

JUNE/JULY 2003



This Month's Meeting



Allentown Chapter CSI ANNUAL PICNIC!

\$28.00 / Person

\$10.00 / Child

Wednesday, July 16, 2003

3:00 PM Rain or Shine

Landis Place, Emmaus, Pa

3:00PM—6:00PM Menu: *Ring Bologna, Cheese, Vegetable Tray and Dip,
Steamed Clams, Chips, Pretzels*

6:00PM– Dinner Menu: *Choice of Grilled Steak or Chicken, Baked Potato,
Corn-on-the-Cob, Assorted Desserts, Beer, Wine, and Soda*

Kids Menu: *Hot Dogs & Hamburgers*

Activities: *Awards, Bocce Ball, Volleyball, Horseshoes, Tennis, Basketball, and
more!*

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**NEXT MONTH
AUGUST 20, 2003**

Contacts

The President's Message

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CHARTERED MAY 1963

INCORPORATED MAY 1970

PUBLICATION DEADLINE

Friday After Chapter Meeting

President's Message – June, 2003

Those of you who missed our 40th Anniversary Gala missed probably the best function I attended since becoming a CSI member. It was great to see some of our older members, who were active over the years and made our Chapter what it is today. It was a special moment for me to chat with Mr. Art Hummel, our Chapter's very first President. Kudos to the committee for putting together this glorious event. Mark your calendars; a committee is being formed to celebrate our 50th Anniversary, May 2013!

This month we are back to the Ambassador for a meeting and presentation on "Keim Coatings" by Tom Solon of the National Park Service. June is also CSI University in Philadelphia. Hope to see you there!

July is another opportunity to attend a great function, our annual picnic, once again at Landis Grove. This is always well attended and a fun day. Come on out and get active in your Chapter.

David C. Hausman, CSI
President

From The Editors Desk

Don't ever get sick for a week. You'll never get caught up! It's summer time, the hot days are upon us! Hopefully, by the time everyone reads this they will have had a spectacular time at the annual picnic. Keep on coming out to support your local CSI chapter. Every little bit helps and makes it easier. Thanks for all you've done for us and for all that you will continue to do.

We do have a few vacancies on our board and our committees always need help. Feel free to come out and join us! It'll be great!

Sincerely,

Micah J. Hessinger, CSI, CDT
Editor



Allentown Chapter C.S.I.

May 28, 2003 Board Meeting

The Allentown Chapter CSI Board members met on Wednesday, May 28, 2003 at the City View Diner, Allentown. President David Hausman called the meeting to order at 7:09 AM. There were 5 officers, 2 directors and 1 technical chair present.

Board Minutes: A motion was made by Mitch Miller to approve the workshop minutes as printed, seconded by Roxanne Verrastro. Motion carried.

Mitch Miller made a motion to approve the March meeting minutes, seconded by Carson Moyer. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: A motion was made by Mitch Miller to approve the Treasurer's report as of April 30, 2003, seconded by John Sweigart. Motion carried.

Mitch Miller made a motion to accept the March Treasurer's report, seconded by Roxanne Verrastro. Motion carried.

Committee Reports:

Program: No new report submitted

June 2003. I have scheduled a presentation by Tom Solon of National Park Service on "Keim Coatings" titled, Keim after Time. A *Prescriptive* Masonry Coating.

July 2003. Annual CSI Picnic. No meeting planned.

If any board or chapter member has an idea(s) for upcoming meeting presentations please do not hesitate to contact me.

Hospitality: President Hausman reported that Tina Eichlin has been appointed to chair this committee.

Roxanne circulated the flyer for the Annual Picnic planned for Wednesday, July 16th, 3:00PM until? , at Landis Place, Emmaus, Pa. There is also a price this year for children under 12 years, so as to encourage more families to attend.

Technical: Chuck Bleakley submitted the following report:

View Draft 4 at www.csinet.org/technic/index.htm (for MasterFormat revisions).

