



Chicago Chapter President's Letter June 2008

Happy New Year!

I know it's not January 1st but is the start of a new fiscal year for CSI Chicago. That means a change of leadership for CSI and I will be your president for the upcoming year. I look forward to guiding CSI Chicago and I hope with the support of the board and volunteers to serve the needs of you, our members.

We need to thank Joanne for all that she has done during her year as president. She has been a great voice for the chapter and a mentor for me in my preparation for my term as president. She has left big shoes to fill even though I wear size 13! Don't worry though, she will still be around and contributing. We will not let her get away "scot free".

We also have a great board that I'm sure will keep me in line and make sure that we do not steer too far from the principles that CSI stands for. It is the board and all of the committee chairs that really make everything happen at CSI Chicago. It's great to work with dedicated board that I can be like Captain Picard from Star Trek and say "Make it so". I want to thank them all in advance for the time they donate to CSI Chicago.

This year I would like to see CSI Chicago focus on you the members of this association. We really need to be a member driven association. Everyone on the board will work hard this year to provide value to our members for the hard earned dollars that you spend for dues. We currently provide a lot of services such as a great newsletter, valuable learning opportunities, and the very important ability to network with your peers.

In order to improve our service to our members, the board will be requesting more feedback from you our membership. We will listen to what improvements you suggest for our associations. So please let us know; talk to me or the board members at one of our meetings. We will also be using new survey tools to get your opinions about what we are doing. Again, please respond.

Even though we are in the summer season, CSI still has activities that you should be aware of. Coming August 16th we will have the return of the CSI Golf Outing. This popular event is back and will be a little later in the summer at the request of our members. Look for additional information in this newsletter. Mark you calendar and we hope to see you there. Finally as summer winds down we will be starting another great season of programs in September.

Regards,
Randy Chapple, CSI, CCS, AIA, SE



Chicago Chapter President's Letter May 2008

Greetings,

May is the month that we traditionally hold our awards banquet. We take this time to celebrate the service and accomplishments of our members who have served during the year. The awards banquet is also our last regularly scheduled meeting for the CSI year. We have one rather large event coming up at the end of the summer, but I will save that for the next Presidents Message.

In the spirit of appreciation, there are many people that I would like to thank for the help that they provided me throughout the year. I am sure that I will

miss someone and I apologize in advance. If I fail to give credit to someone it is not because I do not appreciate your contribution, but it is a result of my feeble memory!

First I would like to thank Cathy Beazley for always being there when I needed her and helping make a daunting job more manageable. She was always on task letting me know when something needed to be done or when one of my "big ideas" was less than spectacular! If you know me, you know that I have no shortage of "big ideas". Cathy provides the chapter a measure of continuity that is the envy of all of the other chapters around the country.

Thank you to Joanne Rodriguez for providing sage wisdom at those times when difficult decisions needed to be made. Wise counsel makes it easier for any leader to perform their duties and CSI Chicago had been blessed with many good leaders. I just wish I could write as well as her!

Debbie Burkhart, thank you for minding the purse strings and making sure our chapter remains fiscally sound. You really go above the call to duty! John Birazzi, Mike De Rouin, Fernando Araujo, Bob Boettcher and your committees, thanks for another great year of programs. Quality programming is the lifeblood of our organization. Michelle Goodeve, thanks for dealing with a difficult transition of the CSI National membership database and for pronouncing all of the names of the new member to the best of your ability. Pete Kovacic, once again our certification study classes are the best in the country due to your dedication.

Again, to the board and all those that I have failed to mention, thank you for your efforts. Most of all I would like to thank our members. I believe that we have the best chapter in the country and this is because of our membership. Our members make the president's job easy. They are willing to volunteer at the drop of a hat and are always generous when we need support. I am always impressed how friendly and helpful our members are always making new members feel welcome. I am the envy of other presidents in our region because of the strength of our membership.

So thanks all that have helped me throughout the year. We are a strong and healthy chapter with a bright future. As I pass the reigns to Nolan Day, the next president, I am confident that he will have the talent and support next year to carry on the high standards required by our members.

Please help us celebrate our volunteers, members, and great chapter at Ben Pao on Thursday, May 29.



Chicago Chapter President's Letter April 2008

Greetings,

Spring is finally here and I am glad to see things are warming up again. It is great to put away the heavy clothing and not have to shovel any more snow. I am looking forward to getting out the golf clubs and enjoying the warmer weather. There is a darker side to the rise in temperature that everyone is aware of and that is global climate change.

