

SPECIGRAM

Newsletter of the Pittsburgh Chapter, Construction Specifications Institute

July-August, 2013

THIS MONTH

- President's Message p.1-2
- Vice-President's Message p.3
- Member Profile p.4-5
- June Meeting p.6-7
- Golf Outing p.8
- Building Brain-Teaser p.9

CSI Pittsburgh Chapter Mission Statement

1. To support and promote the mission and core values of the Institute.
2. To help its members perform their jobs better by providing education and promoting certification programs.
3. To provide an opportunity for networking to facilitate project team building.

O.C.C.
OUTSTANDING CHAPTER COMMENDATION



President's Message

We've done it again!

We have been notified by the Institute that the CSI Pittsburgh Chapter has been awarded the Outstanding Chapter Commendation (OCC) Award. By our records, this is our 10th OCC Award. Great job everyone who has through their time and dedication worked to make this Chapter "outstanding." Thank you Awards Chair, Marty Thornton, for putting together the winning nomination package and a wonderful Awards Banquet at our June meeting. As a volunteer organization, there is quite a bit of time and energy that is put in by our committee chairs and board members to ensure that we have quality programs, educational sessions, communications, etc. each month. It is nice to have an event like our Awards Banquet to take a few minutes and thank them for all of their efforts.

(continued on p.2)

(see photos from Awards Banquet on pp. 6 & 7)

President's Message, cont'd

July began our CSI summer break. Although there are no regular monthly meetings in July or August, our Board and Committees will be meeting to begin planning the 2013-2014 fiscal year. I invite anyone interested in becoming more involved in our Chapter to consider joining a committee. We have many committees, each with a specialized missions, I'm highlighting a few in hopes that one will jump out to you as something you would like to help with.

Programs – Plans, contacts and makes arrangements for monthly program/tour, including speaker commitments, fees, necessary equipment and AIA CEU's. Provides Publicity Committee with program overview/speaker bio for advertising.

Membership – Tracks membership numbers, new members, membership renewals, membership retention, welcomes new members, distributes membership pins to new members, point of contact for individuals seeking to join the chapter, conducts New Member Orientation, updates Chapter Board monthly on current state of chapter membership, tracks membership anniversary dates and awards chevrons accordingly, etc.

Student Outreach – Establishes contacts with local Universities, invites students to appropriate chapter events/meetings, develops programs/ideas to help expose local students to CSI and our mission, etc.

Scholarship – A new committee still in development. The Chapter Board decided at the beginning of last fiscal year to award a scholarship to a local university student. This committee establishes guidelines for scholarship award, criteria, monetary amounts, advertising, judging, etc. Solicits additional donations for scholarship fund above what the Chapter has budgeted.

Communications/Publicity– Two separate committees with generally the same tasks, one in hard copy format, the other digitally. Maintain website, send email blasts, monthly postcard reminders, photograph chapter events and post to Flickr account, ensure member emails and addresses are accurate, keep Chapter Facebook up to date, answer general email and/or redirect it to appropriate individuals, send out all correspondences to membership body, etc.

Certification – Keeps abreast of current certification exam requirements and resource material, develops and implements study aids and programs for certification candidates, conducts study sessions for certification exams, monitors and logs members with certifications and candidates studying for certification, promotes importance of certification.

Hospitality – Makes arrangements for monthly membership meetings, board and executive committee meetings and special meetings, selects menu for monthly dinners, records RSVP's, member check-in and payment for monthly meetings, oversees 50/50 raffle at meetings, etc.

Awards – Prepares and submits Institute, Region and Chapter Awards. Plans and conducts end of year Chapter Awards Banquet, purchases and creates awards certificates and plaques, maintains sample of chapter events documentation required for Institute and Region Awards, recommends to Board individuals applicable for awards consideration, etc.

Technical/Education – Plans and makes arrangements for Chapter Technical Seminar Programs, provides information to Publicity Committee for development of seminar invites/blasts, receives and logs RSVP's, check-ins and collects registration fees, coordinates AIA and/or GBCI CEU's for attendees, etc.

Golf Outing – Plans Chapter Golf Outing, including securing location, sponsorships, dinner arrangements, tee times, recording RSVP's, check-ins and payment, etc.