Divisions 1-14 relatively unchanged

Division 15 has been reserved and relocated to Div. 21 in the Facility Services Grouping

Division 16 has been reserved and relocated to Div. 25 electrical and Div.26 Communications in the Facility Services Grouping.

Please visit the complete draft for further details.

NOTICE-Change in MFETT timeline

Among the recent changes undertaken in response to the needs expressed by users is the task team's timeline/work plan for completion of these drafts and acceptance of commentary. The task team initially planned to complete work on Draft 4 in April and have the draft available for commentary through June. This would have allowed a first final manuscript to be ready on July, and editing and indexing completed and ready for delivery to the publisher by December 2003. However, in light of changes that have been made in the direction of Draft 4 since April, and in response to concerns raised by some commentators, an additional six to nine months have been added to that timeline, as shown below. MasterFormat 04 is now planned to be available to users in September to December 2004.

MasterFormat™ Expansion Timeline:

An abbreviated timeline for the MasterFormat™ expansion process is below. This listing omits many presentations and other scheduled outreach activities being pursued by the task team. This schedule is current as of January 30, 2003, and is subject to change.

Meeting Minutes (Continued)

2003:

May 21 Publish Outline Draft 4
August Publish Detailed Draft 4
November 7 Commentary closes on Draft 4
December 19 Final Manuscript completed

2004

September-December Exapnded MasterFormat™ for sale

The Walter J. Steiner Library dedication was held, and a HUGE thanks to Mitch Miller for all his help and energy.

Library inventory is being done, noticeable missing item MOP.

Any donations to the Walter J. Steiner Memorial Library would be appreciated, (especially technical material).

Contact Chuck Bleakley, CSI, CDT.

Education: No report:

Certification: Congratulations to Mitch Miller for passing the CCS Exam.

Planning: No report:

Convention: Carson Moyer advised that the dollars reimbursed was OK since 1 person did not attend.

CSI University: There are 6 persons planning to attend as of today.

Awards: Mitch Miller advised that the certificates and plaques for EXPO 2003 are being completed.

Membership: No report.

Punchlist: No report:

Academic Affairs: No Chair. No report.

Publicity: No report:

Long Range Planning: Roxanne Verrastro submitted the following report:
Looking to set up a meeting to discuss program and the monthly meetings.

Expo 2003: Roxanne Verrastro submitted the following report:

“Educate U” is over!!! The final numbers and surveys will be reviewed at the wrap-up meeting set for June 4th 2003 at Churchill’s Restaurant in Emmaus.

We are also going to look into some changes for next year. I will submit a final report next month. *Overall, we are looking at a (decent) profit.*

Again, I want to thank everyone who participated in the planning and execution of the show. Also, thanks to all the exhibitors and attendees for a great day!!

Electronic Communications: No report:

Old Business

1.04 Sal Verrastro circulated a few copies about SpecSource.com. Sal made some investigative inquiries about this opportunity for a free CSI Chapter website. Other Chapters are using them with

Meeting Minutes (Continued)

success. More checking into this opportunity will be done about submittal formats and how frequently the site can be updated per month. Jim as the ECC Chair, and others will review and report back next month. *Update March 19, 2003.* The board voted to go with SpecSource as our website. *Update April 23, 2003.* Contract received and awaiting a response about getting started. *Update May 28, 2003.* **Website-** a meeting is set for Wednesday June 11th at the City View Diner at 7:00 AM for reviewing the new layout for the website. Anyone interested in getting involved or attending the meeting please let me know ASAP. Thanks.

