



THIS MONTH:

FEBRUARY 22nd, 2007

AVOIDING AND RESOLVING CONSTRUCTION DISPUTES

TIME

Thursday, February 22nd, 2007
11:00am – 2:00pm

LOCATION

DoubleTree Hotel & Conference Center
1117 Williston Road, S. Burlington VT

CREDITS

(2) AIA HSW credits available

SPEAKERS

Karen Jalkut, *American Arbitration Assoc.*
William Alexander ‘Sandy’ Fead, Esq., CSI
Roger Marshall, AIA, CSI, CCS

SUMMARY

What are the ways that good Contract Documents, Project Administration, and Communication can keep a project running smoothly? If something does go wrong, what are possible methods to resolve disputes and avoid the courtroom?

Guest speakers Karen Jalkut, *American Arbitration Association*; Sandy Fead, *Fead Construction Law*; and moderator Roger Marshall, AIA will address these topics and more. Join the discussion and bring questions for the Guest Speakers! Handouts will include a sample Arbitration Agreement and a copy of the VT Arbitration Law.

Hope to see you there!

COST

\$35 CSI Members
\$50 non-members

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Fead Construction Law ;
Lynn Thomas & Mihalich ;
Tarrant, Marks and Gillies

RESERVATIONS

Please call Gloria at Don-Vac,
(802) 878-5006 x 321
or email gloriam@donvac.com
by noon Monday, Feb. 19th.

CSI Certifications CSI VT Study Course

The annual Vermont Chapter CSI Certification Study Sessions, with the Chapter Certifications Chair Adam Bortz, are well underway. The course is geared towards preparing participants for the Construction Documents Technologist (CDT) exam; the next exams date is scheduled for March 31. Best of luck to the exam-takers, and congratulations on taking advantage of the opportunity!

OpEd – Governance Thumbs-Down on Proposed Changes

*by Jonathan Miller, FCSI, CCS, CCCA,
AIA, SCIP, NCARB*

Much has been thrown at us regarding the governance proposal being brought to the CSI members for a vote.

I wanted to give you my two cents and then let you decide for yourselves how to vote...and please make sure you DO vote.

While a governance change is really mandatory for CSI, the details of this change can really hinder CSI's future viability and needs to be carefully considered, discussed, a consensus reached and then a proposal worked up and brought to a vote.

The governance proposal being brought to us for a vote is one big complex change and not broken into parts that can be voted on over a 2 or 3 year period...with needed modifications to make it more palatable.

It seems to be to be a nothing or all proposal, with nothing happening if they do not get a 2/3rds vote. Why do they need 2/3rds? It's because we are voting to change our governing Bylaws.

[Read the changes at the CSI Forums.](#)

continued p.6

WE WANT YOU ...

...to make a contribution to the Green Mountain Specifier – ideas, articles, letters, advertising or other relevant material (if you're polite, maybe we'll even take irrelevant material). Contact:

Chris Eling, CSI, CDT, Editor
chris@pmarch.com
Peter Morris Architect
8 Roundtree Way
Vergennes VT 05491
phone: (802) 877-3830
fax: (802) 877-3972

OpEd – Governance Thumbs-Up on Proposed Changes

by Dennis Hall, FCSI, FAIA, SCIP

In February, you will have an opportunity to vote on the new governance proposal. But what does this vote really mean? This is not just a vote on governance but in order to fully understand the ramification of our vote, let's begin with a little background information.

In 1997 and 1999, CSI hired management consultants and the first issue that these consultants recommended was that we consider a change in culture and governance. As with all political bodies, the most difficult vote is a vote to change the structure that elected you to office. Despite increasingly negative financial and membership reports, several more management consultants over the following years recommended governance changes. Other professional and industry organizations were making cultural changes to respond to the rapid changes in the industry, but, CSI continued to stick to our long held ways of doing business – and the organization continued to struggle.

continued. p.6

PREV. PROGRAM:

DECEMBER 14, 2006

PAINT: NEW VOC REGULATIONS, INTUMESCENT COATINGS AND OTHER FIRE PAINTS

SPEAKERS

Bruce Werner, *Sherwin Williams*
Bill Dempster, *International Paint*

TIME/LOCATION

December 14, 2006, 11am-2pm
Doubletree Hotel, South Burlington, VT

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Bruce A. Werner, CSI; Architectural
Account Executive
820 Emerson St, Rochester NY 14613
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bruce.werner@sherwin.com

SUMMARY

Lots of info covered, regarding the VOC regulations put into effect in 2005 for a 12-state northeast region (from Virginia to New York to Maine) and how the new rules have affected suppliers and end-users' results; and an excellent overview of fireproofing – cementitious, mineral fiber, intumescent, and epoxy intumescent – and some of the advantages, drawbacks, and rough costs of each type.

