Program Information
Tuesday, January 12, 2010

Orange County CSI Chapter
January Meeting

Annual Joint Orange County/Los Angeles CSI Meeting

Tour: Lutron West Coast Education Experience Center

Speaker: Cliff Brewis Honorary AIACC
Senior Vice President & Western Region Director of Operations for McGraw-Hill Construction Information Group

Program: 2010 McGraw-Hill Construction Outlook

Join us on January 12, 2010 at the Lutron West Coast Education Center - Residential Experience Center featuring The Ultimate Home Theater Experience® Demonstration. After the tour and dinner, our speaker will be Cliff Brewis, Senior Vice President & Western Region Director of Operations for McGraw-Hill Construction Information Group. Is the construction economy in Southern California finally starting to turn around? Join us to hear McGraw-Hill Construction Information Group's thoughts for the economy and construction next year in Southern California.

Cliff Brewis is responsible for the newsgathering operation of McGraw-Hill Construction/Dodge, and is a frequent speaker on the construction forecast. He has over 30 years experience in construction. Cliff has been employed by McGraw-Hill for over 25 years, in both sales and operations. Cliff is a graduate in Economics from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. He has an MBA from American University in Washington D.C.

Lutron Experience Centers are impeccably designed and decorated to showcase the very best in electric lighting and electronic shading systems - brought to life by Lutron residential and commercial control systems. The Experience Center puts you right in the center of that control. A press of a button transforms rooms, whole areas, or the entire home or building - using preset scenes. Each vignette offers a visual symphony as lights and shades work in perfect harmony. All choreographed to accent décor, create a specific mood, or enhance safety and security. It's all about a lifestyle where everything - lighting, shades and draperies, security, entertainment, everything - can be controlled at the touch of a button.

Time: 5:00 - 6:30 PM Tour/Social/Tabletop Exhibits/No Host Bar
6:30 - 7:30 PM Dinner
7:30 - 8:30 PM Program

Location: Lutron Experience Center
2458 Dupont Drive
Irvine, California 92612

Directions: Orange County Thomas Guide Page 859, G-6.

Parking: Plenty of free parking

Dinner Cost: $40.00 for OCCCSI members and nonmembers with reservations. $45.00 at the door without reservation. (No-show reservations will be billed)

Tabletops: Product representatives are invited to display at this meeting. The cost for a tabletop is $80.00. Contact Pete Thomsen at (800) 600-6634 for information.

Reservations required by January 8, 2010. Call the OCCCSI hotline at 714-434-9909.
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Website: www.occsi.org

OCCCSCI Annual Golf Tournament

SAVE THE DATE

WHEN:        APRIL 20, 2010
WHERE:       BLACK GOLD GOLF CLUB
             ONE BLACK GOLD DRIVE
             YORBA LINDA, CALIFORNIA 92886

The Orange Peal is published bi-monthly by the Orange County Chapter of the Construction Specifications Institute and is mailed to all Chapter members and other selected CSI members nationwide. Inclusion of articles, announcements, business cards, advertisements and similar information does not necessarily imply endorsement thereof by CSI, OCCCSCI or the Newsletter staff.

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ADVERTISING RATES

Business Card Size Ad  $250.00
Double Card Size Ad  $350.00
Quarter Page Size Ad  $450.00

Ads should be submitted as camera ready art. If on disc, the format should be Adobe Illustrator or Photo Shop. To purchase an ad space please contact Dana Thornburg, CSI (800) 600-6634
Welcome to the year 2010 - Will this be a year of new hope & new opportunities? Eternal optimists that we are, we give a resounding “YES” to both hope and opportunity.

Our very first opportunity of the New Year for you will be: The Orange County/Los Angeles Joint CSI Meeting on January 12th. We will hold this meeting at Lutron Electronics in Irvine. Please make plans to join us for this very important first meeting of the New Year. We are very pleased to have Cliff Brewis of McGraw Hill Construction to be our featured speaker. Cliff will look inside the McGraw-Hill “crystal ball” and give us a close look at Construction Forecast 2010, with emphasis on the Southern California market. This subject has always been one of our more popular draws over the years.

For my second opportunity to start your new year, we will be hosting our OCCCSI Golf Tournament on April 20th at Black Gold Golf Course in Yorba Linda. You may recall we did not have a tournament last year, but we hope this special golf outing will be one just what the Doctor has ordered for the spring of year.

