



Meeting Information

2010

Wednesday
October 13, 2010

How to Make a Killer Presentation

Annie Moore's Restaurant
50 East 43rd St
New York , NY

Wednesday
November 10, 2010

Technology Design Principles in Modern Buildings

Annie Moore's Restaurant
50 East 43rd St
New York , NY

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How to Make a Killer Presentation

Have you sat through some pretty badly-presented programs in the past? This will not be one of them! This program will review basic skills necessary to create and deliver an inspiring and memorable presentation, including "Do's & Don'ts of Using Powerpoint." Toastmasters International is an all-volunteer organization that assists its members in developing their public speaking skills. The organization has chapters world-wide and today's speaker is a member of the "Perky Talkmans" Chapter in New York.



PRESENTER:
Steve Slifka, representing Toastmasters International. Steve Slifka is an Education Consultant for PolyVision, a

division of Steelcase, Inc., responsible for the Connecticut, New Jersey, and Delaware area. Steelcase is headquartered in Grand Rapids, Michigan, and Steve has been on the Steelcase team for over ten years. Prior to joining Steelcase Steve worked eleven years in sales with

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President's Message

Join us as the Chapter's program year gets off to a start on Wednesday, October 14, when we will have a presentation on the How to Make a Killer Presentation. You won't want to miss this talk on how you can give your presentations that extra oomph in order to have the impact you would like them to have. At the same meeting we will present our annual scholarship to Raul Bussot, a deserving architecture student at Pratt Institute. And here's a great value for you, as a member in good standing: Dinner is included in your dues, so come and enjoy the program and dinner without paying!



If you missed this year's Trade Show and Education Day, Adapting Business to Succeed, all I can say is, you missed another great value. The event was incredible, learning about products, systems, and how to be better at what we do. Thanks to event co-chairs Jeff Matles and Arnie Kravitz and their entire team, who put on a great show!

We also played our delayed Golf Outing, and what a great time we had! With beautiful weather and a large number of golfers we were reveling in the last days of summer (the second day of autumn, actually) and the camaraderie of our fellow members and supporters. It was a good day for the Frybergh Scholarship Fund, too, since the main purpose of the Golf Outing is to provide financial support to scholarships for local college-level students of architecture and construction. This coming year we plan to give a \$5,000 scholarship.

Committee Chairs:

2010 - 2011

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Technical	W Jacquette Jr.	(212) 663-3167
Golf Outing	Anthony Drummond	(516) 480-8085

Focusing on “The Main Thing”

By Dennis J. Hall, FCSI, CCS, CCCA, FCSI
CSI President

Welcome to my monthly President’s message. It seems that everyone is always looking for the next big thing and CSI is doing that, too. The only problem with looking for the next big thing is that you sometimes lose focus on the main thing. One of my jobs as CSI President is to keep the Board focused on the main thing. What is this main thing? Quite simply, it is creating CSI membership value. I hope each of you can say “the value of my membership in CSI far exceeds the cost of my dues”. If you can’t, then I am not doing my job.

During August, the new CSI fiscal year is just getting kicked off. But, below are a few things that we have done this month. Hopefully, some of these activities are increasing the value to you membership.

Operations Plan

The Board Planning Committee is making good progress on a three year operations plan. We have established the major areas of monitoring the health of the organization and they are working out the details of the plan.

Membership Support

Member Classification

The Membership Classification Task Team has almost completed their work on a series of Bylaws amendments, which will align membership with the CSI Strategic Plan. These recommendations will be voted upon by the Board at the October meeting, for placement on the ballot in the spring.

CSINet Microsites

With the new CSINet CSI chapters and regions can now have a free website through CSI. The goal was to have

Continued on page 7 - The Main Thing

The Board of Directors met toward the end of the summer and did some hard thinking about where we are headed as a Chapter. We plan to continue to grow our Chapter by reaching out to our industry and those who are training to be part of our industry, involving our membership in sharing our knowledge and passion for the built environment. Some of our thoughts on how to do this are to continue to take our message to college campuses, engineering firms, construction companies, and collaborating with other professional organizations in the New York area. Our message, of course, is that CSI is the one place where all the players in the construction industry come together, share their knowledge, and work toward a better built environment.

I invite you to come and share in our vision, and share the value of CSI!



Linton D. Stables, III, CSI, CCS,
LEED® AP
Chapter President

Killer PresentationsContinued from page 1

Andersen Windows, Inc., and prior to that three years in sales with Nabisco Brands, Inc. Steve is a graduate of Youngstown State University where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration, with an emphasis in Marketing Management.

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WHO/WHAT SURVIVES?

by Ralph Liebing, RA, CSI, CDT
Cincinnati, OH

In this world of ours, there are hundreds of thousands of things that survive— many of them, over and over again.

Of the survivors, quite a few are rigid and strong— they really endure to survive. Some are so very delicate and fragile— they hide or reclude themselves to survive. Others are deceptive or misleading in appearance— they survive by pure guile. Yet others rely on strong will and an ability to adapt to survive. All of them though, travel through adversity or have circumstances put upon them that are adverse, threatening, nasty, irritating, hurtful, dangerous, and just plain barely endurable. But they survive.

