

A Spec of Granite

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Industry Needs A Focused Steering of Teens Towards the Trades

By Ken Lambert, CSI

It was a quick and good-natured comment from a neighbor of mine, but it still struck me. We were talking about applying for college financial aid and all that entails, and I made some comment like “Well this is going to be a real pain with the twins if or when they decide to go to college.”. The person interjected, “Oh, not ‘if’ – WHEN they both go to college.”. And this is the basic attitude of nearly every adult that I know; it is the default position. And that is a problem.



If parents or other adults are demeaning or condescending towards a teen who wants to go into the building trades in lieu of the 4-year college route, that young person can very easily forgo their chief interest and instead try to struggle through 4 or 6 more years of schooling for no great reason.

I did go to college, and received my bachelor’s degree. I also have been in the construction field since (or before) my college graduation. That said, I see both sides of it. Being in college, or even graduating with a bachelor’s degree, does not make one intelligent. Personally I have met many college grads who are not the sharpest tack in the drawer- to put it lightly.

Alternately, I have interacted with many smart and successful folks who did not have a degree- and instead were in the construction business. My father as well as three uncles of mine all were successful in building- more successful than most of their peers of similar age.

One of the top 4 or 5 smartest people I have ever met in my life did not have a Bachelor’s degree but rather was a firefighter in addition to running a general contracting/ carpentry business.

This person was the father of one of my best friends growing up. I remember talking to him many times, from the age of 16 all the way up to 30, and myself and our circle of friends would always comment afterwards, “Man, that guy knows everything!”. It was entertaining and educational to talk with and be with him. He would randomly bring up odd subjects

sometimes. “Ken, did you know that the Hungarian revolt of 1880 was really the result of....”, etc.

The guy loved to read and he loved to learn; and he was a quick learner as well- in many aspects of life and business. My good friend, his son, was an “actual” genius (PhD from MIT in engineering)- and the two of them I feel were on equal intellectual playing fields.

This carpenter/firefighter by the time he retired had accumulated more wealth than probably 80% or 90% of the general population, all with just an Associate’s Degree.

The point of course is that we continuously, as representatives of the AEC community, must encourage and promote teens and young adults to learn about and seek out careers in the building trades. Part of that is just stating to the general public that there is absolutely nothing wrong with being a carpenter, or a plumber, or a welder, etc. Society and the general economy needs people to fill these roles, perhaps moreso than several of the degree programs now being offered by many public and private colleges.

January Meeting Announcement ICP Group Plant Tour NHCSI January 14 Dinner Meeting

Our Tuesday, January 14th meeting will be held at the offices of ICP Group, 150 Dascomb Road, Andover, MA.

For more information and to register, please click [here](#).

Rather, very, little, pretty - these are the leeches that infest the pond of prose, sucking the blood of words. The constant use of the adjective little (except to indicate size) is particularly debilitating; we should all try to do a little better, we should all be very watchful of this rule, for it is a rather important one, and we are pretty sure to violate it now and then. —William Strunk, Jr.

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Member Highlights

New Member - Sherri Doucette, CSI

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A member of NHCSI since July, Sherri Doucette, CSI is [Tubelite's](#) Client Development Manager for the markets in Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire and northeast Massachusetts. In addition, she serves as the architectural representative for New England and reports directly to Tubelite's regional sales manager, Jim Oberlin. They work closely with glazing contractors and architectural teams to provide assistance with storefront, curtainwall, entrances and daylight control systems.

Doucette held prior positions promoting Tubelite's products and services to local glazing contractors and architects. She also worked independently to provide engineering and project management services to glazing contractors.

In addition to her professional experience, Doucette studied business management at Bridgewater State University in Massachusetts and earned a bachelor of science in architectural engineering from the New England Technical Institute in Rhode Island.



Sponsorships Available!

Contact the Editor for further details.

Sizes and Cost

One year = 4 Issues

Business Card	\$60 Per Year
1/8 Page	\$80 Per Year
1/4 Page	\$165 Per Year
1/2 Page	\$250 Per Year
Full Page	\$375 Per Year

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New Members 2019

[John Gant](#)—March 2019, [Allegion](#)
[Whit Whitman](#)—April 2019, [AW Hastings](#)
[Matt Mead](#)—May 2019, [Aquafin](#)
[Sheri Doucette](#)—July 2019, [Tubelite](#)
[Ry Ward](#)—August 2019, [RW Advisors](#)

Demolishing History

The Beede House ranked among the finest brick duplexes anywhere in the Merrimack Valley. Despite its 150 years, it survived largely intact on a prominent site at the eastern end of a group of notable houses along Washington Street in Penacook. Architecturally, it featured arched window and door openings set off with hood molds, two-story bay windows, ornate brackets, a distinctive front porch, twin chimneys and a handsome granite foundation. Inside there were metal ceilings, marble fireplaces, decorative stair railings (some of them curved), plaster walls, tall windows, and paneled doors, many with surviving hardware and capped with transom windows.



An excavator from New Hampshire Demolition out of Auburn demolished the historic Beede duplex at 12-14 Washington St., on September 3 after the American Legion Post 31 efforts to rehab the structure failed.

