



Newsletter of the Santa Clara Valley Chapter of the Construction Specifications Institute
Serving the Valley of Santa Clara Since 1960 www.csiscv.org

June 2004

Summary

Installation and Awards Banquet

Don your favorite Hawaiian outfit and join us for the installation of the 2004-2005 chapter officers and presentation of awards.

When: **THURSDAY, June 3, 2004**

Location: Ramada Inn Silicon Valley, 1217 Wildwood Avenue, Sunnyvale (Lawrence Expressway and 101)

Times:	Social hour:	6:00 PM	Cocktails, Appetizers and Hawaiian Music
	Dinner:	7:00 PM	Hawaiian Dinner with Pork Tenderloin and Wine
	Program:	8:00 PM	Installation & Awards

Dinner Cost: \$25 per person

RSVP: Please call Krista Nelson at (408) 298-1885 or by email krista@aba-arch.com.
RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED ***** Call prior to Noon on Tuesday, June 1, 2004*****

Benefits of Membership in CSI

- CEU's (LU's) earned by attending the monthly meetings and seminars
- Low cost insurance
- *Construction Specifier* magazine
- Knowledge and learning
- Networking with some of the most successful professionals in the industry

Minutes of the Board Meeting

2003-2004 Board of Directors

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CSI, Santa Clara Valley Chapter
(Draft, Board Approval Pending)

PLACE: Ramada Inn,
Sunnyvale

DATE: May 06, 2004

TIME: 5:00 PM

PRESENT: Krista Nelson,
Hannah Moyer, Jim Balboni,
Dave Ingram, Gil Johnston,
Marvin Bamburg, Jeff Cremona,
Harry Hedges, Gus Sharvey

**1. Meeting was called to order
by Jim Balboni.**

**2. Minutes from last meeting
were accepted.**

3. Budget:

- a. Treasurer's Report was distributed by Marvin.
- b. The Treasurer's Report was approved by the Board.

4. Regional Director's Report:
No report.

5. President's Report: Jim Balboni reported on the Annual Meeting and Convention. It had low attendance, probably because people commonly take vacations to go to the Convention and few people want to take vacations in April. President's Banquet was not what it used to be. A \$459,000 annual loss was barely mentioned in the Treasurer's Report. The Annual Meeting should have been in front of the Convention, not hidden in the back. Krista attended and reported also. Gil: Chapter cannot afford to send the

President both to the CSI University and the Convention, can they be combined? An RFP has been received from the California Architectural Board.

6. Unfinished Business: None.

7. New Business: None.

8. Committee Reports:

a. Golf Tournament Committee: Jeff gave progress report. Jim commented on the good concept and direction. We should emphasize the premium golf course we rented to Architects, Contractors and Developers. The Board should get behind the effort, since we need the income.

b. Educational Seminar Committee: 18 people have signed up for the Seminar. Jim thinks it will be easier next time, when word gets out that the seminars have been resumed.

c. Sponsorship Task Team: Dave handed out flyer: "Advertisement and Sponsorship Opportunities 2004-2005"

d. Programs: Krista and Hannah are working on two programs.

e. Certification: Hannah: We should print "Thank You" cards for sponsors.

f. Editor/Publications: No report.

h. Website: Harry: We have a problem with "Microsoft." Hannah: can we post a Registration Form on the website?

Board continued on Page 8

Beta Test the New LEED Exam

The U.S. Green Building Council Curriculum & Accreditation Subcommittee is currently seeking USGBC member candidates to take the beta test version of the new LEED Professional Accreditation Exam. The beta test is a critical step in the year-long process to develop the new exam and candidates from all regions and disciplines are needed to perform statistical analysis of the final item bank. Selected candidates will be able to take the new exam at no charge and will be eligible for LEED Professional Accreditation based on their performance against the final forms of the exam to be released during the third quarter.

All applicants must be available to sit for the beta version of the LEED Professional Accreditation Exam at a Prometric Testing Center between June 14 and July 2, 2004. The duration of the testing session is 4 and one-half hours. Local testing centers are listed at www.prometric.com and

LEED *continued on Page 7*

TechTalk

As you have probably noticed, we have increasingly become a society of victims over the last decade or two. Someone spills hot coffee on themselves in their car and it's the fast food restaurant's fault. A burglar falls through a skylight onto the floor below and it's the store's problem. Given reports from various construction projects lately, perhaps the latest group to be victimized are building contractors.

