Have A Wonderful Summer!

No Monthly Meetings in July & August

COMING EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 12        MONTHLY MEETING - PHOENIX CLUB

OCTOBER 12          CONSTRUCTION PRODUCTS & SERVICES EXPO
                    MARCONI AUTOMOTIVE MUSEUM & FOUNDATION FOR KIDS

NOVEMBER 14         MONTHLY MEETING - PHOENIX CLUB

DECEMBER 5          ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY
                    ANTONELLO’S RESTAURANT, COSTA MESA

JANUARY 23, 2018       OCCCS/LACSI JOINT MEETING IN
                        ORANGE COUNTY
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I try to stay on top of this column as I not only enjoy the challenge of trying to say something articulate, but also be my sarcastic self along the way (I know, grammar issues and I don’t care). It saddens me to find out (as I write this) John Regener passed away last evening.

I don’t pretend to proclaim John and I were friends. If you are a veteran of the Orange County CSI Chapter you probably knew him better than me. I was rather intimidated by him. When I first started in outside sales, I thought that he would see right through me and my multitude of weaknesses. However, after one dinner meeting, John gave me a great piece of advice. Without getting too involved, he basically said, “know your industry”. John wasn’t looking for another sales rep to try to sell him plaster products one day and door hardware the next. He wanted someone that knew his or her stuff. He shared a couple more opinions that night, but all I can think about was how fortunate I was that John gave me the time of day as a green salesman.

I was going to keep this real short when I remembered someone else in the industry who passed away just a couple of months ago. Some of you may remember Mark Emfinger. He was a long-time sales rep for STO Corp. When we worked together at AMS, he not only became a friend and a mentor, but a father figure as well. He passed on after an aggressive form of cancer allowed him to go home.

John and Mark, see you at home one day.

Take time to remember people who have impacted not only your career, but your life too. Enjoy your Summer.
In life, you have moments of absolute clarity. One such moment was at the hospital bedside of John Regener with Connie at his side. We had a wonderful visit. John had been through some rough times health wise. No matter, John’s larger than life personality still boomed through his raspy voice. They just moved into a fabulous new home with their son Mark. They had traveled to visit family at the end of 2016. Life was moving on. John would be transported to a healthcare facility shortly. John was going to be cared for and made comfortable. As we said our goodbyes, that moment of absolute clarity burst forth. John looked me right in the eyes and said, “I love you.” That moment of Love was precious and served as a reminder of what this life is all about!

Words from David Lorenzini, FCSI, CCS, SCIP

"My email archives are organized in subfolders. One such subfolder is for Friends. It's amazing to review John's emails, since he comes alive again. He kept me up to date on life in California, and he asked questions about my safety during bad weather reports in Virginia. He talked about work opportunities and problems with Microsoft Word. He occasionally sprinkled them with some of his unique humor. Then, there is the seven month discussion about our plans to drive to the CSI Convention in Nashville from Virginia. He also cared very much about Connie and was so proud of her humanitarian work with the Red Cross. He was a true friend and will never die in my heart."

David

There is a thread honoring John with comments from our community:

Go to: http://discus.4specs.com/discus/messages/7512/8414.html?1497631440
One of the most treasured awards I received from CSI is the Ben John Small Memorial Award. First presented in 1996, and limited to one per year, only eleven people have received this award.

The award, originally intended "to honor those who have achieved outstanding stature and proficiency as specifiers," is named after Ben John Small, charter member and president of the Metropolitan New York Chapter. Ben was well known as an educator; he was a frequent lecturer at Columbia University, Princeton University, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and the Virginia Polytechnic Institute. He wrote columns for Pencil Points Magazine, which later became Progressive Architecture. He also wrote a number of books, including Architectural Practice, Building check list, and Streamlined specifications standards. (I have two of these books in my library.)

A couple of years after receiving the award, I was at the CSI office in Alexandria for an Institute board meeting. I recalled seeing an article about Ben John Small in the Construction Specifier, but all I could remember was that his son worked at the Smithsonian. I had a little extra time before my flight, so I went to the Smithsonian in hopes of meeting him.

I started my search at the information desk. "I'm looking for someone named Small. Do you know where I could find him?"

With a somewhat stern look, the receptionist replied, "Mr. Small is on the hill today. What did you want to see him about?"

I told her the Small I was looking for might be the son of Ben John Small. She asked for my phone number and said she would pass it on. And that, I thought, was that.

Later that day, as I was leaving for the airport, my cell phone rang.

"Is this Sheldon Wolfe?"

"Yes. What can I do for you?"

"This is Lawrence Small, Secretary of the Smithsonian. I heard you stopped in to see me." You can imagine my surprise as I realized that this wasn’t just some guy who worked at the Smithsonian, but the boss!

