

Specigram

Newsletter of the Pittsburgh Chapter,
Construction Specifications Institute

October-November 2019



November 12, 2019

Jeff Burd, Tall Timber Group Construction Forecast for 2020

Jeff will provide insight as to where things are going in 2020 and beyond. Jeff is publisher of BreakingGround, a regional print and online publication providing market information about the construction and real estate industry.

WHERE: Cefalo's Restaurant
428 Washington Ave., Carnegie, PA

WHEN: Networking: 5:30 PM
Dinner: 6:15 PM
Program: 7:00 PM

COSTS: \$35 per person (cash or check)
\$37 person (credit card – PayPal)

RSVP: To Marc Zell by end of day, Friday, Nov. 8th
mazelekovitz@nationalgypsum.com
or call 412-951-8715.

President's Message

October-November 2019

By Martin (Marty) Thornton II, CCS, CSI

The chapter's fiscal year started with an educational presentation on the Tryp Hotel renovations and an interacting member forum. The Tryp Hotel's 'Over Eden' rooftop restaurant in Lawrenceville was a great venue with a nice turnout. Over 50 people attended giving their input on how to make our chapter more dynamic, and it appears there is interest in micro-brews and axe throwing, though not simultaneously! A special thanks to Rebecca Lowe, Terry Oden, Shelby Weber, and Lori Kreke of Desmone Architects for their presentation about the renovations to the Tryp Hotel.



Our Fall Golf Outing was a blast, even though the course was partially under renovation. A special thanks to Dan Berra, CSI for his efforts in making this another successful event. We are already looking forward to the spring outing.

October's meeting was held at Carnegie Mellon University with the University's architecture students. Once again, Colleen Defillipo, CSI did an outstanding job pulling this event together. I lost count on how many students attended and apologize for not taking photographs. Maybe we need a Chapter photographer.

The Institute's convention, known as Construct, was held October 9-11 at the Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center in National Harbor, Maryland. Three members officially represented the Pittsburgh Chapter; former past chapter president Scott Keener, CSI, CCS, former chapter secretary Denny Buirge, CSI, CCS, CCCA, and myself. This was Denny's first convention; be sure to read his message about the event in the Specigram. No new resolutions were presented by members or other chapters at the Annual Members' Meeting. Mark Dorsey, Executive Director for the Institute gave a short "State of the Institute" address which highlighted the Dynamic Chapter Program, the new website, and the Construction Information Exchange. He was excited to see how many members were actively using Exchange.

During the members' forum, where members are encouraged to ask questions to the executive board, a number of topics were discussed. Attendees wanted to know how the Institute was attracting younger design and construction professionals to the organization. It was also asked of the Institute to consider forming a committee to create a "WebFormat for Manufacturer's" website. The CSI Education Advisory board is also looking for creative ideas and critiques of their recent release of the new CDT Study Guides. The CCS and CCCA guides are coming out soon, though the CCPR is lagging. Lastly, a member suggested a memorial at the Awards Ceremony for members we have lost during the year. Scott Keener followed that comment with a second and mentions George Merges, FSCI as an example of those to be remembered.

President's Message (Cont'd)

October-November 2019

I am looking forward to our November 12th Chapter meeting at Cefalo's with Jeff Burd of Tall Timber Group. Jeff will discuss his predictions for the construction economy in Pittsburgh as well as nationally. I have heard Jeff speak on many occasions and have always found his talks informative, helpful and influential. I hope to see you there.

If you are a manufacturer's representative, be sure to check out the Holiday Gala and Product Show on December 10th at the Chadwick. We had a wonderful event last year and are anxiously anticipating this year's, too. Design professionals are invited free of charge, so please begin spreading the word about this fun event!

Lastly, I would like to take the time to remember George Merges, FCSI. I will always remember George as a good friend, mentor, and great husband and father to his wife and children. He knew how to manage work and family life equally. He will be sadly missed but never forgotten. His love for Jimmy Buffet was well-known, so I will leave you with this fitting sentiment, which suits George's memory:

"Moderation is the key, so I work a certain amount of time, and then I take a certain amount of time off." - Jimmy Buffet.

