

July 2011 Newsletter

CSI to Elevate Six Members to Fellowship at Annual Convention

CSI will elevate six members to Fellows of the Institute during the Honors and Awards Gala at CONSTRUCT2011 & The CSI Annual Convention in Chicago on Friday, September 16.

Fellows are nominated by their colleagues and selected by CSI's Jury of Fellows in recognition of their accomplishments in advancing construction technology, improving construction specifications, educating people in the construction industry or advancing the goals of the Institute.

CSI members joining this distinguished group in 2011 are:

J. Gerard Capell, CSI, CCS of CSI's Milwaukee Chapter
Teri L. Hand, CSI, CDT of CSI's Phoenix Chapter
Lynn A. Javoroski, CSI, CCS of CSI's Milwaukee Chapter
J. Peter Jordan, CSI, CCS of CSI's Houston Chapter
Stephen E. Nash, CSI, CCS, CCCA of CSI's Honolulu Chapter
John C. Williams, CSI, CCS of CSI's Kansas City Chapter

Fellowship is among CSI's highest honors. In the organization's 60+ year history, only 407 members have been elevated to Fellowship. See a list of Fellows.

After they are elevated in September, the new Fellows will be able to begin using the letters "FCSI" after their names, in lieu of "CSI."

For more information on CSI Fellows or the 2011 Annual Convention, visit www.csinet.org. To register to attend the Convention and the gala, visit the CONSTRUCT2011 & The CSI Annual Convention website at www.constructshow.com.

July 2011 President's Message Gary L. Mittendorf CSI, CDT

Thank you for all those who attended our last membership meeting and awards banquet. Although the attendance was down, it was nice to get together for one last time before summer officially starts. Appreciation certificates were given to the board members and committee chairs for their work in keeping our chapter active and interesting. Six special awards were given by me for outstanding service for the 2010-2011 year and helping to make my term much easier to undertake.

Those honored were:

Chapter Presidents Appreciation Award to Pamela Bir for helping to update our newsletter and publication efforts.

Chapter Presidents Appreciation Award to Don Stone for an outstanding job as program chairman and banquet activities.

Chapter Presidents Service Award to Teri Hand for serving again as our chapter treasurer and financial guide for another year.

Chapter Presidents Industry Member of the Year to Tim Garver for his work with I-Cube and Technical Committee.

Chapter Presidents Professional Member of the Year to Brian McClure for helping with the Technical Committee and 2012 National Convention Committee

Chapter Presidents Member of the Year to Tim Garver for dedication to the Phoenix Chapter and many committees served on and chaired for the 2010-2011 term.

Many thanks to Angie France, Steve Smith, Gary Campbell, Mark Yarish, T.J. Valdez, Jolene Jones, Ron Geren, and Jay Norton for helping to keep me on the right track and assisting the other board members in making my term memorable and interesting. I ask the membership of the Phoenix Chapter to help the new board members in the coming year and volunteer for the many committees and positions needed to run this chapter and especially with the 2012 National CSI convention when it comes to Phoenix. I know Steve and Angie would really appreciate all the help they can get!

I have enjoyed being part of this Chapter for over 32 years and believe it to be one of the best in the US. Thank you for allowing me to be part of it and I look forward to many more years, God willing.

CSI Awards Banquet

Watch the video of the CSI Awards Banquet on June 10th at the Phoenix Convention Center! Thank you, Don Stone for preparing this video. Great job!

View on [Facebook](#) or View on [YouTube](#)

CSI National Convention Construct 2012 - Phoenix

The CSI National Convention will be held in Phoenix in 2012. Brian McClure at Brian.McClure@Stantec.com and Gary Campbell gcampbell@assaabloydss.com have agreed to co-chair this convention for the Phoenix Chapter. Our chapter will be asked to help in the following events during the convention.

- Fundraising
- Exhibit Booth
- Marketing
- Registration
- Spouse/Guest Program
- Student Activities
- Technical Events/Tours

We will need committee chair people and volunteers for these events. Please contact Brian or Gary if you are interested in chairing or volunteering for any of these events and they will include you in that event committee.

We are organizing to give everyone time to consider how they would like to help in making this a very successful convention and reflection of Phoenix and Arizona. With 18,000 attendees expected, it is sure to be a very exciting convention!

Our committee will be meeting monthly to discuss and have direction in our involvement with CONSTRUCT 2012.

