



Newsletter

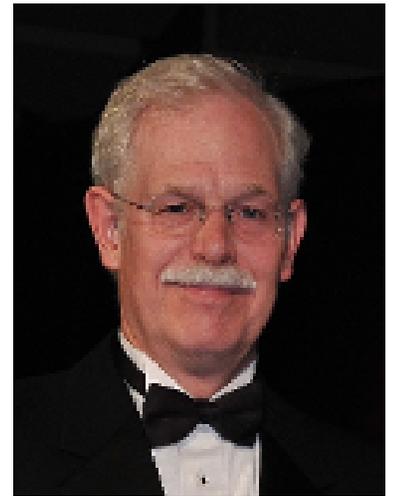
March, 2017

President's Message

It's election time again. No don't panic. It's the CSI national elections. Institute will be sending out ballots and candidate profiles in early March. This year it is a short ballot. We only have 3 offices to vote on: Institute Secretary, Institute Director-at-Large, and Institute Director from the North Central Region. There are multiple candidates for each office, and all of them are well qualified, experienced CSI members. So you might have a tough choice to make. As the largest region in CSI we have some voting clout. So I encourage all of you to vote this year. Take a few minutes to read the candidate profiles. I won't tell you who to vote for, but consider supporting NCR candidates.

The region conference is only 2 months away. Registration should now be open. I've discussed this in the last several newsletters. This will be a great event to learn some leadership skills for your volunteer role in your chapter, re-energize your enthusiasm for the next fiscal year, and have some fun with like-minded CSI folk. For newer members or those new to a leadership role in CSI, you will gain a new, broader perspective of CSI. And for seasoned members, well, you know what a great event it is. Check out other articles in this newsletter and the region website at ncr.csinet.org for additional information. I hope to see many of you in Madison in May.

Just a reminder, the region board and committees are here to serve all members in the North Central Region. Let us know what we can do to enhance your experience with CSI, especially those of you without a chapter affiliation. I've heard only a few comments about our region newsletter, all of it positive. But I'd like



to know what else we can do. Send us your comments, good or bad. We'd also love to hear about programs or ways of doing things that you like in your chapter that might be worth sharing with other chapters. This is a member based organization, it starts and ends with each of you.

Jon Rao Papke, FCSI, CCS, AIA
North Central Region President

Director's Message - At Your Service

An Open Letter to the NCR's Members-at-Large

You don't call, you don't write. We're worried about you!

Seriously, we need to hear from you. We know who you are – well that is to say, we have your names on a list. We know there are 127 of you 'Members-at-Large' – defined as CSI members in good standing who are not affiliated with a chapter – living in the North Central Region (NCR). That number makes you our fourth largest chapter!

You may know that approximately 7% of your annual national dues are passed through to the region in which you reside. The decision to form and fund regions was to provide services in a manner which the distant Institute cannot. To facilitate these services, the NCR has formed a Board of Directors with representatives from each of our 19 chapters. The Board has in turn elected a president, president-elect, secretary, and treasurer to administer the operations of the Region.

The NCR is CSI's largest region – both geographically and by population. Encompassing Minnesota, Wisconsin, North Dakota, South Dakota, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, and Missouri, we number approximately 1,500 members. To make the task of assisting members at each of our far-flung chapters more manageable, we have divided the NCR into five, smaller geographical 'districts'. We have recruited experienced leaders from those districts to serve as points-of-contact for the chapters and members within their respective areas. We refer to these as Regional District Coordinators, or RDC's.

The names and contact information for each of your NCR leaders may be found at the North Central Region website:

<http://ncr.csinet.org/NCR/Executive-Committee.pdf>.

Please also, update your profile and join the new CSI communities forming at Institute's brand new website: <http://csiresources.org>.

A monthly NCR leaders' conference call serves as an informal Board meeting. We convene by phone each second Wednesday morning to review our Region's financial and administrative stability. Representatives from each of our chapters have the opportunity to give voice to their respective chapters' and members'



concerns. But if you are not a member of a chapter, who speaks for you?

Several years ago, as Chair of the Institute Membership Committee, I conducted a survey of our approximately 1,600 Members-at-Large (note that number makes you CSI's largest region by population). While a 15% return is not comprehensive, the consistency of the responses gave us confidence we were getting at the real issues.

When asked why you chose not to participate in a local CSI chapter, we learned that you had made well-reasoned decisions based on your circumstances:

- Distance from a chapter was the most frequently cited reason.
- Time - travel to meetings; time of meetings; length of meetings; and choosing CSI over work or family.
- Business travel makes it difficult for you to regularly attend meetings.
- Unwilling to pre-pay meals when you cannot regularly attend.
- Dissatisfied with chapter programs.

Some things cannot be changed. Not every town or city will support an autonomous chapter. We may in fact see your 'unaffiliated' numbers grow as some of our smaller chapters dissolve. I strongly encourage our NCR chapters to develop flexibility in serving all of our Members. Move meetings around, switch between lunch and dinner, provide focused, career-development programming in a fun environment, and do an honest calculation of the true cost / value of pre-paid meals. This will accrue to the benefit of your affiliated members as well.