Thanks to all those who attended and to all of our sponsors !

How Volunteering Pays You Back

by Kathi Trepper, Director of Membership for the Institute

We so often talk of the value of (un-paid) member volunteers to CSI, its mission and its maintenance. Of course CSI would not have sustained 60+ years of prominence, stable membership, leading edge technical documents and a robust education platform without the hard work and time spent by volunteers.

People volunteer for an endless variety of reasons. Many people want to gain experience, acquire new skills, meet new people, or expand their network of contacts as a way to get a new job or start a career. Others just want to give back to their community or industry, help a friend or promote a worthwhile activity. They do it because it makes them feel good. It gives them what a former Olympic Committee member describes as a "private smile."

But what about the value to YOU, the volunteer? Before we write off our time and energy as a "necessary sacrifice" to the cause, let's be honest. Isn't there something in it for you too?

Most of us volunteer at sometime in our lives. If we stick around after the first year (or two or three) I'll bet we could assess the benefits to us as quite significant. When you are bemoaning the fact that you are time-starved or can't find a way to fill the volunteer pipeline you may want to appeal to the less than altruistic reasons to volunteer. Here are a few tangible skills and benefits that volunteer experience can provide:

Business-Skills Development

- Budget and spreadsheet development
- Public speaking without reprisal -what a great opportunity to practice and deliver presentations without the fear of being judged, graded or evaluated by a supervisor
- Meeting planning and parliamentary procedure -would you have ever known about Robert's Rules of Order had it not been for CSI?!
- Project management and program development- what a great test of your organizational skills
- Human resource management- there is a great business need for those who are adroit in Team building and "skill set" coaching

continued, p.7



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MAY 17, 2007

CHANGING THE TIDE: GREEN AND SUSTAINABLE FACILITIES CONFERENCE

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Leith Sharp, *Director, Harvard Green Campus Initiative*

PRESENTATIONS BY:

University of Vermont
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TIME/LOCATION

Thursday, May 17th, 2007
8:00am – 5:00pm
Sheraton Hotel and Conference Center, South Burlington VT

CREDITS

(6) AIA HSW CEU's available

Stay tuned for more details...

Upcoming CSI Webinars Schedule

CSI's Webinar program is designed exclusively for busy professionals like you. These 90-minute interactive telephone/internet seminars provide you with the opportunity to learn more about industry issues without having to leave your office.

- You will be able to see materials and hear an instructor and ask questions in real time.
- Earn Credit: Most sessions qualify for .15 Continuing Education Units (CEUs) and 1.5 Learning Unit (LU) Hours.
- Cost PER SITE*: \$170 CSI members / \$270 non-members

Because participants are charged per site/telephone connection—not per person—a group can split the cost of a session registration! CSI members are encouraged to share a session (and the CSI member discount) with co-workers, other members, and guests from other firms. Invite your colleagues to join you for this seminar at no additional charge.

Register Now!

Space is limited for sites and individuals registering and is on a first-come-first-serve basis. Register now to ensure your space.

All Registrations must be received two (2) business days prior to the Webinar. Telephone dial-in and web log-in instructions will be forwarded to you 24 hours prior to event.