Visit the Chapter's CONSTRUCT2012 webpage for more information!

2011 Imagination Cube Competition

Sponsored by the Phoenix Chapter, Construction Specifications Institute, this award recognizes imaginative investigation and creative design that explore the potential of a building product(s). A different building product/manufacturer is chosen each year from within the CSI's membership and the companies they represent. This year's product/material sponsor is MAGNUM Companies.

CSI Phoenix Chapter Technical Committee Invites James F. Harrison, General Manager, Soda Strippers International, LLC

Stemming from an article by CSI Canan D'Avela,, about Soda Strippers International. James F. Harrison, General Manager was invited to speak at the Technical Committee on June 14, 2011.

Everyone was amazed at his demonstration and glad that Mr. Harrison came for the visit. He was very entertaining and informative. Hopefully he'll come back and present to the Chapter in the future.



Photograph is courtesy of Jolene Jones, CSI, CDT, The Twenty-One Tech Company
Back, left to right: Tim Garver, Ron Geren, Tom Urich, Steve Smith, Brian McClure, T. J. Valdez, Jon Hammond
Front, left to right: Canan D'Avela, James F. Harrison, General Manager, Soda Strippers International, L.L.C.

2011 Product Rep Academy
By: Jolene Jones - Co-chair Education Committee

The 2011 Product Rep Academy put on by the CSI Education Committee on June 10th was a home run! With 50+ attendees and close to \$2,000 profit, the annual event proves to still be of value to the product representative community. Every year the Education committee focuses on what they think will make representatives more successful in careers. The topics this year were on social media, knowing the steps of construction, how to be better advisors to architects and how to improve on ones presentation skills. The invited speakers are all experts in their field and we were honored to have them a part of the event. Pamela Bir, CDT, President of Your Computer Lady and trusted social media guru, shed some light on how to build relationships that ultimately lead to sales with the fast growing social networking phenomenon of LinkedIn. Joy Davis, CSI, CCPR with Construction Specifications Institute gave the audience a global view of how product representatives can best communicate with, build relationships with and support the design team community. Jim Whitfield, FCSI, CCPR, CTC, LEED AP with Parex USA from Colorado presented along with one of our favorite educators, Paul Simonsen FCSI, NCARB, CCS, LEED AP, ACIP with Technical Resource Consultants. The tag team duo spoke of knowing the right time to call on architects, specifiers and general contractors during the building process and on a separate presentation gave us pointers on what makes a successful box lunch presentation.



A special thanks to ITT Technical Institute who donated the room as well as provided snacks, drinks and door prizes. This is the 3rd event that ITT has hosted for us and we are very grateful for their participation.

Etched in Stone

By: Sheldon Wolfe, RA, FCSI, CCS, CCCA, CSC

What is the value of a signature? More to the point, what is the value of a "wet" signature? Although some states have taken steps to modernize the requirements for certification of construction documents and other legal documents, others are mired in practices that haven't made sense for a long time.

Of those states that allow something other than a manual signature to certify documents, some allow only software encryption, while others allow a facsimile of a signature. The result is a mix of methods, requiring design professionals to verify requirements for each state. To make things more interesting, states and local agencies are inconsistent in the way they interpret or use state statutes.

What really makes sense? Is a wet signature necessary? What does it prove?

The history of wet signatures is nearly as old as writing. Centuries ago, when few people could read or write, laws allowed a person to sign a contract merely by making an "X" or other mark. I wouldn't be surprised to learn that many documents were explained in terms not used in the documents, then used against those who "signed" them, the argument being that they agreed to the terms, even though they could not read them. Those laws are still with us, and remain subject to abuse.

Despite what is permitted by statutes, many architects and engineers refuse to make use of alternative methods of certification, and insist on manually signing documents. If wet-signed documents are required by statute there is no point in arguing, but when facsimile signatures are acceptable, there is no reason to continue using wet signatures.

With today's technology, I can go to the builders exchange, get a certification page, create an image of a signature, and put that signature into another document. After copying or printing, it will be virtually impossible to tell if copies of the new documents were produced from an original with a wet signature. Heck, I could have done the same thing years ago with old-fashioned cut-and-paste.

