

Specigram

Newsletter of the Pittsburgh Chapter,
Construction Specifications Institute
July-August 2017



HOT TOWN SUMMER IN THE CITY



Member News

July-August 2017

July Anniversaries

27th Gail Lynn Nagie
22nd Catherine Houska
18th Walter Boykowycz
6th Kelley Boyle
4th Patrick Harding
3rd Janine Dallies
1st David Glorioso
1st Shirley Stern
1st George Dickerson

August Anniversaries

36th Dennis Buirge
16th Frank Hughes
15th Ronald Maroni
14th Benjamin Policicchio
12th Eric Ghise

New Members:

None

Current Membership: 112

www.CSIPittsburgh.org



Calendar for 2017-2018 CSI Year

August 23 - Chapter board meeting at ikm office

September 12-15 - CONSTRUCT, Providence, RI

September 19 - Chapter Meeting - Tour of Columbia Gas Training Center, Monaca

September 21 - Fall Golf Outing - Cedarbrook, Belle Vernon

Mid-October - Sport Clays Shoot - Hunting Hills, Dilliner, PA

November 6 - Outreach mixer with local universities, hosted by Chatham University

December 12 - Holiday Gala, The Chadwick, Wexford

September Meeting

July-August 2017

Tour of Columbia Gas Training Center - Monaca, PA designed by LGA Partners

Tuesday, September 19th 5:00 p.m.

NOTE DATE CHANGE TO 3RD TUESDAY OF THE MONTH

additional details and dinner location to follow

The first of its kind in Pennsylvania, the 22,000 square foot facility is uniquely designed to provide employees with the skills they need to install, operate and maintain a safe, reliable natural gas delivery system while delivering on customer's expectations.

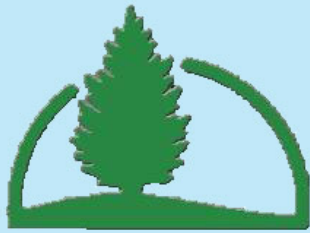
In addition to classroom and computer learning, the new, Emergency Response Safety Town is where employees receive hands-on, scenario-based training. The facility replicates real-world conditions with functioning underground natural gas lines, house meters, and a variety of gas appliances inside the homes.



Fall Golf Outing

July-August 2017

Thursday, September 21



Cedarbrook

215 State Route 981 Belle Vernon, PA 15012

9:00 AM shotgun start

Cost, package and other details will be
forthcoming

sponsorship opportunities available

contact Mark Womer
mwomer@dsstristate.net



July-August 2017

Sporting Clays Shoot



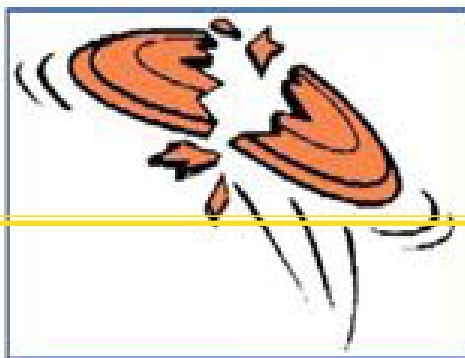
When: A Thursday TBD in mid-October

Where: Hunting Hills, Dilliner, PA 15327

Cost: Approx. \$75.00 for 100-round course

Participants bring their own shotgun and ammunition.

Please respond if interested to Denny Buirge
via buirgede@cdmsmith.com



Member Profile - *Scott Keener*

What is your company and what is your position?

As of July this year I accepted a daunting challenge from Mr. John Cleary, AIA, CSI, CCS, LEED AP BD + C, who it turns out was retiring after twenty-plus years as specifier at MacLachlan Cornelius & Filoni. The challenge, of course, was to try to fill his immense shoes at MCF. I myself am a comparative rookie, having been at it for but a single decade. But I found that Mr Cleary has left such a bountiful collection of resources, and such a fine legacy in the culture at this firm, what could I do but trust his judgment and take the challenge? The current challenge, then, might be to get folks here to refer to me as something other than "not John."

Tell us about your job.

I specify.

What part of your job do you most enjoy?

Emerging Professionals. The current generation seems so driven and hungry to proceed and to succeed, it's invigorating. And kind of nostalgic. Some are even curious about specifications. Imagine that.

What would people be surprised to know about you?

