It is difficult to say that this is my last newsletter as President of the Great Lakes Region of CSI. Looking back, it has been an eventful year and was pleased that we worked at the goals that I had set for myself and the executive staff for the 2016/2017 year.

I believe that during this passed, year believe that we communicated more with the chapters then what we have done in the past. Also, we noted that the Region exists to assist the chapters in our Region. I had also wanted to stop the bleeding, loosing members, and was a little disappointed that at the Regional Conference had to announce that for 11 months we had lost in a couple of areas but hoping that when the 12 month, renewal comes out we have at least met our goal.

As president, I also wanted the GLR Board to be involved and to assist with some of the tasks that were set as goals and was pleased with the encouragement and help that all gave. With that I need to thank the GLR Board for all they did and send my encouragement to the new board for 2017/2018.

I need personally to thank Ken Schmidt, president elect, and know that he will do an excellent job as the next president and carry on what I had started. Thanks also goes out to Ed Brown our secretary for putting up with all, of my late agendas and following thru with the minutes of the meetings and other correspondence that was required, thanks to Scott Mitchell-Taylor for taking on the treasurer’s position and tackling Quick Books even when it did not respond the way he wanted it to. Great job Scott. Also, thank you to the two Vice Presidents, Dave Fryman and Mark Lods for their support and great job tackling the task of adjusting the 4 quadrants, to tackle the Regional Conferences in lieu of single chapters. I think that this will make the next Regional Conferences, consisting of 3 or 4 chapters help not only financially, but that they are more involved, which I hope will increase attendance. Thanks to Lacey Thomas for taking on the Emerging Professional directors position on the board and know that she has made a great impact on all, of the board members with her vivacious personality. Thanks also goes out to the Editor, Jack Morgan, what a fantastic job. Last, but not least, I need to thank Thad Goodman, as the Institute Director and thank him for all, of his support during my tenure as president. FOR THE TEAM – THANK YOU VERY MUCH for all of your support this past year.

As I leave and become the Past President, want to encourage the new Region board of directors and all, of the new chapter officers as you start out in the new year.

Ken Schmidt, President; Ed Brown, President Elect; Dave Fryman and Mark Lods, Vice presidents; Gregg Jones, Secretary; Scott Mitchell-Taylor, Treasurer; Lacey Thomas, Emerging Professionals/Student Membership; Jack Morgan, Institute Director

Please give them all, of the support I was given this past year. Do not fear you will be hearing from me as I am also the nominating chair for next year and we will be needing a President Elect, Treasurer and a Vice President.

Thanks,

Henry (Hank) Hondorp
This is my final column as your Great Lakes Region Institute Director. I welcome my replacement, Jack Morgan, as the incoming Institute Director. I know that you will be in good hands. We created the Great Lakes Region newsletter communication platform in answer to your request for more information about and around CSI. We discussed how each piece would fit together and what we hoped to accomplish. This column is meant to show the scope of CSI at each level. We want you to know you have a voice in the room at all (chapter, region, and institute) CSI administration levels.

As a Chapter member, you have been encouraged to attend your chapter’s monthly meetings, keystone events, or find other ways to participate to add value to yourself and others. The Strength of CSI is in local connections and interactions.

My articles offered various reports on the benefits of CSI membership at the National level. CONSTRUCT, free Webinars, MasterFormat access, the new csiresources website and forums were just some of the highlights. There was education on the By-Laws vote and the new Policy Governance. There were reports on Mark Dorsey, the new CEO and his new Board structure. CSINext, our virtual chapter was explained. If by chance you explored it, Thank You.

This column focused on Region matters. The Great Lakes Region Conference in Akron May 18-20 was a great event. Consider going next year! There was discussion of some of the best Keystone events around the Region, and information on specific chapter progress in membership and activity. If you had ever thought about becoming an officer or committee member in the chapter, there was a month we highlighted the “Legacy Training” portion of the GRL Website. 24 hours a day, 7 days a week you can access training in either PDF or PPT forms (with speaker notes) to look over what it takes to be the next chapter President, Treasurer, Secretary, or various committee chairs. These are updated annually and also presented in person at the Region Conference for face to face interaction.

It’s been an honor to serve and represent the membership of CSI for the past 4 years with the view from the Great Lakes Region.