Even though we have just been through a harsh winter, there is a lot of scientific research that indicates the temperatures around the globe are rising. Experts that have researched this subject have issued dire warnings about how global warming will change our world. Most of us have seen the documentaries that have been put out by Al Gore and Brad Pitt. A modest increase in the average temperature is predicted to flood coastal areas around the world. Check out architecture2030.org for more information about what may happen if we do not take action. Even if you are still a skeptic and have doubts about the research, lessening the demand on the natural resources and living a more sustainable lifestyle is a positive thing.

We in CSI are members of the construction community and are fortunate that we can be leaders in working on the goal of using less energy and natural resources. Our built environment uses 65% of electrical energy in the United States and generates 30% of the material that ends up in landfills. We are in a position to be the problem solvers that the public will look to for answers. This is a role that we should embrace and if we do not take the lead others will and an opportunity for our profession will have been missed.

CSI has taken up the cause of sustainability. It is a key part of our mission statement both nationally and at the chapter level. CSI National is working hard to develop tools and programs to assist the effort. They will be launching GreenFormat later this year which is intended to be a clearinghouse of product information on sustainable design that will be organized in a way that is useful to the profession. This will be a major asset to the construction community. CSI has also revised MasterFormat to include more sustainable and lifecycle information into the system, and they are providing educational programs to assist professionals. CSI Chicago provides programs on sustainable topics each year and we try to partner with other organizations such as USGBC, AIA and, ALA to advance sustainable causes.

CSI provides a unique opportunity within the construction community. We are an organization that crosses boundaries and brings together the many players in the construction process. Climate change issue will not be solved by any one group but, will be a collaborative effort that will require cooperation across the construction industry. Who better than CSI is in a position to do this? Architects are looking for product and methods that will produce healthier more efficient buildings. Products representatives are the link between architects and manufactures. They provide information that can be used to make wise sustainable decisions. They are also a conduit back to manufacturers so that the needs of the profession can be heard. Contractors also play an important part. Without their help and cooperation, the best laid plans could not be carried out with the least impact on the environment.

So take advantage of your membership in CSI. Use your influence and contacts to be part of the solution with this major issue that we are facing. We can be the ones that take the lead and make a difference and this can be a benefit to us all.

Regards,
Randy Chapple



Chicago Chapter President's Letter March 2008

Greetings!

CSI Chicago works hard to provide topical, relevant programming to our members. We are a fairly sizable organization and it's not always easy to turn the ship. We work to establish our calendar early so we are able to promote our programs and try to keep everything running smoothly. It takes time to put together good programs, contact speakers that will be of interest to our members, and schedule them to come and talk to us. We still try to do the best we can and here is an example.

January 1, 2008 the City of Chicago put into force a new ordinance for all new construction that takes place within the city limits that deals with stormwater management. This is a significant piece of legislation that advances the City of Chicago's sustainable agenda. This ordinance requires that all new building must retain the first 1/2 inch of rainfall on the Owner's property and not be discharged into the cities storm sewer system. All new commercial buildings will be required to meet this requirement.

This month's program is both topical and relevant to our members. Our speaker, Jim Patchett of Conservation Design Forum Inc., will be presenting information pertaining to the new ordinance. His presentation will provide our members valuable information how they can comply with the new city ordinance for a variety of building situations. In addition, he will provide a better understanding of how our hydrology works and how we as design professionals can help to preserve our valuable water resource. Come out and check this program out so that you can be up to speed with the latest City Ordinances.

Finally I would like to wish good luck to all of our members who will be taking certification exams at the end of this month. These exams are valuable education programs that provide a better understanding of the construction process. If you are committed to the construction industry, CSI certification is a great way to demonstrate your commitment and knowledge of this field. It takes a little work to get certified, I know from experience, so my hats off to all candidates that are taking the exams.

So long until next month!

Regards,
Randy Chapple



Chicago Chapter President's Letter February 2008

Happy Valentines Day!

We must be romantics at CSI because we love the month of February. February seems to be our favorite month because we have more programming in February than any other month of our CSI calendar. This month we have four programs scheduled so everyone should be able to find a CSI activity suited to your needs.

Let me take minute to go through the list. Of course we will have the programs that you expect from CSI which includes our professional and industry roundtables. These venues provide topical discussions that are both lively and energetic. I try to attend whenever possible and find the topic to be right on target, providing me with valuable information that I can use. It is also amazing that many times, the most valuable resources I find are the other members of the Chicago CSI Chapter who attend.