3.01 Mitch Miller advised on 2 options for the Chapter's 40th Anniversary Banquet, on Thursday May 29th or Friday May 30th, each at a different location with different costs to attend the event. There would also be the regular monthly membership meeting. Roxanne advised that 2 functions in a month could be a problem for a lot of members. The summary of recommendations from a discussion was that the event should be on our regular meeting night, so members always have the fixed schedule in their minds. Go to an upscale location. Sponsors should be solicited to cover some of the costs. Carson made a motion to have the event on the 3rd Wednesday in May at a location such as Hotel Bethlehem, upscale meal and venue, if date available? Roxanne seconded the motion. Motion carried. *Update April 23, 2003* Mitch advised that donations and sponsors are still needed for the 40th Anniversary Banquet. The "Chapter historical display board" that was at the EXPO will be also be available at the Banquet with additional items. Thanks to Tina Montone for putting it together. A power point program will be assembled of historical photos/memorabilia for the Banquet. *Update May 28, 2003.* Excess funds from the Holiday Gala were utilized for the Anniversary banquet. The balance of the funds will be utilized for the May 2013 – 50th Anniversary.

3.05 There was a lengthy discussion about the value of the newsletter at a cost of approximately \$12,000.00 per year. Matt Baker recommended that we begin phasing out the Punchlist. Sal advised that there is a variable on newsletter content vs. email notification of events, etc. *Update April 23, 2003.* Approximately \$5,000.00 per year is a more accurate cost for the newsletter as now published. It was stated that member's dues are supposed to cover the newsletter cost.

New Business:

5.01 Mitch Miller made a motion to set aside \$250.00 per year for the 50th Anniversary celebration. Motion seconded by Matt Baker. Motion carried.

5.02 Student Design Competition as part of CSI University is in need of more money. The Chapter has already given a \$250.00 contribution. If individuals or firms would like to contribute, e-mail Mark Nattress.

5.03 Mitch asked about the funding for MARC. Are we continuing to add money? Carson stated that we should utilize the leftover national convention money. Our Chapter may be holding the MARC in 2006 or 2007 since some Chapters have canceled. It was also recommended that any surplus from the operating fund be added to the MARC account.

5.04 There was a discussion that we should publish a book about our Chapter history for the 50th Anniversary.

5.05 Carson reminded all committees to submit their respective budget requests for 2003-2004 to him. Motion to adjourn the meeting by Mitch, seconded by Matt Baker. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:07 AM.

Next meeting on Wednesday, June 18, 2003, 5:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

John D. Sweigart, Secretary

Meeting Minutes (Continued)

Allentown Chapter C.S.I. June 19, 2003 Board Meeting

Members	Attendees	Members	Attendees
Dave Hausman, President	[X]	_____, Academic Affairs	[]
Carson Moyer, Jr., CDT, Vice-President	[X]	Dennis Herman; <i>Director</i>	[]
John Sweigart, CDT, Secretary, Certification	[]	Steve Moyer, Membership, <i>Director</i>	[X]
Mark Nattress, CDT, Treasurer	[X]	Micah Hessinger, CDT, Punchlist Editor, <i>Director</i>	[]
Roxanne Verrastro, CCCA, President-Elect	[X]	E. Gordon Gradwell, Historian	[]
Steve Bandura, Hospitality	[]	Jim Spinola, AIA, CDT, Electronics Communications, <i>Director</i>	[]
Bruno Bianchini, Education	[]	Mitch Miller, ARA, CDT, Awards; <i>Advisor</i>	[X]
Jeff Surovi, CDT, Programs; <i>Director</i>	[X]	Matthew Baker; <i>Advisor</i>	[X]
Chuck Bleakley, Technical	[]		
Sal Verrastro, AIA, CCS, CCCA, <i>Institute Director</i>			

The Allentown Chapter CSI Board members met on Wednesday, June 19, 2003 at the Ambassador Restaurant, Allentown. President Hausman called the meeting to order at 5:10 PM.

Board Minutes: A motion was made by Jeff Surovi to approve the workshop minutes as printed, seconded by Roxanne Verrastro. Amend minutes to reflect Steve Moyer present at May meeting. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: A motion was made by Mitch Miller to approve the Treasurer's report as of May 31, 2003, seconded by Steve Moyer. Motion carried.

