors, two short days.

The event will be held at the Lord Baltimore Hotel. The Lord Baltimore was originally built in 1928 by architect William Lee Stoddart. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and was visited by Martin Luther King, Jr., among a host of other historic luminaries. It is a 23-story, 440-room property in the heart of downtown Baltimore, Maryland.



HOTEL ROOMS MUST BE RESERVED BY MARCH 1ST TO QUALIFY FOR RESERVED RATES (Reservation code 1604BALCSI). Reserve online: If you call the hotel to reserve, make sure to mention "CSI Region Conference." Valet and self-parking are available.

For detailed information, please refer to our website: [www.csibaltimore.org](http://www.csibaltimore.org) The information contained here is limited.

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# Member Profile - *John Bliss*

February 2016

## What is your company and what is your position?

I am a brick sales representative for the R.I. Lampus Co. located in Springdale Pa. We are a concrete block manufacture, with 3 plants in Western Pa area. At the Springdale Plant we also manufacture our colored smooth and split faced block. The Parkway plant is located just off the I-376 corridor at Alliquippa, Pa. And our latest addition in the former A.A. Robbins Block plant in Cambridge Springs Pa just north of Meadville. We also have the 2 landscape-hardscape plants in Wampum Pa.

## Tell us about your job.

I have always enjoyed working in the masonry business. I began as a laborer many years ago, and decided then, I did not want to do this the rest of my life!



At Hollywood Studios  
in Disney World for Christmas...  
Practicing for retirement! ! !

## What part of your job do you most enjoy?

I enjoy the newness of meeting new people all the time as well as renewing relationships made over the years in the business. I really like the challenge of working with a client and coming up with new ways of doing things or making different color selections work best for a project.

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

At this time I would probably be retired, but I just love what I do so much I don't want to quit.

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

Every day is a new challenge and over the years many little things have taken place. To name just one is too difficult to remember, but I believe it is the people in this industry that has made it a fun filled journey!

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

It would go on forever. And there would be more time to do what I want to do.

## What year did you join CSI?

2010 was the most recent time but I had been a member years ago while I was a rep for Darlington Brick and then also at Redland Brick at the Harmar Plant.

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

Right now I am a regular member and I try to promote CSI wherever I can and try to attend meetings on a regular basis.

## Why did you join CSI?

As a laborer in the field I was always curious of the many items that go into a masonry wall and I wanted to learn more about the materials I had worked with.

## What people influenced you most?

Probably the most influential people to me in this industry were R.G. Friday of Friday Masonry, and Billy Hefner from Darlington Brick. For more recent times it is all the members of CSI, BAMP, AIA, and other organizations I belong to.

## What do you see as the value of CSI membership?

The networking is a benefit, but I look beyond that to the friendships I have made and the people I have met over the years, who have helped and guided me to where I am today. It is the continuing education that I feel we all need.

# Member Profile - *John Bliss* (cont'd)

## What CSI certifications have you earned?

I do not have any formal certifications at this time.

## What would you want somebody considering CSI membership to know?

If you want to join the organization or any group, most importantly GET INVOLVED!! You must be an active player or you will not be recognized.

## Tell us a memorable CSI experience:

I have always been a fan of the various tours that we take throughout the year,, but I really enjoyed having members tour the Redland Brick plant in Harmar and the tour of the Parkway-Aliquippa Block plant. These are materials that I am passionate about and therefore it was great to see so many people enjoy and share their thoughts on this industry.

## Person you learned the most from:

I look at every day as a new learning experience, no matter what field or how old I am I am like a sponge and I always want to learn more!

## Tell us about your family.

My wife and I both grew up in the Pittsburgh area. Dolly is from the Penn Hills area, and I grew up in Carrick.. We often talk about the street car rides we did as kids and many of the things we did then that we would never consider doing today!

