

T H E A D D E N D U M

The Newsletter of the Metropolitan New York Chapter of the Construction Specification Institute, Inc. Volume 59 Number 9 May 2011



Meeting Information

2011

**Wednesday
May 11, 2011**

**Construction
Jeopardy**

Annie Moore's
50 East 43rd Street
New York, New York

**Wednesday
June 8, 2011
Awards
Dinner**

Annie Moore's
50 East 43rd Street
New York, New York

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Don't miss the May 11 meeting of the Metropolitan New York Chapter as we play Construction Jeopardy! What could be more fun than competing with your fellow industry professionals on how much trivia you have stored away in that head of yours?

It's a team effort (just like a design/construction project!) so what you don't know... someone else will, and vice versa. Categories may include construction terminology, materials, architectural history, famous architects, codes, local history, and construction-related movie and television trivia. And yes, you will get an **AIA CEU** for this learning opportunity.

Date and Time: Wednesday, May 11, starting at 5:30 p.m. with a social hour. The dinner and Jeopardy will start at 6:30 p.m.

Cost: Dinner and program are \$30.00. Please register in advance at:

Sponsor: [LG Hausys Hi-Macs Solid Surfaces](#)



www.brownpapertickets.com/event/117547



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President's Message



If you missed the tour of the Northwest Corner Building at Columbia University, and the fantastic barbeque dinner that followed, well... maybe next year. Joe Mannino, the Associate Vice President for Capital Project Management took on a tour of the laboratory and classroom building designed by Rafael Moneo with David Brody Bond, and built by Turner Construction. Mr. Mannino was a great tour guide, quite enthusiastic about the special care that was taken on the part of the designers, builders, and the University itself in assuring a first-class facility for students and faculty to conduct research. And the

Dinosaur Barbeque couldn't have been better! This is the second time in recent Chapter history that we have taken a building tour as one of our monthly meetings, and I think it can now be considered a regular part of our program. Assa Abloy, one of our stalwart supporters, was the sponsor of the evening.

This month you should definitely plan to come and enjoy an evening of hilarity and learning when we bring back Construction Jeopardy on May 11.

While this may seem like shameless self-promotion (yours, truly, is the emcee of this event) the real stars are the teams who compete with their knowledge of trivia and facts related to the design and construction industry.

You don't want to be on a team or compete? Great! We need a lively audience, too! Thanks to LG Hausys Solid Surfacing for sponsoring this program.

Last month we voted on new officers and directors for the Chapter, using an on-line ballot for the first time. The Nominating Committee has counted the votes and the slate of candidates who were proposed was elected.

Congratulations are in order for the new officers and directors (listed elsewhere in this newsletter) and a special thanks to the members who voted! We had a record turn-out this year for voting.

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

Chapter President

Committee Chairs:

2010 - 2011

Academic Liaison	Scott Tobias	(845) 427-0853
Awards	Scott Tobias	(845) 427-0853
Certification	Luis Rosrio-Lluveras	(732) 207-7208
Environment	Susan Kaplan	(212) 353-4686
Education	Ruma Som	(201) 612-7459
House	Arnold Kravitz	(718) 982-5594
Membership	Bert Korteling	(917) 587-2814
Planning	Arnold Kravitz	(718) 982-5594
Product Show	Scott Tobias	(845) 427-0853
Program	Tor Sundlin	(973) 340-3666
Technical	W Jacqueline Jr.	(212) 663-3167
Golf Outing	Anthony Drummond	(516) 480-8085

2011 Education Day & Chapter Tradeshow

As Architects, Builders, and Product Manufacturers we are always subject to many forces and influences.

Economic cycles, architectural design trends, environmental concerns, codes and regulations, technology advances, education of new professionals, and current events all shape our industry and the buildings that we make.

The economy has forced us to be more efficient in our design and construction. New emphases on energy efficiency, new design and coordination tools in building information modeling, new construction products that reduce waste and improve the indoor environment: all of these and more come to our attention every day and have the potential to make us better at what we do.

The 2011 Annual Metro New York CSI Chapter Trade Show and Education Day will explore the ways in which you can contribute to better building. Come and learn with us, share your knowledge with us, and interact with others who share your quest for doing a better job of designing and constructing buildings.

