

November 2014 President's Message - CSI Santa Clara Valley

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MEETING MUSINGS

Our October meeting brought us Ben Tripousis of California High-Speed Rail Authority to give us an update on construction progress in the Central Valley and the overall timeline for state-wide high-speed rail initiative. He also provided some insights into the pre-construction planning and approvals processes happening in the Bay Area in preparation of the high-speed rail projects in our local area. It was an interesting evening and I hope Ben will come back to speak to us in the future as the local projects unfold further.

INSTITUTE INFORMATION

You may already have heard the news from Institute, but it bears repeating. After eight years of service, CSI CEO Walt Marlowe has announced his resignation from the organization effective December 3, 2014. CSI President Robert Simmons will establish a search committee to begin the process of finding a new CEO. This committee will be led by past CSI President Ross Spiegel, who also chaired the committee that found Walt Marlowe. The search effort will likely take several months.

In the meantime, CSI Director of Technical Services Greg Ceton will act as Interim CEO, overseeing the day-to-day operations of CSI and working directly with the Board to keep CSI running. The Institute urges members to reach out the following contacts if you have any questions or concerns regarding this transitions:

CSI President: Robert Simmons at arobertwsimmons@cs.com

CSI President-elect: Lane Beougher at lane.beougher@ofcc.ohio.gov

Interim CEO: Greg Ceton at gseton@csinet.org

WORKSHOP WRAP UP

CSI Leaders from around the Region met in Walnut Creek in early October for the annual West Region Leadership Workshop. Rose Garrison, Katia Griggs, and I were among those in attendance. It was a fun-filled and informative weekend spent sharing: best practices, ideas, success stories, and challenges of running a CSI Chapter. It was time well spent and I urge anyone interested in learning more about Leadership in CSI to look into attending a future workshop.

Several of the attendees were tweeting out notes and highlights of the event. You can see all the tweets here: https://storify.com/rietta_mccain/csi-west-region-leadership-workshop. Be on the lookout for other CSI Leadership related tweets by looking for #CSILeaders.

A heart-felt thank you goes out to Valarie Harris for organizing this great resource and learning opportunity. Thank you as well to all the other Region Leaders that contributed to a great weekend: Eric Camin, Paul Kane, Dave Willis, and Bob Siegrist.

ONE LAST THING

We will be joining the East Bay/Oakland and San Francisco Chapters this year for a Bay Area Tri-Chapter Holiday Bash. Please save the date for another fun-filled holiday celebration with drinks, dinner, dancing, and CSI! More information will follow, but mark your calendars in the meantime.

Tuesday, December 16th at 6pm

Scott's Seafood Restaurant, Jack London Square in Oakland

Silent Auction

Toy-for-Tots Toy Drive