[Read More](#)

Giving Notice - What it is and How to Do It

By Kevin O'Beirne, PE, FCSI, CCS, CCA, CDT

An often-overlooked and procedurally relevant provision of construction documents is that for "giving notice." What does that mean?

Contracts for construction require that the parties and the design professional give various, contractually-stipulated notices. Such notices are formal, written communications that are, in accordance with the contract, of such importance that they must be transmitted or delivered in a certain manner, so that the receiving entity has a full understanding that they are receiving a formal, contractually required notice.

Various matters in construction contracts require formal, written notice and typically include as notice of: discovery of defective work, delays beyond the contractor's control, differing site conditions, discovery of unanticipated hazardous environmental conditions, change proposals, claims, filing for dispute resolution, and others. In fact, the General Conditions and other parts of many construction contracts require written notice for a surprisingly large number of events.

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Geo-Fences: Lines and Spaces

By Gregory Ceton, CSI, CDT

*Oh, just another kind of out-door game,
One on a side. It comes to little more:
There where it is we do not need the wall:
He is all pine and I am apple orchard.
My apple trees will never get across
And eat the cones under his pines, I tell him.
He only says, 'Good fences make good neighbors.'*
—Robert Frost, Mending Wall

Unlike the rough-hewn stone wall in Robert Frost's poem, a geo-fence is made of virtual boundaries that do not need to be carried or mended. Geo-fences do not limit movement like fences or walls, but they can stand watch over an area and monitor what goes on inside of it. Though the boundary-setting function is central to geo-fencing, a better term for the what a geo-fence provides may have been "geo-watchdog."

Geo-fences are built on the same kind of [geospatial](#) information and standards that underlie your car navigation system. Though there are many ways of generating a geo-fence, the type most usable by commercial and institutional projects is established by drawing boundary lines outlining the mapped property one wants to monitor. [Google Earth](#) is often reference for the location data in geo-fence code, though other organizations offering geo-location services, such as [Esri](#), can also provide the data needed to establish a geo-fence. Use of geospatial information is becoming more common—recently the [CSI Puget Sound Chapter](#) sponsored a [geocaching treasure hunt](#) that leverages the same technology.

Geo-fences provide much of the same access monitoring functionality as physical perimeter monitors, but without the limitations of fields of view or physical maintenance often required by those sensors. Geo-fences can be used to trigger alerts or operate linked devices to limit actions that can be taken within the geo-fenced area.

A geo-fence can be active or passive. An active geo-fence requires someone within the geo-fence to opt into location tracking. This type of geo-fence can be used to track and communicate with students and faculty in a campus security application. A passive geo-fence tracks without the person opting in. In the campus example, a passive geo-fence could be layered onto the active one and used to track non-students and non-faculty in the same emergency. The tracking of activity or location is performed using cell traffic or a radio-frequency identification (RFID) tag, such as those inserted in ID badges or entry tokens.

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A Dickens of a Tale, Revisited

By Sheldon Wolfe, RA, FCSI, CCS

This is an update of a piece I first published in 2007. I tweaked it just a bit to update some of the references. I hope you enjoy it!

Scrooge was an old man, set in his ways. And why not? He had been doing things the same way for many years, and the resulting success was sufficient evidence of the wisdom of continuing in that path. Whenever it was suggested that change might be a good thing, "Bah, humbug!" was his response. "I like things the way they are! I started this business, I've been doing things the same way for fifty years, and I don't see any reason to change! All this new-fangled stuff is just a fad."



One evening, a strange series of events befell our dear Mister Scrooge. Having had a particularly trying day, he tried to enjoy a rich repast and a few glasses of wine in an effort to forget his problems. As he fell asleep, he was thinking of how much fun he had had in his youth.

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Help Wanted

Members: Must be enthusiastic, willing to learn something new, fun loving, and sympathetic to engineers. Click [here](#) to join.

Directors and Committee Chairs: Must be willing to work for free; periodic planning meetings with meal included; become eligible for 2 CEUs for [architects](#) and [engineers](#).

Dinner Meeting Venues: Willing to offer office conference room for a group of engineers, architects, product representatives and contractors. No registration fees or dinner charges for staff attendees.

Sponsors: In order to keep meeting registration costs low, we need website, newsletter, and meeting sponsors.

Newsletter Articles: We need your articles for the newsletter; business card ad included at no charge.

Letters to the Editor: We would like your comments and suggestions for future articles, etc.

Please email us at info@nhcsi.org.

What Should Your Elevator Maintenance Plan Include?

Link: <https://www.stanleyelevator.com/elevator-service-repair-maintenance/>

Elevators are complicated pieces of equipment. Whether traction or hydraulic, each system contains multiple safety components and hundreds of parts that need to be in optimal condition for the system to run safely and efficiently.

To avoid expensive repairs and the possibility of needing premature upgrades, an [elevator maintenance plan](#) should be an integral part of every property's facility management.

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Join us for the Maine CSI High-Performance Building Conference on Thursday, March 26, 2020 at the Holiday Inn by the Bay in Portland. This event is for architects, engineers, specifiers, designers, builders, property owners and facility managers - anyone who wants to further their knowledge in the building construction industry.