We also have a special program that is conducted every year in February, sponsored by DuPont Tyvek and co-presented with AIA This special program is a lunchtime event and evening event and will be presented by two nationally-known experts provided by DuPont (see page 5). The topic is "Preventative Water Intrusion and Moisture Issues in Building Envelopes" and based on the current interest in moisture, mold, and vapor barriers, I know that the presentation will be of interest to all in the construction fields. A special thanks goes out to DuPont for sponsoring this program.

Finally there is one last program this month that is different from anything we do during the year. We are hosting a wine tasting party to welcome our new members and reconnect with existing members. How much fun is that! This is a social event, but is also a great opportunity to learn more about Chicago CSI and how we can partner together to enhance your experience with CSI. New members and those who have sponsored a member before February 7 will be able to attend at half price.

Information about all of these programs is available in this newsletter, on our webpage and through our email blasts. Finally I would like to thank all of you who have recently volunteered to help out with our chapter. If we have not gotten back to you on you interests as a volunteer we will. We want to make sure that everyone with an interest in helping has an opportunity.

Regards,
Randy Chapple



Chicago Chapter President's Letter January 2008

Happy New Year – Part Two!

I hope that everyone enjoyed the holidays and that you are all refreshed and ready to start the New Year. We have survived the rush and are able to decompress a little before we get back to work. I usually try to set aside a few minutes this time of year to reflect on how the last year went. I consider if I was able to accomplish any of the goals that I set and more important, what have I done to give back to society for the common good. Along those lines, how is CSI Chicago doing to fulfill your needs? If you feel that there is something that we can do to serve you better let us know. Your feedback is important to us to

improve CSI Chicago and keep us the best CSI Chapter in the country. Contact me or one of the board members and let us know what we can do for you.

The Holiday Party was a lot of fun and a nice break from our normal programming. If you were able to attend, I hope that you had a great time. I would like to thank all of our sponsors and everyone donated gifts and supported our charity efforts for Habitat for Humanity. I have volunteered for this organization and they really do some good things. Again thanks to all those who purchased raffle tickets and a special thanks to Tabitha Ruiz and Kristin Henriksen and for their work in setting up this event.

Even though the CSI year is half over we still have a lot of good stuff to look forward to for the rest of the year. There are some great programs still to come. I think you will find the programs of value and if not let us know. I want to thank all who responded to our online surveys about the meetings. We got some helpful feedback from those who responded that helps us to improve our programs.

Next month, on February 26 we will be having our annual building enclosure special event co-presented with the Association of Licensed Architects (ALA) and sponsored by PPW/DuPont Tyvek. For five years in a row, this has been a sell out and we encourage you to sign up early. It will be again held at lunchtime in Chicago, and repeated in the evening in Rolling Meadows. Invite a colleague—it is an excellent value. Look in the newsletter and the website (www.csichicago.org) for all of the details.

Finally we are still looking for a few people to help out with the North Central Regional Conference. This does not involve a big time commitment but we have a lot of tasks the need to be completed in a short time. We have most of the committee set up and we can take advantage of any skills that you have to offer.

Regards,
Randy Chapple



Chicago Chapter President's Letter November 2007

You are a member, and membership has privileges. At least that is what the commercial says. We all have memberships. We join clubs, churches, professional organizations; health clubs. We do this because we believe that there is a benefit to us. It adds value and meaning to our lives. Maybe it will make us a better person or help us get ahead at work or possibly it is just fun!

But we all have constraints on our time. If you are like me, spare time is a commodity that simply does not exist. Between the demands at work, commitments at home, and volunteering, the day is shot. We need to invest our time where we will see some benefit.

So with all of this, why is CSI important? What is the membership worth to you and the valuable use of you time? We each need to answer that question for ourselves but, allow me a moment to tell you my CSI story and maybe it will strike a chord with you.

When I started writing specifications I didn't know the difference between a single ply roof and plywood! I knew that if I was going to succeed as a specification writer I was going to need help. I couldn't find "Writing Specs for Dummy" but I was told to check out CSI. I joined the organization out of panic and attended my first meeting, where I was introduced to a lot of great people who really knew a lot! I now had a network of experts that I could tap into when a designer walked into my office and asked me about pressure equalized curtain walls. I say "Let me finish this and I'll get back to you" and would be on the phone to the team.

I noticed that when reps would come into visit that many were also in my new secret club. And I would also see them at the chapter meetings, where I got to know them. I found out that they had good information to share about the Chicago market and how different products worked here. So now I was on a roll! I attended CSI meetings, I read the Construction Specifier, and I was ready for the ultimate challenge, the inner working of the project manual and the CDT exam.