Mr. Small invited me to come back, but I didn’t have time. He then told me to call him in advance the next time I was in (continued on page 15)
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Event: Construction Products & Services Exposition 2017
Marconi Automotive Museum & Foundation for Kids
1302 Industrial Drive
Tustin, California 92780

October 12, 2017

Sponsor: Orange County Chapter Construction Specifications Institute

Invitation:
• You are invited to participate as an exhibitor.
• Display your products for local design professionals, owners, contractors, facilities managers and others.
• Exhibit hours are 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
• Gourmet hors d’oeuvres passed during exhibit hours.

Reservation: Please make your check payable to the Orange County CSI Chapter. Upon our receipt of your check, you will then receive set-up details and location confirmation. No credit card reservations will be accepted after October 10th. For questions, please call Dave Brown (714) 329-8498, E-MAIL dbrown.dpe@gmail.com or Bryan Stanley (714) 221-5520, E-MAIL: bryan@tsib.org.

Prices of Exhibits: BEFORE, August 1, 2017 (Postmarked) DISCOUNT CHECK/CASH
Tabletops (6’ x 2-1/2’ table).................................$600.00 each
Mini-Booths (8’ x 2-1/2’ table).............................$700.00 each
Booths (approx. 10’ x 8’)......................................$900.00 each

AFTER, August 1, 2017
Tabletops (6’ x 2-1/2’ table).................................$700.00 each
Mini-Booths (8’ x 2-1/2’ table).............................$800.00 each
Booths (approx. 10’ x 8’)......................................$1,000.00 each

For credit card transactions and prices go to our website at occcsi.org until October 10, 2017.

Mail to: Orange County CSI Chapter
Post Office Box 8899
Anaheim, CA 92812

RETURN THIS PORTION WITH YOUR CHECK
Event: Construction Products & Services Exposition 2017
October 12, 2017 - Marconi Automotive Museum & Foundation for Kids

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In Memorium  

JOHN ROLAND REGENER, JR., AIA, CSI, CCS, CCCA, SCIP  

By Connie Regener

John was born in Wilmington, Delaware but moved to the San Francisco Bay Area when he was 3 years old. He was educated in public schools there, where he drilled with a Drum and Bugle Corps. He played the lead in his senior play in high school. One summer in high school he enjoyed the position of harbormaster at a Young Life camp in Malibu, British Columbia, Canada.

During his college years, he earned his Water Safety credential with the Red Cross and was a lifeguard and swim teacher. He graduated with a Bachelor’s Degree in Architecture (B. Arch.) from the University of California, Berkeley. While in college he spent his summers in Officer Candidate School on the East Coast. While there, he sang in all 3 choirs - Catholic, Protestant, and Jewish - joking that it got him excused from a work detail. Upon graduation, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy where he earned the rank of full lieutenant during the Viet Nam Conflict. He attended Naval Justice School and was assigned to Cargo and Munitions ships. He and Connie held their engagement party at the Officer’s Club on Treasure Island. John served in the Naval Reserve for several years after returning to the mainland. One of his assignments was to refurbish the U.S.S. Enterprise when it was in port in Honolulu while Connie served as the Luau Officer.

Later in his career, he became interested in specifications and became a spec writer and contract administrator. He held several positions in CSI including the Orange County Chapter President, and was the recipient of several awards. He revised an edition of the book Construction Specification Writing that is used as the standard text in colleges today. He also did some forensic architecture consulting, requiring expert testimony in court.

John felt that architecture was the best profession in the world. He loved the fact that his training developed both sides of his brain—the masculine and the feminine—as there was both a science factor and a design factor that worked together to form the finished product. He felt that color was a language all its own. He loved to visit places that were special to architects, such as Taliesin, Taliesin West, and Arco Santi.

John liked to put people at ease with his humor. He told the story that one time he got a phone call from the local police asking if they could land their helicopter on a building he had designed. He told them that they could land it, but it would fall through the roof and wouldn’t be able to take off.

John gave generously of his time, teaching courses on spec writing for his colleagues through CSI and other organizations. He mentored a student through architectural school at his alma mater, Berkeley. He taught a specifications course at Saddleback Junior College. One of his favorite activities was the Orange County Spec Writer’s seminar luncheons which he arranged from time to time on a casual basis. This gave the product reps an audience and the spec writers some good continuing education.

John was a family man, married to Connie for 43 years. They have one son, Mark, who also attended CSI conventions and local meetings. One of Mark’s science projects centered on the properties of concrete when it is dried in different conditions. Connie and Mark live together in Ontario, California. John lived the American dream, having graduated from college and achieving professional status, although his parents never graduated from high school. (Same for Connie).