Committee Reports:

Program – Jeff Surovi

June 2003, I have scheduled a presentation by Tom Solon of National Park Service on “Keim Coatings” titled Keim after Time: A *Prescriptive* Masonry Coating.

July 2003, Annual CSI Picnic. No meeting planned.

Currently working to schedule events for August 2003. I have received information regarding a possible field trip for September 2003 at United Panel. More information needed and will report accordingly.

If any board of chapter member has an idea(s) for upcoming meeting presentations please do not hesitate to contact me.

Hospitality – Tina Eichlin

July picnic set for Wednesday, July 16th at Landis Place, Emmaus. A separate mailing will be sent to all members as well as publishing in newsletter. Member / Guest rate is \$28 pp, Children's menu will be available at a reduced cost of \$10 per child. Donations for a raffle are needed – Contact Tina Eichlin @ 610-965-3068 or email eichlin@netcarrier.com.

Technical – Chuck Bleakley

Draft 4 of Masterformat™ revisions is published. I will accept and forward any comments to the task team.

This is our chance to speak out and be heard, if there is something you would like to see changed or improved, now is the time.

Once the new audio exchange schedule is set, I would be interested in finding out, experimenting, if Allentown CSI would entertain an afternoon (2 PM to 3:30 PM) off site meeting for education at an audio exchange seminar.

Would require:

Enrollment site fee

Hotel or restaurant set up

Monies for reservations

Internet hook up

Video projector/ screen

I will welcome any and all that might have an opinion regarding this matter.

I hope to have more details for next month's meeting. Discussion by the board members followed and it was determined this fell within the technical chair budget

Education – Bruno Bianchini

Sent out award letters to 2 recipients of the annual scholarship fund (Jeffrey Gendell - Frank Geho Award and Bradley R. Myers). Both will be in attendance at our June dinner meeting at the Chapter's expense.

Meeting Minutes (Continued)

Certification – John Sweigart

Just announced for the Middle Atlantic Region Conference in Norfolk, Virginia. Stimulate your career and get your CSI credentials that you deserve, and take any one of the CSI exams on October 9, 2003.

The CDT, CCS, CCCA and CCPR exams will be available. Early Bird registration deadline is July 9th and late registration deadline is August 9th, 2003. Register on <http://www.csinet.org/certify/regionsexam.htm>.

Planning – Carson Moyer

Budget for FY04 submitted for review / comments

Awards – Mitch Miller

1. 2003 Expo Awards Plaques, to be given out this months meeting.
2. 1998 Expo Award Plaque, to be given out.
3. 2003 Expo Speaker Certificates completed, to be mailed.
4. I Will be passing out a complete copy of the Outstanding Chapter Award form from the Institute. Each Chair, as well as others that wish to provide information, will be requested to complete all the information concerning their charge, as well as providing as much information concerning the other committees and information they can supply. **THIS IS AN ESSENTIAL PIECE OF OUR CHAPTER BUSINESS THIS SUMMER.** The first draft due date will be September 1, 2003. Please be sure to forward this information to the Awards Chair.
5. Region Award Nominees: please consider potential candidates for the following Region Awards:

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

This award shall be given to a CSI member who has, through his activities, exemplified the dedication and enthusiasm for the Construction Specifications Institute which Robert P. Brosseau exhibited during his career in the construction industry. The individual must be an acclaimed supporter of the goals of the Institute, an active participant in Region affairs, a loyal Chapter leader, and through his career must have fostered excellence in product selection and specifications.

Only one (1) such award may be granted each year. Recipient may receive this award only one time

ROBERT P. BROSSEAU MEMORIAL AWARD

The Distinguished Service Award shall be awarded to an individual who has rendered distinguished services to the Region in the advancement of its objectives or in its administration.

This award shall be the highest award the Region can bestow on an individual.

