

Specigram

Newsletter of the Pittsburgh Chapter,
Construction Specifications Institute
September 2015



SEPTEMBER 8, 2015 MEETING

Join Derek Seiling, Product Consultant for BSD Speclink,
as we kick off the 2015-2016 year.

BSD is owned by CSI.

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*Learn how Speclink works
and how it can benefit
architects and specifiers.*

*Find out how BSD can also
benefit building product
manufacturers.*



BSD
speclink[®]e

Location:
Cefalo's
Carnegie, PA

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

Cost \$35

Reservations:

MAZell@nationalgypsum.com
(412) 951-8715

PROGRAM SPONSORS:



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Represented locally by Brock Associates

Highlights from the Board

September 2015

August 18, 2015, Vargo Residence, Natrona Heights

PRESIDENT:

LOS was 8/14-15. Successful event, especially UL Testing Lab tour. Educational sessions were beneficial. Construct is 9/30/15 to 10/3/15 in St. Louis. Bill planning on attending. No others indicated attendance. Next Year Construct announced: 9/8/16 to 9/11/16 in Austin Texas. CSI Calendar via Google discussed as option for BOD members to maintain/share information such as meetings, report due dates, etc. If possible have Web site link to calendar for others to see, but not access. New Chapter Organizational Chart developed. Draft shared, comments and follow-up revision issued by Bill Vernon.

TREASURER:

Continuing CSI National check recall update provided. The \$1,100 was repaid by CSI. Books for FYE 6/30/15 closed.

HOSPITALITY:

2016 Holiday Party - Discussion of possible new venue with another organization co-sponsorship discussed. Decision necessary by this year's party as we typically book next year at the close of the Chadwick event. Holiday Party - 2015: Ideas to improve attendance by professionals were discussed. Various options presented for consideration.

WEBSITE:

Add Planning Calendar link for members to view, but not change calendar.

PUBLICITY:

Brett Younger has volunteered to help with committee.

MEMBERSHIP:

No Report presented. Mikki indicated 125 active members with continuing decline. Failure of Institute to support membership, provide accurate and timely information generally considered by all as a contributing factor.

CERTIFICATION:

Use of VIRTUAL Training Conferences may be possible. Help needed from Pgh. & MARC experts on how to establish & operate the meeting.

GOLF OUTING:

Golf Outing – 10/8/15 at Pittsburgh National Golf Course

MARC 17:

Committee meetings are occurring. Last was 7/23/15. Hotel contract signed & deposit paid.

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Region Report

September 2015


by Gail Nagie, CSI Middle Atlantic Region President

The Region met August 14 and 15 in York Pennsylvania for a tour of an architectural testing lab, a region board meeting, and LOS. This year over 40 people attended this completely revamped event. Most people have commented how they liked the revisions and how much they learned.

The Middle Atlantic Region will meet for a general membership meeting at 5:45 PM on October 2, 2015 in room 102 at Construct 2015 in St. Louis. At the time the Region will celebrate Sal Verrastro's Award of Distinguished Membership. If you are in St. Louis stop by for the toast.

The Region still needs volunteers for committees. Most committees have at least one opening. If you are interested in serving your region give me a call.

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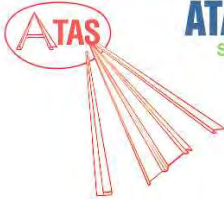
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Opportunities

September 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

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

October Meeting - Oct. 13, 2015

September 2015

Tour of R.I. Lampus' Redland Brick plant

13 Rich Hill Rd, Cheswick, PA 15024
(412) 828-8046

**Meet at the plant at 4:30.
The plant will be in operation.**

Redland's Harmar plant offers a variety of products including fireclay, red shale, and sand coated bricks.

The Harmar plant, commissioned in 2001, is completely automated and represents the U.S. brick industry's state of the art technology.

Harmar's fireclay products, available in multiple sizes, are specified primarily by architects for institutional, retail, office, and warehouse projects. The plant's sand coated and red shale products are used on commercial, institutional, and residential projects. Homebuilders and masons prefer Harmar's consistent size, strength, and excellent installation properties. The Harmar plant also produces a high strength red clay paver which can exceed 20,000 psi.