I say this because of the number of times I have recently heard contractors claim: "Oh, I didn't include that in my bid" or "I didn't bid it that way" and fully expect the Owner to "belly up to the bar" and pay for such items that were clearly indicated in the Contract Documents. There are two completely different ways to approach these claims. One is to deny the claim, as the contractor is responsible for providing a bid number for a COMPLETE project; for everything that is contained within the Contract Documents. The other avenue is to look at it from the point of

TechTalk *continued on Page 8*

2003-2004 Committee Chairs

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West Region News

WEST REGION VICE PRESIDENT

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Region News – June 2004

Convention in Chicago was outstanding. While there were fewer exhibitors than last year due in large part to the AIA show in the same town in June, vendors were excited by the quality of the viewers.

Of course the social events were great opportunities for members to reunite with old pals from around the country, but the educational and technical sessions won rave reviews as well. Our own Sheryl Dodd-Hansen, FCSI and Ed Buch were active on the task team that selected the quality programs for this year's convention. Terrific job!

I was flying high as members and friends helped me celebrate investiture as Fellow. Also honored with Fellowship from the West Region were Henry Berg, FCSI and Michael Chusid, FCSI. Congratulations!

In addition, our own, Alan Tokugawa from San Francisco Chapter was presented with a commendation from the President for his dedicated service on the Manual of Practice Development Team. A huge undertaking. Well deserved congratulations, Alan!

The Region Caucus was well at-

tended by members from nearly every Chapter in the Region. We had a nice presentation by the San Diego folks who invited us to come and enjoy beautiful San Diego, "The Urban Paradise", at our Region Conference in Sept. Ingrid Baisch and her team did a great job of enticing us to get away from the usual work week and make plans to attend the Conference this fall. Every Chapter leader should be encouraged and funded to attend this major leadership development weekend.

Since most Chapters have had or will have elections, I hope you will start making plans to set aside money to sponsor or partially sponsor your new and upcoming leaders to attend CSI-U in San Antonio this July and the West Region Conference.

Some money has been set aside from the Region budget to subsidize some of the key Region leaders to attend CSI-U. This is the best curriculum of courses and experiences you can get in CSI leadership development. Please make the effort to participate. You and your Chapter are the ones who will gain from the experience.

I haven't heard from anyone with their list of Region Awards, so if you have ever received an award from the Region, please drop me an email so I can get the info to Joe Dworkin. He is compiling a data base of recipients and needs your help. Also, don't forget to

nominate your favorites for Region Awards. The deadline is June 30. If you are not sure about who to submit or for which award, just contact Joe and he will help you through the process. We have many worthy members who deserve recognition.

This week has been extra busy trying to secure new web hosting services. We are close to making the improvements in our site that will help us promote CSI to ALL members in the Region. You may be contacted soon to participate as a sponsor or advertiser.

We have some exciting things going on with our liaison to the State Architect. Dane Dodd-Hansen and Michael Chambers will be able to give us an update on that situation next month.

MasterFormat 04 Implementation Task Team (MF04TT) is in full swing. We in the West have some of our most dedicated members on that team. Lead by Michael Chambers, FCSI, FAIA the team comprised of, Sheryl Dodd-Hansen, FCSI, Michael Chusid, FCSI and me along with other members will establish a core curriculum and marketing plan to introduce our premier document to the greater construction community. Look for programs suitable for Chapter meetings and seminars to be announced in the near future. There will also be a session at CSI-U dedicated to the industry-

West Region *cont'd on Page 6*

SUMMARY

Electronic Documents and Construction Specifications

This four-part series, published in 1999-2000, begins with an explanation of hypertext markup language (HTML), how extensible markup language (XML) is related to HTML, how XML might affect construction specifications and other construction documents, and how CSI must address these issues to maintain its position as the leader in construction document formats and standards.

Part 1 - Hypertext Markup Language

Many years ago I had one of the first versions of AutoCAD. In its day it was an exciting tool, though a slow one at best. Running on an 8088 processor with little RAM, beginning redraw of even a simple drawing meant it was time for a coffee break. Despite its lethargic performance, the CAD advocates were promising that someday soon our CAD

documents would automatically produce specifications, materials lists, and cost estimates.

That was almost twenty years ago, and we're still not there. There are some high-end systems that can fulfill the promise, but for the average design firm, we still do things the old-fashioned way.

However, a few recent events indicate that more automation of construction documentation and processes is not far off. CADBlocks (www.cmdonl.com/cadblocks.html), developed by CMD Group, AutoDesk, and Thomas Publishing, offers standardized details and product information. The Uniform Drawing System (www.csinet.org/technic/topuds.htm), supported by CSI, AIA, the Tri-Service CADD/GIS Technology Center, the United States Coast Guard, and the National Institute of Building Sciences (NIBS) CADD Council, now sets a variety of standards for drawing information.

