



SPECTRUM

Newsletter of the Puget Sound Chapter CSI

President's Message

David Landrey, CSI

Exposing Puget Sound CSI to the Industry

"That the powerful play goes on, and you may contribute a verse."

That is the 'answer' to Walt Whitman's poem "O me, O life" which was wonderfully read aloud by Robin Williams in the Dead Poets Society and more recently popularized in an Apple commercial, inspiring everyday folks to capture extraordinary moments. Since our charter founding in 1958, Puget Sound Chapter of CSI has contributed a bit more than just one extraordinary verse or section number. The people and the history of our trail-blazing chapter should be known and inspire us all to take up a part in the play. People like Frank Stanton, who wrote the earliest versions of MasterFormat in 1959-63. Followed by Walt Bishop, who brought Frank's work to the attention of the General Services Administration for implementation. Before we skip through 50 years and leave out far too many contributors, let's pause and fast-forward to 2015.



We should all be amazed at the caliber of people actively involved in Puget Sound CSI. It's not just because we're the fourth largest chapter in CSI and have the numbers. It's the *comprehensive balance* of professional and industry expertise combined with the dynamic, well-funded construction economy. This has always been a chapter with some great specification writers, but the chapter also benefits from super-talented members in the fields of engineering, consulting/inspection, construction management and manufacturing.

The Vision and the Mission.

Thanks to Beth Stroshane, we inherit a sound vision for our chapter. Her style of "hey, I may not know how this all works or how it's going to end-up, but I am pretty sure we have all the tools within our grasp to make it work" has subtly galvanized our chapter around her

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EVENTS CALENDAR

2015-2016

ChapterProgram Topics

September 10, 2015
To Be Determined

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President
[David Landrey](#)

President Elect

vision. Thanks to her leadership, we enjoy an atmosphere at dinner/lunch meetings and educational seminars that reflect Beth's 'matter-of-fact' attitude toward everyday challenges at work and challenges for our chapter. Let's continue to cultivate that cool mix of seriousness and fun!

Key tenants of **Beth's vision** for our chapter are:

1. *CSI represents/respects everyone. (We always have)*
2. *CSI education is pragmatic. (How to technically get things done and work better together)*
3. *CSI understands that the AEC industry runs on both data and knowledge. To make the many facets work together, we have to get knowledge & the data working together to invent the next solution. When this is done correctly, the results provide greater value to the Owner on multiple levels.*

Institute Mission Statement

CSI is dedicated to creating standards and formats to improve construction documents and project delivery. It is the only organization serving all the major components of the building team involved in non-residential building design and construction including architects, specifiers, engineers, material suppliers, contractors, owners, government and beyond. Through meetings, educational and social events and networking, members openly communicate with their counterparts to exchange information for successful project management.

As of this writing, I have not memorized the Mission Statement, but I do grasp its intention. For me, it's the simple image of a pyramid. The apex of our chapter is the specifier. Supporting that top-block is an encyclopedic set of partners from every part of architecture, engineering, manufacturing & construction. En todo, we make up a pantheon of technical information, education and knowledge all redounding from people we personally know and who are willing to contribute their respective slices of know-how.

Is CSI going to be more or less relevant to the specifier than we were back in 1959 or even 1995? Give that some thought. It's OK if you have doubts. Admittedly, I am very optimistic because of the level of competency I see in our membership and other chapters.

My fist swipe into the 'relevancy' question is to start with basic prioritization. Are we serving the needs of specifiers? Are we helping them deliver a better product for the industry and ultimately increase value for building owners?

If we focus on that priority and back it all up with the most pragmatic knowledge available, then I think the relevancy of CSI is assured and expanded.

Extending the Vision - Becoming the 'Collaborative Hub of Education'

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Spectrum is published monthly as a benefit for

The logical extension of the “education, education, education” mantra is to see our Puget Sound Chapter become the collaborative hub of Architecture-Engineering-Construction education and a clearing house commonly used of industry standards. I hope during our summer recess that you’ll have a chance to get out there and chat it up with other industry groups. Don’t be shy about waving the CSI flag. Tell the CSI story and look for opportunities to work with other groups. All CSI members should have natural associations with at least a few industry trade groups (for me it’s the ACI, TCNA and ICRI). Gather up and pass along to CSI what other organizations are doing in the industry. Be an ambassador of Puget Sound CSI and keep us in the loop on the publication of any new standards, emerging trends and affiliate education events. Our chapter website will be happy to post ‘Affiliate Events’. Let them know we are open for collaboration on just about anything related to specifications, standards, and know-how. Just send me an email.

Our chapter of CSI has a great educational atmosphere where we find mutuality with other CSI members. So please put in what you can. What’s good for CSI is very likely good for your career and vice-versa. Consider what you have to contribute to CSI and give us your *best* verse.