Date: Wednesday, October 12, 2011

Seminars: 9:00AM to 5:00P, Trade Show 9:00AM to 5:00PM

Architectural Mixer: 5:00PM to 7:00PM

Location: Metropolitan Pavillion, 123 W. 18th Street, 4th Fl, New York, NY

No Entry or Seminar Fees, Includes Lunch

AIA/CES HSW and CSI CEN Learning Units (Choose from 5 Seminars though out the day)

For more information please contact: Jeffrey Matles, CSI, USGBC, AIA NY Chapter Affiliate, 845-558-0123, jmatles@aim.com or Arnie Kravitz, CSI, 917-715-4079, akravitz@besam-usa.com

Congratulations to the Incoming Officers and Board



Incoming Chapter President Jeffrey Matles

Chapter Officers for FY 2012

President: Jeffrey Matles, CSI

Vice President: Arnold Kravitz, CSI

Vice President: Anthony Drummond

Secretary: Angela Centanni, CSI

Treasurer: Russell Carpenter, CSI

Director: Bob Crane, CSI, for a two year term.

Director: Thomas Lanzelotti, AIA, CSI, for a two year term.

Director: Ruma Som, AIA, CSI, CDT

Director: Dennis Italia, CSI

Immediate Past President: Linton Stables, CSI, CDT, LEED AP

Northeast Region Director: Bert Korteling, CSI

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and hardware
schedule

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installation review

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services

The FY2011 NE Region Conference

Originally planned for May 5 - 7, 2011 at the Holiday Inn; 1 Bright Meadows Blvd; Enfield, CT 06082, has been **cancelled**

The NE Region Board will hold their Spring Meeting on May 6, 2011 at the location that had been scheduled for the Conference. The Board Meeting will be followed on May 7th by a Planning Workshop on the "Future of the Region".

The next Institute Convention will be held at the McCormick Place Lakeside Center in Chicago on September 13-16, 2011.



Northeast Region Invites Your Input

The Region will discuss its purpose and its future at May meeting

The Northeast Region of CSI, of which the Metropolitan New York Chapter is a part, is soliciting your comments and suggestions on what purpose the Region should serve and how best to fulfill that purpose. Our Northeast Region Director, Jeffrey Matles (who is also our President-Elect), will take your input to the May 7 meeting of the Region's leadership. This discussion is timely because of the recent cancellation of the Region's annual Conference due to lack of interest (in the form of advance registrations). As a member of the Metro New York Chapter a portion of your dues are forwarded to the Region each year. The questions to be discussed at the meeting are:

- What do members expect from the Region?
- What should the Chapter expect from its Region?
- What has the Region done well?
- What do you think the Region is capable of doing?
- What does the Region Need to do to improve?
- How do you think the Region can achieve your expectations?

What you think is important. Forward your comments to [Jeffrey Matles](#) so that they can be heard by the Region leadership.

The Region Board of Directors will meet on Friday, May 6, 2011, from 1:00 to 6:00 p.m. [Read or download the agenda>>](#)

The Annual Meeting of the Region will be on Saturday, May 7, 2011, from 8:00 a.m. to noon. At 8:30 a.m. there will be a workshop for the Board and the Committee Chairs.

Annual meetings of the Region are conducted in accordance with published rules and regulations.

PASSION AMONG THE PASSIONLESS

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

Why did you come to work today? Simply because there is a pay check due you in the near future? Or is there an underlying drive that you really never realized or analyzed? Or simply, that's what you do every day? Doubtless among specifications writers, whether they choose to acknowledge it or not, there is a deep passion for what they are doing. This has grown [and may still be growing] out of personality formed by inborn graces and outside values learned at the knee of various parties— family, friends, and others interacted with and observed. It comes to have meaning when an injured person gamely struggles to recover and become whole again; when a ball player plays through obvious pain and impairment; and when one— any one— functions rather well in the face of fairly formidable odds!

Passion is the continual drive to do better, fully recognizing that perfection is not the goal in its unachievable state, but rather, that the drive inside is solely to do better— without any thought toward being paid more, or receiving accolades of any kind. It is a secretive urge that continues perhaps by perpetual motion, even in a very dry subject, unfamiliar to most, with little glitz, low esteem and miniscule reward!

Why did you just re-read the last Section you wrote? Why did you change that word— to be clearer? to be more direct? to enhance the meaning? or? Here is something that may well need not be done— yet you did it! Why? Perhaps it emanates from the hands-on syndrome, i.e., the simple feeling that in doing that extra work you have personally achieved something of a higher order.