When I was sixteen years old, I spent a couple of summer days scuba diving the coral reefs off the coast of Panama with two other kids my age who were surprisingly interesting and entertaining to hang around with. As were their well-armed companions. One of the kids was then known simply as John John, the other was his cousin Tim Shriver.



What was your first job?

Paperboy for the Post-Gazette and the now-defunct Pittsburgh Press. If there was a better way to teach a dumb 12-year old kid some enduring lessons in commitment, self-reliance, discipline, time management, pride in accomplishment, and some basic economics realities, I've never come across it.

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

Make this a priority: Reach into high schools, particularly those serving disadvantaged communities, and find the kids who otherwise might never have known what a career in building design and construction is, or worse, assume that it's something beyond their reach, and let them know that the opposite is true. It is a profession that sorely needs them.

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

I dunno. Ted Kaczynski comes to mind. Except for, you know, all the bloodshed and crazy and stuff.

Member Profile - *Scott Keener* (cont'd)

What year did you join CSI?

Hm. The record seems a little sketchy, but by my recollection:

The first time, I think Charlie Brown was chapter president. '86-ish.

I didn't attend meeting or mix much with my fellows or get involved in chapter affairs in those days, but here's how I remember about when it was: Because joining up was the only way this struggling intern-architect could find out how a CD set is SUPPOSED to be put together. I did start with some committee or other into the early '90s (Rachel Stiffler comes to mind), but before long, sadly, I drifted away...

The second time must have been during the Roger Mallory administration. '95-ish.

I seem to remember that it was just in time for a pre-opening early summer chapter tour of Lost Kennywood, and then a day at the park. Incidentally, that is where I got re-acquainted with Bob Bailey. And Mike Moyta, too, I think. And Walter Boykowitz. Soon enough, George Merges, serving after Roger in his second tour as President, got me back to the meetings, and before long he had railroaded me on to the board.

The third time – three weeks ago.

Why the lapses? What can I say? Maybe I'm averse to chevrons?

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

For the last several years I have maintained a kind of "camp follower" status where I try to pay attention to what's going on but never actually show my face. Kids, don't look to me as a CSI role model.

Why did you join CSI?

The first time: Can't remember now what the project was, but it required written specifications. Nobody I knew knew how to do that, and nobody had yet bothered to invent the World Wide Web. Nevertheless, I tracked down an obscure practitioner in Boston by the name of Mark Kalin (now, come to find out, Mark is one of the few Fellows in not one but BOTH of the institutes whose initials now follow my name), who not only showed me the tools I would need, but launched me in the direction of CSI.

The other times: Seemed like a good idea at the time.

What people influenced you most?

That answer would take up way more space than Mr Bailey will allow here. But I will say this: I really, really miss Kenneth Tyson Nagie.

What do you see as the value of CSI membership?

Fellowship. Professional and personal fellowship. Officially CSI trumpets "Improving Project Delivery." Here in Pittsburgh, that happens through a chapter where all manner of Project Delivery participants talk to and work with and support one another as a matter of course. We network. We share knowledge and best practices. We share opinions and complaints. We acknowledge and respect our respective contributions to the built environment. We build solid, trusting relationships in a friendly atmosphere, and we rely on those relationships for our mutual benefit. Sounds delusional, but it is what happens, and it's why I stick around.

What would you want somebody considering CSI membership to know?

Leadership Orientation Seminars!

Tell us a memorable CSI experience:

There was that one time in San Antonio... Nah, I'll save that one for later.

Member Profile - *Scott Keener* (cont'd)

Person you learned the most from:

For good or ill, that would be former mentor, employer, colleague and friend, Craig Merril Johnson, Architect. In the first place, the man had a good eye for talent, and so, naturally, he hired me. At the time, his was a fledgling practice and I was still a bumbling, stammering fool but somehow, over time, he managed to turn me into something productive.

Some things that he taught, whether he meant to or not:

Running a business, particularly one with a payroll of any size, is not for the faint-hearted. Particularly if you're a caring person.

Responsiveness 101: Always try to answer the question put to you before you hang up the phone.

Take good notes.

If someone says to you "Why isn't this done yet?" they aren't really asking you a question.

Ask for help when needed. Offer help when needed.

A strong vocabulary can be empowering.

So can knowing your way around a construction site.

Maintain proper files, properly organized. Don't let anyone mess with them.

Health. Family. Close friends. All more important than working.