Consider a document that has a wet signature. Unless you were present when the document was signed, you can't tell if it had been signed by the person whose signature you see, or by someone else. So what does it prove? Should we take it a step further, and require notarization? Then we would have a signature, and a notary seal. But does that really prove anything? Not really; all it would prove is that a person with proper credentials - which might have been forged - signed the document.

It reminds me of a M*A*S*H episode, when Radar asked the colonel to sign a document, then initial his signature to show that he signed it.

Electronic and Digital Signatures

The terms electronic signature and digital signature often are used interchangeably, but there is a difference. To make it interesting, each state has its own definitions, and rules for how they are used, while the federal government has definitions and rules that apply to interstate commerce.

In general, an electronic signature is any electronic thing that is used to show that the intent the person who uses it is to sign a document. In common definitions, it can be a symbol, a process, or even a sound. In many cases, the symbol is a facsimile of the person's signature, reproduced as an electronic image, typically a jpg image or an electronically reproduced document bearing

a "real" signature. Most of us use a form of electronic signature without thinking about it; any time you use an ATM or pay a bill online, you are using a process that indicates you agree to making that particular transaction.

In contrast, a digital signature is a form of encryption that can be used not only to verify the origin of a document, but to indicate if the contents have been changed. In practice, it is more "real" than a wet signature. For example, someone could alter the content of a fifty page paper document without much trouble, and with little chance of detection, as long as the page with the signature was left intact. Although technically possible, it is extremely difficult to break the encryption and alter a digital document. Digital signatures would appear to be the best certification method, but I doubt that many firms have the necessary software. Even if encryption were used, it's likely that many recipients would be unfamiliar with it, and would insist on "real" signatures.

Use of both electronic and digital signatures is essential for today's commerce. If we still relied on wet signatures, there would be no ATMs, eBay, or credit cards. We would be required either to appear in person, or to send paper documents with wet signatures (which are easily forged) for every purchase and bank deposit. Not quite what we've become accustomed to! Federal and state governments not only approve, but encourage the use of both electronic and digital signatures. The Electronic Signatures in Global and National Commerce Act (ESIGN) states that "electronic" means form, and that a contract or signature "may not be denied legal effect, validity, or enforceability solely because it is in electronic form".

The Government Paperwork Elimination Act (GPEA) required federal agencies to use electronic forms, electronic filing, and electronic signatures to conduct official business with the public whenever possible. A practical result many of us enjoy is electronic filing of our income tax returns, if anything related to the IRS can be considered enjoyable.

Certification of Construction Documents

Given the widespread acceptance of electronic signatures, requiring wet signatures for construction documents simply doesn't make sense. Beyond that, the statutes that govern certification of construction documents vary widely from one state to another.

Of the states I have worked in, most have a single licensing board for all design professionals, but one has one board for architects and another for engineers and surveyors. In that state, the governing statutes are similar, but not identical.

Some states require the use of a seal, while others allow an electronic image of the seal. Some require wet signatures, others do not. Some require that all drawings be signed, while others allow signatures to appear on only the cover page. All accept a single certification page for project manuals. When wet signatures are required, the number of copies required, and the purposes for which they are required vary. As if that weren't confusing enough, interpretation can vary within a state.

I think we're making progress, but until you know what is required, find the applicable statutes, and then ask the agencies you're working with what they require.

© 2011, Sheldon Wolfe, RA, FCSI, CCS, CCCA, CSC
Follow me at <http://swconstructivethoughts.blogspot.com/>
<http://twitter.com/swolfearch>

CSI Phoenix Chapter Committee Descriptions

By: Angie M. France

Our chapter has many committees that are vital to its success. Please read over the descriptions and select a committee you want to get involved with. Contact the committee chair for details.

Academic Liaison

Interface with the local colleges and universities to present CSI-oriented educational opportunities, and to develop and support student chapters of CSI at those institutions.
Committee Chair: Ron Geren (602)569-9645 Ron@SpecsandCodes.com

Awards

This committee recognizes the talent, achievements, and notable contributions to the construction industry that support the purpose of CSI. It is essential to recognize those members and others who contribute time and effort generously. An award that conveys gracious and grateful recognition of extraordinary effort will encourage continuing contributions. An awards program intensifies member's interest, gains new members, develops new talent, and stimulates interest in CSI's growth. Members that possess good writing skill (for the purpose of writing the application of awards) and those strong in public relations are encouraged to join this committee.
Committee Chair: Carlos Murrieta (480)991-0800 CMurrieta@SSPWAarchitects.com