We have been blessed with two lovely children who both work for the Disney Co. Our daughter Angela lives in California, and works out of the Burbank office, and our son, Chef Jef works at various restaurants in Walt Disney World in Orlando! Great vacations spots and, as my wife always says to them "great places to work with great perks for parents!!"

## What's your favorite city?

I really like the city of Pittsburgh, there is lots to do and a lot of history! We love to travel and have been fortunate to have traveled to parts of the world we never dreamed of because of our children. I will always say Pittsburgh is our home!

## What's your passion?

I really love my work as a brick sales person! I enjoy the industry. I meet new people, help them with color selection, some design and sizing, it is just a wonderful field.

## What's a true sign of success?

Being happy doing what you do. Serving others for what they may not see or understand!

## Best advice anyone ever gave you:

Be true to yourself and make the best of everything you do!

## What would people be surprised to know about you?

I had studied to be a catholic priest! And I did have a robe with the cord and rosary. The Capuchin robe I wore had the most yardage of all my classmates. It was a lot!

## Who is your favorite "Peanuts" character and why?

All the characters are great together as they make up the 'family', but I like Snoopy, he's quiet, sensitive and yet he is always there when you need him!



# Newsletter Sponsors

February 2016

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& Suppliers

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Building & Construction  
**NETWORK®**

[www.thebluebook.com](http://www.thebluebook.com)

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# Technical Seminar

Thursday, February 18, 2016



Location:  
Master Builders Association of Western PA  
631 Iron City Drive  
Pittsburgh, PA 15205

Registration 8:00 a.m.  
Presentation 8:30 a.m.

Cost:  
\$20 for members of CSI, MBA, GBA, WID and AIA.  
\$25 for non-members.  
Includes continental breakfast.

Reservations: (by Friday, February 12, 2016)  
Phil Dorenkott  
4161 Timberlane Dr  
Allison Park, PA 15101-2932  
412-276-9200  
pdorenkott@yahoo.com

**Prepaid only, cash or check only.**

**Presenter:**  
**Ryan Reed,**  
**Territory Manager**  
**ClarkDietrich Building Systems.**

-What are the ASTM C645 material and manufacturing requirements for drywall studs.

-How do equivalent gauge studs contribute to LEED credits?

-What do you need to know when specifying fire-rated partitions?

-When are equivalent gauge studs permitted to be used in lieu of traditional thickness studs?

-Review of limiting heights.

-The difference between 20 gauge, 20 gauge equivalent and 20 gauge structural studs.

## Register Now for the Spring CDT, CCS, CCCA and CCPR Exams!

Deadline: February 29, 2016

Registration is now open for the spring certificate/certification exam cycle. Exams will be offered March 29th - April 30th.

CSI is the construction community's authority on communication and construction documentation. Through CSI's Certificate/Certification Program, you can develop a conceptual understanding of the entire construction process and concrete skills in:

- Construction documentation development and administration
- Specification writing and enforcement
- Product research and sourcing
- Communication with the design and contracting teams

CSI's Construction Documents Technologist (CDT) certificate is a prerequisite to CSI's certifications: Certified Construction Contract Administrator (CCCA); Certified Construction Specifier (CCS) and Certified Construction Product Representative (CCPR).

### Register now!

#### Why Get Certified?

CSI's CDT Certificate and advanced certifications are recognized throughout the industry as evidence of a proven level of education, knowledge and experience in construction documents. These credentials demonstrate professional commitment, credibility and reliability to employers, colleagues and clients. Obtaining a CSI certificate/certification benefits you, your company, and your customers.