CSI was there to help me with class for the exam and I was able to pass the CDT and the CCS exam so I

have actually become a specifier. Along the way I have stayed active in CSI and here I am writing this message. I have always felt that I have had a good return on my investment. I don't think that I could have got the technical knowledge that I have gained without the support of CSI.

So is CSI worth the investment of your time and energy? Based on my experience the answer is yes. If you want to have an edge in the construction industry, this is a membership that you should keep and consider investing into something that will pay dividends. So pass the word to your colleagues.

I have to go now because there's a call I have to take, another member wants to pick my brain about a pressure equalized curtain walls!

Regards,
Randy Chapple



Chicago Chapter President's Letter October 2007

This is a busy time of year for our chapter with all of our programs in full swing and planning for future events. Our biggest event of the year, our Architectural Conference and Product Show will be held on October 23rd. This event has a lot to offer for both our product representatives and our professional members. To be successful, it relies on the special relationships that CSI has established between these groups.

For the professionals we have a great lineup of programs. We are offering excellent seminars that are a good value for the money. Only one in four programs submitted makes it to the show. Come on out and get a head start on your licensing requirements for next year. I also want to thank our product representatives who are exhibiting at the show. The product show provides you with an opportunity to reach professionals attending the show from outside of CSI that you may not see otherwise.

This is an important event to the chapter because it helps offset some of our costs for the year and allows us to do things that are not possible at other chapters. Please try to help your chapter by attending and spreading the word in your office. If you haven't signed up there is still time. Look for all the details in this newsletter.

We are also sponsoring an event on December 4 with FM Global. If you haven't heard, they have made a lot of changes in their roofing requirements and are using these events to get the word out. This program has been presented elsewhere around the country and has been filled to capacity. I will be attending and I recommend that if you deal with roofing that you should as well. Again the details are contained within this newsletter.

We have started planning for the North Central Region Conference that will be hosted by the Chicago Chapter in August of 2008. There are still many tasks that need to be done and we could use your help. This is a great opportunity to work with the leaders of our region and expand your horizons a little.

Regards,
Randy Chapple



Chicago Chapter President's Letter September 2007

Greetings,

I can't believe that the summer is winding down already and it is time to look forward to another year of CSI activities.

It was great to have the golf outing back after a one year hiatus. I hope that everyone enjoyed it as much as I did. It is fun to spend time with your peers and not embarrass yourself too much. Hopefully I have accomplished that mission for another year. Thanks to Gary Hayes and his committee, we had the highest turnout in recent years, and the chapter appreciates the support of the many sponsors.

The North Central Regional Conference was held in early August and hosted by the Milwaukee Chapter. A number of our members attended and honed their leadership skills. I don't know if you have heard yet but the Chicago Chapter will be hosting the North Central Regional Conference here next summer on a Thursday, Friday and Saturday. We have a committee that is chaired by President Elect Nolan Day that is busy working on the planning process. We can use more volunteers to assist them with their efforts for this event. This is a great opportunity to help Chicago CSI make a favorable impression with the other chapters in our region. It is also a one time event and gives you a chance to see what happens behind the scenes at CSI.

The program committee recently met and has put together a great slate of programs for the upcoming year. (See the calendar on page 9) We have a diverse assortment of programs scheduled that should interest all of our members. We will start out the year with the program "Architecture Beyond LEED". Refer to the article in this newsletter for additional information. The roundtable committees are also working hard to provide great programming for these popular venues again this year. We are trying to raise the bar with our programming and I am always amazed at the quality of the educational events that we put on.

And last, but not least, when you talk about educational events, don't forget CSI Chicago and ALA will be celebrating the 9th year of the Architecture Conference and Product Show. There are 15 different continuing education seminars offering AIA/CES LU's in Health, Safety and Welfare, and architects can earn up to 6.0 in one day. Hope to see you all at the event on October 23 at the Drury Lane Conference Center in Oakbrook Terrace. You can view the variety of seminars and register online at www.csichicago.org.

Everyone who is reading this is doing so because they find value in CSI. I know it's not the President's message but, it may be the programming at the chapter meetings and the roundtables. Or it may be the Construction Specifier which I believe is one of the best technical magazines around. It may be the networking and the knowledge that is shared between our members. Whatever the reason, please pass it along to a coworker. Tell them about the advantages of CSI. Technical information is at a premium these days. May you organization stronger be increasing you firms involvement in CSI.

Regards,

Randy Chapple, CSI, CCS, AIA, SE
Goettsch Partners



Chicago Chapter President's Letter June/July 2007

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upcoming year. I look forward to guiding CSI Chicago and I hope with the support of the board and volunteers to serve the needs of you, our members.

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