



NEWS AND INFORMATION FOR CSI CHICAGO MEMBERS JANUARY 2011

Congratulations to Members Celebrating January Anniversaries

25 Mr. Kenneth M. Lies, CSI, *Raths, Raths & Johnson, Inc.*; **20** Mr. Thomas E. Kuhn, CSI, CDT, *Carras-Szany-Kuhn & Assoc., P.C. Architects*; **19** Ms. Mari Ciastko, CSI, *DORMA Group North America*; **18** Mr Mark R. Nelson, CSI, CDT, ALA, Esq., *Nelson Testing Laboratories*; **17** R. Gregory Thomas, CSI, AIA, *R. Gregory Thomas*; **13** Mr Thomas J. Plaskota, CSI, CDT, *Specialty Construction Brands, Inc.*; Mr. James Bogatto, CSI, *Valerio Dewalt Train Assoc., Inc.*; Mr Joe Pullara, CSI, CDT, BS, AIA, LEED AP, *FGM Architects - Planners*; **12** Douglas T. First, CSI, CCCA, RRO, *Douglas T. First, CCCA, RRO*; Mr. Richard C. Master, CSI, AIA, *Home*; **9** Mr. Greg Cook, CSI, CDT, *Holabird & Root, LLC*; Ms. Linda Holton, CSI, ; **8** Mr. Michael E. De Rouin, CSI, CCCA, AIA, *Fitzgerald Associate Architects*; **7** Lance Parker, CSI, *Thornton Tomasetti, Inc.*; **6** Mr. Jacob Mathew, BA, BA, CSI, *Dow Building Solutions*; Mr. Jeffrey S. Kantarek, Sr., CSI, *H.H. Robertson/Centria*; **5** Mr. Anthony J. Ingrao, CSI-I, *Woodland Windows And Doors*; Michael S. Johnson, CSI, *Pilkington*; Mr. Scott Baiker, CSI, ; **3** Ms. Krista Simons Gliva, CSI, *SRBL Architects*; Mr. Michael Foley, CSI, AHC, *IR Security And Safety*; Mr. William Nagle, CSI-I, *MGA/TGP Architectural*; Mr. Jim Saxton, CSI, *American Wick Drain*; Mr. Christian M. Holmes, CSI, *PPG Industries*; **2** Mr. Tom Safran, CSI, *Tee Jay Service Company*; Mr. Steve Leach, CSI, *Dryvit Systems, Inc.*; David D. Dillon, CSI, CDT, AIA, LEED AP, *Cannon Design*; Mr. Mark Van Spann, CSI, CCCA, FALA, LEED AP, *GSA, Property Development Division*; Larry Grassmann, CSI, *Nabco Entrances, Inc*; **1** Susan M. Heersema, CSI, CDT, AIA, *HOK*; Ms Jacqueline Gregory, CSI-S, ; Mr. Peter W. Grotenhuis, CSI, *Hamill-Mullan Group*; Mr. Robert D. Ivey, CSI, CDT, *The Ivey Company*; Mr. Robert Turck, CSI, CDT, *ITW Red Head*; Mr. Vick Moore, CSI, CDT, *Carol Naughton & Associates, Inc.*; Mr. Tyler J. Barton, CSI, *Mapei Corporation*; Ms. Ashlea Davis, CSI, *Black & Decker - Security Hardware Division*; Mrs. Norah Sheehan Prombo, CSI, MBA, *Dow Chemical*; Mr. Phillip Daniel Eenigenburg, CSI, *Packaged Concrete, Inc.*;

Welcome New Members Joining in December

Mr Steven Arnold Hein, Sr., CSI, *Contract Carpentry Corporation*
Mr Reiner Arno Pligge, CSI, AIA, *InSite Consulting Architects*

Member Milestones

Marty Gilson, CSI, has joined RoofScreen Manufacturing, Santa Cruz, CA, as their new Eastern Region Manager. He is responsible for all U.S. projects East of the Mississippi River and is working from a new Chicago Regional office. RoofScreen Manufacturing provides pre-engineered rooftop screenwall systems for both new construction and retrofit commercial projects. Marty also handles projects for Silverback Solar, a wholly owned subsidiary that provides pre-engineered racking systems for commercial rooftop PV panels and solar thermal arrays. Marty can be reached at mgilson@roofscreen.com or by phone at 312-835-1517.

