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Cook Inlet Chapter - Construction Specifications Institute, Anchorage, AK

www.cookinletcsi.org

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A Word from the Chapter's President: Cliff Marvin



I am so thrilled to be in Alaska I can hardly contain myself. Thank you to the members who have placed their faith in me to be your next president. I am immensely flattered by your support and will be working hard to help the chapter grow.

Check out our revamped website at www.cookinletcsi.org courtesy of Jolene Stracuzzi, the daughter of our chapter Treasurer, Sandi Velleca. The chapter's Program committee, headed by Tom Carberry, is working hard to bring you programs that qualify for continuing education and cover topics of interest to our membership. You can see our scheduled programs by clicking on the "Events" tab. Specific information about events will be regularly updated as we get closer and closer to them. This month's scheduled tour of the new VA facility in midtown Anchorage was arranged by Donn Ketner, our current Academic Liaison and Education Chair.

Those of you who attended the National Conference in Indianapolis can contribute to the growth of our chapter by sharing your experience with other members at our general meetings. At our next meeting later this month, we expect to be meeting some UAA students courtesy of Jeff Callahan, our former Academic Liaison. Let them know how exciting our conferences can be and what they'll learn through their attendance.

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"CSI Membership a value proposition for you and your employer"

By: Robert W. Simmons, CSI, CDT, MAI
Member, Institute Membership Committee
Northwest Region Membership Chair

As a new career member of CSI working in a professional design firm or for a manufacturer or supplier of construction products, CSI can be your professional development program that will help you get your continuing education or learning units. CSI can also help you become a certified professional with a CCS, CCCA, or a CCPR, which gives you the understanding of the construction process that is required in the construction industry, as well as the opportunity to build your expertise and that next career opportunity. That opportunity may be in the form of a salary increase, a bonus or a perk that helps you continue to further your career with your current employment.

CSI's continuing education programs at the chapter, region or Institute levels will assist you in staying ahead of market trends in new products, codes or new construction designs. As a member of CSI, the amount of educational exposure you receive for the CSI membership fee and chapter dues that you pay each year is far less than what your

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"This electronic issue of the newsletter is dedicated to the growing popularity of "green" initiatives taking hold in our industry, obviously with the specific intent of reducing deforestation."

Curmudgeon's Corner; Convention Report

by Sheldon Wolfe, RA, FCSI, CCS, CCA

snob: one who disdains people or things considered inferior

I recently saw a comment referring to this year's convention as "great". My initial inclination was to agree, but it got me thinking about what a given convention might mean to different attendees. My first convention was in 1990, and I have been to most of them since. I enjoyed every one, but, as you might expect, some were more memorable than others. For me, five conventions stand out: Chicago '90, San Diego '91, San Francisco '94, Dallas '01, and Las Vegas '02.



The 1990 Chicago convention was my first. About fifteen members of the Minneapolis-St. Paul Chapter chartered a bus and rode down together, and some of us shared rooms. The keynote speakers were Studs Terkel and Willard Scott, and programs included Editing On-Screen, Integration of CAD Drawings and Specifications, and CSI Format for Mechanical and Electrical Specifications. I couldn't believe the show floor; I felt like a kid in a candy store! This was the pre-Internet era, and everything was distributed on paper, so every booth was stocked with boxes of literature. By the time I reached the end of the first aisle I knew I wouldn't be able to get everything back to the hotel. An experienced conventioneer came to the rescue, telling me to take only the most interesting brochures, as the exhibitors were happy to send literature. (See my March 2003 TechNotes at <http://snipurl.com/nk1gy> for a few interesting scans of 1990 memorabilia.)

When I went to San Diego in 1991 I expected and got more of the same. There are two reasons it's on my favorites list: It was my first visit to California, and I found out why everyone wants to go there; and I received my first Institute award that year, for creating a keyword index to the Manual of Practice. Also, it was the first time I was invited to an exhibitor-sponsored dinner, this one on a double-deck boat tour of the harbor. As I watched the daylight fade and the moon rise, I wished I had brought my family along, and vowed to bring them to a convention.

1994 was another year of great memories because of San Francisco itself, and because I brought my family. Since then, my wife has always accompanied me, and one or both of our children managed to go along a few more times. I think this was the year I became aware of how many members I knew in other chapters, and meeting them became a major part of attending conventions.

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A Word from the Chapter President from page 1

This electronic issue of the newsletter is dedicated to the growing popularity of "green" initiatives taking hold in sort our industry, obviously with the specific intent of reducing deforestation. Upcoming meeting programs may include more on this, a personal passion of mine since I returned bottles to grocery stores in New York for 2 and 5 cents as a youth. Those bottles kept me supplied with baseball cards and those aromatic sticks of pink gum that came in every pack.