These efforts are leading to an easy exchange of drawings. Unless there is standardization at

Documents cont'd on Page 7

Planning Calendar 2004

Chapter Meetings

June 3 - Installation of Officers

July 1 - Drywall/Gypsum Board Update

Golf Tournament

June 24 - First Annual SCV Golf Tournament

Visit our website at
www.csiscv.org or

The West Region's website at
www.westregioncsi.org



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The Big Picture: MasterFormat and OCCS

This six-part series, which first appeared in 2001, looks at MasterFormat organization, OmniClass (then known as the Overall Construction Classification System, or OCCS), MasterFormat Level 4 identifiers, the need for unique section numbers and titles, expansion of MasterFormat, organizational systems for construction products and practices, and how MasterFormat might be used as a table in OmniClass.

Part 1

Many interesting comments have appeared in chapter newsletters and in on-line discussion forums at www.4specs.com and [bricsnet](http://bricsnet.com). There seems to be some misunderstanding about what OCCS (the Overall Construction Classification System) is, and how it might affect MasterFormat. Before looking at that issue, we should first look at MasterFormat, and the reasons it may soon become inadequate for construction documents.

A quick look at MasterFormat reveals that it is inconsistent and illogical. Some Divisions and documents deal with basic materials, others with product function, product location, still others with procedural and contractual matters. There is no logical way to know if wood flooring belongs in Division 6 because it is wood, or in Division 9 because it is a finish floor material. Some

Divisions are relatively empty, while others don't have enough five-digit numbers to go around.

Despite these inconsistencies, MasterFormat has proven to be a useful system for organizing construction information. Some creativity is occasionally required to use it, but its very lack of specificity makes it adaptable to nearly every situation.

Because not all numbers are assigned, unused numbers can be used by specifiers as needed. Closely related sections in "crowded" areas can even have the same section number in a firm's master specification library. One of the reasons this loose system works is that it has been used by humans, who have far more imagination than any computer.

People would have no difficulty finding wood doors under section number 08200, 08210, or 08211. Besides being listed as such in the table of contents, a person used to looking in Division 8 has a good chance of finding them. Why? Because we aren't locked into one-to-one correspondence between the world and our thinking.

As long as humans write and interpret specifications, a loose framework of organization is not just o.k. People can communicate complex ideas in relatively few words, the context helping decide what is being said. For example, we casually use the word "grout" for several products, yet we have little problem understanding that ceramic tile grout is not the same as masonry grout. Computers still need a little help with such things.

So what has changed? Computers, once limited to governments and large-scale projects, are now common

in the workplace. Unfortunately, most of us don't truly realize what they can do. I suspect most specifiers still use them in the same way they used typewriters, the primary benefits being the elimination of the carriage return bar and typewriter correction fluid.

They can do so much more, but some things will have to change to allow real progress in construction communication. One of those changes is increased definition of products and services. Because they have no imagination, computers rely on unique identifiers for each datum they process; close enough is not in the computer vocabulary. If solid core wood doors are supposed to be in 08210, then 08211 won't work! If twelve products have to fit into a ten number range of Level 4 numbers, something has to give.

Visit the CSI website at www.CSINet.org/ for the latest information on MasterFormat, and www.OCCSNet.org/ for the latest on OCCS.

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West Region *cont'd from Page 4*
wide implementation.

I think I have exhausted my key topic list for now. Please let me know of your great ideas for our Region. We have the BEST of CSI right here in the WEST. That means YOU.

Thank you for allowing me to serve you. I'm loving this job!

Architecture+ Awards 2004: "Design for a New World"

The Awards committee invites your participation in the international Architecture+ Awards 2004, *Design for a New World*.

The Awards are open to architects, landscape architects, urban designers and planners, and students from across the globe to enter, for projects successfully completed in the Middle East, Africa or Asia pacific region.

The Architecture+ Awards 2004 are the initiative of Inhouse Creative, the publishers of Dubai's magazine on architecture and design - Architecture+ *Architecture of a New World*. There are ten categories this year. Complete details of the categories is available online at <http://www.arcplusawards.com>.

A major highlight of the Awards this year is the *Aspiring Architect Award* for students. The cash prize of US\$10,000 makes the Architecture+ Aspiring Architect Award one of the largest monetary prizes for students of architecture and design in the world. The *Aspiring Architect Award* is collectively sponsored by Dubai's TECOM, Swarovsky and Architecture+ and will be administered by the American University of Sharjah, UAE. The Architecture+ Aspiring Architect Award is open to students globally under the same theme as

the Architecture+ Awards 2004, *Design for a New World*.