Calling

The Phoenix Chapter CSI has a calling committee. It is comprised of approximately 12 members. They have volunteered to make calls to a portion of the total membership roster. Each month, the Chairperson gives each committee member a description of the upcoming meeting with any changes in telephone numbers for their group. The committee member is responsible to call each member of their group, describing the meeting and taking RSVP's or giving the RSVP number to the member. It is a great way to stay in touch and to encourage attendance.
Committee Chair: Louise Rehse (602)278-7499 Louise@TheReferenceLibrary.com

Certification

This committee is dedicated to encouraging and facilitating the certification of the members through the CDT, CCS, CCCA and CCPR exams.
Committee Chair: Ron Geren (602)569-9645 Ron@SpecsandCodes.com

Education

This committee develops programs to benefit all membership classifications - professional, industry, associate, and student. This committee establishes and maintains annual allocations. Committee members with professional education experience combined with knowledge of written construction documents are encouraged to join this committee.
Committee Chair: Jill Anderson (602)258-7499 Jill@thereferencelibrary.com
Jolene Jones (602)268-8600 JJones@Twenty1Tec.com

Fundraising

Every organization needs funds to operate from. This committee's task is to present a variety of opportunities for our members to participate in. The challenge is to make these options as interesting and as exciting as possible while providing value to our members. Do you have a

special knack at fundraising; have you been involved in a successful fundraising activity for another organization? This just may be your niche.

Committee Chair:

Money, Money, Money...

Committee Chair, Chapter Treasurer: Teri Hand (602)418-1268 THand@Tnemec.com

Golf Tournament

This committee raises money to assist the Phoenix Chapter in many endeavors throughout the year. Raffle ticket sales and an annual golf tournament account for the bulk of these funds.

Twenty five percent of all funds collected are placed in a fund, for special donations, in honor of an Architect and friend to this community, Ken Lockhart. New members are invited to join this committee and get involved.

Committee Chair: David Spice (480)894-9858 DSpice@DASProducts.com

Membership

Membership is the backbone and driving force from which the Institute derives its strength and key to the success of all Institute activities. Membership provides the Institute with the human and financial resources necessary to achieve its goals. This committee develops and implements a marketing plan to recruit and renew chapter members. This committee also leads/participates in orientation programs for new members. Everyone is encouraged to join this committee. Everyone can recruit, recruit, recruit.

Committee Chair: Alan Minker (602)432-5267 AMinker@GAF.com

Programs

This committee establishes, maintains and schedules programs to benefit the membership and construction industry which are compatible with the purposes of the Institute. Any program ideas are welcome by this committee.

Committee Chair:

Media Communications

This committee publishes the chapter newsletter, roster and special publications. Public relations are also somewhat related. Any member with experience in print journalism, strong writing skills or any desire to help with these publications are strongly encouraged to join this committee.

Committee Chair: Tim Garver (602)714-7280 Tim.Garver@DunnEdwards.com

Technical

This committee has an extensive history of planning and oversight of technical activities within CSI. This management of published technical documents and keeping them up to date with industry practices and standards is truly one of the "grassroots" programs within the Construction Specifications Institute. Currently the Technical Committee is working on projects related to the building envelope and energy codes. The committee meets regularly on the second Tuesday of every month, from noon to 1:00 pm at HDR, 3200 E Camelback, Phoenix, AZ (bring your own lunch). Please consider joining us as a new member. Your ideas and input are most valuable.

Committee Chair: Brian McClure (602)707-4799 Brian.McClure@Stantec.com

CSI Phoenix Introduces New Forums Page
By: Webmistress/Editor

At the encouragement of the Technical Committee, the chapter has set up a new CSI Phoenix Forums page on the chapter web site. Eight topics have been set up initially to get the conversations rolling.

At the encouragement of the Technical Committee, the chapter has set up a new CSI Phoenix Forums page on the chapter web site. Eight topics have been set up initially to get the conversations rolling.

- General
- Codes
- Roofing
- Building Envelope
- Membership Benefits
- Paint and Coatings
- Moisture Control
- Construction Documents

The Forums are open to members and non-members. Our goal is to involve the construction community in positive dialog about crucial issues.

[Click here to read instructions for accessing and contributing to the Forums](#)

Please log in today and contribute!