Chapter Holiday Party Raises Money for Greater Chicago Food Depository

As well as a good time, chapter members and guests participated in a raffle that raised over \$400 to help the hungry in the Chicago area. In addition to private use of the Grand Bar at The Joynt, a River North hotspot, attendees were entertained by Shirley King, daughter of BB King, whose energy and enthusiasm caused many a member to “get up and dance”. Thank you Kristin Henriksen, social chair for making the arrangements and Tabitha Ruiz assisting Kristen that evening. The many prize donation enabled the chapter to hold a successful raffle. Our thanks to these generous donors:



Tabitha Ruiz, GP Gypsum
Holly Hirsh, Johns Manville
Doug Sowers, Specialty Systems
Peter Nutini, North Products
Howard Jancy, Jancy & Associates
Julie Montrose, General Shale Brick
Jeff & Judy Tolle, Flexco Floors
Brad Meyer, Terrazzo & Marble Supply
Mari Ciastko, Dorma
Heather Yario, Mapei
Cathy Beazley
Kristen Henriksen, Carboline
Michael Sreckov, Hafele



Download the CSI Member Logo

In response to member requests for use of the CSI logo, the Board has approved a new CSI Member Logo and usage policy. The Member Logo can be used by all CSI members in conjunction with their full name and member suffix. Members may not use the Logo to indicate or imply CSI endorsement of any skills, firm, or product. [Download the logo.](#)

Chicago Chapter Nominating Committee Meets in January for FY12 Board Positions

Per the Chicago Chapter By Laws, the nominating committee will propose a slate to be presented at the March chapter meeting with options for nominations from the floor. A ballot will be sent by March 31. Recommendations for board members or those interested in board positions should be communicated to President-elect Mike DeRouin at mderouin@fitzgeraldassociates.net or 312-563-9100 x213. FY 12 Board Members serve from July 2011 to June 2012.

New Resource Guide Page on Chicago Chapter Website Available To Showcase Your Company

The CSI chapter website will include a listing of CSI member resources by MasterFormat category or professional services. Listings are at a nominal charge with discounts for members and business card ads will be accepted. Cost ranges from \$240 for a one-year listing to \$325 for a business card and listing. There are additional marketing opportunities as well as partnership programs that include multiple benefits at one yearly cost. [View More>>](#)

Various partnerships, sponsorships and marketing opportunities are also available, with packages that include this resource page.

Institute Officer e-Vote!

In February, the CSI Institute will conduct a fully electronic election. All eligible members will receive their ballot information in February and be able to cast their votes online. Cast your vote with a couple of clicks! To ensure you receive your ballot, make sure that CSI has your current email address on file before **January 1, 2011**. You can update your contact information online at www.csinet.org or by contacting CSI Member Services at csi@csinet.org or 1-800-689-2900. For additional information, visit www.csinet.org/election.

The CSI Academies – Registration Now Open

February 24-26, The Adolphus Hotel, Dallas, TX

For more than 60 years, CSI has focused on improving construction communication between architects, specifiers, product reps and others to save money, time and stress for all the parties. The CSI Academies are your chance to learn the construction industry skills that can improve your performance. Designed for experienced professionals, the Academies:

Instill confidence by teaching you the roles and responsibilities of all the construction teams, and how they should interact (and what to do when they don't!)

Improve your marketability and productivity today with skills and information you can use immediately. Education sessions are focused on small, intense group work in three areas of practice: Product Representative Academy (PRA), Contract Administrator Academy (CAA), and the Construction Specifier Academy (CSA). To register, or for a complete course listing, speaker profiles, hotel information and other details [click here](#).

CSI: More than just one - or three - types of members

By Sheldon Wolfe

Last month's *Curmudgeon's Corner* reviewed the history of CSI's membership classification, and argued in favor of a single category of voting members. Although response has been favorable, two objections have been voiced, one regarding governance, the other related to practical aspects of communication with other members. The first appears to be more important, but the second affects day-to-day activities.

Board representation

As noted last month, CSI began as a group of specifiers, or, in today's terms, professional members. There also were a very few who would today be called industry members, but it was clear that this was an organization of design professionals, concerned primarily with the art of writing specifications. Over the years, the balance changed, and we now have almost equal numbers of professional members and industry members (for convenience, I'm considering industry and associate members as a single group). Along with their growth in numbers, industry members attained more rights and privileges, and there are now only a few small differences between voting members. Clearly, CSI has changed. It is *not* the organization it was in the beginning, but is an organization of design professionals *and* product representatives, with a smaller number of contractors and subcontractors.

Our bylaws presently mandate representation of professional and industry members on the Board:

The Nominating Committee shall select candidates for Officers and Directors at Large to ensure that at least three of the eight are either Professional, or Industry or Associate members

While this may sound like a good idea, at least if you're concerned that industry or professional members might get the upper hand and drive out the other group, it ignores other factors that are at least as important when choosing candidates for office. It also does not take into account the fact that many of our professional members work for manufacturers; it is quite possible to meet the stated requirement for balanced representation, yet have only Board members who work for manufacturers.

Part of the proposed change in member classification is a new way to track members. We currently classify members in three ways: by membership type, e.g., professional or industry; by the occupation codes that appear on the membership application form; and by firm types, which also appear on the application form. If you look at that form, you will see fifty-eight occupation codes and thirteen firm types.