All entrants must register through the on-line entry form. Complete details of the submission guidelines and other event information is available online. All entrants must register by May 15, 2004; and all submissions must be received in Dubai by June 30th, 2004.

Documents *cont'd from Page 5*

this level, any further attempts to automate information exchange are doomed.

One of the most recent attempts is made possible by the universal acceptance of the Internet and its lingua franca, hypertext markup language or HTML. Browsers are little more than programs that can read and interpret a standard language, then display text and images based on the interpretation.

A variation of HTML is now under development. Called XML, for extensible markup language, it establishes rules for adding additional code to an Internet document. This information can be used to add product characteristics, such as cost or performance. It can also be used to control how the information is displayed; for example, a single document could be presented either as a text document within a browser, or as audible information with a speech generator.

XML already has many variants for specific industries. There is

one used to describe chemical structures, another for genetic structures, and others for general commerce. Of interest to us is aecXML, for the architecture, engineering, and construction industry. Next month we'll take a look at what it is and what it can mean for our business.

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LEED *cont'd from Page 3*

can also be located by speaking with a Prometric customer service representative by calling 1-888-215-4154. Candidates selected to take the exam will be notified by USGBC by May 21 and will be provided with a registration code to schedule for the beta test at no charge. Following the exam session, beta test candidate data will be evaluated by Prometric.

To apply to participate, complete the brief application form online at https://www.usgbc.org/surveys/public/call_for_leed_accruedited_professional_beta_test_candidates.asp. Only Web-based applications will be considered. The application must be submitted by 5:00 p.m. EST on Friday, May 14. Questions regarding the application process should be directed to leedinfor@usgbc.org.

SUMMARY

TechTalk *continued from Page 3*

view that the Owner will receive something of value for which he has not paid since it wasn't included in the bid price. To even consider this scenario, there has to be more than reasonable evidence that a mistake in the bid did occur.

Sure, just as there are going to be errors and omissions in the Contract Documents, mistakes can happen when a contractor is putting together a bid. Especially with projects that are publicly funded, the bidding process becomes extremely hectic and cut-throat during the last hours and minutes before a bid opening - it's easy to see how it can happen. But once a bid is submitted, the bidders have to live with the price submitted. Most of the time, if a contractor realizes he has made a mistake shortly after the bid opening, he is given the opportunity to withdraw his bid, given a reasonable, valid explanation of his error. It's the situations where the contractor knows that (sometimes major) flaws exist in his bid and he elects to take on the project anyway that are at issue here.

As a hypothetical example, let's say that a few months into construction, the framing subcontractor claims that he didn't include the exterior (structural) metal stud framing in his bid because there was no specification section to describe this portion of the work. However, the structural drawings clearly call out 6"

metal studs at 16" on center in a number of (appropriate) locations and the structural general drawing sheets contain charts for metal stud properties, including size, gauge and stud structural properties.

What call would you make? The Owner is in a difficult situation as he would have to go back to his Board of Directors (who are many times unfamiliar with the construction industry and its nuances), show them the Drawings that call for the studs, and try to convince them that they should pay for something that it is claimed wasn't included in the bid (good luck!). Even if the Board can somehow be convinced, the Owner then may have to go back to the funding source and ask for more money to pay for a change order for the work. Given this scenario, the determination at that level very likely is that the studs were clearly shown on the documents, we're not giving you any more money, so sad, too bad. The Owner would then have the option of funding out of his own pocket (again, not very likely, especially for a public entity) or he can ACTUALLY ENFORCE the terms of the contract, which will normally include a statement in the Instructions to Bidders section of the Project Manual that reads as follows: "The Bidder by making a bid represents that the bidder has made an examination of the Site; has carefully examined the Bidding Requirements, Form of Agreement, Specifications and Drawings, along with

any modifications and addenda as may have been issued; and has satisfied himself concerning the character, quality and quantity of all work to be done and materials to be furnished and/or disposed of. Proposals submitted shall include a sum sufficient to cover the cost of all items in the Contract. No additional allowance will be made for neglect of same."

Now, I'm the last one who would want to take food off of someone's table and make them "eat" \$100,000 because of an honest mistake. Yes, there are perils and risks involved with being a building contractor who is competitively bidding projects, but this trend is not going to be diminished unless the terms or the contract are enforced, or the way that public projects are bid is changed, which sounds like a good topic for my next article.

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Board *cont'd from Page 2*

- i. Operating/House: Suggestion to move Social Hour to start at 6:15 PM. instead of 6:00 PM.
- j. Membership: No report.
- k. Awards: No report.

9. Announcements: Jim asked Hannah to send flowers to Julie on behalf of the Board since Julie's mother passed away.

10. Meeting was adjourned 6:01 PM.