Thank you,
Marty



Highlights from the Board

October-November 2019

September 10th, 2019, 12:02 PM - Conference Call

PROGRAMS

- Ready for meeting tonight.
- September: Member appreciation night with a member forum; Tryp Hotel and Over Eden Rooftop Restaurant.
- October: Jeff Burd's presentation may move up to October depending on student schedule.

MEMBERSHIP

- Membership count currently 103 down one from last year. Added 20 lost 21.
- Strayer needs historic year end numbers for awards.

PRODUCT SHOW/HOLIDAY GALA

- Geist needs website set up for paypal for holiday party. Manually entered cards take 30 days. Swiped cards take 10 days.
- Announcement ready to send.

CERTIFICATION

- Thornton has flash drive with course material from Mitch Miller.

AWARDS

- Strayer/Thornton will present regional, rotating awards at the meeting tonight.

GOLF OUTING

- 3% charge for paypal on golf outing
- has eight foursomes hopes to have 12 by Monday. Waiting on about 6 for response.
- Introduce mulligans for spring outing. Further discussion at dinner tonight.

NEW BUSINESS

- OCC award – 21 presented nationally with two in our region. Thornton to report in November on our absence this year.

Member News

October-November 2019

October Anniversaries

37th	Timothy Fyock	
24th	Joel Cluskey	RSH Architects
19th	Barbara Smith	Barbara J Sales Associates, Inc.
13th	Toby Knight	Knight Athletics, Inc.
12th	Peter Eritano	CMS
11th	Barbara Ruppel	Dodge Data & Analytics
11th	Kimberly Hummel	
7th	Michael Andrews	Allegion

Current Membership 103

THANK YOU
to all of our newsletter sponsors
for the 2019-2020 CSI Year.

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Bob Bailey bbailey@ikminc.com

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VISION FOR THE FUTURE 20

CSI Middle Atlantic Region Conference
April 2 - 5, 2020
Hotel Madison & Shenandoah Valley Conference Center
Harrisonburg, Virginia, USA

CONSTRUCT2019

October-November 2019

Denny Buirge describes his first time attending the CSI National Convention.

CSI CONSTRUCT 2019 - CONVENTION BULLET POINTS

TUESDAY

Leave Pittsburgh office about 3:00 PM and arrive about 7:15 PM at Gaylord National Harbor facility south of Washington DC.

WEDNESDAY

REGISTRATION

Confirmed pre-registration for convention events at 7:00 AM.

GOVERNMENT vs. COMMERCIAL CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS & SPECIFICATIONS

I did not pre-register for this seminar, however was able to do so last minute. There were two presenters, one taking side of Government (Joseph Scarpa) and other the side of Commercial projects (Elias Saltz). Rita was also in the seminar. Time - Attended 45 of 60 minutes before having to leave for the tour.

TECHNICAL TOUR

Behind the scenes of Washington National Cathedral, second largest in the US. Reviewed building history, damaged caused by 2011 earthquake, walked above nave, altar, and in transept gutters. Saw building models, plaster model of high altar stonework, and other models that are being sent to a museum. Tour led by James Shepherd, AIA and stone mason who has worked on building since 1985. Latter explained how initial stonework is done today with computers. About 30 attendees; sold out. Tour Time - Approximately 1-1/2 hours.

LUNCHEON

Presentation by Dr. James Richardson, world champion athlete and Olympian, who talked about how one's BS can affect their potential. Learn how to override the negativity that gets in the way of your potential by building better beliefs. BS = Belief System. 1 - Negative Results; 2 - Negative Actions; 3 - Negative Feelings; 4 - Negative Beliefs; 5 - Positive Belief; 6 - Positive Feelings; 7 - Positive Actions; and 8 - Positive Results. Rita and I attended, along with about 100 others.