When you're trying something new and you want to fit in, or you want to impress others, or you just want to avoid embarrassment, sometimes it actually makes sense to try to fake it. Never, ever with golfing, though.

Know who the good people are on your team, and keep them happy. And keep them busy.

When you reach the end of a chapter, by all means turn the page.

Tell us about your family.

Amy and I got married in August of 1988. Later that month, we bought a hundred-year-old house in West View with a first-floor rental unit, and she started law school at Pitt. Because sometimes there's just nOt eNoUGh sTreSS and we have to find ways to PiLE oN MoRe!

Three capable and perceptive daughters who, heavy sigh, had their old man figured out a long time ago. Stephanie is a music ed student with a passion for song, for tea, and for creating things with her hands.

Rika is a freelance roleplay artist and illustrator and aspiring animator who hears a drumbeat that eludes me. Kimmi, a rock musician and songwriter, starts this fall at WVU, primarily to march in the Mountaineer Band, but also, as long as she's there anyway, to pursue a music therapy degree.

Plus three brothers and a sister and an endless bunch of others. Ah, I love my family.



Member Profile - *Scott Keener* (cont'd)

What's a true sign of success?

Once you've been tapped to submit a profile piece for the Specigram, I'm not sure where you can go from there.

Best advice anyone ever gave you:

Remain ever forward-looking. It's an old saw, but with many different flavors. For instance, Harry Truman wrote "Regret is a luxury." That simple statement has had a profound and lasting effect on me. Then there's Franco's first rule of Italian driving: "What's-a behind me is not important!" Equally profound. I will always remember my grandmother advice to "hitch your wagon to a star." My grandmother, she knew what she was talking about. My favorite, though, remains the constant reminder from my father Howard to "never look back over your shoulder – the b##tards* might be gaining on you." Thanks, Dad. It's still sinking in, but yes, I'm learning not to beat myself up about all the dopey decisions long past.

** except that Dad never cursed. I filled in the blank myself.*

Who is your favorite "Peanuts" character and why?

Oh, the rabbit, Doc. *No wait... wrong comic.*



Photo Credit: Jason Hinds

Industry News

July-August 2017



NEWS RELEASE

Architectural Woodwork Institute
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AWI LEADS WOODWORK STANDARDS DEVELOPMENT THROUGH ANSI PROCESS **New Standards will resonate with CSI Master Format Spec Sections**

Potomac Falls, VA, July 6, 2017— In its new generation of Woodwork Standards, The Architectural Woodwork Institute is writing new Standards for Architectural Woodwork different from previous versions. The Standards will be written over the next three years in individual sections creating a "Suite of Standards" that addresses each aspect of architectural woodwork.

Standards Editor Margaret Fisher stated that the new standards will be easier for specifiers and design professionals to navigate to plan their projects. "Most the 14 different sections will be compiled through AWI's ANSI-approved process and timeline. The ANSI process builds consensus through transparency and open input from all stakeholders. AWI welcomes the input of design professionals and specifiers to participate in Subject Expert Review Teams (SERT) and Canvass Teams for each section being written."

The Architectural Woodwork Standards, 2nd Edition remains the current woodwork Standard in use today.

Other significant changes Standards Users can look forward to in the future are as follows: The numeric designation system of the two past standards is being retired. The sections will be more concise as much of the redundancy will be eliminated and therefore, easier and faster to navigate. Links to illustrations and educational content as well as glossary terms will be included as the Standards are being created to be viewed across mobile platforms. Additionally, new Performance Duty Levels will be added to help specifiers choose the correct cabinet type for each situation. Casegoods are being tested at AWI's National Testing Center in Americus, GA. The resulting data will be used to create the Performance Duty Levels. Building owners can be confident they have chosen casegoods for the correct value and performance required.

While AWI is changing the Woodwork Industry, the organization is still providing technical assistance for the users of the current AWS, 2nd edition. Technical help is available at 229-389-2543. Contact Ashley Goodin for assistance and for info on participating in the Standards review process.

If you would like more information about this topic, please contact Margaret Fisher at 571-926-5522 or email at mfisher@awinet.org.

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About AWI

The Architectural Woodwork Institute (AWI) is a nonprofit trade association founded in 1953. Today, AWI represents nearly 3000 members consisting of architectural woodworkers, suppliers, design professionals and students from around the world.

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July-August 2017

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