Combining all three classification types, we have 2,262 possible types of member. That may sound impressive, but in my three year term as Institute director, only occasionally would I see a reference to occupation codes, and then only as a statistical report; that information was not used for anything useful.

The proposed tracking system will have six groups:

Group 100 - Academic Occupations

Academic staff, educator, student, trade apprentice.

Group 200 - Construction Occupations

Construction craftsman, construction manager, general contractor, subcontractor.

Group 300 - Design Occupations

Architect, BIM or CAD specialist, design consultant, engineer, interior designer, landscape architect, specifier, surveyor, urban planner.

Group 400 - Facility Occupations

Developer, manager, owner.

Group 500 - Product Occupations

A/E representative, dealer, distributor, manufacturer, manufacturer's representative, manufacturers association, marketing, sales.

Group 600 - Related Occupations

Accounting, attorney, banker, building official, computer support specialist, financial advisor, graphic designer, inspector, insurance, labor representative, legal staff, public agencies staff, publisher, realtor, surety advisor, technical writer, testing lab personnel, trade association, other occupation not listed in any group.

These occupation groups are much more usable than the ones we currently use - more specific than three member types, and more useful and manageable than the current occupation codes.

Institute nominating process

Until recently, CSI nominating committees have been ad hoc committees, formed just before the annual election to find volunteers to run for whatever offices happened to be open in the next election. In theory, these committees give us qualified, capable candidates who will be able to run our organization and keep it current.

From what I have seen at every level of the Institute, that is not always the case.

It is sometimes difficult to find volunteers for the nominating committee, and it may not get started on time.

Only rarely does anyone actually volunteer to run for office, so the committee usually starts with a list of well-known members, whose qualifications may not be known; being friendly and a great guy aren't much to go on. Occasionally, the top candidates agree to run for office, but often they don't, and the committee works its way down the list. The scarcity of volunteers makes ballots with two nominees unusual.

A few years ago, significant changes were made to the Institute nominating process. It now is a standing committee, working year-round to find and evaluate potential candidates for the Institute Board. The process includes assessment of the current Board's knowledge and skills, which is considered when evaluating candidates. The nominating committee has always considered various factors, but it now focuses on finding candidates who will improve the Board's capabilities.

While it may be argued that the presence on the Board of one group or another is important, it is not the only thing to consider, and it probably is not the most important. Strong leaders have many characteristics: proven

performance, good character and reputation, and, obviously, ability to lead; in comparison, what they do for a living is a secondary consideration. Availability also is important; Board service is demanding, and requires a commitment to do more than simply show up.

Gene Valentine, current Nominating Committee Chair, offers these comments about the restructured nominating committee.

"In the past two years, the Nominating Committee has embraced the spirit of the governance reform by intentionally broadening the potential candidate pool - especially for particular skill sets or experience. The committee has used the Balanced Scorecard system for attempting to identify the present skills and experience of board members, and then determining what gaps need to be addressed. The scorecard uses a comprehensive matrix for evaluating many factors, including skills, knowledge, age bracket, education, geographic location, and occupation to help identify the best candidates to fill a need or gap on the Board. The committee has focused primarily on the potential candidate's experience, background, and occupation rather than the traditional consideration mostly of immediate past service to the Institute or the organization. The committee has embraced a position that no individual is *entitled* to candidacy, rather that their past service is but one of the criteria used to evaluate their potential. In my opinion this has (and will) serve the best interests of CSI.

"The committee has placed greater emphasis on potential candidates' abilities to think, evaluate, and make decisions with broad perspective in their past businesses, projects, etc. I have always valued members individually for what they offered and contributed to the organization, and I think we all believe that one of the features that make CSI special is the synergy that is created by all members of the construction team."

Communication

Some industry professionals have expressed a more practical objection to the elimination of the current member categories. Put simply, they use those categories in their businesses. As one member said, "When I want to send out promotional mail, I give the secretary the mailer and the member roster, and say 'Send it to everyone with a P after their name.'" The same thing can be said for communicating other information. A chapter certification committee might want to contact specific members about a CCPR or CCS class, or a chapter might want to target students and teachers for a specific event.

A compromise between specificity and usability will always be necessary; the six occupation groups are a reasonable refinement of the three categories we now have. They make it easier to target specific members than is possible by relying on the current associate, industry, and professional categories, but are much more usable than the current occupation codes, which appear to be ignored in any case.

It's not that simple - or that difficult

Meaningful representation on the Institute Board requires consideration of more than a member's basic occupation. While it is important to include the perspectives of both those who write, and those who use, construction documents, it is more important to find leaders who are able to think, to lead, and to determine what is important for the organization as a whole.

