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a zesty publication of the Worcester County Chapter of the Construction Specifications Institute Vol. 23 No 2

## YOUR PAST, PRESENT, & FUTURE

WCCSI Meeting Schedule Fy2010

Format is Date, Subject, Presenter.

Current meeting is bold type

9/17/09 "BIM 101 Building Information Modeling", Robert Weygant, Chairman of CSI's BIM Practice Group

**10/15/09 Fire Protection: New MA Code Impacts, Sullivan Code Group**

11/19/09 "Green Format", Roger Grant, Chairman, CSI Green Format Task Team

12/11/09 FRIDAY A Festive Holiday Night with Friends of WCCSI, Mike Lapomardo, CSI; Giuseppe's Grille; Northborough, MA

1/19/10 TBA

2/16/10 TBA

3/16/10 TBA

4/20/10 TBA

5/18/10 TBA

6/15/10 "WCCSI Award winning Awards Dinner", Ol' Argyle, Romaine's of Northborough

**Check this listing monthly for possible changes in subjects and/or speakers.**

**Have a topic idea that you've wanted to learn about that might be of interest to others? Or want to present to the largest gathering of Worcester architects in the World? Contact the editor at [justin.tasc@charter.net](mailto:justin.tasc@charter.net) CES eligible programs please.**

## Fire Protection:

# New MA Code Impacts

**An AIA/CES 1.0 LU program**

**WHEN: Thursday October 15, 2009**

5:30 meet & greet

6:00 meeting convenes

6:30 program - **FREE**

7:30 Dinner - **\$20**

**WHERE: West Side Grille  
45 Belmont St, Route 9 West  
Northborough, MA**

This month we will explore the new requirements for fire and life safety systems in the 7<sup>th</sup> Edition of the Massachusetts State Building Code. The code changes impact all new and existing buildings from low-rise wood-framed apartment complexes to high-rise commercial buildings. The session will focus on the architectural impacts of fire and life safety systems that designers and other construction professionals need to take into consideration when undertaking new projects, renovations, additions and changes in use.

Our presenters are from the Code Consulting Group of R W Sullivan engineering. We're happy to have them back as their past presentations to the chapter on code issues have proven to be timely and informative. Edwin A. Kotak, Jr. P.E., CET, CPD is a Principal at R.W. Sullivan Engineering in Boston, Massachusetts where he is responsible for fire protection design, interaction with Clients and Authorities Having Jurisdiction, training programs for the fire protection design staff and construction management services for fire protection systems on some of the firms largest projects. Ed has over thirty five years of experience in the design and installation of all types of fire protection systems and holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Construction Management. Ed is involved in several industry related organizations and is a member of the National Fire Protection Association Technical Committee on Standpipes. Ed's career began in 1970 at what is now FM Global and includes major project management positions with fire protection contracting firms prior to joining R.W. Sullivan Engineering in 1991.

William Sierra, LEED AP is an Electrical Project Engineer at R.W. Sullivan Engineering in Boston, Massachusetts. William is responsible for the design of building electrical systems including fire alarm systems. William has over 8 years of experience designing fire alarm systems for a diverse type of occupancies such as residential and commercial high rises, hospitals and medical office buildings, schools. William is proficient in the interfacing of fire alarm system with dedicated and non-dedicated HVAC smoke control system, voice evacuation systems, interfacing sprinkler system components with the fire alarm, and implementation of carbon monoxide detection monitored by the fire alarm system. William has worked in the industry since 2001 and joined R.W. Sullivan in 2005.

All CSI members and nonmembers are welcome; The program will be absolutely **free** to any attendee who mentions this newsletter when signing up by October 12th. A deliciously prepared three course dinner can be yours for a meager \$20, to be served after the program. Dinner to consist of garden salad, chicken de jour, and dessert. Special dietary meals available upon request - we must know ahead of time! Cash bar. Registrations must be received by October 12th...space is limited so register early!

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**Save the Date**  
**THURSDAY OCT 15th**  
For dinner reservations PLEASE call Chris 508-753-7436  
By MONDAY OCT 12th

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This spicy publication can accept your listing in the Service Directory and include a banner advertisement, \$100 for 1/16th page ad, \$150 for 1/8th page ad both for ten issues. Other sizes are available. An advertising insert e.g. a printer ready 2 sided 8-1/2" x 11" sheet is available at \$200 for chapter members and advertisers and \$250 for others. Contact the editor as listed.

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## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Can't believe its October already. Halloween is fast approaching and the economy is as scary as a room full of vampires. Rather than putting your head in the sand, or stocking up on wooden stakes and garlic pendants, maybe its time to treat yourself to a dinner meeting with fellow construction professionals. You'll pick up some CEU credits, do some networking and learn a trick or two about furthering your career with some help from CSI. This month our presentation will focus on Fire Protection issues in the latest Massachusetts Building Code, covering topics sure to be applicable to any project in our state.