Construction Documents Technology (CDT®) Transitions from Certificate to Certification

Supporting professional success for AEC professionals is CSI's primary reason for being, and the CDT credential is an important professional accomplishment. CSI has embarked upon a strategy to transition the CDT to a certification. This transition has been in the works for at least three years, prompted by CSI volunteer leadership serving on the Certification Committee and the CSI Board of Directors.

Careful thought and planning has gone into this initiative to ensure that the CDT certification will be held up as a "gold" standard of certification. It is worth noting that while some perceive the CDT as a certification, it has not been in the past. The main changes to the program are adding modest prerequisites and a continuing education requirement.

While the change to the CDT took effect on July 1, 2018:

No action is required at this time.

- For current CDT certificate holders, the credential is still valid.
- Renewal of any CSI credential is fully voluntary.
- Renewal of the CDT certification is not required until June 30, 2021. Candidates for renewal have at minimum, three years to prepare for this change. Renewal of the CDT certification is only necessary if you wish to continue use of the CDT as a professional certification.
- Professionals holding upper level certification (CCS, CCPR, and CCCA) are not required to maintain the CDT.
- Retesting is not required as long as you meet requirements to renew and maintain your CDT

[Read More](#)

Spring 2020 CDT Certification Registration

Exam Window: April 20 - May 22, 2020
 Early Registration: February 19 - March 19, 2020
 Late Registration: March 20 - May 20, 2020
 Results Notification: June 2020 via email*

Registration Opens February 19, 2020

	Member Rate		Non-Member Rate	
	Regular	Late	Regular	Late
CDT Certification	\$375	\$545	\$625	\$795
Student Registration	\$165 with valid ID/transcript stating current term			

2020 New Hampshire 4th Grade Water Science Fair & Drinking Water Festival

Has your school applied to participate in the NH 4th Grade Water Science Fair, Drinking Water Festival & Water Poetry Contest on May 6 in Keene?



Apply by January 15 by contacting Lara Hooper at lara.hooper@des.nh.gov or 603-271-4071 for more information. Apply with this form: <https://www.des.nh.gov/.../docum.../teacher-application-form.pdf>

“ Failure is central to engineering. Every single calculation that an engineer makes is a failure calculation. Successful engineering is all about understanding how things break or fail ”
 – Henry Petroski

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Please support the winner of our September newsletter *Test Your Knowledge* (pg 3) winner, John F. Pietroniro, LEED AP BD+C, CDT, Project Resource Group, LLC, President.



[Project Resource Group, LLC](#) is a New Hampshire Limited Liability Company located in Franconia, NH and solely owned by Judith A. Pietroniro and John F. Pietroniro.

Project Resource Group, LLC provides a full range of construction management and consulting services to clients with a strong focus on environmentally sustainable real estate development projects in the commercial, custom residential, educational and governmental market sectors throughout New England.

Utilizing the experience and skills accumulated over Mr. Pietroniro's expansive career in all phases of the construction industry, the Company strives to concentrate on "Green Building" while at the same time diversifying in the above markets.

Project Resource Group pursues contract work as a full-service Construction Management firm through competitive public bidding, private select list bidding and, especially, negotiated contracts made possible by an established network of professional business associates. Projects are deliverable under traditional Design/Bid/Build, Design/Build and Construction Management at Risk methods. In addition, project management preconstruction and construction services are available to developers and business owners wishing to outsource these services on a project basis.

September Test Your Knowledge Answers

- Which of the following entities are responsible for design compliance with the authorities having jurisdiction?**
 - Owner
 - Architect/Engineer [PDPG 5.10.4]**
 - Contractor
 - Plan reviewer
- Marked-up or corrected contract drawings that indicate changes incorporated in the Work are known as:**
 - Contract forms
 - Closeout submittals
 - Record drawings [PDPG 11.2.3.5]**
 - As-built
- Payment and performance bonds are which type of document?**
 - Information available to bidders
 - Construction document
 - Preconstruction submittal [PDPG 13.4.4]**
 - Closeout submittal

Answer Ref.: PDPG is CSI's *Project Delivery Practice Guide*

December Test Your Knowledge

Be one of the first three to answer the following CSI CDT study questions correctly to be eligible to have a 1/4 page ad published in the next edition.

- Prior to BIM the following drawings required specialized skill to produce and were used rarely in construction drawings:**
 - Non-scaled views and plans
 - Plans and reflected ceiling plans
 - Perspectives and isometrics
 - Sections and perspectives
- As a result of the widely held misconception that a contractor's responsibility for defective work lasts only for the one-year warranty period:**
 - The supplementary conditions should state that the period last a specific additional length of time
 - EJCDC and AIA documents state correction period instead of warranty period
 - The owner accepts any repairs after that date
 - The courts relieve the contractor of his responsibility
- It is important to establish the site conditions prior to:**
 - Notice to Proceed
 - Mobilization
 - Negotiating Procurement
 - Signing the contract

Submit your answers and contact info to info@nhcsi.org

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