



SCIPping Along

May 2014

Sheryl Dodd-Hansen, FCSI, CCS, CCCA, SCIP
Editor

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

David Lorenzini, FCSI, CCS, SCIP



GENERAL

As our two-year terms of office are winding down, the pace and intensity of the board's work is intensifying. Ballots for election of a new board of directors have been distributed. Planning for the annual SCIP meeting in Baltimore is under way. Our nine-year quest for incorporation is imminent.

INCORPORATION

Incorporation means we can finally implement online payment of dues and make other improvements to the website. It means we have to adopt revisions to our bylaws to comply with the new terminology (directors instead of officers). It means the directors won't have to take personal responsibility for online payment problems, and the treasurer won't have to put the SCIP checking account in his/her own name and pay income taxes on the interest (which is reimbursable).

ELECTION

By the time you receive this newsletter, the election will be in progress. Please vote.

ANNUAL MEETING

Details are still being worked out as this issue is being published. We have already posted the date of the meeting on the website as being Monday, September 8. The annual meeting will follow the basic pattern of past years. Draper will host breakfast starting at 8am. PPG will host lunch at noon. Dave Stutzman and Peter Jordan are planning another interesting afternoon education program. And yes, Arkema is again planning to cap off our day with another special

dinner event. A full schedule of details about the annual meeting will be published and sent to members in August. In the meantime, make your reservations in Baltimore soon since we understand the good ones are going fast.

SPONSORS

Sponsors of our annual meeting meals and A/V facilities make it possible for members to attend without cost. This year we have a long list of companies and organizations that want to sponsor our activities. To date we require sponsors pay for meals and facilities directly to the caterers and equipment providers. To accommodate the sponsors, the board is developing programs that will benefit our members and which will be funded by the sponsors directly. Once the preliminary list is created, we will distribute it to the members for additional ideas.

SPECIFIER ACADEMY

SCIP has been a sponsor itself. For the past two years SCIP has funded three SCIP member speakers each year at the Specifiers Academy. For 2015, SCIP will play a more active role in planning the Specifiers Academy, which will be held in San Francisco.

Contact me at deloren@scip.com if you have any questions that can't wait until the details of the Annual Meeting are published.

PRESIDENT-ELECT'S REPORT

David Stutzman, AIA, CSI, CCS, LEED AP, SCIP



SCIP is receiving a great deal of attention from manufacturers and product representatives. Apparently, the fact that the SCIP member directory is publically available has escaped notice in the past. When told where to find the list, the light comes on. After all, SCIP members, while few in number, represent potential access to a much greater architectural and engineering audience through client firms and lots of construction dollars.

So, is this new found notoriety the cause? SCIP is also receiving unsolicited offers to help support the organization. So much so, that we must keep a list because multiple members are providing sponsor leads. Now we must explore some options about how to accept these sponsorships and to put the financial support to good use - promoting members and specifiers, educating members, and providing reference materials. Sponsorships will help us make SCIP more visible, viable, and the organization that specifiers must join.

Presidential Term Goal: Organize a sponsorship program to support more than our annual meeting.

A new development is under discussion. A manufacturer approached SCIP to offer members an outing consisting of a tour of the manufacturer's facilities and showroom, and some educational

programs, too. The Board of Directors agreed that programs of this type are beneficial to SCIP members. We are trying to work out the tour details. Stay tuned for further developments. If this works well, perhaps future outings are in the offing as a member benefit.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Linda Stansen, CSI, CCS, RA, SCIP



Many of you are probably aware of the small trifold brochure we have been passing out at our booth at conventions. Sheryl Dodd-Hansen and I pulled it together many, many moons ago. The Board felt it was time to update and freshen it up a bit. At the same time we decided to divide it to serve two purposes. One was to continue as the initial flyer had been intended – to explain SCIP to potential members. The second purpose we have now is to provide our membership with something we can hand to our clients to explain who we are and how to find us. These will both be made available to membership on our website this June after elections are held. We hope that these trifolds will be of use to all our membership. Plan to look for them by the end of June.

Editor's Note: See samples at the end of this newsletter.

TREASURER'S REPORT

John Carter, CSI, CDT, RA, NCARB



The SCIP Treasurer is responsible for member renewals, new member applications, changes to member status (affiliate, professional, and retired member status), maintaining member listings on the SCIP website, addressing member comments, issues or concerns, and arranging the annual SCIP booth and furnishings at trade shows. Also the Treasurer manages our operating funds by receiving checks from members and sponsors, paying our bills, and monitoring our annual budget approved by the SCIP Board.

The SCIP fiscal year runs from July 1 to June 30, and the numbers that follow are as of late May in fiscal year 2014.

SCIP presently has a total membership of 184 members, consisting of 3 retired status members, 30 affiliate status members, and 151 professional (independent) status members. The operating funds are approximately \$32,000 at this time, with all bills paid at this time but much of our funds are earmarked for upcoming budgeted expenses. This year we have stayed within the approved budget.

I have been Treasurer for two terms (four years total) and my last term will end June 30, 2014. The Treasurer duties allow a special opportunity to get to know the members on a professional and personal level. So I want to tell all of our members how much I have enjoyed this responsibility, and how much I have enjoyed getting to know all of you a little better.