Lastly, there is a new committee to be established. It is the **Region Conference Committee**. The Pittsburgh Chapter is hosting the 2017 CSI Middle Atlantic Region Conference. Committee members will plan all aspects of the Conference including hotel reservations, programs, transportation, educational seminars, entertainment, Awards Gala, Region Business Meeting, fundraising, sponsorships, advertising, marketing and registration. If you've attended a MARC, you know the amount of work that goes into hosting a successful event. Anyone interested in helping with planning MARC Pittsburgh 2017, please let me know.

In no way do these descriptions illustrate all of the tasks committee chairs and members embark on. I would sincerely hope that you think about your individual talents and consider sharing them via a chapter committee.

Have a wonderful and safe summer break. I am excited to see what "outstanding" things our chapter will do next year.

Michaeleen D. Vargo, LEED AP BD+C, C.S.I.

Vice-President's Message

July-August 2013

Bill Vernon, First Vice-President



My name is Bill Vernon and I am the first vice-president for the Pittsburgh Chapter. When I was asked to write a vice-president's message I thought, "who wants to hear from the guy second in line?", but we all should have something to say about CSI. 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. There is so much going on with CSI at every level and the more you interact with the organization the more people you can network with, and the more you know. I have found that the more you bite off with the organization the more you learn how to chew. The people I have met don't want to see anyone fail and if you feel over your head there is usually someone to help figure it out or to help get it done. (I am not sure how many more clichés I can fit into this message but I'll keep trying if you keep reading.) I enjoy corny jokes and not taking things too seriously, which there is a niche, time and place for in CSI. I also take architecture and construction very seriously and so does CSI. I guess you can see why I am member of CSI; I have found a professional home and friends.

Where do I see Pittsburgh Chapter CSI next year? I see our Chapter growing from 140 members to 160 or more. I believe that education and understanding the technology of buildings is one of the ultimate goals of CSI. We (R3A) have had several interns that have not even heard of CSI's divisions. I think we need to get more involved with the education of the future of our industry.

I see CSI also being a source of industry consensus for all building- and construction-related systems, be it a "green" and sustainable rating system or the technologically advanced tools of 3-D Modeling and Information management (BIM.) We as a profession should work to clarify the various systems that a building uses and how to make educated selections for the right projects. How do we educate our members on new laws (or old laws newly enforced)? CSI has been and should be talking more about teaching coordination of sustainable design with the newer sustainable codes, as well as other items that affect architects and engineers and have a trickle-down effect on vendors and installers. I am not talking about a general education that is done in colleges, CSI has always dealt with how the rubber meets the road not the tire that turns round a crankshaft. How do we do that? Our education committee has been doing a great job of putting on relevant technical seminars but can always use new ideas. The program committee has brought us excellent speakers, tours and events for our meetings.

WE need to work together maintain CSI's relevancy in the changing construction industry, so please get involved.

-Bill Vernon

Member Profile: RonnaLeah Prindible

July-August 2013

Ronna Prindible with husband Steve and daughter Liberty



Who do you work for and what is your position? - McGraw-Hill Construction, Southeast Editorial Operations Manager and Marketing Liaison

Tell us about your job. - I work for a construction news company that tracks construction projects from start to end. My territory is 10 states and I have over 30 direct reports. I am active in the industry and am responsible for performance management of my team and the editorial news they deliver. I have been with MHC for almost 17 years!

What part of your job do you most enjoy? - Working with my direct reports and our customers.

If you weren't in your current job, what would you be doing? - Lying in the sun somewhere and now after vacation would take a job that requires no email!!!!

What is the funniest/oddest thing that has happened in your professional career? - On April 1st, a long time ago, I told an old boss that my husband was taking a job in another state. This person knew that Steve (husband) worked out of town a lot...and she believed me. About 15 minutes later I informed her it was an April Fool's Day joke!

Tell us about your family. - Amazing and wonderful! I have a wonderful husband of many, many years – we met at Point Park College (now university) – and we have a 5.5 year-old daughter Liberty—she had made her first CSI debut this year at MARC in Gettysburg. She will start kindergarten this August. We live on my family farm in a custom log home. That 5-year plan took us 20 years! Our neighbors are Amish. We like to go camping, travel, and spend time together. We have family in various states that we visit. Our home is usually the stomping grounds for parties and holidays!

