PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE
Programs, Programs, Programs!
Kevin Vaughn

There is a well known saying that to be successful in real estate, it is important to focus on the three most important things: location, location, location.

Having been in a leadership position with the Puget Sound Chapter of CSI for nearly a year now, what has become abundantly clear to me is that to be a successful chapter, it’s vital to focus on the three most important things CSI offers: programs, programs, programs.

Looking back on the meetings we’ve had, our chapter has been very fortunate to have held several very interesting programs this year. Our talk on the Amazon Spheres project, the new McMenamins Elks Temple restoration in Tacoma, and the redevelopment of the Seattle waterfront and seawall were all fascinating and informative, and definitely offered our members a perspective on subjects not available anywhere else.

After accepting the challenge of being President this year, I took several weeks to meet with many local spec writers to ask them what kind of programs they would like to see from our chapter in the coming year. Although we have many active members who are top specification writers, sadly, many of the region’s professional specifiers neither belong to CSI, nor regularly attend our local chapter meetings.

Although there are a host of reasons for this
dynamic, ranging from traffic to the realities of raising a family, the most consistent answer I received to the question, “Why don’t you attend CSI meetings?” was that our programs were simply not compelling enough to warrant taking the time after work to attend.

Given the quality of many of the programs we’ve hosted this year, I might take issue with the statement, but it certainly doesn’t conflict with my earlier statement concerning “programs, programs, and programs.” In fact, I am reminded of a comment from a spec writer whose opinion I greatly respect, “Why would I attend CSI if I can simply have great programs come to me weekly at my office, at no cost?” It’s a valid point and a reality our chapter leaders need to seriously consider moving forward.

So what’s the answer to the question of great programs? At first glance it might seem difficult to put these quality programs together. Fortunately, our chapter has a secret weapon that simply needs to be activated and will provide month after month of informative, interesting and popular programs.

That weapon? YOU!

Each of us is involved in the construction industry in various ways and have contacts and ideas about different aspects of the local construction market. If each member would submit one or two ideas for interesting programs, we could have meetings planned for months and months in advance. Not only would this help our chapter attract members and non-members alike to our meetings, but it would give us a solid calendar moving forward and will help us market our events to promote attendance and sponsors.

So, dear reader, what are the topics you’d like to learn more about at an upcoming chapter meeting?

After all, it’s all about “Programs, Programs, Programs”!

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**Save the Dates**

**May 9th: Specifying Award Winning Facades 12-1PM**

**Location:** Kell’s Irish Restaurant and Bar, 1916 Post Alley Seattle, WA 98101
May 30th: ICRI / CSI Speed Networking - Concrete Restoration @ Speed of Sound! 5PM - 8PM

You are invited to attend a joint ICRI / CSI speed networking event at the Washington Athletic Club on Thursday, May 30th!

Summary of Event
- 5:00 - 5:30 Check-in
- 5:30 - 7:00 Speed Networking Event
- 7:00 - 8:00 Social / Happy Hour featuring heavy hors d’oeuvres

Three Levels of Opportunity:
1. Speed Networking (Industry Sponsor) 15 available
2. Executive Sponsor (Local Distributor) 4 available
3. Specifier / Consultant / Contractor (Attending) 15-30 available

Background on Speed Networking:
Speed networking is designed to accelerate business contacts through facilitated introductions and conversations – at speed. A common structure is to rotate all participants in quick succession so that each person gets the chance to engage one on one with as many people as possible. For each rotation, you have a set time – generally 5 minutes each – to introduce yourself and learn more about the other person, making speed networking highly efficient.

Each person has time to deliver their elevator pitch and find out how they can be of service to each other including making introductions to others in their networks. For the busy, time-poor construction professional, making many new connections in as little time as possible is gold!

On discovering a shared interest, you can exchange business cards and set up a future meeting. Or, if the person is not the connection you’re looking for, you will quickly move on to the next person with no obligation to hang around or meet later. No time is wasted. Speed networking is a great way to meet construction professionals outside of your usual circle of influence who are actively seeking new markets or sourcing new suppliers. In other words, they are ready to do business. Once you find a common interest, it might not be too long before a new project or specification is in the works!

ProSpec Leadership Opportunity

ProSpec is an annual tradeshow and dinner that involves many CSI and non-CSI members in a fun filled event of networking and learning. Julie Taylor has had the opportunity to chair the ProSpec committee for five years. She would now like to make this fulfilling activity available to other CSI members. Ideally, a new chair would work with the committee this year to plan ProSpec 2020 to get a sense of the duties involved and be ready to take over for ProSpec 2021. If this is you, please contact Julie Taylor or Melissa Balestri.
Get Your Voice Heard

Answer a few questions to help shape CSI into the organization you can’t wait to be involved with all next season. 
(est. 5-10 minutes to complete)

TAKE SURVEY

Technically...
John Aldredge of LMN on the Origin of Words

April 6th we went to Kane Hall at the UW for the live taping of NPR’s game show “Says You!”

One of the pieces of the game is a bluffing round in which 1 player on a team is provided the real definition of a word and the other 2 team members have to make up definitions, then the other team must decide which definition is the real one. One of the words **looked** familiar, but when the 1st person read out their “definition” I said to Leta “That’s the correct one” (though some know it as scrunching up your face and eyes).

**squinch** - a small arch, corbeling, or the like, built across the interior angle between two walls, as in a square tower for supporting the side of a superimposed octagonal spire. 1490-1500; variant of *scunch*, short for *scuncheon*, Middle English *sconch(e)on* < Middle French *escoinson,esconchon*; see *sconcheon*

**sconcheon** - the reveal of a window or doorway from the frame to the inner face of the wall. 1325-75; Middle English *sconchon, sconcheon* < Old French *escoinson* corner, cut angle, derivative of coin, cuigneangle; see *coin*

**coin** - c. 1300, "a wedge," from Old French *coing* (12c.) "a wedge; stamp; piece of money; corner, angle," from Latin *cuneus* "a wedge." The die for stamping metal was wedge-shaped, and the English word came to mean "thing stamped, a piece of money" by late 14c. (a sense that already had developed in French). Cf. *guoin*, which split off from this word 16c. Modern French *coin* is "corner, angle, nook."
quoin - an external solid angle of a wall or the like. One of the stones forming it; cornerstone. a wedge-shaped piece of wood, stone or other material, used for any of various purposes.

Click here to see the full calendar of events on the website.