Dinner following at:



903 Route 910, Indianola PA 15051
412.767.9460
<http://www.griecos.com/>

Cost \$35

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



Around Town

September 2015

How's that Social Media Strategy of Yours?

*An Interactive Look at the Construction Industry's Past,
Present & Future Use of Social Media*

Date: Tuesday, September 15, 2:00 to 3:30 p.m.

Location: MBA Lower Level Conference Room (631 Iron City Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15205)

FREE – to register contact [Jon O'Brien](#)

Over the past five years, the AEC industry has been using social media. So what we have learned over this time? This informative and interactive seminar will look at the past and present use of industry social media tools to see where the AEC industry is headed concerning its use of social media. The afternoon session will begin with opening remarks from Jeff Burd, the publisher of NAIOP's Developing Pittsburgh and MBA's BreakingGround, and then respected AEC social media users will lead discussions on these tools:

- LinkedIn
- Facebook
- Twitter
- Blogs/e-Newsletters
- Google+ and adwords

Following the lively discourse, a reception will be held to allow the conversation to carryover. We look forward to seeing you on September 15th and please do not hesitate to share this event with your contacts.

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.

AROUND TOWN

September 2015



Join Us At Your Area's Premier, FREE Networking Event!

Tuesday, October 14, 2014 | 3-7pm
Heinz Field

100 Art Rooney Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15212



The Blue Book Network is proud to present the industry's premier networking event for Fall 2014!

Meet face-to-face with industry decision-makers for the projects you want to bid on! Plus, reconnect with old contacts and establish new ones to build your network!

Plus – you are invited to join us for a free pre-Showcase seminar that is designed to provide you with tips and tools to improve your workflow – and your bottom line.

Cost: FREE! Must provide 2 business cards to enter.
Hors d'oeuvres and beverages included.

RSVP is required.

Register online at thebluebook.com/pittsburghshow
Complete the information below and fax it to 914-243-0287.

All information must be complete to register.

Company Name _____

Person Attending _____

Title _____

() _____ () _____
Company Phone Company Fax

Email _____ Zip Code _____

I will be attending: ☐ Pre-Show Seminar 1:30-2:30pm (Lunch 1:00-1:30pm)
☐ Showcase 3-7pm

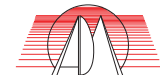
Questions? Call The Blue Book Network at 800-431-2584 and ask for the Showcase Department

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Fall Golf Outing

September 2015

Thursday, October 8th Pittsburgh National Golf Club

287 Monier Road
Gibsonia, PA 15044

8:15am Registration
9:00am Tee Time

\$95.00/person or \$360.00/foursome

\$50 per hole sponsor

Payable by check or credit card at course

50/50 tickets available for \$5.00

SCRAMBLE FORMAT

At the turn
Hot dog, chips and drink

Lunch/Dinner
Mixed Green Salad, Italian Sausage sandwich,
Stuffed shells, Pasta W/Broccoli in Garlic Parmesan Butter

Prizes to follow

RSVP and checks to:
Mark Womer
526 Stirrup Drive
Greensburg, PA 15601
(724) 708-6106

If you are donating prizes, please contact Mark.

CONSTRUCTION PERSPECTIVE

September 2015

Years ago when almost completing construction for a public project, the Owner's superintendent asked me if we could talk.

I responded certainly, for that is one of my construction administration responsibilities; so we walked to the Contractor's job site trailer and shut the door.

His question: why are you always deciding issues in favor of the Contractor?

My response: I am trying to interpret the Contract Documents as neutrally as is possible.

Several weeks later the Contractor asked me if we could talk. I responded certainly, for that is one of my construction administration responsibilities; so we walked to his job site trailer and shut the door.

His question: why are you always deciding issues in favor of the Owner?

My response: I am trying to interpret the Contract Documents as neutrally as is possible.

With both the Owner and Contractor disappointed in my interpretations of the Contract Documents, I knew my efforts were being properly performed.

I lost several battles from their perspective, but won the war in mine.

-Dennis Buirge



Chapter Leadership

September 2015

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