My Anchorage baptism hasn't been painless, what with waiting over four months for my belongings to arrive at my apartment, but finally they're here and now it's time to sort through it and throw out the junk! I'm now keenly aware of the particular difficulties associated with shipping to Alaska, something that greatly affects our construction industry.

One of my hopes is that upcoming issues of the Inlet-Outlet are filled with contributions from our membership, so sharpen your pencils (or plug in your keyboard) and send us your stories, information about new developments in our industry, and any suggestions you might have to help our chapter grow.



Curmudgeon's Corner from page 2

The 2001 convention in Dallas was a high, with a couple of Institute awards. The best thing was that it was the one and only time my wife attended the opening ceremonies, where awards were presented at that time. I was president-elect for my chapter that year, so my wife and I hosted the chapter hospitality suite. One night we must have had fifty people in the room! Finally, there was Las Vegas in 2002, where I received my Fellowship. It was our biggest family trip, with both children, their spouses, and my wife's mother. We stayed in a great two-story apartment across the street from the Hilton, with an outdoor pool and no slot machines.

Looking back, it's easy to see that the relative greatness of a convention depends a lot on what happens there. I'm sure this year's first-timers, award recipients, and new Fellows will long remember Indianapolis, while those who have been to many conventions may not.

Although one thing or another has occasionally been less than expected, I have never been to a bad convention. This year, as usual, I found information about a number of new or changed products that I put to use immediately, again demonstrating the value of the exhibit hall.

Another thing I have learned from CSI trips that you shouldn't be too ready to snub a host city. The location definitely can improve the convention experience, but the programs and exhibits are useful regardless of where we go. I admit I have on occasion had reservations because of things I had heard - I didn't want to go to LA (too much traffic, too much smog), and I had little interest in going to Las Vegas because I'm not a gambler. In each case, I'm glad I went, as both cities were amazing, and each had something unique to offer.

I had been to Indy before, for a bi-region conference in 2002. Even though I am a Hoosier by birth, I had no expectations one way or the other, as all the time I spent in Indiana was either in the Fort Wayne area or near Columbus. We had a heck of a good time at that conference, and I was impressed by all the city had to offer. There is even more there now than seven years ago, yet many museums, the zoo, a beautiful canal parkway, and other attractions are within walking distance of each other. If you didn't go this year because Indianapolis wasn't sophisticated enough for you, you missed a great experience. Don't make the same mistake next year.

The 2010 convention will be at the Philadelphia Convention Center, 11-14 May.

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"CSI Membership" from page 1

employer would spend sending you to an outside design class or to a University workshop for any period of time.

CSI is a resource for professional development. These educational courses can be given at the chapter, region and Institute level for the price of a membership in CSI and your chapter. The CSI certification programs that you will be able to participate in help you as a professional and industry member to understand and support the construction industry requirements.

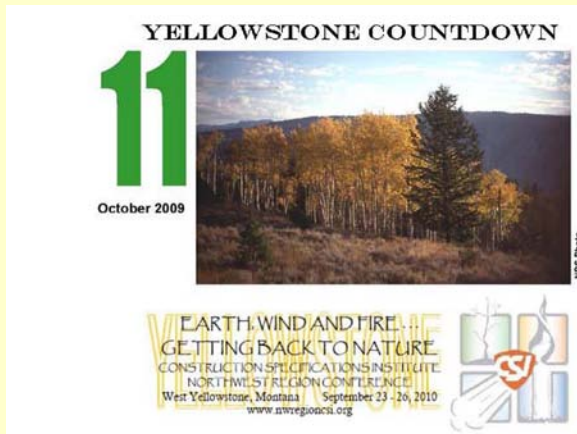
CSI membership will also give you access and exposure to owners, contractors, suppliers, and Architectural and Engineering firms that make up the project team on any given construction project. Through your CSI membership, CSI will be a valuable resource for your professional development. It will help give you the tools that you need to advance your professional career, help you develop your leadership abilities and keep you on top of the industry changes to establish a long career in the construction industry.



"CSI will be a valuable resource for your professional development."

Sidebar Articles

SPECIAL EVENT



Chapter Meetings

DATE:

3RD TUESDAY OF THE MONTH

LOCATION:

WESTCOAST INTERNATIONAL
3333 W INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT RD
LOCATED OFF SPENARD RD AT AVIATION DR.

COST:

MEMBERS - \$25.00
NON-MEMBERS - \$30.00

SCHEDULE:

6:00 - 6:30 P.M. - COCKTAILS
6:30 P.M. - DINNER & PROGRAM

TABLETOPS ARE AVAILABLE...CONTACT SANDI VELLECA AT svelleca@whpacific.com FOR INFORMATION.

Officers and Directors

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ADVERTISE IN THE INLET – OUTLET!

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MORE INFORMATION.