Communication will be improved by refining member categories. Three categories aren't quite enough, but if the number gets too large, it is likely that several groups would be combined for most purposes. The six proposed groups are a good compromise, and will serve us better than the three we now use.

There is no perfect solution, but the proposed changes will help the Institute Nominating Committee to choose the best candidates, and will make it easier to target communication to specific recipients. And, by removing mandatory representation based on a single criterion, it will be easier to respond to changes in membership and needs of the Board. Yes, we must consider the needs of large groups of members, but we also must have the flexibility to respond to changes as they occur, without the need to poll the members every time there is a change in those groups.

[Sheldon's Blog](#)

PER-SPEC-TIVES

OTHER PERSPECTIVES, OPINIONS, EXPRESSIONS, IMPRESSIONS, THOUGHTS AND IDEAS ABOUT THE NOBLE PROFESSION OF SPECIFICATIONS WRITING-- OPEN FOR, AND SEEKING DISCUSSION

RULE; AXIOM; GUIDE; REASONED/CONSIDERED OPINION?

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

“..... MasterFormat is organized by project type rather than work results. If it's for an industrial or processing project, it goes in the 40s. If it's part of an "architectural" project, it goes in Divisions 02-33. So for hoists, we would now have "architectural hoists" in Div 14 and we would have "processing hoists" in Div 41 (would have to put some adjective in front of hoists if we are going to have them in two places).....We can reverse the logic. We have a processing plant that includes some elevators to move people. Are we now going to put those elevators in the 40s instead of Division 14 because we don't want to use any conveying equipment out of an "architectural" division for our processing project?I would propose what is really going on is that we have that old way of thinking continuing to linger - these are my divisions and those are your divisions and we shall not ever cross over those lines.....The logic to locate hoists in Division 41 of course relates to the fact that material handling is a category of work results in which there are many different types of devices and equipment that can be used. They have been located in a separate division to allocate an adequate amount of space. It doesn't matter what type of project they are being used in.....Why locate handling equipment in the 40's? They probably relate most strongly to other subjects in the 40s, but that doesn't mean that they are not used in all types of projects just as elevators are used in all types of projects.....To accept this logic, one has to get over the old time thinking that divisions are organized by professions or project types. It's time to get over it and use the designated location for any work result we have in our project, no matter what project type it is or what division it is in.....”

What is most important in specifications-- strict, unwavering adherence to a prescribed format, or a litany of provisions that generally relate to each other in the whole of the project? I pick no fight, but I do wonder how many times each day, someone locates some information, in a spec that does NOT adhere to MF04. My guess would be, many times. Some do this routinely, confident in their experience and receiving no repercussions; others, unsure, ask for help and usually recent something in the order of the quote above.

Are reasonable, and flexibility dead or dying? What is “wrong” with using a simple, seemingly reasonable change that seems utterly appropriate? Are those naughty “specs police” out again on the “motors”? Or is this all about absolute right and wrong, simply for the fact of being right or wrong because that is the way it is written in some voluntary pamphlet? Correctly, it IS the advisable method, but there are other solutions and no great unchanging axiom is violated.

Seems the primary point is that the correct information be conveyed, in clear and understandable terms, fully usable by the trade personnel, and adapted to the exact project conditions! The need for this communication, of a sort that be unparallel in other work and professions. Perhaps not instantly life saving or threatening [like medical information], but such has an impact on what is done, properly well, and in a timely manner. It is a measure of excellence that starts with us-- spec writers-- in the professional office. It is our dedication, knowledge, innovative and knowledge that demands that we keep faith with what we are doing, and how well we do it. We may well exceed the effort of our drafting/CAD/BIM personnel, in that our products contain much more information, often times, than the drawings-- and importantly so!

Too often sniffed at by principals, ignored, disregard by juniors, and treated off-handedly by managers, our mission still involves [in part] merely updating and mentoring our staff colleagues, not

to justify our existence, but for their realization that what we do-- and what they NEED! -- is 1], required in one fashion, 2] necessary to another group, and vital to the project works overall. Our specs do what no other devices, instruments or documents do-- so how can we, in good conscious, short-change, minimize, gloss-over or poorly construct such essential contributions to the project work? Our best effort coupled with the mediocre work of others doesn't work well and will be problematic. But we don't' necessary control others and what they do; neither should d we reduce or limit our work just to getting something out and let the field personnel guess and interpolate what we intended! A problem that needs solving, now, with our full direction, explanation and understanding/instructions for others.

We NEED all three contract documents, in their best form.

And much more, WHY? Simply, must resolve, clearly, complex solutions to complex problems! That needs our best and also provides a masterful learning point and cursor for the young ones who need to develop their understanding and habits!-- using RULES; AXIOMS; GUIDES; REASONED/CONSIDERED OPINIONS?-- and common sense! We need to develop and convey information, not make new and different procedures project by project!