RonnaLeah Prindible, cont'd

July-August 2013

Has anyone ever described you as shy? If so tell us why? - NEVER—BUT I WAS ONCE CALLED A “NUT JOB” AT A CSI AWARDS BANQUET!

What year did you join CSI? – so long ago, I don't remember---I think 1996 or something.

Why did you join CSI? - My boss told me to get involved in the industry. I asked some sources what their thoughts were regarding AIA or CSI...they all exclaimed CSI!! I am so happy for my CSI family!

Did you have a CSI recruiter/mentor? – Once I joined the Chapter, yes...Todd DuBrock of PPG was my first mentor.

What is your role in CSI Pittsburgh? I am a current board member and advisor.

What do you see as the value of CSI membership? – Everything. CSI can open up doors for you—whether it's a job opportunity, a product to be speced, or just knowledge of what is happening in the industry. The bottom line is you get out of it what you put into it.

What was your proudest moment in CSI? - Two things... receiving the Outstanding Chapter Commendation award for the years I was president. And two, the years I served as President. Most people know that those years came with very trying personal times for me. I was pregnant during my presidency and after that I lost both of my parents and brother in a very short period of time. My CSI family was there for it all. I am so grateful for my CSI family and friends during such a loss in my life and of course for the birth of my daughter. I am forever grateful to them.

Do you have a most embarrassing CSI moment that you'd be willing to share? - Hmmm...not embarrassing but “buck-25” and I have been seen in a bathtub at a CSI show before. I believe someone in our chapter has photos! And yes, there were clothes on and no water!

What would you want somebody considering CSI membership to know? - It's a very valuable resource. It doesn't matter what position you hold or do in the construction industry, it's a network of all involved and it can help you succeed.

What would people be surprised to know about you? - I can say my alphabet backwards, silly I know. Liberty has known her ABC's backwards for almost a year now! HA HA!

OK—I hit an amish buggy once---it was my brother's bday—September 8, 1986—I was a senior in high school. I got a fine for crossing on a double yellow line. Never hit the horse. The folks were ok. That time period Ghost Busters was real popular—I went to school and there were posters of buggies with lines thru them – like Buggy Busters! I still get razzed about that today!

June Meeting – Awards Banquet and Member Recognition Event

July-August 2013



Chapter officers Miki Vargo, Gail Nagie, Denny Buirge, Rich Strayer and Bill Vernon.



Chapter directors Mike Moyta, Lynn Fulton, Courtney Watson, Mike Bosco and Phil Dorenkott.

Chapter advisors Bob Bailey, RonnaLeah Prindible and David Miller.



June Meeting – Awards Banquet and Member Recognition Event

July-August 2013



Gail Nagie is presented with the Harry Ray Nay Memorial Award, the Chapter's second-highest honor.



Bob Bailey is presented with the Kenneth T. Nagie Memorial Award.

Rich Strayer is presented with the "Someone's Gotta Do It" Golden Plunger Award.



CSI Pittsburgh Golf Outing

Thurs, Aug 29, 2013

Please arrive at 9:15 am.

**The starting time will be at 10:00 am at
Strawberry Ridge Golf Course-
135 McNulty Ln
Harmony, PA 15037**

Please RSVP by Aug 22nd

Mark Womer

ASSA ABLOY

mwomer@dsstristate.net

(724) 708-6106

\$75 / person

\$275 / foursome

(1 payment)

**Includes 18 holes, cart, snack,
beverages, dinner (5 pm), & prizes!**

Pay in advance to:

CSI Pittsburgh

Mark Womer

526 Stirrup Dr.

Greensburg, PA 15601

HOLE SPONSORSHIPS ARE AVAILABLE FOR THE LOW, LOW PRICE OF \$50.00

WE'RE ALSO LOOKING FOR DOOR PRIZES.

PLEASE CONTACT MARK WOMER IF YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO DONATE. mwomer@dsstristate.net

CAN'T MAKE THE OUTING? COME FOR DINNER ONLY! COST IS \$30.00

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BUILDING BRAIN-TEASER

Can you identify the location of these extraordinary brick arches? Do you know this building? It's somewhere in the City of Pittsburgh, in a north neighborhood.



Send your guess to bbailey@ikminc.com



May's Building Brain-Teaser: The alley between 100 Wood St. and 311 First Ave., on the Campus of Point Park University, leading to the Urban Park at the Academic Village.