Some things however must change. Know that the North Central Region, and the Institute, wish to serve

Continued on next page

all of our members. We are doing our very best to administer the NCR in a manner that benefits all parties; creating an environment conducive to the success of our current members, and attractive to potential new members. I ask the NCR Officers and Board to consider reinstatement of the position of an RDC dedicated to our members-at-large. With the NCR newsletter, we now have an effective method of communication with this large segment of our membership.

This newsletter is a major advance in our ability to communicate with you, our members-at-large. Each month our excellent editor Elias Saltz adds new features designed to increase the sense of shared mission within our Region. Elias is also working to make the NCR website a true 'community center' for all of our NCR Members.

Certainly, you are more than welcome to attend the meetings of any CSI chapter – regionally or nationwide. The NCR website now highlights the many events hosted by our NCR chapters so that you can avail yourselves of specific programs. Elias has also posted 'Travelers' Calendars' I pieced together from the published dates, times, and venues of CSI chapters regionally and nationwide. Regardless of my travels, I find pleasure in the company of my CSI friends. I hope this is of value to you as well.

An annual NCR conference hosted by one of our chapters is held each May. This spring we will be gathering between the lakes in beautiful Madison, WI. The conference provides multiple tracks for professional and association education, and specialized training for incoming chapter presidents. There will also be a product show featuring many new materials and assemblies. This is our largest and most inclusive regional event of the year. You will have opportunities to share ideas and initiatives with your fellow NCR members. The details are at the NCR website and in this newsletter.

We really do need to hear from you. We marvel at your commitment to our Association. Many of you have been Members for years, but without the sustenance of the fellowship of your professional peers at chapter meetings. Please tell us how better to serve you.

Respond to Elias' articles in the newsletter and postings on the website, reach out to your RDC, visit the chapters closest or in proximity to your travels, and please, call or write to me with any questions or suggestions.

**J. W. Mollohan, CSI, CCPR, CEP, LEED GA
Institute Director from the North Central
Region**

North Central Region Conference

General Information and Registration

The conference planning committee has released a new brochure outlining all the events taking place at the conference, including the Early-Bird Tour of the Wisconsin State Capitol Restoration, the Welcome Mixer at the Madison Children's Museum, information on accommodations, companion events and speakers, leadership and educational programs, and the optional Saturday tour of Epic's Verona Campus. Please download that brochure [here](#).

Registration for NCR Conference will be open very soon. A notification will be sent to all members.

North Central Region Conference

Sponsorship

Dear Midwest Construction Industry Professionals:

The CSI North Central Region Conference Planning Committee is offering an opportunity for you to support the Construction Specifications Institute (CSI) and its mission of "Building Knowledge / Improving Project Delivery" by sponsoring the 2017 CSI North Central Region Conference.

The Madison Wisconsin Chapter of CSI is hosting the annual region conference at the Park Hotel on the Capitol Square in Madison, May 4-6, 2017. This conference brings together over 100 construction professionals from 20 CSI chapters in 9 Midwest states to network with construction professionals. Both leadership and technical educational sessions will be offered.

The 2017 conference will start on Thursday, May 4, 2017 with a tour of the Wisconsin State Capitol building and an opening reception at the Madison Children's Museum. Friday will have a full day of education sessions, a product showcase and an awards banquet. The conference will wrap up on Saturday with morning education sessions, our annual region business and board meetings and an optional afternoon tour.

As a sponsor, you will have the opportunity to interact with construction professionals from throughout the Midwest. The Product Showcase will start with the 30 minute morning break, continue through our 3 hour lunch break, and end after our 30 minute afternoon break, for a total of 4 hours. Lunch will be served in the Product Showcase hall, encouraging attendees to meet with you. You will also have the opportunity to attend educational or leadership sessions.

We encourage you to take advantage of this unique opportunity. Download the [sponsorship form](#) as well as the [descriptions of sponsorship levels](#).

If you have questions about sponsorship or would like additional information, please contact either Todd Lewis (608) 444-5610 or Ross Mori (608) 513-6348.

Sincerely,

2017 CSI NCR Conference Planning Committee

Ross Mori
Lynn Javoroski
George Keehn
Todd Lewis

Hotel Reservations

The conference will be held at the newly remodeled, historic Park Hotel on the Capitol Square in Madison, Wisconsin

Address: 22 South Carroll Street, Madison, WI

Reservations:

Reservations must be made by calling the hotel directly at:

(800) 279-8811 or (608) 285-8000.

Mention that you are part of the "CSI North Central Region Block".

Room Rates:

1 King Bed \$139.00 per night

2 Queen Beds \$149.00 per night

The block of rooms will be held until Apr. 4, 2017. After that date they will be released to the public.