Only one (1) such award may be granted each year. Recipient may receive this award only one time.

GEORGE C. NEUHAUSEL MEMORIAL AWARD

This award shall be given to a CSI member in good standing who has had fifteen or more years of continuous service to the Institute, and through his activities, exemplified the loyalty, dedication, and enthusiasm for the Construction Specifications Institute which George C. Neuhausel exhibited during his career in the construction industry. The individual must be an acclaimed supporter of the goals of the Institute, an active participant in Chapter, Region and Institute affairs, and a member who has not received the Region's Distinguished Service or Robert P. Brosseau Memorial Award; nor have received the Institute's Distinguished Service Award, Commendation, Ben John Small Memorial Award, Robert P. Brosseau Memorial Award, Dale C. Moll Memorial Award, J. Norman Hunter Memorial Award or Institute Fellowship.

Only two (2) such awards may be granted each year. Recipient may receive this award only one time.

ORGANIZATIONAL CERTIFICATE OF MERIT

Meeting Minutes (Continued)

This award may be presented to a firm or organization for distinguished accomplishments which have promoted the objectives of the Region and the Institute. This award shall be the highest award the Region can bestow on a firm or organization.

Only one (1) such award may be granted each year

EDUCATION AWARD

The Region Education Award may be presented to an individual, Chapter, firm or organization that has made a significant contribution to the Region in the field of education in areas related to the purposes of the Institute or a significant contribution to the educational programs of the Institute

TECHNICAL AWARD

The Region Technical Award may be presented to an individual, Chapter, firm or organization that has made a significant contribution to the Technical program of the Region or the Institute

PUBLICATIONS AWARD

The Region Publications Award may be presented to an individual, Chapter, firm or organization for their publication of an outstanding special or continuing publication in areas related to the purposes of the Region or the Institute. This award may be used to recognize both Institute and non-Institute publications

Membership – Steve Moyer

Coordination between membership chair and mass email coordinator will be discussed in upcoming months as we attempt to move to a paperless newsletter

Punchlist – Micah Hessinger

Due to recent illness no June issue was delivered. A combination June/July issue will be prepared for distribution

Academic Affairs –

No Report

Publicity – Roxanne Verraastro

The following will appear in the Business Journal and Times News, which will include Whitehall/Coplay Press, Parkland Press, East Penn Press, Northwestern Press, Northampton Press and Salisbury Press.

The Construction Specification Institute Allentown Chapter held their 25th Annual Product Show on May 16, 2003. We would like to congratulate the Beth-Hanover for Best of Show, S&S Resources for 1st Time Exhibitor and Holophane Lighting for Best Technical.

Also, I am planning on listing those candidates who passed their certification test including Mitch Miller, CCS and...

Long Range Planning – Roxanne Verraastro

Next meeting will be August 13, 2003. Will be held at the Fleet Bank Building, One Bethlehem Plaza, Bethlehem, PA at 6:30 pm. Food, beverages and games will be provided. Please bring your ideas for fun night. We want to focus on meetings - programs, announcements and getting new members involved!!! We will also discuss the website and how the new site is working. Please RSVP to me by noon on Tuesday August 12th. Everyone is invited. I encourage new member to get involved.

Bylaws – Carson Moyer

No Report

Expo 2003 – Roxanne Verraastro

Educate U is complete. Attached are the final numbers for Expo 2003.

Planning for 2004 has begun. The Show will be located at the Days in Conference Center at the intersection of Route 309 and 22 on **Wednesday, April 14, 2004**. We will begin monthly planning for the show in September. If anyone has any ideas for the show or is interested helping, please contact Roxanne Verraastro.

Adhoc Web-site Committee – Roxanne Verraastro

A meeting was held on June 11 and we have begun to revise the new website. The official site will probable be launched in July. The temporary site is www.csiallentown.org Remember the site is under construction. A lot of details to follow...

