



## **Specifications Consultants in Independent Practice**

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# *SCIPping Along*

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Editor

## **SEASON'S GREETINGS**

**BEST WISHES FOR A HAPPY, HEALTHY, AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR**

### **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:**

**Dennis J. Hall, FAIA, FCSI, CCS, CCCA, LEED-AP, SCIP**

Your SCIP Board has been busy this fall working on Articles of Incorporation, new By-Laws, planning the annual SCIP meeting in June, and seeking ways to improve the profession of specifying. SCIP will be joining with CSI to cosponsor a major pre-convention workshop on "The Building Information Model (BIM) for Specifiers" which will be held on Tuesday afternoon after the SCIP business meeting. This workshop will be free for SCIP members and will bring in national authorities on the BIM to meet and discuss needs of specifiers as we transition into BIM as a project delivery method. We will have the itinerary for SCIP meetings out soon, but things are looking very exciting as we continue the best of previous meetings and incorporate new events.

SCIP, CSI, and EcoBuild are in discussions to create a national specifier education and knowledge sharing conference to be co-located with FedCon, AutoDesk, and others in Washington, DC during the month of December. This event will be held at the Washington Convention Center on or about December 10-13, 2007. As details evolve, we will be keeping you updated of how you can participate and what will be available.

Speaking of participation, the Development Committee of the National Building Information Model Standard Committee has asked for SCIP's assistance in creating a subcommittee on specifications. This group will meet via Web-X and conference calls to discuss specification standards to be included in the NBIM Standard. If you are interested in getting involved in the evolution of construction documents and the BIM Standard, please contact me at [dhall@hallarch.com](mailto:dhall@hallarch.com) to be included as a member of this SCIP Committee.

Under William Pegues' leadership, the SCIP hosted forums on CSInet.org are off to a good start, but we need more participation from our members. Let's use this forum to help share information, opinions, and knowledge between SCIP members and the rest of the industry. Tools such as this forum are only as good as the folks that use them.

As you can see, SCIP is establishing relationships with other professional and industry organizations in order to better serve our membership. We want to thank you for your support of your Board and please let us know how we may better serve you. We are looking forward to expanding our Web presence in 2007 and are always looking for folks that want to be involved in improving the industry.

## **VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

**David Lorenzini, RA, FCSI, CCS, SCIP**

Earlier this month, Requests for Proposals were sent out to six database website developers to upgrade the SCIP website membership list. Creating a new database format will allow members to log in with a unique username and password. They will be able to update their profile data on their own, thus eliminating the requests to the treasurer to make the changes, the treasurer contacting the web master to implement the change, and sometimes the member to contact the webmaster to fix a typo. If a member forgets their password, a new auto-generated and changeable password will be sent to their email address on file. If the member does not have internet access, or has problems updating the data, the webmaster or treasurer can make the change manually.

The first proposal has already been received and it appears we will be able to implement the changes within the budgeted amount. New features will include sorting or searching the database online for name, company, state, zip code, CSI Region, and service specialty. The selected data can be downloaded as an Excel or text file, or printed out.

More news about the selection of a website database developer and progress of implementation will be published in our next issue.

## **TREASURER'S REPORT & MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION**

**David Metzger, FAIA, FCSI, CDT, SCIP**

Our current bank balance is \$14,949.16.

SCIP's current membership is 164 members, 1 retired member, and 43 affiliates, for a total of 207. From last year's membership, 7 Members and 2 Affiliates did not renew.

## **IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS**

**John Regener, AIA, CSI, CCS, CCA, SCIP**

Over the years, SCIP members have highly valued the discussion time at the annual meeting. What was a once-a-year activity has evolved thanks to Colin Gilboy and 4specs.com into a 24/7/365 online forum that provides rich discussions on a wide variety of topics. Yet, the in-person discussions and "hangin' out" together at the annual SCIP meeting cannot be replicated through Internet connections.

SCIP has grown and continues to grow, changing the dynamics of our organization and its national meetings. The free-flow exchanges of the past are not possible when there are 60 people gathered in a room. Future annual meetings will probably become more structured and for one will miss the opportunity to meet with independent specifiers from other parts of the country and have loosely-structured conversations.

Three thoughts on this ---

One. For the past two years, I have traveled to other CSI regions instead of attending my Region's annual conference. I enjoyed the company of specifiers from the Mid-Atlantic Region as they joined with members of the North Central Region and then the Southeast Region. At each of these conferences, I moderated a "Specifiers Forum Hosted by SCIP" that was open to all specifiers and replicated the discussion forum of SCIP's annual meeting. 16 attended the Mid-Atlantic/North Central Bi-Region Conference discussion in 2005 and 12 attended the Mid-Atlantic/Southeast Bi-Region Conference discussion in 2006. These were similar to SCIP-hosted discussion forums that have been held in the West Region since about 1990. Feedback that I've received has been very positive. These gatherings are relatively easy to organize and conduct. I recommend that SCIP members in other Regions host similar gatherings. Work with the Region Conference planners to get a meeting space (usually on Sunday morning of the conference weekend), arrange for sponsorship of a catered breakfast (if it's not already included in the conference program) and get invitations out to all specifiers to attend, emphasizing that ALL specifiers are welcome.

Two. Jo Drummond, FCSI, SCIP has organized Specifiers Forums in Los Angeles for all specifiers. In 2003, she arranged a daylong gathering at a downtown Los Angeles hotel, with building product manufacturers providing sponsorship of the lunch and meeting space. It was very much like the format of an annual SCIP meeting's discussion forum but also included both "in-house" and "out-sourced" specifiers. 25 attended the program on a 3-day holiday weekend and everyone participated in the discussion. I helped with moderating the discussion and it was free-flowing yet followed an unpublished agenda of topics that Jo and I developed. Call it "planned informality." It worked well. From that, Jo has organized semi-annual Specifiers Forums held before the regular Los Angeles Chapter CSI evening meeting. Two have been held and the discussion was lively and substantial. It looks to become a regular practice.

Three. Jo Drummond recently sent a notice to independent specifiers in Los Angeles that several product manufacturers would like to host luncheon presentations for independent specifiers. This is very timely because recently in Orange County the second such lunch presentation was held. The presentations are like the lunchtime presentations hosted for architectural firms, to which the "outsourced" independent specifiers are infrequently invited. In Orange County, six SCIP-member specifiers met for lunch in a private dining room of an upscale restaurant, as guests of building product manufacturers. We listened to the presentation, interacted with the product reps about the materials and then enjoyed a meal each of us ordered off the restaurant menu. We specifiers also used the time together to discuss specification writing issues of common concern, much like we do at the discussion forum of the annual SCIP meeting. It looks like this type of gathering is going to become fairly frequent in Los Angeles and Orange County as lists are growing of manufacturers wanting to host us for lunch.

Certainly these three activities are not new or unique to "Shaky Town" (LA). I'd like to hear from other SCIP members who have had or are planning to have similar gatherings. I think they are something we want to encourage and participate in.

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