

## December 2014 President's Message - CSI Santa Clara Valley

Rietta McCain, CSI, CCCA, AIA, LEED AP ID+C

### MEETING MUSINGS

Steven Winkel of Preview Group, Inc's Berkeley office, well known for his co-authorship of *Building Codes Illustrated* with Francis Ching, spoke to us at our November meeting providing an overview of the 2013 California Building Code changes. It was an enlighten evening, diving into the intent behind the regulations as well as providing insights into who writes the codes and the revision process. Be on the lookout for the next code revision coming in July 2015.

### BOARD BRIEF

November's Board meeting was filled with lots of decisions that will impact the coming year for our Chapter. The Board discussed and made decisions regarding meeting venues, dinner costs, and meeting dates. As always, the Board strives to do what is in the best interest of our members while promoting the mission of CSI and our Chapter. A summary of decisions made is below. We welcome member input and feedback as we are here to serve the membership as best we can. Please reach out to me or another Board Member with any comments or feedback.

With our annual contract with the Biltmore Hotel expiring in December, a committee spent the past few months working on reviewing alternate venues to address some of the comments we have received regarding location and meal quality. The committee focused mainly on venues in downtown San Jose as an alternate to the Biltmore with the premise that convenient downtown location would increase meeting attendance from firms with offices in downtown. A compiled list of the committee's research into various venues can be found at the end of this article. After reviewing and discussing the options, the Board decided to stay with the Biltmore in Santa Clara as our meeting venue for 2015. It seems to provide the best value for the price point and is centrally located for our Chapter's membership, not too far south and not too far north. Thank you to the committee, Rose Garrison and Katia Griggs, for all their hard work and research on alternate options.

In addition to selecting a venue for next year's Chapter meetings, the Board also had to revisit the prices we charge our meeting attendees for dinner. Two issues were at hand: the Board approved five month trial for reduce member pricing concluded with our November meeting and the Biltmore meal prices have increased for 2015. A summary of average meeting attendance before and during the reduced pricing trail are summarized at the end of this article. Although we did have on average higher meeting attendance during the trail, there was not a significant increase in member attendance as was hoped for with the reduced costs. Seeing the reduced cost of meetings as a benefit to members, the Board set the 2015 pricing as \$40 for Non-Members and \$35 for Members. Again, the venue options spreadsheet included at the end of this article outlines all the costs to the Chapters and Members as various venue choices.

### HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

I hope you will put on your dancing shoes and join in celebrating the holiday season with CSI. This year CSI Santa Clara Valley will be joining up with the East Bay/Oakland and San Francisco Chapters for a Tri-Chapter Bay Area CSI Holiday Party. It promises to be three times the fun – the more the merrier. We will be holding our normal Toys-for-Tots toy drive and there will also be a Silent Auction benefiting the SF CSI Foundations scholarship fund. More information will be coming to your in-box soon. In the meantime, please save the date: Tuesday, December 16th at Scott's Seafood in Oakland!

**CSI Santa Clara Valley  
Meeting Attendance Summary**

	Six Month Average from FY14	Six Month Average Reduced Price FY15	Difference
Members	14	15	+1
Non-Members	5	7	+2
Speaker	1	1	0
Guests (Non-Paying)	2	0	-2
Program Only	1	2	+1
Tabletops	0	1	+1
<b>Total</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>+3</b>

**CSI Santa Clara Valley  
Venue Options 2015**

<b>Venue</b>	<b>Biltmore Hotel 2014</b>	<b>Biltmore Hotel 2015</b>	<b>Scott's Seafood</b>	<b>Il Fornio/ Saint Claire Hotel</b>	<b>Mosaic at Four Points Sheraton</b>	<b>Hilton</b>	<b>De Anza Hotel</b>
Location	Santa Clara	Santa Clara	Downtown SJ	Downtown SJ	Downtown SJ	Downtown SJ	Downtown SJ
Room Rental	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$375.00
Minimum Food/ Beverage Cost	\$680.00	\$720.00	\$1,000.00	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Service Charge	21%	22%	21%	20%	20%	23%	20%
Taxes	8.75%	8.75%	8.75%	8.75%	8.75%	8.75%	8.75%
Meal Cost	\$25.84	\$25.84	\$48.00	\$46.00	\$45.00	\$62.00	\$60.00
AV Costs	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$80.00	\$50.00	\$175.00	\$40.00
Parking	on site free	on site free	on site validated (3 hrs)	valet \$15 or public lots	\$21 + tax on site	\$10 self park on site	valet \$24 or public lots
<b>POTENTIAL COST TO CHAPTER</b>							
Per Person Cost to Chapter	\$34.00	\$36.00	\$63.16	\$64.03	\$61.23	\$91.52	\$80.30
Total Minimum Cost to Chapter per Month	\$680.00	\$720.00	\$1,228.38	\$688.75	\$658.75	\$675.00	\$415.00
Total Cost to Chapter with 20 Attendees	\$680.00	\$720.00	\$1,263.24	\$1,280.60	\$1,224.50	\$2,333.66	\$1,981.00
Number of Attendees Needed to hit Min.	20	20	20.8	10.9	11.1	N/A	N/A
<b>POTENTIAL COST TO MEMBERS</b>							
Meal + BPT Costs	\$36.18	\$38.25	\$66.36	\$67.26	\$64.36	\$95.71	\$84.10
Part of Speaker Meal	\$1.79	\$1.89	\$2.53	\$2.42	\$2.37	\$3.26	\$3.16
Parking	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$15.00	\$22.84	\$10.00	\$24.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$37.97</b>	<b>\$40.14</b>	<b>\$68.89</b>	<b>\$84.68</b>	<b>\$89.56</b>	<b>\$108.98</b>	<b>\$111.26</b>