

John M. Griffith, FCSI

"For your dedicated service in providing educational opportunities to construction industry professionals; for leadership and guidance in updating the curriculum at Dunwoody College of Technology to include the CDT program as a graduation requirement; for mentoring students through introduction to CSI and encouraging their involvement; and for your efforts in promoting the principles of CSI, you are advanced to Fellowship in the Institute on the 14th day of May 2010."
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania



JOHN "GRIF" GRIFFITH was born in Minneapolis in 1945. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from the Minnesota State University Mankato in Speech and Theatre.

For many years, Griffith was the CEO of Empirehouse, Inc., a glass and glazing company located in Mounds View, Minnesota. He also worked for PPG Industries in Milwaukee. He started in the glass business repairing broken windows, working his way through high school and college obtaining training to become a journeyman glazier. He is experienced in the business of metal and glass and its installation.

He served as a Park Board Commissioner for Robbinsdale for more than 10 years. He also served as a Trustee for his church for over a decade.

Grif held many positions in the Minneapolis-St. Paul Chapter, including President, Vice President, and Region Director, and has served as member or chair of numerous committees. He also was active in assisting the Minneapolis-St. Paul Chapter and the North Central Region when developing their long range planning programs.

John was instrumental in creating a strong bond between his Chapter and the Minneapolis-based Dunwoody College of Technology, and developing student activities curricula.

For many members, Grif has been a primary fixture in the CSI experience. He has an uncanny ability not only to get people to step up for the organization, but to do so enthusiastically. He has done this by setting an example, creating an energy that makes people want to get more involved, and ensuring that new leaders have the tools to be successful. His talent for making the best use of all resources available to him, for driving for change when change is needed, and not to falling into the trap of "we've always done it that way," made him a valuable asset to the various CSI committees and boards on which he has served.

During more than 20 years as chair or member of the Minneapolis-St. Paul Chapter's Product Fair Committee, he helped improve education programs, worked hard to bring in more students and help them network, and increased exposure to other organizations and the construction community in general. Griffith also played a key role in establishing the current structure of the chapter board, with administration through an executive director.

As president of the North Central Region, Grif played a major role in revitalizing the region and helping to develop chapter leaders throughout the region. He played host to national and regional conventions, as co-chair of the host committee for a wildly successful 1995 national convention and 1999 region conference.

CSI Membership

Minneapolis-St. Paul Chapter, 1983
Twin Ports Chapter Charter Member

Institute Offices, Committees

Convention Host Co-Chair, FY 1995
Institute Director, FY 2007-2010
Region Boundaries Task Team, FY 2008
Compensation, Performance, Evaluation Committee,
FY 2009

Region Offices, Committees

President, FY 2009-2011

Awards

Institute

Certificate of Merit and Appreciation, 1995
Certificate of Appreciation, 1998
President's Plaque, 2000
Certificate of Merit and Appreciation, 2001
CSC Program Directors Award, 2006

Region

Institute Director's Certificate, 1995, 1999, 2001, 2002,
2003, 2005, 2008
Certificate of Appreciation, 2002, 2003
Region Service Award, 2008