John died of natural causes in Upland, California on May 31, 2017. He was 70 years old. A memorial service with full military honors is planned for mid-July at Riverside National Cemetery, with a reception following.
OCCCSI INSTALLATION & AWARDS BANQUET

(photos By Dave & (son) Brown)
OCCCSI INSTALLATION & AWARDS BANQUET

(photos By Dave & (son) Brown)
OCCCSI INSTALLATION & AWARDS BANQUET

(photos By Dave & (son) Brown)
Come sail away to the past with LACSI On USS IOWA ship

JULY 26TH

ONE HOUR GROUP TOURS: 5:00PM. 5:20PM & 5:45PM

DINNER ON DECK: 7:00PM

REGISTER ON THE WEBSITE – INVITE FRIENDS AND FAMILY
Dearest of Geniuses

Dearest of Geniuses, A Life of Theodate Pope Riddle, describes life in high society America in the first half of the 20th Century through the personal and professional experiences of one of the first women architects in New York. Born into a wealthy Ohio family in 1867, Theo Pope attended Miss Porter's School for Girls in Connecticut until 1887. Her first interest in design or construction came about in 1890 during the renovation of a cottage where she lived in Farmington, CT. In this period she confides in her mother that she'll never marry and would like a professional career, an unusual approach to life for women at that time, especially for a woman coming from a wealthy family like hers.

In the 1890s women were just beginning to work in some professions, but not in architecture. At the time there were only two women in American architectural schools, one each at MIT and Cornell. Theo began her study of architectural history at Princeton in 1894 on the encouragement of her wealthy industrialist father, Alfred. Although she didn't graduate, (and it's not clear how much architectural education she had while at Princeton), her father arranged a job for her at the office of architects McKim Mead & White in 1896 where she worked on the design for the houses to be constructed on her family's 250 acre Connecticut estate. These were done in the Colonial Revival Style popular at that time. In 1906 Theo began work on a new prep school, Westover, that was to be run by her former teacher and intimate friend Mary Hillard. The two-story project was financed by her father and completed in 1909 in the Georgian style with Gothic end buildings all built around a courtyard. The design was praised by notable architect Cass Gilbert and by the Architectural League of New York City.

Throughout her life Theo suffered from depression and sought the help of mystics and other "spiritualists". In 1915 she funded psychical research at Harvard but this lasted only a couple years before Harvard questioned its validity and stopped it. Nevertheless, Theo continued her involvement with spiritual and psychical activity throughout her life. This led to a long term relationship with her psychiatrist, Dr. Beatrice Hinkle. The relationship was more than a professional one and continued after her marriage.

In October of 1913 Theo opens her architectural office and hired draftsmen. Her practice focused on the design of personal residences for wealthy families. In 1918, she began design work on her most important project, a school for boys on 3,000 acres in Avon, Connecticut. This project was funded by Theo herself. Design work on the boys school was interrupted by her marriage at age 49 to wealthy businessman and diplomat John Riddle and the commission that followed, (through family connections), for the design and renovation of Teddy Roosevelt's childhood home in New York City. When completed, it was considered to be a successful reconstruction of the original Roosevelt brownstone house and elevated Theo's status as an architect in New York.

Theo's design work on the boys school, now called the Avon Old Farms School, resumed in 1922. The design was influenced by the English Arts and Crafts Movement to the degree that Theo paid to bring English craftsmen from the Cotswolds to Avon to work on the project. It was constructed using indigenous rock, slate roof tiles and oak trim, "inspired by the Cotswolds but not imitating it." Her design for the school was praised by New York architects and was published in the AIA magazine, "Architecture." Cass Gilbert spoke favorably about Theo's design and she was admitted to the AIA in 1927. This was her second attempt after failing to win admission in 1919. She eventually received her New York architect's license and, in 1932, was the first female architect to be licensed in Connecticut.

The balance of the book covers Theo's life from 1927 until her death in 1946. It describes the progress of the school and the difficulties keeping it open in the 1930s with competition from other private schools in the area. During the Great Depression even wealthy families had a hard time justifying tuition costs. As a result, Theo had to continue her financial support for the school. During this period Theo and her husband John continued to make frequent trips to Europe, a practice that began when she was a child. It seems as though Theo didn't let her architectural work get in the way of her desire to see the world as a way to cope with her depression and to get away from the pressures of work. Theo Pope's lifestyle by today's standards would be nothing out of the ordinary, but considering that she grew up 100 years ago, it was certainly not mainstream.

The book is mostly about Theo rather than her architecture. Not surprising when you consider that the author's previous books were on Robert Frost and other American writers. Nevertheless, it does provide glimpses of architectural practices in the early 20th Century. Dearest of Geniuses, by Sandra Katz, was published by Tide-mark Press, Ltd. in 2003. It has 296 pages and includes many photos of the people in Theo's life.