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Nina Giglio, FCSI, CCS, SCIP



The last year has been busy and it is amazing that the Board is planning for next year including activities at CONSTRUCT2014 in Baltimore and beyond. Over the last 5 or 6 years the SCIP leadership has been working toward better visibility for SCIP and its members. While we still have a long way to go, there have certainly been great strides. In the future SCIP is looking to take a bigger role with the Specifier track of the CSI Academies, as well as participation in new CSI initiatives focusing on the importance of Product Representatives as Trusted Advisors. SCIP continues to have a representative appointed to both the CSI Awards committee and the MasterFormat Maintenance Task Team.

SCIP leadership is receiving more and more interest from manufacturers who are recognizing what our members represent and bring to the design team. All of this is great news for our membership, but an 8 member board - who all have full time jobs, families, and other commitments can't do it by themselves and need your support to continue to build. I often said, if we all do a little - none of us has to do a lot. I'm certain that the SCIP board will continue to look for volunteers and I hope that you will consider getting involved. Many of us wear CSI and SCIP hats and oftentimes it is hard to know which hat we are wearing - it doesn't really matter because hopefully the strides are moving the industry forward in a unified direction. That is not to say SCIP Members don't have unique circumstances and different battles to fight and the SCIP Board will continue to work toward assisting its membership with better opportunities, but we hope you will reach out to help when you can.

Editor's Note: Thanks to the officers who contributed to this newsletter.

SCIP

Specifications
Consultants in
Independent
Practice

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Do you LOVE writing Specs?

What is SCIP?

Specifications Consultants in Independent Practice – a professional organization of experienced construction specifiers. For nearly 50 years, SCIP has provided a collaborative venue for specifiers who develop construction specifications for professional design firms, facility managers, government agencies, and manufacturers. SCIP can provide assistance to these organizations in their search to retain qualified specifiers to produce construction specifications.

Why join SCIP?

SCIP provides specifiers with the opportunity to enhance their professional knowledge through their associations with their colleagues. SCIP members specify over 7,000 projects worldwide every year, with a combined construction value of over \$200 billion! SCIP Forums provide the opportunity for specifiers to learn about issues affecting building products, systems, and quality and as well sharing their knowledge and concerns about the practice of independent specifying.

Who can join as a Member?

Individuals who are engaged in full-time specifications production as the following:

- Independent specification consultants
- Employees of independent specifiers with a minimum of 5 years' experience.

Who can join as an Affiliate?

Individuals engaged primarily in the preparation of construction specifications, employed by any of the following:

- Architectural or Engineering firms
- Design-Build firms
- Construction Management companies
- Building Owners and Facility Design groups
- Public Agencies involved in construction
- Publishers of master specification products

How do I join?

Download application and invoice forms to join the most qualified group of specification writers in the country at the SCIP Website: www.scip.com.

Spec Writers are found at www.scip.com

SCIP Phone Direct: 818.390.7692

Email: membership@scip.com

SCIP

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Who Writes Your Specs?

What is SCIP?

Specifications Consultants in Independent Practice: A professional organization of experienced construction specifiers. For nearly 50 years, SCIP has supported specifiers who develop construction specifications for professional design firms, facility managers, government agencies, and manufacturers. SCIP can provide assistance to these organizations and yours in the search to retain qualified specifiers to produce construction specifications.

SCIP Consultant Benefits

- Coordinated, well-written project manuals
- Best source of qualified specification production help
- No in-house overhead costs

Dedicated consulting specifiers allow project managers or other personnel to concentrate on in-house production efforts rather than write specifications in their “spare time” – or in a hurry to meet a deadline.

Additionally, since there are not enough specialists for every office to hire a full-time specifier – and since most offices cannot afford one – SCIP consultants are the best source of qualified help in this rather specialized sub-discipline.

What do SCIP Consultants do?

SCIP consultants develop project manuals and master specifications for architects, other design professionals, developers, builders, public and private owners, and manufacturers. SCIP members maintain their qualifications through continuing education and product literature comparison. They subscribe to the SCIP code of practice. Some also teach, or present continuing education programs.

SCIP members are full-time specifications services providers, knowledgeable in:

- Computerized specifications preparation
- Building products, codes and standards
- Product research, comparison, and recommendations
- Construction’s business/legal climate



Why hire a SCIP Consultant?

SCIP members offer professional expertise in document organization, product research and selection, advice on technical pros and cons of products and details, and broad construction-industry knowledge.

SCIP members and their clients benefit from the consultant’s experience with the projects of many creative design firms—a project range more varied than that of most offices.

Depending on the consultant, other services available may include document quality and ADA reviews, coordination, forensic work, contract administration, estimating, and other specialties. Some are DVBE/MBE/WBE qualified.

Are SCIP Members registered?

Some specifiers are registered architects, some are professionals licensed in other design disciplines. However specifications preparation does not require registration in most states; the licensee of record is responsible for all the documents.

Virtually all SCIP members have earned certification as a Certified Construction Specifier (CCS, the highest certification for specifiers), or as a Construction Documents Technologist (CDT), from the Construction Specifications Institute (CSI).

How do I hire a SCIP Consultant?

Obtain SCIP’s list of independent specifiers from www.scip.com, then ask consultants in your area (or specializing in the desired services) to submit resumes, company profiles, lists of projects, brochures or similar information.

After learning about your project and your preferences, consultants will typically offer a proposal and letter of agreement covering services, compensation, schedule, responsibilities of the client firm and various other consultants, reimbursable expenses, and fees for additional services.

Fees quoted may vary substantially with the type of construction, the nature of the project, whether it is bid or negotiated, and the specifier’s estimate of the work involved.

Hiring a SCIP Consultant can be one of the best things you can do for your firm.

Spec Writers are found at www.scip.com

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Email: membership@scip.com