- ❑ **02/27/2007 – The LEED Family of Rating Systems**
2:00-3:30pm (ET)
Ross G. Spiegel, FCSI, CCS, CCCA, AIA, LEED-AP,
Fletcher-Thompson, Inc.
- ❑ **03/20/2007 – How the Courts Interpret Specifications**
2:00-3:30pm (ET)
Gerald I. Katz Esq., *Katz & Stone, L.L.P.*
- ❑ **03/27/2007 – Evaluating and Specifying Sustainable Product Attributes**
2:00-3:30pm (ET)
Paul R Bertram, Jr. FCSI, CDT - LEED AP, *PRB Design*
- ❑ **04/14/2007 – Successful Project Documentation for Sustainability**
2:00-3:30pm (ET)
Paul R Bertram, Jr. FCSI, CDT - LEED AP, *PRB Design*
Ross G. Spiegel, FCSI, CCS, CCCA, AIA, LEED-AP,
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For more information on these programs and how to register, visit the [Event Registration](#) page at www.csinet.org.

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Mr. Jonathan M. Miller

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Chapter Professional Development & Certification Chairs

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January Board Meeting Summary

This is but a summary; the full text of the 1/9/07 meeting minutes is available from the Chapter Secretary.

- The Chapter President, Victoria Rickert, reported that she has proposed an alternative timetable for chapter programs for FY08, which the Program Committee will study.
- Chapter stood at 138 members, 127 home chapter, and has remained in the 120-140 range for the past three years.
- Three persons had enrolled in Adam Bortz's CSI Certifications Study Course, which runs from 1/25 through 3/1.
- The Programs Committee reported on changes to the schedule of upcoming FY07 programs, including the rescheduling of the annual Green & Sustainable Trade Fair to May 17.
- A Motion was made to set a 2007 chapter dues schedule as follows: \$50 (full – professional/industry), \$25 (intermediate), \$15 (student), \$0 (Emeritus). Motion was seconded and carried unanimously.
- The Vermont Chapter's award submittal for the Institute's Outstanding Chapter Commendation Award had been completed and was delivered to the chapter president for review.
- For an Institute status report, it was announced that the Institute's Search Task Team had concluded their search and named a new Executive Director: Walter T. Marlowe, P.E., CAE [*an engineer!*].
- The 2007 CSI Show and Annual Convention was slated to take place in June. This year's convention will be in Baltimore MD.
- Jonathan Miller also reported on the status of the proposed Institute governance changes, which will be up for a vote by the membership in February. The proposed changes had engendered some debate [*two viewpoints are published on p.1*].

■ g m s ■

Mr. Christopher M. Eling, CSI, CDT

Newsletter Editor, *Chapter Secretary

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Chapter Awards Chair

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Call For Volunteers - VT CSI Leadership

We are always looking for help from our membership to continue to be successful. Get a more rewarding experience from CSI and help out! A couple hours a month is all it takes for most positions.

All those interested are welcome at our board meetings. Typically the monthly meeting is held on the first Tuesday of each month. Contact President Victoria Rickert at vrickert@eastcoasttile.com for more information or to let us know that you can come...thanks !

Record Tower Garners Scant Notice in Booming Dubai

The Burj Dubai, a soaring, modern high-rise under construction in the hotel-heavy Persian Gulf city-state of Dubai, will soon be the tallest building in the world. But even that distinction isn't enough to garner much attention in Dubai, where construction cranes dot the skyline like nesting storks. New additions will soon include the world's largest amusement park, the biggest mall, and a number of other man-made wonders including the iconic sail-shaped Burj al Arab hotel.

via CSI SmartBrief, [USA TODAY](#) (1/24)

■ gms ■

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Thumbs-Down, by Jonathan Miller, continued from p.1

The main concerns on the CSI forums seem to be:

- too much Board control over nominating future board members
- control of Board representation and oversight responsibilities on the Finance Committee overseeing Board Finances
- disassociation of regions from the process and responsibilities of CSI Board members

The last one deserves some clarification. While being an Institute Director and Region President or Vice-President is near inhumanly impossible to do...and do both well (while keeping your job), there was a sense that our region was represented at the Board level.

That sense of regional representation is being removed by this proposal.

I believe that a solution exists that can address this concern in a more satisfying manner than is presently proposed.

Our region directors represented us and are behind this change...signing their names and e-mailing or posting their thoughts...and I've made them aware of my thoughts.

There is a belief that as imperfect as it is, it is better than what we have so it is a step in the right direction...and perhaps it is so...you decide.

Others involved are saying that the whole board will never vote to change again if we don't pass it now. Blarney that.