SPECIFYING INTERIOR FINISHES

Presenter (Ivette Bruns) discussed different types of interior finishes that require assistance from product representatives to provide complete and correct specifications. The issue relates to more than just selecting material color. The differences between information on product data sheets, websites, and true CSI guide specs were mentioned. Some of other concepts presented: floor moisture and water-based adhesives; frequently forgotten items and who provides them (types of underlayment due to incorrect concrete FF); wood veneer cuts and effects on aesthetics; and types of ceramic grouts. Time - One hour.

CONSTRUCT2019 (Cont'd)

October-November 2019

OH NO! WHAT DID I MISS? HOW TO PROPERLY SPECIFY AN AIR BARRIER SYSTEM

Presenter (Ryan Dalglish) mentioned importance of knowing proper concepts, reference standards, and materials to prepare correct specifications. Various ASTMs were discussed and how they differ in building outcomes. While products between manufacturers are not that different, compatibility of products from various manufacturers can determine if a system works properly. Also discussed adhered systems vs. mechanical systems. City of Seattle now mandates testing to receive an occupancy permit. Time - One hour.

FIVE DISRUPTIVE TECHNOLOGIES THAT WILL CHANGE SPECIFICATIONS FOREVER

Architect (Paul Doherty) presented: #1 - Machine learning, i.e., Artificial Intelligence (AI); #2 - Voice Assistance and what is happening with communications; #3 - Big Data and accessibility analytics that allow machines to talk to machines; #4 - Augmented / Virtual Reality using examples of China theme park and eSports Arena; and #5 - BIM. Time - 1-1/2 hours.

CSI REGION CAUCUSES

This was an attendance requirement to receive Pittsburgh Chapter reimbursement. Rita and I attended the Middle Atlantic Region meeting that lasted about 30 minutes.

WELCOME RECEPTION

Heavy hors d'oeuvres allowed convention attendees to mingle. Rita and I talked with a gentleman (RA) from Arkansas until we had to leave.

DINNER

Rita and I went to a local restaurant and met Ken Chappel, our contact from specification consultant Mark Kalin and a friend. We had a two-hour dinner / talk about various issues related to specifications.

THURSDAY

UNDERSTANDING DIFFICULT TRANSITIONS OF AIR/VAPOR/MOISTURE BARRIERS

This was my only AM seminar. Presenter (Corey Zussman) is an architect who works for a general contractor and used real world examples showing that the devil is in the details. Various concepts included: compatibility between system materials and substrates; proper sequencing of the work (do not put windows in before barrier); create PROPER DETAILS; peel n stick systems have issues; incompatibility between barriers and fireproofing; and new Illinois energy code requires stopping air under deck into parapets. Time elapsed prior to completing slides. Time - 1:15 (75 minutes).

CONTRACTOR CONFESSIONS TO HELP IMPROVE YOUR SPECIFICATIONS AND DRAWINGS

This was my only PM seminar. Same presenter as AM session (Corey Zussman), this time not limited to weather barrier systems. Some of discussed concepts: unless a wind speed is stated, roof warranty in only valid to 55 MPH (72 MPH at no additional cost); treated wood and galvanized metal issues; wood soffit overhang limitations; roof pitches and sloped structural steel issues with drains; concrete, including finishing, chair placement details, tolerances, curing; live load and deflection; windows and fasteners; and waterproofing, including types of, and not using braided wire (use conduit). Time elapsed prior to completing slides. Time - 1-1/2 hours. Talked to presenter and received link to access his website for additional information.

CONSTRUCT2019 (Cont'd)

October-November 2019

EXPO HALL LEARNING LOUNGE - PAINT TECHNOLOGY: CHEMISTRY AND PERFORMANCE?

In Benjamin Moore Booth and related to current technology and its impact on paint application and performance. Talked with speaker after presentation, who indicated that PDF would be sent to me. Time - About 30 minutes.

EXPO HALL LEARNING LOUNGE - AN INTRODUCTION TO HIGH PERFORMANCE COATING SYSTEMS?

In Benjamin Moore Booth and was given by presenter of previous session. This was a general presentation on epoxy and other systems. Talked with speaker after presentation, who indicated that PDF would be sent to me. Time - About 30 minutes.