Meeting Minutes (Continued)

Please visit the site and if you have any suggestions please feel free to contact me with your comments. I will also contact each committee member to let me know what information their committee would like to post on the web.

Electronic Communications – Jim Spinola

No Report Received

Old Business

1.04 Further developments under AdHoc Website committee report

3.01 Mitch Miller advised on 2 options for the Chapter's 40th Anniversary Banquet, on Thursday May 29th or Friday May 30th, each at a different location with different costs to attend the event. There would also be the regular monthly membership meeting. Roxanne advised that 2 functions in a month could be a problem for a lot of members. The summary of recommendations from a discussion was that the event should be on our regular meeting night, so members always have the fixed schedule in their minds. Go to an upscale location. Sponsors should be solicited to cover some of the costs.

Carson made a motion to have the event on the 3rd Wednesday in May at a location such as Hotel Bethlehem, upscale meal and venue, if date available? Roxanne seconded the motion. Motion carried. *Update April 23, 2003* Mitch advised that donations and sponsors are still needed for the 40th Anniversary Banquet. The "Chapter historical display board" that was at the EXPO will be also be available at the Banquet with additional items. Thanks to Tina Montone for putting it together. A power point program will be assembled of historical photos/memorabilia for the Banquet. *Update May 28, 2003.* Excess funds from the Holiday Gala were utilized for the Anniversary banquet. The balance of the funds will be utilized for the May 2013 – 50th Anniversary. *Update June 19, 2003* Profits from the 40th anniversary gala to be transferred to the 50th Anniversary Gala Fund

3.05 There was a lengthy discussion about the value of the newsletter at a cost of approximately \$12,000.00 per year. Matt Baker recommended that we begin phasing out the Punchlist. Sal advised that there is a variable on newsletter content vs. email notification of events, etc. *Update April 23, 2003.* Approximately \$5,000.00 per year is a more accurate cost for the newsletter as now published. It was stated that member's dues are supposed to cover the newsletter cost. *Update June 19, 2003* Matt Baker is continuing to work with impacted committee chairs regarding mass email

5:03 Mitch asked about the funding for MARC. Are we continuing to add money? Carson stated that we should utilize the leftover national convention money. Our Chapter may be holding the MARC in 2006 or 2007 since some Chapters have canceled. It was also recommended that any surplus from the operating fund be added to the MARC account.

5:04 There was a discussion that we should publish a book about our Chapter history for the 50th Anniversary. Item has been deferred to the anniversary committee.

New Business:

6.01 The Eastern Pa Chapter AIA has agreed to share in the costs of bringing Dennis Hall to speak at our joint meeting in February concerning the changes to MaterFormat.

6.02 Received a thank you from Teddy Geho expressing her gratitude for including her in our 40th anniversary celebration and continued relationship with the Allentown Chapter CSI.

6.03 Received a thank you from Mrs. Walter Steiner expressing her gratitude for establishing the Walter J Steiner Memorial Library.

6.04 J. Spinola (EC Chair) requested the numerical results be released and published as per RROO. A tellers committee report was submitted to the board and EC Chair and was to be distributed to all members via mass email and published in newsletter. This never occurred.

With respect to the request of releasing the vote counts a motion was made by R. Verrastro and seconded by M. Miller to continue the chapter policy of listing results of elections without including the actual numbers received per candidate. Motion carried.

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Matt Baker, seconded by Mitch Miller. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:10 PM

Next meeting TBA

Respectfully submitted,

Carson Moyer, CSI, CDT
Vice-president

Institute News

WREN'S WESTERN OUTPUT
by Annette Wren, FCSI, CDT

What happened to the CSI that attracted me to join and actively participate? Why is our national CSI or Institute on "life support"? Why did the CSI "electric energy" of our past annual conventions move to San Diego this year?