Thanks to everyone who came out last month to this year's kick-off meeting and BIM presentation, and special thanks to Bob Weygant for an informative presentation showing us the future of construction documentation. Building Information Modeling does represent a major change in the way in which all participants in the construction industry will design, analyze, track and build. By modeling the building in three dimensions with material and system requirements and attributes embedded in the model, the information needs of the architect, contractor, owner, manufacturers and facility managers can be met interactively. For example schedules and takeoffs can be generated from the model rather than requiring an exam of plans and elevations to find each element. Changes in materials or systems can be made globally and quickly analyzed to determine aesthetic factors, impacts on energy consumption, or construction and lifetime cost issues. To take full advantage of the possibilities requires a change in the way we work. That change is coming are you ready?

For those of you weren't able to attend or just want to hear more there's a day long seminar offered by the NH Chapter CSI in Manchester this month. Details can be found here:  
<http://www.nhcsi.org/Oct09sem.html>

Looking ahead, we'll be holding a CDT study/review course in the spring. The CDT or Construction Document Technologist certificate is known in the industry for the holders comprehensive knowledge of the writing and management of construction documents. It's the first step in CSI's certifications and is a valuable credential for all members of the industry. Only 20% of our chapter members have proven themselves within CSI's certification programs so theirs a great opportunity here for us to improve our resumes. Our plan is to have the course taught by those in the chapter who have passed the advanced certifications and make the course free to chapter members. Watch for more details to come.

Hope to see you on the 15<sup>th</sup> and happy leaf peeping in the meantime.

Marty

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**Meetings:** 5:30 PM 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month except July & August at The West Side Grille Rt 9 Northborough.  
**Executive Board:** 5:30 PM 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month at Maria's in Milford. All members welcome.

## Chapter Stuff

### CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

At the End of FY2009 on June 30, 2009 the WCCSI Chapter led the Northeast Region in Membership growth by recruiting nine new members for a net membership gain of 7 members, a 22.6% growth rate. As a result the chapter received the NER Membership Award for Small Chapters at the recent conference in Lake George NY. The new chapter members that were instrumental in that achievement are

David A. Cole, General Contractor, Cole Contracting, Inc. Worcester ph: 508-795-1556

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John P. Devito, Cost Estimator, Director of Preconstruction Scholastic Div.; Cutler

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Dan Kelly, Manufacturer's Rep./Supplier, Burke Flooring, Harvard, MA, ph: 781 953 3545

# **SPECTRUM ENTERPRISES**

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Those of us that attended the June 11, 2009 Annual Awards Dinner had the chance to welcome Ethan Johnson, CSI and Jim Olender, CSI with warm applause as they were awarded their CSI lapel pins. The September meeting saw President Marty Helly repeat the orientation and present Jeff Nickerson, CSI and John Devito, CSI with their CSI lapel pins. Looks like in another couple of orientation sessions we'll have all our new members in bold letters and with pins. That's the good news. In September we got some not so good news. The WCCSI went from the best growth chapter in the NER to the worst in a two month time span. The nine new members were offset by the loss of three long term members in July. We're calling to see if possibly their non-renewal was just an oversight. Since January 1, 2001, when CSI had approximately 18,000 members, membership now stands at less than 14,000. The Worcester County chapter over those years has held membership at about 30, but only 13 members maintained membership through that period. CSI nationally will be looking at improving member retention. The WCCSI chapter's membership committee could benefit from heightened focus in that area. Volunteers willing to participate in that effort would be appreciated. Compensation is limited to the satisfaction of having participated in an effort to bring additional value to chapter membership.

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## A Night to Remember ...

by Ted Healy, CSI, CDT

Members of the Worcester County Chapter of the Construction Specifications Institute and their Guests meet at Romaine's Restaurant in Northborough MA on June 11, 2009 for the chapters Annual Award Dinner. In a year when many found daily events clouding positive achievements, those celebrants still found achievements to recognize.

Significant among those achievements was a membership growth of 22.5% which led all chapters in CSI's Northeast Region. A Certificate of Appreciation was given to President Martin Helly, CSI, CDT for presenting "The Economic Stimulus Program" judged to be the Chapter's Best Technical Program of FY2009. Marty then gave an orientation on CSI and its member value proposition citing personal experience of the benefits of networking with CSI's diversified members. After his presentation new members, introduced themselves and were presented with CSI lapel pins.

Institute Director Howard Levine was introduced and congratulated the Chapter on its exceptional membership growth in an uncertain time for the industry and both the chapter and charter member Edward Healy on the occasion of his elevation as the chapter's first Institute Fellow.