To cite a few examples: evergreen trees, bears, perennial flowers, birds, fish, paint, brick, automobiles, abandoned babies; the homeless; emergency personnel; troops in armed forces; disaster victims; failures; those in bankruptcy; crime victims; the lonely, ill and elderly; those without family or friends; those impaired in any ways a family or person who lost a loved one, or was abandoned; accident victims who survive on rain water dripping through a broken windshield; spiders; chameleons;

In all of these examples there is a common thread— the will to survive! A drive to continue on, to live, even if with only the most meager thread of hope. Be the survivor human, animal, or something else, either by instinct or design there is survival—or the tenacious will to simply do whatever it takes. Is it proper, then to say that specifications writers are “survivors”?

So often—in fact, TOO often—faced with misconceptions, disrespect, lack of understanding, short-shift and such misnomers as “necessary evils”, spec writers simply must endure and survive, despite all else around them. It is an almost silly existence in that so many see so little value, but others do see the fundamental value and necessary existence. If ever there was a silent majority it is those that will openly support specifications writing, and give full due to those who produce them.

The shame is that this silence has become pervasive, and has permitted a totally unfounded

misconception to well up into almost common knowledge. Instead of trying to provide minimal support [heaven forbid any one will ever bally-hoo] for specs, and spec writers, the new and seemingly growing attitude is ignore them, deny their existence and value, and hope they disappear by attrition.

Why else would a major corporation express a desire to “quit using specifications for projects” and just use their engineering standards? How does an organization that is fully capable of knowing the best of the best yet seeks to reduce the very documentation that has saved its skin on numerous occasions [more than likely] in the past? Oh, the protestations to reduce the beloved bottom line for professional services, in a manner much like saying, “Oh, we don’t really need a windshield, we can just put our hands up in front of our face!” [or hide our face below the dashboard]

In this instance, as in many others of similar intent, there is a distinct need for an uprising, not as a coup, but as an aggressive outreaching to explain, educate, intercede, and provide accurate and directed information about specifications, and their writers. This effort will come from NO other place than the writers themselves, combined into a joined voice, professing a common theme, loudly, widely, and openly to new venues; to new ears; to very young ears!; to old cronies; and from “mom and pop” outfits to major corporate boards.

This, of course, cannot come off as a chest-thumping, narcissistic venture, but one of highly professional demeanor, with well crafted thoughts and words— not pompous, but so very realistic, clear and decisive that no one is able to challenge the effort.

Look around— there is an absolutely amazing array of knowledge, experience, insight, intelligence and skill among spec writers! No reason to be shy— and certainly no spec writer is interested in self-glorification— true is true!

Maybe this effort is epitomized by the Iditarod race, where the dogs dig and dig and dig along in the most adversity conditions, but knowing full well they are doing their assigned work, and the reward at the end is worth the daily stress, strain, and effort.

Put on you galoshes, your muffler, and gloves, ye dogged of specifications— Damn the tundra, full speed ahead! [mush?]

Trade Show Sponsors

The Metropolitan Chapter CSI would like to thank the following Companies for supporting this years trade show and educations seminars.

Benjamin Moore Paints

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Successful Trade Show

This year's Chapter Trade Show and Education Day, held at the Center for Architecture on September 15, was not only well-attended, but was a wonderful contact point for many building product manufacturers and the architects and specification writers they serve. Well over 125 designers and owners attended the event, many of them staying for the full day of activities and to peruse the exhibits.

Due to the short time between the trade show and the closing date for the October newsletter many of the pictures and details of will be incorporated into the November newsletter.

The Committee would like to thank everybody that attended or exhibited and would like to hear back from you on any changes, things you liked or disliked or just suggestion to make this event even better next year.

Thank you J. Matles - jmatles@aim.com

Maintaining your Membership

Just a reminder to keep your membership active and contact information up to date. Running through our current list of members, there are many of you who have been long time members that have or are very close to having your membership expire.

If those of you could take a minute and let us know how we can help, or to express your concerns, it would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you, Bert Korteling CSI Director/Membership Chairman Metropolitan New York Chapter CSI -

LIKE IT IS - WAS.....

By Steve Blumenthal, FCSI,
Former Institute President

Perhaps like others I have been asked countless times. "Why should I join CSI or why did I join CSI." Questions that have been answered and discussed for many years and I have every reason to believe it will continue.

In the September 2010 issue of the Construction Specifier page 12, Bryan Varner former President of the Redwood Empire Chapter addressed the questions in an article "Career Path 101: Membership" it addresses the questions with reason and logic. His comments for the most part answer the question why everyone has joined the Chapter and CSI in particular.

"The Construction Specifications Institute (CSI) is known for its various formats and standards, but those who have joined chapters know networking is the biggest reason to participate. Unlike most industry trade associations composed of one occupation group or another CSI is made up of people from every niche of the industry."