Committee News



Go back to where you were last month on csiresources.org, and read the discussion posts at the "Chapter Leaders" page – your colleagues have great ideas. Work with your Program Chair to get the best programs! And one more thing – email all your CSI contacts, reminding them of the time change so they don't forget to attend your great meetings! It's good to keep in touch. (Keep it light so no one gets annoyed with one more reminder)



Free Study Resource

"I hear and I forget. I see and I remember. I do and I understand." ~Confucius

Ever heard this quote from Confucius? He simply puts in three sentences how we learn on three different levels. Recognizing how we learn is key to studying; especially for the CSI certification exams. Those that take little effort in studying for the exam take a chance in not passing. Unfortunately, it is true, some do not pass the CSI certification exam the first time. Don't leave passing the exam to chance, but take a vigorous approach with a repetitive, interval study plan.

Perhaps you've experienced, like I have, the great differences in learning:

"I hear and I forget" is the baseline learning like sitting through a lunch-and-learn presentation without slides, handouts, or taking notes that really does not engage our brain. Generally, I don't remember much from this learning experience, forgetting about 90% or more by the next day. In terms of studying for the CSI certification exam, this is like only reading the Practice Guide and A201 once. Very few can do this level of study and pass the exam.

"I see and I remember" is like that same lunch-and-learn presentation with slides, handouts, and/or I take notes; my retention is much better. With this middle learning

level, perhaps I keep up to 50-70% or so of the information originally received. Equate this to studying for the CSI certification exam, is like reading the Practice Guide and A201, plus writing out various key terms from the Practice Guide and using flashcards on the A201.

"I do and I understand", the highest level of learning, is that same middle learning level lunch-and-learn scenario and incorporating either teaching others or repeating what was learned. Teaching others may not be an option for the CSI certification exam study, but the better option is to repeat what was learned to further embed the information. In other words: repeat, reread, and/or rewrite the same information. Psychology and test-taking experts, who guide graduate students preparing to take the MCAT, recommend repeating the information at various intervals – 24 hours later, three days later, and at weekly intervals thereafter. A repetitive, interval study plan is the most successful by far. Figure out a schedule of topics or "domains" as the study guide alliterates. Then follow through with a repetitive, interval study plan. Yes, it seems rather vigorous; but don't leave the CSI certification exam to chance. As Abigail says:

"Learning is not attained by chance. It must be sought for with ardor and attended to with diligence." ~Abigail Adams

Around the Region

The following is a list of upcoming events you can attend at North Central Region chapters. Some chapters did not provide information before the publication deadline. To get your chapter's information listed, please send it to Elias@ArchiTechspec.com

Central Iowa Chapter

March 28 - Chapter Program, Drones

April 26 - Chapter Program, Building Security

Central Missouri Chapter

Chapter Meetings - 1st Friday of each month. Contact chapter leadership for information.

Chicago Chapter

March 2 - Specifier Roundtable

March 8 - Technical Roundtable

March 10 - Meet the Reps Roundtable

March 16 - CSi2eye One-on-One Technical Education Event

March 17 - Industry Roundtable

March 28 - Chapter Program, Chicagoland Architectural Education Programs: Current Trends/Future Outlook

April 6 - Young Professionals Event

Crandic Chapter

March 21 - Chapter Meeting, Terra Cotta Cladding.

Flint Hills Chapter

Chapter Meetings - 2nd Thursday of each month. Contact chapter leadership for information.

Greater Saint Louis Chapter

March 8 - Designing with Architectural Steel

April 19 - Sustainability in Construction Administration

April 21 - New Products Show

Kansas City Chapter

April 11 - KCCSI at Harvesters

Madison Wisconsin Chapter

March 14 - Chapter Program, Designing with Tile.

April 11 - Chapter Program, TBD

Mid-Kansas Chapter

Chapter Meetings - 3rd Thursday of each month. Contact chapter leadership for information.

Milwaukee Chapter

Chapter Meetings - 2nd Monday of each month. Contact chapter leadership for information.

Minneapolis-Saint Paul Chapter

March 13 - Chapter Program, Target Center Remodeling and pre-St. Patty's Day Celebration

April 17 - Chapter Program, U of M Stadium Village Practice Facility

Nebraska Chapter

March 13 - Chapter Meeting, Net Zero

North Dakota Red River Valley Chapter

March 8 - Chapter Meeting, Bricks and Clicks: Renovate Those Recycled Masonry Specifications

April 11-12 - Construction Products Showcase

Northern Illinois Chapter

March 16 - Chapter Program, Exploring the Current Version of the Architectural Woodwork Standards, 2nd Edition & Update on Future Standards Development

Southwest Missouri Chapter

March 16 - Chapter Program, The Specification, Design, Manufacture and Installation of Cold-Formed Steel Trusses

April 5 - Southwest Missouri CSI Trade Show

April 10 - Chapter Program, Fire Stop 101: Introduction to Fire Stop Technology

Twin Ports Chapter

March 14 - Construction EXPO 2017

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