EXPO HALL LEARNING LOUNGE - WHY PAINT PIGMENTS MATTER?

In Benjamin Moore Booth and related to pigment components and their impact on paint application and performance. This was similar to first LL present. Talked with speaker after presentation, who indicated that PDF would be sent to me. Time - About 30 minutes. These same 3 sessions were available on Friday during show times.

The Expo Hall was available between AM and PM seminars: roughly 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM. There were approximately 150 vendors, plus a Demonstration and Learning Theater and a Coffee Talk Lounge. Met with various representatives during open times. There was no breakfast or lunch; snacks were available at coffee stations.

CSI AWARDS CEREMONY

Did not attend.

DINNER

Rita and I met at a local restaurant and talked shop.

FRIDAY

THE LOVE / HATE RELATIONSHIP OF MOISTURE IN CONCRETE FLOOR SLABS

While water is an essential concrete ingredient, too much or too little can cause various issues during placement, finishing, and curing. There were two presenters: one doing the love side (Scott Tarr) and other doing hate side (Peter Craig). This was a very good presentation. This was the only seminar I attended that did NOT post the slide show online prior to the convention; hence, no place to make the few notes I made. They started with the 4 types of concrete: bookcrete (what text books say); labcrete (what lab tests indicate); realcrete (concrete that is actually placed); and legalcrete (what attorneys say was placed and owned or not). Time - 1-1/2 hours.

SPECIFICATIONS: QUALITY CONTROL AND COORDINATION

Presenter (Michael Chambers) is a Fellow of both AIA and CSI. Issues of Quality Control and Quality Assurance were addressed within CD package. While no quality issues are included on Drawings, quality is best described in Various Division 01 Sections. Then went through various Division 01 Sections describing how quality statements can be used. Time - 1-1/2 hours.

CONSTRUCT2019 (Cont'd)

October-November 2019

EXPO HALL DEMONSTRATION THEATER - SPECIAL POWDER COATING

Presenter (James Hester from his company QPC) is a powder coat applicator from Texas who had an Expo booth. Discussed AAMA standards, the application process, and current technology that permits wood grain, stone, and tile aesthetics (patterns and textures). Even a color photograph can be applied to a substrate, typically aluminum. Time - About 30 minutes. Also had a long talk with him and woman from powder coat manufacturer at his booth.

EXPO HALL COFFEE TALK LOUNGE - 5 CONSIDERATIONS WHEN SPECIFYING MANUFACTURERS

Presenter (Denise McDaniel) from Deltek. Time - About 15 minutes.

EXPO HALL COFFEE TALK LOUNGE - GREAT FIRE OF LONDON: RAIN SCREENS, CLADDINGS, AND CONTINUOUS INSULATION

Presenter was Joseph Lstiburek. Time - About 15 minutes.

The Expo Hall was available after seminars: roughly 9:00 PM - 2:30 AM.

There were approximately 150 vendors, plus a Demonstration and Learning Theater and a Coffee Talk Lounge. Met with various representatives during open times. There was no breakfast or lunch; snacks were available at coffee stations.

CSI BUSINESS MEETING

This was an attendance requirement to receive Pittsburgh Chapter reimbursement. Time - About 45 minutes.

DEPARTURE

Leave resort about 6:00 PM, arriving home just before midnight; roughly 6 hours, which included a wrong turn that took about 45 extra minutes. Checked out of the hotel at 7:00 AM before the day began.

CONVENTION SUMMARY

This was my first CSI national convention since joining the Pittsburgh Chapter in 1981. It was HIGHLY motivational and WELL worth attending.



CONSTRUCT2019 (Cont'd)

October-November 2019



Holiday Gala

October-November 2019

14th Annual Holiday & Dessert Party

Tuesday, December 10th

The Chadwick, Wexford

6:00 until 9:00pm

Social Reception 6:00-7:00

Trade Show 7:00-9:00

Hors d'oeuvres and Dessert stations

Cash Bar



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October-November 2019

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October-November 2019

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