So, the upshot and my two cents are that CSI needs to take a more reasoned and inclusive approach to this change by breaking it into a few different parts for voting AFTER having a reasonable period (one year) of member input to refine the proposal and make the modifications that make sense.

I would be very happy to vote positively for a change.... but today I am very much leaning on a definite 'no'.

I have never liked eating elephants whole...I've better experience...and digestion...eating them one bite at a time.

- Jonathan Miller, FCSI, CCS, CCCA, AIA, SCIP, NCARB

Thumbs-Up, by Dennis Hall, continued from p.1

Approximately two years ago, a new effort to modify the governance took hold, which culminated in CSI hiring, ten months ago a construction industry renowned organization consultant. The Greenway Group, a consulting firm that only advises construction industry organizations recommended a change in culture to what is called an "entrepreneurial" model. The recommendation was not just for a change in governance from a large regionally elected Board to a smaller nationally elected Board, but it included a branding plan, and a plan to address the real needs of the industry and how CSI could be more relevant to those changes and its membership. The Board was briefed on trends in the industry at the June 2006 Board meeting and a workshop with all of the Board was conducted to assure that any forthcoming recommendations considered the needs of the whole organization. A governance task team of well-respected CSI members was created, led by Former President, Gary Betts.

In November 2006, the Task Team put forward its recommendations and the CSI Board of Directors voted unanimously to recommend to the membership a new governance proposal as a critical element in creating a forward-looking new culture. Whether this vote is because things have gotten so bad that the Board had no choice – or we finally have a Board with the courage to vote for real change, it does not really matter. The "entrepreneurial" Board structure makes sense on its own, but for CSI to see real benefit, it must be implemented as a complete plan. The governance proposal is first phase of the big vision and it is being introduced now because the Institute Bylaws must be amended and this requires a vote of the full membership. If the change in Bylaws does not happen now, it will either require a special vote of membership or a delay of more than a year before then new vision could be implemented.

This is not just a governance vote, it is a vote on the future of CSI. We need to give our Board a mandate for action. Vote "YES" for the governance proposal.

- Dennis Hall, FCSI, FAIA, SCIP

[Portions of this letter have been excised for space reasons; [full text](#) is available at www.csinet.org, as well as more discussion on the [CSI Forums](#). -Ed.]



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Volunteering, continued from p.2

- Market research/member needs assessments - most businesses, large and small, still need staff who are skilled in writing and evaluating surveys
- Technology – what an opportunity to learn chapter website development, banner ads, forums, creating and sending E-vites!
- Database management
- Public relations and marketing

Self-Confidence

- Practice in writing press releases and “schmoozing” with the media
- Celebrating small (and large) successes
- Recognition by your peers and colleagues for the volunteer commitment
- Imagination- did you know how creative you were?
- Discovering hidden talents –or did you realize you could make a crowd laugh?
- Has your sense of self assuredness kicked in now when communicating with peers, potential business alliances, employers, etc?

Recognition, Advancement and \$\$\$

- YOUR name in the press – as spokesperson for your Chapter and/or CSI
- Be sure to include your volunteer title and responsibilities on your resume
- Volunteering builds your resume. Relevant volunteer experience looks great-especially if you are new in your career or changing professions

So the next time you think about bowing out of your volunteer position – DON’T DO IT!! In your future are fame, fortune and friends for life!

For more information, contact the author at ktrepper@csinet.org



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EDITORIAL POLICY:

The Green Mountain Specifier is published as the official newsletter of the Vermont Chapter of the Construction Specifications Institute. Neither the Editor nor the Chapter assumes responsibility for any alleged errors, and opinions stated are not necessarily those of the Editor, the Chapter’s members or leadership, or the Institute.