But look around you. Do you see equal passion in all of your colleagues? How many do you see who are willing just to get there and forget it? – indicating a lack of either understanding or caring about what could be with just a little more effort, Or the very abrupt stop when the task is

barely accomplished— why go further? Why expend extra effort and time [money]?

Let us suggest that passion is a figment [or fragment] of professionalism— part of the indefinable attributes alluded to by R.E Onstad in his definition—

Professionalism is a personal attribute that one acquires; it cannot be inherited or bequeathed; Only they having made the acquisition, who put to use that knowledge, that skill, and with all their ability, and complete dedication of purpose, can truly be called a Professional.

What chapter is that in the PRM? What webinar can possibly address or teach that? How can you instill this in every professional student and wannabe?

How can.....

Maybe the one illustration that can be seen as a parallel, are those who acted and earned medals for bravery, from the Bronze Star, to the Medal of Honor, who are honored all too often posthumously. Were not their acts, raw passion? They sought to do something not uncommon, but something that needed doing at THAT moment!

Not to be morbid, but in our run-of-the-mill work day, it seems like a good idea to expend some passion, openly, in hopes that others who observe us will see and gain something— and perhaps learn and adopt something. Then again, maybe they're too professionally numb already.

We may only get a good feeling, a little puffed up inside, a snappier step, or a feeling of greater satisfaction, something done, continually — with passion— almost always seems to produce better results in many ways, to the good fortune of all involved. It is not fervor or trying harder. Passion drives effort expended and pride-in-work— it comes with knowledge, adaptability, flexibility, creative problem solving and making right or better— a true relishing of what you do! I really think Mr. Onstad would have done well to include it in his definition!

Sixty Years!

We are going to be sixty years old this year, and we are nowhere near even thinking about retirement!

The Metro New York Chapter is the oldest chapter in CSI, and we are going to celebrate in a big way! We will keep you posted on upcoming events. In the meantime, if you would like to help, please contact the Anniversary co-chairs [Anthony Drummond](#) (516-480-8085 or adrummond@koroseal.com) and [Arnie Kravitz](#) (718-982-5594 or akravitz@besam-usa.com). If you are interested in unearthing the

history of our Chapter contact [Michael Bean](#) (mbean1313@gmail.com).

FLEXIBILITY: A VITAL SPEC WRITING TECHNIQUE

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

If you lined up a rank of spec writers, shoulder to shoulder, other than the variation in their physical appearance, what would you notice? Oh, come on; Open Up! You answered “nothing” with a puzzled look on your face at the stupidity of the question. Look deeper- how many of the writers do you know? In talking with them over time, what have you learned about them?

Some are strident, I bet. Some are humorous; Some cynical. Some visionaries. Some dower, angry, even nasty [on their best day]. Some are pleasant, insightful, helpful, willing, open, inquisitive, implacable, meticulous, steadfast [in mindset and method]— and yes, others are, by golly, FLEXIBLE!!!

And to hedge no bet, venture to say none are what you would characterize as “wishy- washy”, for their mere position and status, indicate experience, knowledge, care, intelligence and dedication. They know what they are doing— and why! Now the BIG question— do they all do things in the same way? A cappella, now, in unison— NO! And bless them for that.

Look, we all have been trained differently; educated in dissimilar ways; seen varied experience; and have been provided with very individual attitudes, and perspectives and biases[.]. We are different folks, doing SIMILAR chores [i.e. writing specs] in various scenarios, for different clientele, with differing resources, and expected results [successful projects being the expectation here, but also the common goal].

We also have come to know, through various things, that perfection is unattainable, and unnecessary. Even the courts recognized that perfection is allusive and not required, unless we are stupid enough to sign a contract requiring the same. So we do our best— individually, as we see the task and the solutions best suited to our circumstances.

Now came CSI with the audacity to produce the 16-Division format [the first format]. How much harangue was raised when that came out? [I’m old, but can’t remember that]. But it became the widely used and pre-eminent “standard”— THE way to do things. Those flexible to do so, adopted it and adapted it to their way. It gained favor; it worked for all. So why now is there the continual harping on the unfortunately concocted downside of MF04? It is not perfect [sorry, Dennis!] But it is good, IF you approach it with a full understanding of its roots and mission, a very flexible mind, and with a mindset to “see how it shakes out”, in lieu of how “it shakes you up”. It is a program; a plan, a system of sorts; a direction; an assist; a treatment but not a cure; a step for betterment [OK, argue that all you want. but you only show— your lack of flexibility]

Simply, if your commercial project does not require Division 35 work, don’t include it or even reference it! The principles of CSI and use of MasterFormat are NOT mandatory and no member, President, officer, Fellow, long-time member, major influence, Director, etc. can MAKE YOU use them. They are excellent, well-founded, highly astute and recommended, but if you have a circumstance or policy that differs you must be

able to be free. Flexible, innovative, adaptable, not what the needs, at your elbow, might be. No system necessarily will fill those needs every time! Too many folks are afraid and stumped by the mere process and guidelines— they freeze and flounder where rudimentary understanding is missing.