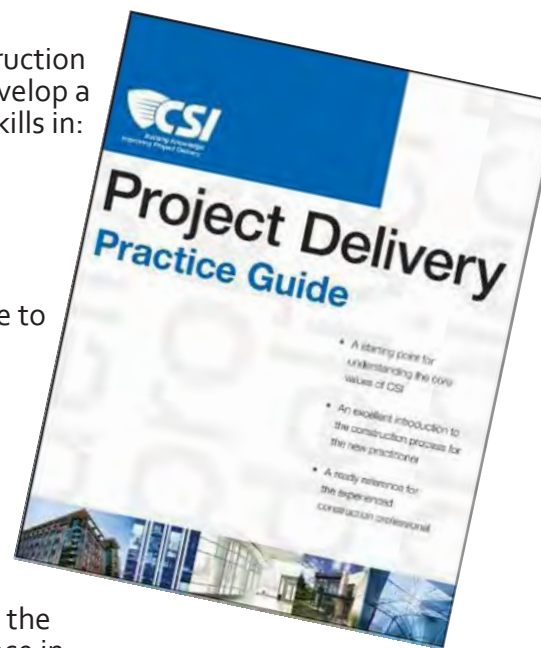
#### Need more information about an exam?

View recorded informational webinars on

CSI's CDT certificate and certifications on CSI's YouTube Channel. The webinars are an opportunity to learn about the benefits of CSI's certificate and certifications. Each webinar will cover the requirements and resources needed for successful exam preparation and study.

- CDT 101
- CCPR 201
- CCS 201
- CCCA 201

*These webinars were recorded for the 2014 exam cycle, refer to the Spring 2016 Candidate Handbook for the most up-to-date information related to exam dates and materials.*



# ABAA Conference

February 2016

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## ABAA CONFERENCE & TRADE SHOW

### ALL CSI MEMBERS RECEIVE 30% OFF

The Air Barrier Association of America (ABAA) is holding its annual general meeting, air barrier educational (AIA LUs) sessions, contractor training seminars and trade show in Baltimore.

As an added bonus they are offering all CSI members a 30% discount off conference registration and a free tabletop display for the CSI chapter.

Click [HERE](#) to register today! Use promo code CSIABAA.



# Going, Going, Gone...

February 2016

By Bob Bailey, CCS, CSI, AIA, LEED AP

When I joined CSI Pittsburgh 31 years ago I was the youngest member of the Chapter. How times have changed – in more ways than one.

It occurred to me that there were a lot of things around then that are no longer (and of course things that exist now that weren't around then).

## AROUND IN '85, NOW GONE

Unreinforced PVC roofing membrane  
Cassette tapes  
Mayor Caliguiri  
TWA  
Czechoslovakia  
Vinyl car tops  
Minoru Yamasaki  
Asbestos Transite panels  
Compaq  
The USSR  
Georgia O'Keeffe  
Mobay Chemical Corp.  
PPG curtain wall  
Woolworth's  
Phenolic insulation  
Yugoslavia  
Pan Am  
Mr. Rogers



## AROUND IN '85 BUT GOING

Pay phones  
Residential phone land-lines

## BRAND NEW IN '85

Fax machines  
Macintosh computers  
Blockbuster Video  
Microsoft Windows

## NOT AROUND IN '85

Digital cell phones  
The internet (for personal use) (and thereby Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, etc.)



# Chapter Leadership

## Officers

### *President*

Mr. Bill Vernon, CSI  
Renaissance 3 Architects  
412-630-9166  
[bjv@R3a.com](mailto:bjv@R3a.com)

### *1<sup>st</sup> Vice President*

Mr. Richard Strayer, CSI  
Maffei Strayer Furnishings  
Phone: 412-630-9166  
[rstrayer@mstrayerfurn.com](mailto:rstrayer@mstrayerfurn.com)

### *2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President*

Ms. Lynn Fulton, CSI  
Port Authority of Allegheny County  
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[LFulton@PortAuthority.org](mailto:LFulton@PortAuthority.org)

### *Secretary*

Mr. Joshua Telenko, CSI, CCCA  
Baer & Associates, LLC  
412-224-4892  
[jtelenko@Baer-Associates.com](mailto:jtelenko@Baer-Associates.com)

### *Treasurer*

Ms. Gail Nagie, CSI, CDT  
Phone: 724-622-6301  
[twogreenfrogs@icloud.com](mailto:twogreenfrogs@icloud.com)

## Directors

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