His message has been expressed many times in many ways. Without question networking is a major reason for joining CSI. No matter what side of the aisle you're in. The classification of membership is nothing more than a statistical

identification utilized by the Institute. Over the years It was not uncommon for industry members going to their professional colleagues telling them about potential work. Likewise the professional would seek product information on competitors' materials or systems. The Chapter was and should be a place for dialogue and networking or perhaps as they called it in the early days it was for gossip.

Bryan also wrote: "Involvement in a CSI Chapter allows you to become known in the local building community outside your workplace. Volunteering in the chapter can let you demonstrate (and develop) your leadership, communication and management skills".

The recognition and continuance of the Chapter relies on the efforts of the member. This was evident by the founders and likewise illustrated today. The Chapter and CSI have been recognized by City, State and Federal agencies because of the efforts and networking of its membership. Men and Women from both sides of the aisle who continually have given the "Second Effort" as Vince Lombardi would say.

If you want to communicate with Bryan Varner he can be reached at: bjvarner@sonic.net as for telling me like it is e mail me at asecsi@aol.com (please put CSI in the e mail title).



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20 chapters participating by the end of the first year - there are now more than 30! Examples include metrony.csinet.org, greatlakes.csinet.org, batonrouge.csinet.org, raleighdurham.csinet.org, chicago.csinet.org and several others. For more information, visit the “demonstration” microsite at demo.csinet.org, or contact webmaster@csinet.org.

Practice Groups

The Construction Administration Practice Group has conducted a survey of its 180 members and has established the top priority of topics of interest. They expect to begin webinars in the next 45 days.

Standards and Formats

MasterFormat 2011 Update:

The MasterFormat Maintenance Task Team approved about 60 new numbers and title and well as other changes for the 2011 Update, which will be published in early 2011.

UniFormat 2010

The UniFormat Task Team has completed their work and the new document was published and is available for sale in the CSI Store.

Education and Certification

Practice Guides

The Practice Guide Task Team continues to make good progress on working with John Wiley & Sons, towards a publication date of January 2011 for the Project Delivery Practice Guide, the Construction Specifications Practice Guide, and the Construction Contract Administration Practice Guide.

National CAD Standard

The Uniform Drawing System Task Team completed work this month on a new NCS educational program. They are currently working on technical production of a series of PowerPoint presentations.

BIM Practice Tools and Collaboration

MasterFormat Adoption

The Information Management Collaboration Task Team had its first meeting and is working on ideas to get better industry wide adoption of the 50 division - version of

MasterFormat. This month the Ohio Department of Administrative Services issued a directive requiring that “Project Manuals shall be organized according to the latest edition of CSI/CSC MasterFormat.”

MasterFormat Licensure

The Board also discussed MasterFormat licensure policy at its August teleconference and plans to take action at its October meeting. The Board also discussed expanded benefits to members through collaboration and strategic partnerships with external organizations.

ConsensusDOCS

In July 2010, CSI and four leading construction industry associations signed onto the ConsensusDOCS effort, joining 24 other construction industry organizations. CSI members receive a direct benefit of a 20% discount on all ConsensusDOCS products at www.ConsensusDOCS.org (Partner Code: CSI and Promotional Code: 100). At this point in time CSI is not endorsing any of the documents. However, CSI is participating in the review of the new proposed ConsensusDOCS, which is currently out for organizational review. The Technical Committee is presenting the Board with a recommendation for action by the Board in October.

Wow, I have barely scratched the surface of the work of the CSI Board, Committees, Task Teams, and liaisons in August, but have exceeded the number of words allowed for my President’s message. More next month.

Golf Outing Results

Unlike the original date for the annual golf outing this time the weather was perfect, sunny with no rain.

Draper group was the winner of the Ottinger Cup this year... but only by the narrowest of margins. Plenty of door prizes were handed out at the dinner following the day of golf and Rick Allison was the winner in the 50:50 drawing.

But most of all the Scholarship fund was the biggest winner, as it should be. Next month the golf committee will have all the details from the golf outing.

Metropolitan Chapter CSI Monthly Schedule for FY 2011

October 13, 2010 - How to Make a Killer Presentation
November 10, 2010 - Technology Design Principles in Modern Buildings
December 8, 2010 - Holiday Festivities
January 12, 2011 - Construction Jeopardy!
February 9, 2011 - The Future of Door Hardware Specifying
March 9, 2011 - Energy Usage, Savings and Changes in LEED-Certified Buildings
April 13, 2011 - Building Tour with a Specifier's Perspective
May 11, 2011 - Underground New York: Major Subsurface Projects
June 8, 2011 - 60th Anniversary Membership Meeting and Awards Dinner

About CSI

CSI is a national association dedicated to creating standards and formats to improve construction documents and project delivery. The organization is unique in the industry in that its members are a cross-section of specifiers, architects, engineers, contractors and building materials suppliers. The organization has 146 chapters and more than 14,000 members. Monthly Chapter meetings allow members the opportunity to communicate openly with their counterparts and exchange information for successful project management. CSI is renowned in the industry for its rigorous certification programs for professionals seeking to improve their knowledge of accurate and concise construction documents. CSI provides continuing education, professional conferences and product shows. For more information, visit www.csinet.org, or call (800) 689-2900.

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