Certificates of Appreciation were presented to Antonelli Construction Company, Sunbelt Rentals, Worcester Truck Body and The Protector Group as long term sponsors of the chapter's Construction Industry Summer Open (CISO) Golf Tournament, the funding mechanism for the WCCSI's Michael G. Lapomardo, Sr. Scholarship Program. Since 1999 twenty two deserving individuals have received Michael G. Lapomardo, Sr., scholarship support at the colleges of their choice due significantly to the generous and continued support of these honored firms.

The Sullivan Code Group with Kevin Hastings, PE and



Don Contois, PE as presenters received the Michael G. Lapomardo, Sr. Chapter Cooperation Award recognizing the service rendered in presenting the exceptional educational program "Massachusetts State Building Code Seventh Edition" given October 21st 2008 at the CSI Chapter meeting. That program attracted a significant number of interested non-members and enhanced the chapters reputation for offering quality continuing education programs to the Central Massachusetts construction community.

A Certificate of Reconition of Audacious Potential (CRAP) was presented to Richard Brousseau in recognition of his latent ability to elevate his audacity level to the point where he can hold his own with much more senior members of the Chapter Board. Richard graciously and humbly accepted the award, as have most chapter volunteers previously honored.

After the laughter and applause died down, Awards Chair Roland Barrett rose to present The C. Wesley Dingman Award, the highest award the chapter can present to a Professional member. Here's Roland, "...he has been a dedicated member of the Worcester Chapter of The Construction Specification Institute and has always been there to perform whatever task was required of him for the betterment of CSI. He has served our Chapter as committee chair, Board member and President. When circumstances prevented the expected presidential transition, he agreed to serve an additional year. Accordingly, WCCSI gratefully acknowledges his leadership and the benefits he has provided to the chapter and the membership with the highest award it can grant him. The C. Wesley Dingman Award, is presented to Neil R. Dixon, CSI, RA.

Another WCCSI Award Dinner came to an end with smiles, goodbys, and congratulations seemingly broader and warmer than that of the previous year. Make a note to be an active member this year and next year you could be enjoying the congratulations.

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## CDT: Construction Documents Technologist Certificate An Overview

The CDT Certificate program has provided the construction industry with a valuable credential for more than 20 years. It provides a comprehensive overview for professionals who write, interpret, enforce or manage construction documents, including architects, engineers, contractors, contract administrators, material suppliers and manufacturers' representatives. The CDT credential demonstrates one's knowledge and understanding of construction documents and the project lifecycle.

CDT is the foundation you need to gain the competitive advantage. As the cornerstone of CSI's certification series it's the prerequisite you need to achieve your Certified Construction Specifier (CCS), Certified Construction Contract Administrator (CCCA), or Certified Construction Product Representative (CCPR)...It's real world continuing education. By being able to understand and interpret written construction documents, CDTs perform their jobs more effectively. By understanding the roles and relationships of all participants, CDTs improve communication among all members of the construction team.

The Exam: CDT candidates must demonstrate their knowledge of CSI's recommended practices in the



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- \* Contractual relationships
  - o Rights, duties, and responsibilities
  - o Contract provisions
  - o Relationship and organization of construction documents
- \* Use of construction documents
  - o Organizational formats
  - o Interpreting construction documents

The latest CDT exam incorporates the following new topics:

- \* Building Information Modeling (BIM)
- \* Integrated Project Delivery (IPD)
- \* Green Building – GreenFormat™ and Sustainability

The computer-based CDT exam lasts two and a half hours and contains 100 multiple-choice questions. The exam is administered at Prometric test centers nationwide. To pass, candidates must receive a grade of 75 percent or higher.

For those up to the challenge, the Worcester Chapter will be providing a review/study course in the spring to ensure you pass with flying colors!

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## Despite a continued rise in homebuilding, construction job losses remain heavy, widespread and down 15 percent from September, 2008 with nearly one in five out of work

By Ken Simonson [www.constructiondigital.com](http://www.constructiondigital.com)

According to the most recent Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) report, construction (particularly nonresidential), continued to hemorrhage jobs. Construction lost 15 percent of its September 2008 jobs in the last 12 months. September losses totaled 51,000 in nonresidential building, specialty trade, and heavy and civil engineering construction combined, nearly the monthly average loss of 54,000 over the past 12 months. Residential building and specialty trade contractors shed a combined 13,000 jobs in September, barely a third as many as the monthly average over the 12-month span.

One faintly positive sign was that architectural and engineering services employment, a harbinger of future demand for construction, rose for the first time in 15 months, albeit by only 500 jobs (0.04 percent). Average hourly earnings in construction tumbled 16 cents to \$22.45 in September, bringing the 12-month change to 36 cents or 1.6 percent, compared to 2.5 percent for all private-sector production or nonsupervisory employees. The overall unemployment rate climbed to 9.5 percent in September, not seasonally adjusted (9.8 percent, seasonally adjusted) from 6.0 percent a year earlier. The unemployment rate in construction, 17.1 percent, (not seasonally adjusted), again topped every other industry and was up from 9.9 percent a year earlier.