Fact 1: The CSI that attracted me is alive and well. In fact, it is better than ever. My chapters attracted me to CSI. My chapters are functioning as anticipated. They are providing great programs, construction industry information, education, services and networking. And, one of the most important benefits is very much alive and well--lifelong friendships. Each chapter has its own personality based upon the sum total of those involved. My chapters have wonderful, interesting members who believe in the benefits of their membership. Some drift in and out of participation. Some are actively involved. My chapters suit me just fine!

Fact 2: The Institute (as it is known, meaning the national governing entity) has come on hard times. CSI seems to be in the critical care unit. The truth is that this "patient" has been abused. Bad leadership and worse decisions contributed to this condition. It is only a condition. The "patient" can be saved. The solution is true leadership. The type of leadership that grabs you by the throat and propels you out of your chairs! The type of leadership that is so charismatic that you are spellbound. We need leaders that are strong and understand the culture of CSI. We need leaders who have real business experience. We need leaders who come from leadership positions in their own firms. We need leaders who understand the construction industry. We need leaders who will not alienate our core membership for visions of grandeur and a new core membership. We need to get rid of our leaders that just want to tread water until they get to be President. We need leaders that have the courage to stand up and take responsibility for our current predicament and experience. We need powerful leaders with strong opinions. We need leaders that are not afraid to replace committee chairs that alienate members who have the courage to express their opinions. We need the type of leadership that the immediate past executive director almost totally purged. The good news is that we actually had a big blip on the radar screen of strong leadership this fiscal year. Our executive board selected an executive director selection committee of true CSI leaders. The "patient" can be saved.

Fact 3: On the first full week of May, our electric energy moved to San Diego to another convention. Why did the electric energy of our past annual conventions move? The convention brochure looked like our old CSI conventions. That was not the reason. It was the anticipation of what was to come--the programs, the products show, the social events, the awards presentations, the business sessions, the experience of visiting San Diego, etc. It was the anticipation of making contact with lifelong friends. Everything that CSI members enjoy! And, the truth is that CSI members did indeed enjoy it! The only prob-

lem is that it was not a CSI convention. It is water under the bridge. CSI needs to be bold and make hard decisions. From the exhibitors' point of view, three long years in Chicago will not cut it. For economic reasons, we will need to maintain two years. We need to take our lumps and move on. And, counter to the article in the May 2003 NewsDigest, we do not need to "alternate between Chicago and Las Vegas" in the future. Attendees enjoy visiting different cities each year. It is part of our CSI culture. We need our convention back!

C 2003 Annette Wren, FCSI, CDT

WREN'S WESTERN OUTPUT
by Annette Wren, FCSI, CDT

Where oh where has my CSI Convention & Exhibit gone? Was it in Chicago? Was it in Philadelphia? Are we confused yet? I am told that the Philadelphia meeting was actually an extension of "Mega Weekend". If so, why did the "Education Sessions Schedule" look like sessions that were previously held at our CSI Convention & Exhibit? If it was supposed to be leadership training, where were our CSI leaders serving as facilitators?

First, note that you will not see the name of the Philadelphia meeting in this article. When I refer to a "university", it will be a truly accredited one.

Second, if this "Mega Mega Weekend" opportunity is supposed to replace "Mega Weekend", then where were the intensive sessions for the Region and/or Chapter Chairs of our standing committees?

Third, if "Mega Mega Weekend" is supposed to be leadership training, then the "Instructor's Index" should have names of our CSI leaders as facilitators. These facilitators should be true CSI leaders with actual experience in the highest CSI leadership roles. Names like Dean, Meier, Hoyer, McManus, Molseed, Eustis, Baker, Alciatore, Young, etc., etc. (Sorry, no room to name all of the wonderful Past Presidents and Honorary Members who are the perfect facilitators for leadership training.) Generally, humans learn best by experience and example. Those who have been in the highest CSI leadership roles can best teach our CSI culture. Those who came before us can best pass on our "tribal history". We have a gold mine of talent that is not being tapped! Why are we overlooking all that talent?