Adapt! Use what you see as fitting to YOUR needs and system. Don’t concoct for the sake of concocting [there is no CSI award for that anyway – it’s not one of the CSI “C”’s]. Take it easy, whether you are still in process of converting or in the throes of making more adjustments to your converted system.

Wishy-washy says you may or may not do it; maybe you’ll do that— maybe not; could be we’ll go there at some time later.....
..... No, we need to do better, now, in early contact, teaching of overall fundamentals , refinement and such, before we get into the big game— we can help ourselves and our situation. Flexible says we’re going to do it, by moving and adapting as we see our system needs. And if your clientele varies and you need 2 or 10 systems, they each should be flexible within their own context. Why does the tree in the middle of Kansas survive the tornado? Firmly rooted in the ground! AND filled with flexure strength..... read “FLEXIBILITY”!

It is not just being different to be different; it is simply that, to succeed, you must the past, the development [not all the nitty-gritty details, please] of specs and how they evolved to where we are today. All the same at root levels, but each really difference to varying reasons

Teaching a singular system [“you do this, this way, ALL the time!”] is inappropriate and misleading— and gravely short changes the student[s]s. To say we do this “in our office” is appropriate so long as you add the caveat that others do things differently. The ability to flex, adapt, and reconfigure is vital, since leaving one office and going to another does not guarantee similar procedures and approaches. Here the possession of broad-ranged construction knowledge, full understanding of how the entire process works and can be “adjusted” as necessary, is crucial to correct development and documentation.

We and our organizations are good at what we do— it is the open, obvious other things that need doing. And we could do this if we chose not to ignore it, or try to move forward from the wrong point

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2011 Metro NY and Long Island CSI Golf Outing

**Mark it on
your calendar**

THE DATE: Tuesday, July 12, 2011

THE TIME: NOON

THE PLACE: South Shore Country Club, Staten Island, NY



Once again the time has come to think about spring, good weather and of course, GOLF. Each year the Golf Outing has been our major funding source for the Fryburgh Scholarship Fund and each year we have contributed more to the fund. Not only does the day provide lots of good fun for everyone, it provides the dollars for the Chapter to award the scholarship each year!

Last year we hit the perfect day for golf, no rain or thunderstorms like in the previous couple of years. But that's golf. We are again looking to fill up the course again so let us know if you are coming out for the golf outing this year. The committee has found a new venue on Staten Island in an attempt to keeping with a more centralized location for our membership. Van Cortland Park was good for but its time to move on. This year the outing will be held at South Shore Country Club on Staten Island. The cost will be the same as last year.

Golf & Sponsorship Opportunities

Individual Golfer	\$175
Foursome	\$700
Hole Sponsorships (18)	\$250
Closest to pin	\$200 plus donated prize (\$100 minimum value)
Longest Drive	\$200 plus donated prize (\$100 minimum value)
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Trivia Sponsor (18)	\$100
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Giveaway sponsors please provide at least 90 pieces. Send items and all checks to: Anthony Drummond, 68 Barrett Avenue, Bayport, NY 11705. Or contact at 516-480-8085 or adrummond@koroseal.com for any questions.

Make your reservation now.

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Cost per golfer: \$175.00 each. Foursome: \$700.00

Metropolitan Chapter CSI Monthly Schedule for FY 2011

February 9, 2011 - The Future of Door Hardware Specifying
March 9, 2011 - Energy Usage, Savings and Changes in LEED-Certified Buildings
April 13, 2011 - Tour of Columbia's Northwest Corner Building
May 11, 2011 - Construction Jeopardy!
June 8, 2011 - 60th Anniversary Membership Meeting and Awards Dinner
July 12, 2011 - Metro NY/ Long Island CSI Golf Outing, South Shore Country Club, Staten Island
September 14, 2011 - General Meeting and Presentation, Annie Moore's
October 12, 2011 - Education Day & Tradeshow, Metropolitan Pavillion, 125 West 18th St, NY, NY

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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