Contributions to the newsletter are welcome, and should be submitted to the editor by the 24th of the month in order to be eligible for the next issue. Contributions may need to be edited for, among other things, clarity, file size, and length. Submitted pieces also may not be able to be accepted due to space constraints. –Editor

FY2007 Vermont Chapter CSI Events

2007

- June** Vermont Chapter CSI Awards Banquet
- May 17** “Changing The Tide – Green & Sustainable Facilities Conference”
keynote by Leith Sharp, Harvard Green Campus Initiative
Presentations by Middlebury College, UVM, State of Vermont, National Life Group
up to 6 AIA/HSW CEU’s available
8:00am-5:00pm at the Sheraton Hotel
- April** Vermont Chapter CSI – Annual Meeting
- March 22** “Solar and Wind Power Products & Technologies”
11:00am-2:00pm, at Vermont Technical College
- February 22** “Avoiding and Resolving Construction Disputes”
Karen Jalkut, *American Arbitration Association*
Sandy Fead, Esq., *CSI, Fead Construction Law*
Roger Marshall, *AIA, CSI, CCS moderator*
11:00am-2:00pm at the Double Tree Hotel
- Jan 25 – Mar 1** Vermont CSI Certifications Study Course
6 weekly sessions; w/Adam Bortz, CSI, (CCS retired)
- 2006**
- December 14** “Paint – VOC Regulations; and Intumescent Coatings”
Bruce Werner, *Sherwin Williams*
Bill Dempster, *International Paint*
11:00am-2:00pm at the Double Tree Hotel
- November 16** “Construction Bonding”
Eric Whalstrom, *Travelers Insurance*
“Liability Insurance for Construction Ind. Professionals”
Tom Poole, *Poole Professional*
Joint Program with the AGC of Vermont
11:00am-2:00pm at the Wyndham Hotel
- December 14** “Air Movement for Energy-Efficient Comfort”
Dr. Richard Aynsley, *Big-Ass Fans*
“Energy-Efficient Fresh Air Ventilation Systems”
Doug Hass, *SEMCO*
Joint Program with Champlain Valley ASHRAE

New Members Welcome!

18 new Members for FY’07 with 1 Sponsored

* Welcome back to old members rejoining!

January 2007

| | |
|----------------------------------|-----|
| Mr. Gabriel R. Austin, CSI-S | VTC |
| Mr. Anthony R. Belloir, CSI-S | VTC |
| Ms. Dena M. Blais, CSI-S | VTC |
| Mr. Travis C. Cochran, CSI-S | VTC |
| Mr. Kazimir K. Cunningham, CSI-S | VTC |
| Ms. Iris A. Davis, CSI-S | VTC |
| Mr. Matthew J. Dubois, CSI-S | VTC |
| Ms. Laura B. Gover, CSI-S | VTC |
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| Mr. Conor R. McManus, CSI-S | VTC |
| Mr. Kevin J. Morse, CSI-S | VTC |
| Mr. Matthew B. Ramsey, CSI-S | VTC |
| Mr. Jade W. Reed, CSI-S | VTC |
| Mr. Tyler P. Trombley, CSI-S | VTC |
| Mr. Justin A. Webster, CSI-S | VTC |

October 2006

Mr. John Roman, CSI, *State of Vermont*

September 2006

Mr. Joshua Crandall, CSI, *Straw Hat Drafting & Design*
Mr. Daniel Woodworth, CSI, *Office Environments Inc.*

June 2006

| | |
|--|-----|
| Mrs. Rhiannon Johnson, CSI-S, <i>GardnerKilcoyne Arch.</i> | |
| Mr. Peter Bendros, CSI-S | VTC |
| Mr. Kenneth Bushey, CSI-S | VTC |
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| Ms. Bailey Lamphere, CSI-S | VTC |
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| Mr. Matthew Lutters, CSI-S | VTC |
| Mr. Benjamin Moffatt, CSI-S | VTC |
| Mr. Matthew Morse, CSI-S | VTC |
| Mr. George Parosh, CSI-S | VTC |

VT CSI Website

John Gant has done a fantastic job with the Vermont Chapter CSI website, at www.csivermont.org. Boatloads of useful features are available, including online registration for chapter programs ; chapter documents ; member information ; and much more. Bookmark it today and keep track of chapter happenings over the www!

VT Chapter Stats as of December 31st :

| | |
|---|------|
| New Members, Jan07: | 15 |
| Members Lost, Dec06: | 8 |
| Total New Members for FY 2007 / Sponsored | 18/1 |
| Total Home Chapter Members | 131 |
| Total VT Chapter Members | 142 |