To loosely quote Walt Whitman, *“That the powerful play of construction goes on and you may contribute a verse, or a new standard or a whole new section number!”*

What will be your contribution?

Quick Pitches

There are openings for ten-minute Quick Pitches at our Chapter meetings next fall at a cost of \$180.00. Contact [Dick Owen](#) to sign up.



Online MasterFormat and Product Listings Directory Now Available for Members!

Looking for an easy way to advertise your services and products to our website visitors? Puget Sound CSI members may now sign up to be included in our new online [MasterFormat and Product Listings Directory!](#)

members of the Puget Sound Chapter CSI.

Articles must be submitted by the 15th of the month for the next month's edition. Email submissions to office@pscsci.org.

Visit www.pscsci.org to subscribe or to view current and back issues.

LINKS

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Join CSI



Members may be included in the directory by completing our [online form](#). The first listing is **free for members**, and each additional MasterFormat listing is \$28. Listings are active for one year from the date you join.

Please [contact our office](#) with any questions you may have.

Tech Talk Feedback

Help us create a unique Tech Talk series that you're excited to attend. As we start planning next season's Tech Talks, we'd love to hear your ideas and feedback about topics, format (panel discussion versus demonstration versus lecture), tours, and pricing, as well as whether you'd be more likely to attend if Tech Talks were changed to a bi-monthly half day learning series. Please forward your suggestions and feedback to Melissa.Balestri@zqf.com. We hope to see you at next year's Tech Talks!

2015 Chapter Awards Dinner Recap

By Kelly Laleman, CSI, CCS

The awards banquet was held this year at McCormick & Schmick's on Westlake. Lake Union was a great backdrop on a sunny day, especially with the seaplanes landing right outside the window. Inside, we enjoyed drinks, compliments of the event sponsors: Sika, Raeco, and Applied Building Information. This month we enjoyed some fantastic hors d'oeuvres during the cocktail hour. In the awards presentation, outgoing president Beth Stroshane gave out the president's certificates of appreciation for the year, and the president's gavel was officially handed over to new the new chapter president Dave Landrey. Beth Stroshane was also awarded a Certificate of Merit and Appreciation from Institute.



PRESIDENT'S CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION

(in the words of Beth Stroshane)



Chad Brickner, Shovel

For digging into something new and handling the challenge both humbly and brilliantly.



Melissa Balestri, Magic Beans

For your vision to evolve our education program, the perseverance to see it through, and the patience to watch it grow. I'm truly excited to see what happens next!



Kelly Laleman, Train Tracks

For developing the communications content and systems to move our chapter into the future, and keeping us all on track.



Dick Owen, Smooth Sailing

Who effortlessly makes things happen whenever I remember to ask and points out the rocks ahead that I can't even see yet.



Hugh Kuyper, Mythical Creature

For making magical and helpful things happen when I didn't know they needed to be done.

INSTITUTE CERTIFICATE OF MERIT AND APPRECIATION

(in the words of CSI Institute)



Beth Strohane

For your devoted and selfless personal contribution to the Institute and your chapter while serving as president of the Puget Sound Chapter, 2014-2015.



Under-specifying: less is not always more

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

One of my favorite tales I use when teaching about specifications happened to me shortly after I took my first job as a specifier, at the University of Minnesota. Prior to taking this job, the sum total of my experience with specifications consisted of copying specifications onto drawing sheets. This activity was presented to me as little more than a mindless job, a necessary evil that was to be done as quickly as possible, with no explanation of what specifications are. As you might expect, there was no mention of CSI, MasterFormat, or SectionFormat.



This seminal event in my life as a specifier took place within a few weeks of starting my new job. It started with a phone call from one of the construction administrators.

[Read more >>](#)



About CSI

CSI is a national association of specifiers, architects, engineers, contractors, facility managers, product representatives, manufacturers, owners and others who are experts in building construction and the materials used therein. They are dedicated to improving the communication of construction information through:

- A diversified membership base of allied professionals involved in the creation and management of the built environment. Join us.
- Continuous development and transformation of standards and formats.
- Education and certification of professionals to improve project delivery processes.
- Creation of practice tools to assist users throughout the facility life-cycle. Join a CSI Practice Group.

CSI is governed by a Board of Directors, a nationally elected body that provides long-range strategic leadership. The Board is composed of nationally elected CSI officers, including the president, president-elect, two vice presidents, the secretary, and the treasurer; elected representatives (directors) from each of CSI's 10 regions; and a director at large. CSI's executive director/CEO is a corporate officer.

For more information about or to join CSI, visit www.csinet.org/joincsi, or call 800-689-2900.

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