The Associated General Contractors of America (AGC) compiled a list of 337 areas, including divisions and subdivisions of the 34 largest metros, for which BLS provided construction employment figures (combined with mining and logging in metros where employment in these industries is small). Construction employment fell over the past 12 months in 324 of these locations, rose in eight and was unchanged in five. The largest 12-month percentage construction employment gains were in Columbus, Indiana, 14 percent (combined data); Anderson, Ind., 6 percent (combined); Tulsa (construction only); Longview, Wash. (combined) and Baton Rouge (construction only), 3 percent each. The worst construction job losses were in Reno-Sparks, Nevada, -35 percent (construction only); Duluth, Minnesota-Wisconsin, -33 percent (combined); Tucson, -31 percent (construction only); Wenatchee-East Wenatchee, Wash., -30 percent (combined); and Redding, California, -28 percent (combined).

Construction spending in August totaled \$942 billion at a seasonally adjusted annual rate, up 0.8 percent from the downwardly revised July total of \$935 billion (initially estimated as \$958 billion), but 12 percent below the August 2008 level, the Census Bureau reported on Thursday. Private residential spending soared 4.7 percent for the month but was 27 percent lower than in August 2008. Of the three residential components, the largest—improvements to existing single- and multi-unit construction—jumped 7.4 percent from a downwardly revised July total but was off 4.0 percent year-to-year. New single-family construction climbed 4.5 percent, the third gain in a row, but was 40 percent below the August 2008 level. New multi-family construction fell 4.5 percent, an even worse monthly rate than the 36 percent loss over 12 months. Private nonresidential spending slipped for the fifth straight month, by 0.1 percent, leaving the total 10 percent below the year-ago mark. Public construction spending skidded 1.1 percent in August but was 3.3 percent higher than in August 2008. Of the two largest components, highway and street construction rose 0.8 percent and 3.1 percent; educational, 0 percent and 1.8 percent.

Retail chains reported mixed plans for construction last month, according to various articles in the Wall Street

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Journal. Dollar General Co. "announced plans to increase store openings and remodeling-relocations by 50 each to 500 and 450, respectively" (September 11). Lowe's Cos. "will slow store openings over the next five years to between 35 and 45 stores annually. That's a sharp reduction from the 120 stores the company opened in 2008 and as many as 66 stores planned for this year....Larger rival Home Depot Inc. had already pulled back its expansion, with plans to add 1.5 percent in retail square footage this year and annually for the next several years. Lowe's development timeline equates to adding 2 percent to 2.5 percent to its square footage annually."

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If you want to obtain pre-written specifications, the major

master guide specification providers in the United States are all supporters of the MasterFormat maintenance program. Each has a library of regularly updated specifications that you can subscribe to. You can get to their websites by clicking on their logos on the home page of [www.masterformat.com](http://www.masterformat.com).

MasterFormat provides a standard filing and retrieval scheme that's used throughout the construction industry and can be used throughout the project life cycle. Construction projects use many different kinds of delivery methods, products, and installation methods, but one thing is common to all – the need for effective teamwork by the many parties involved to ensure the correct and timely completion of work. The successful completion of projects requires effective communication amongst the people involved, and that in turn requires easy access to essential project information. MasterFormat enables all of these things.

The 2004 edition of MasterFormat replaces the 1995 edition and all previous editions. It is produced jointly by the Construction Specifications Institute (CSI) and Construction Specifications Canada (CSC).

CSI will cease to license and support MasterFormat 95 as of December 31, 2009. To assist in the transition CSI is offering a 25% discount on MasterFormat 2004 Edition through December 31, 2009.

Member Regular Price - \$109

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Non-member Price - \$159

**25% discounted Non-Member Price - \$119.25**

**About CSI**  
 CSI is an individual membership technical society that serves as the premier integrating force for those that create and sustain the built environment, and as a primary gateway to programs, services, and the exchange of knowledge. The Institute offers products and services that provide a common system of organization and presentation of construction information, enhancing communication among all construction industry disciplines. CSI's 18,000 members include architects, Specifiers, engineers, contractors, product representatives, building owners, and facility managers. Founded in 1948, CSI is headquartered in Alexandria, Va., and has 143 chapters nationwide. For more information about CSI, visit [www.csiinc.org](http://www.csiinc.org) or call 800-689-2900.

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**This Month's Program**  
**FIRE PROTECTION:**  
**NEW MA CODE**  
**IMPACTS**

**Where: The West Side Grille**  
**Northborough, MA**

**When: 5:30PM to 8:30**  
**Oct 15, 2009**

**Reservations: By Mon Oct 12TH**  
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