Ed Buch, CSI, CCS, AIA, LEED AP
Los Angeles, CA
June 17, 2017
June 1, 2017: Bruno wants to open by October! We understand that reconstruction is going slowly. Bruno Serato celebrated the Anaheim White House’s 30th anniversary at Christ Cathedral in Garden Grove in early June. He promised the children he would reopen before Thanksgiving. Problem is that his insurance company has not declared what they will contribute to the rebuild estimated at $1.5 million. There have been fundraisers to assist Serato with current construction.

Bruno also is being pressured by the city of Anaheim to restore the 1909 historic home, which was changed back in 1987. That would significantly increase cost. Overall updates are planned, and the new plans would trigger costly code requirements as well. Anaheim is giving “lip service” to being helpful, but it is not evident at this time. Plans have been compromised to accommodate the city’s requirements for historic enhancements.

Bruno Serato was quoted in the Orange County Register: “My soul was so hurt,” he said regarding the fire. His mission with Catarina’s Club is going forward with gusto. Catarina’s Club is still delivering pasta to the most needy children. The cooking is done at Christ Cathedral in Garden Grove at no rental cost. In April, Serato expanded Catarina’s Club to San Juan Capistrano, Rancho Santa Margarita and Aliso Viejo. Bruno declared that 33 locations were now being served including Anaheim, Fullerton, Placentia, Orange, Garden Grove, Santa Ana, Stanton, Irvine, Costa Mesa, Yorba Linda, Buena Park, Fountain Valley, Long Beach and Los Angeles. Donation from individuals have kept this program going as well as support from KPC Healthcare, KFI 640AM Radio, Smart and Final, and with grant income.

In October, his memoir, “The Power of Pasta,” is to be released.
Washington. I took him up on his offer and called before the next board meeting. After greeting me on the first floor, he gave me a behind-the-scenes tour of the Castle (the administrative home of the Smithsonian). His office was a museum in itself, with a space suit, the Lone Ranger’s mask, a watch that was worn by an astronaut, and several other unique items on display. How much fun would it be to decorate your office with the entire Smithsonian to draw from?!

After talking about a controversial exhibit that included the nose of the Enola Gay, the B-19 used to drop an atomic bomb on Hiroshima, Lawrence told me an interesting story about the end of World War II. The story involved a pink cap that is part of the “Price of Freedom” exhibit in the Smithsonian. The cap belonged to Sandra Roche, who was born in 1945 in a Japanese internment camp in Weihsien, China (now Weifang). Food in the camp was inadequate, and Sandra developed rickets. The camp was liberated by seven American paratroopers 17 August 1945, just three days after Japan surrendered. Sandra’s mother asked the paratroopers to sign the pink cap; she then used blue thread to embroider their signatures onto the cap.

And now, as Paul Harvey would say, “the rest of the story.” About twenty years later, Lawrence met Sandra, and they were married in 1967.

Awards often mean little to people who don’t belong to the organization that presents them. While the awards may be appreciated by members of the organization, and may contribute to obtaining other awards or honors, they typically don’t have much impact on the recipient’s job or career. The reason, of course, is that people outside of the organization don’t know about the awards. Most people don’t blow their own horns, so unless someone else does something to publicize awards, they remain secret.

CSI has a great history of preaching to the choir. It’s fine to tell each other about what we’re doing or what we’ve done, but shouldn’t we also tell the rest of the world? If you’re bringing in an expert, a top-notch speaker, or a celebrity to address a chapter meeting, spread the word! The construction community is the obvious target, but there are times when the general public should be invited. Many chapters have had a Frank Lloyd Wright impersonator speak, but how many realized that people who aren’t involved in construction are F LW fans and invited them?

Promoting outside the chapter or region also applies to awards and honors. Awards committees at all levels should make notification part of their process. In most cases, it could be as simple as telling the recipient’s boss about the award. My preference would be to use a card or a letter, but even an email would work. For more important awards, a press release could be sent to local newspapers.

Awards acknowledge the contributions of members within the organization, but they also can be a positive influence on members’ careers.

© 2017, Sheldon Wolfe, RA, FCSI, CCS, CCCA, CSC
**Meeting Schedule and Information**

Make reservations by the Friday preceding the meeting. Call the Chapter Hotline at (714) 434-9909.

**Upcoming Meetings:**

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<td><strong>July 11</strong></td>
<td><strong>OCCCSI Board Meeting (5:30 P.M.)</strong></td>
<td>Thompson’s Design Center</td>
<td>1716 Case Road Orange, California</td>
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<td><strong>July 1</strong></td>
<td><strong>Newsletter Deadline</strong></td>
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<td><strong>August 8</strong></td>
<td><strong>OCCCSI Board Meeting (5:30 P.M.)</strong></td>
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<td><strong>September 12</strong></td>
<td><strong>OCCCSI Membership Meeting</strong></td>
<td>Phoenix Club</td>
<td>1340 S. Sanderson Avenue Anaheim, California</td>
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