Fourth, if we intend to preserve our beloved CSI, our practices and principles need to be preserved and taught. At the "Mega Mega Weekend", seminars would be helpful in teaching future leaders about our culture. Sometimes, we simply do this by example. CSI has always acknowledged our members for their service in meaningful ways. We have magnificent banquets and awards ceremonies that honor members for their service. We

Institute News

elaborate details of their service at these events. This is an opportunity for future leaders to learn how to be grateful for those who serve CSI. At these events, we introduce Honorary Members, Past Presidents, Fellows, and others. This is an opportunity for future leaders to learn our culture of gratitude and decorum. It is my recent experience and observation that we may need to teach this also.

Fifth, it is true that the chapters and regions best handle most leadership training. If our "Mega Mega Weekend" is going to enhance that experience, then it must be extra special. It must provide that gold mine of talent and much more. Where will future CSI leaders go for that special knowledge? Where will future CSI leaders go to learn about our unique culture? Where can they attend classes with our gold mine of CSI leaders teaching?

Last, is there really a difference between the education sessions at our cherished CSI Convention & Exhibit and the "Mega Mega Weekend"? Is someone going to make all of this clear to the membership? And, last but not least, where will our cherished CSI Convention & Exhibit be geographically in 2005?

C 2003 Annette Wren, FCSI, CDT

CSI National Convention - April 9th thru 12th 2003

I arrived on Wednesday afternoon to find beautiful sunny weather.....except for the fact that I needed to take out a "home equity loan" for cab fare from O'Hare airport to the hotel it was a great trip. Someone said that if you fly into Midway Airport the cab fare is a lot less to get to the hotels.

The first night was the convention "mixer". Lots of appetizers, drinks and some live jazz music. This gives everyone the chance to renew old friendships with people from all over the country. Allentown Chapter members congregated at one table to map out a plan for the rest of the convention.

Next we all went to the "best lock" dessert party and met up with members from the Central Pa Chapter.

Thursday I went to a seminar on "CADD Standards" and walked through about 75% of the exhibit hall. Again the weather was very nice. That night I checked out a few of the bars in the hotel and went to bed early.

Friday was another beautiful day and I toured the balance of the exhibit hall. Then I had lunch with all the Allentown Chapter members at the "Rainforest Café"...it was tough to discern the stuffed, screaming, chest beating gorillas in the restaurant Jungle from some of the people I'm trying to collect retainage from!!!

Friday night was the "Award Gala" which is a real nice event. Excellent food, good drinks and lots of well educated people in the construction industry were here at this function. The highlight of the evening was when Sal Verrastro was awarded to Fellowship in the institute...considering that only about 300 people out of 18,000 members are "Fellows" this is a great honor for Sal and our chapter as well.

Saturday I flew back to Allentown and went grocery shopping and ...well you know the rest of the story.....

Mark Nattress

Classifieds

Customer Service Representative needed for local manufacturer located in Mt. Bethel, PA. Full-time position with excellent benefits, including 401(k). Applicants must be able to communicate well, both verbally and in writing, and must have some computer experience with Microsoft Office. Prior customer service experience is preferred. Experience with CADD and/or the construction industry is a plus. Please send resume to: Attn: LAS, PO Box 188, Mt. Bethel, PA 18343.

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> United Panel is a manufacturer of architectural composite wall panels and systems. We are expanding our customer service department and would love to find someone who can not only service our customers (mostly over the phone, as we work with people from all over the US and Canada), but who could also do some take-offs from blueprints and project estimating.

WREN'S WESTERN OUTPUT

by Annette Wren, FCSI, CDT



JULY 2003

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	Independence Day 4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	CSI Picnic 16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

2003

JULY 2003
 7/4/03—Independence Day
 7/16/03—CSI Picnic

AUGUST 2003
 8/20/03—CSI Meeting

SEPTEMBER 2003
 9/1/03—Labor Day
 9/17/03—CSI Meeting