

Holiday Celebration

December is traditionally a busy month as people prepare for the holidays and the guests, shopping, cooking and travel that come with them. I hope that you have marked your calendars for our Chapter Holiday Party and Silent Auction on December 10. This is shaping up to be a fun event and you will even have a chance to do some holiday shopping while you network. If I don't see you there, I wish you happy holidays.

Twitter and Social Media Connects During Disaster

On November 17, a devastating tornado struck the Midwest with Washington, Illinois being one of the hardest hit cities. Twitter and social media played a huge role informing families their loved ones were safe and facilitating reunions. Debris from the tornado was found as far as 95 miles away, and a page was established on Facebook to try to reunite people with their belongings. It is an amazing world we live in with everyone as connected as they are. I'm sure that our fellow CSI members in the Midwest and beyond will be involved in the recovery and rebuilding of the effected cities.

Financial Forecast & CSI

In January, we will feature our annual financial forecast meeting. Many companies are putting together their budgets and determining where to invest their dollars. The economy is beginning to look better but in the past few years, companies have learned that they can do more with less. Often membership in associations like CSI is one area where companies decide to make cuts, but is that the wisest decision? CSI is the one organization that brings together architects, engineers, contractors and product representatives. All of these people working together are necessary for successful projects. Not only does CSI bring all project stakeholders together, but we also provide networking opportunities, certifications that make you stand out in a crowded job market, job search leads, continuing education credits, webinars to provide information to keep you up to date with changes in the built environment and chances to develop as a leader.

We're Number 1

Did you see the recent article that named Portland as America's favorite city? We have great food, wine and microbrews, live green and are the friendliest people – what's not to like? May 8 – 10, 2014 we will have the opportunity to show-off our beloved city when we host the Northwest Region Conference back-to-back with the Industry Forum. The Industry Forum will kick things off on Thursday May 8 with the 6 by 10 sessions followed by a trade show and reception and ending the night with a keynote by Snøhetta, an architecture firm based in Oslo with offices worldwide. There is a bridge tour planned for Saturday that will provide history and different look at these structures that we depend on every day. If you would like to volunteer for either or both of these events, let us know. Early registration and sponsorship opportunities are available now.

Contractors Share Group

In early 2014, we will be having our first Contractors Sharegroup meeting. Tim Cockburn will be answering all of questions about insurance and how it relates to the phases of construction. If you are interested in joining the Contractors Sharegroup or just attending the meeting, please send me an email at christineirwin@comcast.net and I will keep you posted on the details.

And on a personal note

On a more personal note, I would like to congratulate Contractor Plan Center and Trasi Hogenhout on celebrating their 20 year anniversary in November. Trasi as been a long-time supporter of CSI and she encouraged me to join CSI when I first went to work for her in 1995. It was a suggestion and I have benefitted so much from my membership. Thank you Trasi and congratulations on your success.