If you began to incorporate the LEED process last year, I hope that this continues to be a good working program for you in 2010. If you did not yet get this on line, perhaps it will be one of your business resolutions for this new business year.

If you are getting involved with the BIM Concept - This may also be a new opportunity for you and your firm to expand its scope of offerings to both new and existing clients.

Let us all hope that there are many new opportunities for growth in the coming new business year. On behalf of our Orange County CSI Chapter, may I extend the OCCCSI Board of Directors’ and my very best wishes to you and yours for a healthy and prosperous New Year.

Very truly yours,

Mike Baker
President - OC CSI Chapter
Let your life shine as an example! It is 2010! You are being called into action! You serve as an example to others every day. You observe others as well. We live by example. Everyone is watching everyone else. You may question the statement “to let your life shine”. You may believe that those who do great things are the only good examples. The truth is that you are an example no matter what! You only need to decide what kind of an example you will be.

Let your life shine as an example! You know that the economics in our industry have become more challenging. We have cycles of economic peaks and valleys. It appears that we are looking at quite a challenge especially into the next few years. You will be making careful choices with your income and expenditures. You may have already received a “bumper crop” of solicitations from non-profit groups for donations. You may need to make tough decisions in your charitable giving if at all. How can you give with grace in this economic environment?

Let your life shine as an example! There are non-profit groups that are desperate for donations due to loss and lack of private and government funding. There are groups that do not have mass mailings and fundraisers. These groups are down in the trenches doing God’s work with little extra time. Some simply do not have the expertise to do adequate fund raising. Some groups are less sophisticated and do not receive any private and government grants. They do not have the expertise to write for grants. They just are too busy working with children, adults and animals in need to solicit proper funding. How can you help?

Let your life shine as an example! Maybe you do not have surplus funds to give to these groups, however, you may have skills they can use. You may have the expertise to help them with fund raising and applying for grants from government or private groups. You may have time to participate in their activities. You may have the time to attend their Board of Directors meetings and give a fresh point of view or encouragement. You may help them maintain their facility or find solutions to their facility challenges. You may encourage your guests at a party to bring simple supplies needed by a non-profit group. You may have time to just sit and be with someone. You cannot even imagine how grateful and appreciative these groups will be for your efforts.

Let your life shine as an example! Our own Orange County CSI Chapter had a fundraiser for AHEAD With Horses in December. Those who attended the fabulous Holiday Party gave donations toward their mission to empower disabled, disadvantaged, and special-needs children by proving developmental therapy, education and recreation through horses and related experiences. The Director cried in gratitude.
On your next Institute ballot you will be asked to vote on elimination of the Professional, Industry, and Associate Member categories. Other than a vague suggestion that the result “better reflects CSI’s core value of building teamwork” - a questionable proposition in itself - I’m not sure what the justification will be, but I don’t believe the benefits outweigh the cost. To put this issue in perspective, let’s take a look at the history of CSI member categories. (To make things easier, I will refer to these three member categories as “full members” to distinguish them from Intermediate Members and Student Members, who are not allowed to vote or hold elective office. And to avoid having to continually express this exception, I acknowledge that member categories are used when discussing the makeup of CSI boards of directors and committees.)

Today, CSI’s original members would be considered Professional Members; they were specifiers who formed an organization to improve construction documents. There were no Industry, Associate, Intermediate, or Student Members. However, even though CSI’s Certificate of Incorporation did not define any member categories, it anticipated the possible need for them and allowed their creation.

It isn’t clear when CSI expanded its ranks to include Industry Members, but I think it’s fair to say that for many years they were not treated as well as they should have been. According to a reliable source, it wasn’t until 1966 that Industry Members were eligible for Fellowship; not until 1975 were members other than Professional Members allowed to vote; and it wasn’t until 1988 that an Industry Member was voted in as president-elect.

When I became a member in 1987, virtually all of that was past history, a history I did not learn of for many years. When I submitted my membership application, I easily chose the appropriate member category; the fact that there were three categories of full members did not concern me. Later, when I became more active in my chapter, I saw the member categories as a convenience for achieving balanced representation on the board of directors, a balance I consider to be one of our strengths.

Although we do have member categories, all full members now have the same rights and responsibilities. In practice, there is no difference, and there is nothing to suggest there is a difference. The terms Professional Member, Industry Member, and Associate Member do not appear on business cards, nor are they used in publications. After joining CSI, a member is a member is a member.