



Knowledge for Creating  
and Sustaining  
the Built Environment

# Big Sky perSPECTive



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## BIG SKY CHAPTER NEWS

### **BIG SKY CHAPTER NEWSLETTER RECEIVES REGION AWARD**

The Big Sky Chapter newsletter "perSPECTive" received the Northwest Region NEWSLETTER EXCELLENCE AWARD at the CSI Northwest Region Conference in Salem, Oregon, August 25, 2007.

### **BIG SKY CHAPTER WEBSITE UP AND RUNNING**

On June 11, 2007, the Big Sky Chapter website officially went on-line. Our address is [www.csibigsky.org](http://www.csibigsky.org). The site was created for members to have a quick, one-stop location to go to for news about upcoming events, opportunities and news from the Chapter, Northwest Region, and Institute levels. The website is administered by Member Pipeline, Inc, and will be updated monthly. If you have news or material that you would like included on this website, please contact any of the Chapter Officers or Directors. Deadline for submittals is the 6th day of every month. Please take a minute or two and visit our site!

### **CSI NORTHWEST REGION CONFERENCE 2008 - Seattle, Washington**

#### **Big Sky Chapter to host 2011 Conference**

We are giving thought to co-hosting this conference with Idaho Chapter. Discussion has already started between our chapters.

Photos from the 2007 CSI Show in Baltimore are currently posted on the CSI Institute website:

<http://www.csishow.net/2007/>

### **BIG SKY CHAPTER BECOMES A REGISTERED CSI CEN PROVIDER**

Big Sky Chapter members now have another incentive to attend chapter meetings . . . continuing education credits!

On September 24, 2007, the Big Sky Chapter received a letter of approval from Jeff Iwankow, Chief Operations Executive for CSI's Construction Education Network, indicating that our application had been approved. The CSI CEN program sets the industry standards for continuing education programs, based on International Association for Continuing Education and Training (IACET) criteria. CSI CEU's and HSW continuing education credits are accepted by licensing, certification, and accreditation agencies.



The Big Sky Chapter joins the following CSI Chapters currently listed as having become a CEN provider: Palm Beach Chapter, Capital Chapter (125), Baltimore Chapter, Milwaukee Chapter, Housatonic Chapter (110), Central Virginia Chapter, Pensacola Chapter, Los Angeles Chapter, Mt. Rainier Chapter, Tampa Bay Chapter, Akron Canton Chapter, Little Rock Chapter, Columbus Ohio Chapter, East Bay Oakland Chapter, Nashville Chapter, Puget Sound Chapter, San Diego Chapter, Willamette Valley Chapter, Cleveland Chapter, Redwood Empire Chapter, Metro New York Chapter, and Greater Orlando Chapter.

The Big Sky Chapter meeting on October 23, 2007 provided members and guests the opportunity to register for continuing education credits, and with assistance from the CSI NW Region, we were also able to offer AIA continuing education credits. If you missed it . . . you also missed out.

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### **ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS!!**

Help us stay connected... If any of your contact information is out of date, please go to the CSI website at [http://www.csinet.org/s\\_csi/index.asp](http://www.csinet.org/s_csi/index.asp) and log in using the information provided on your membership card. You will then go to the Membership page and choose "Modify your Profile" from the box in the bottom left corner of the page. Please make sure CSI has your current email address – thanks!

## **STRATEGIC PLAN**

Big Sky Chapter #146

July 2008

"It is better to have a goal and miss it, then to not have a goal...and hit it!"

### **1 YEAR PLAN** (July 2008)

#### **Increase Active Membership (I AM)**

- What **I AM** expecting from membership in CSI and the Big Sky Chapter.
- What **I AM** contributing to the Big Sky Chapter.
- What **I AM** willing to do to help the Big Sky Chapter

#### **How to Implement I AM**

- Meetings:
  - Monthly / Quarterly membership meetings.
  - Brown Bag luncheons.
- Education:
  - CEN Program Provider
  - CDT study classes
  - Student Affiliate Group
    - Mentoring
- Recognition:
  - Member awards from Chapter / Region / Institute

#### **1 Year Goal** (July 1, 2007 – June 30, 2008)

- Increase Chapter membership by 2X (56 new members)
  - Incentives:
    - CSI "Bucks" (from Institute)
    - Big Sky Chapter Awards
      - 1+ new member - Free dinner at Chapter Meeting
      - 5+ new members - Chapter Dues paid for 1 year
      - 10+ new members - CSI Institute Dues paid for 1 year
- Establish Big Sky Chapter as a CEN (Construction Education Network) Program Provider
  - Develop a Chapter Meeting Program Schedule
    - Set up Chapter "GoTo Meeting" Account
    - Four (4) membership meetings per year
    - Promote Continuing Education Credits (CEU's)
    - Begin CDT training classes
  - Expand Big Sky Chapter Website into a powerful chapter membership tool

### **5 YEAR PLAN** (July 2012)

#### **Increase Chapter Membership Statewide**

- Sponsor two (2) new CSI Chapters within Montana
- Establish monthly Chapter meetings/programs
- Establish one (1) new Student Affiliate Group in Montana

#### **Develop Big Sky Chapter Website**

- Purchase Big Sky Chapter website from MemberPipeline
  - Add "GoTo Meeting" to website and include video cameras

#### **Host the CSI Northwest Region Conference in 2011**

## SIDEBAR ARTICLES

### SPECIAL EVENT

MONTANA ROOFING CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION  
ANNUAL MEETING. [MRCA MEETING](#)

PLACE: FAIRMONT HOT SPRINGS, MONTANA

JANUARY 23 - 25, 2008

### UPCOMING EVENT

**2008 NORTHWEST REGION CONFERENCE**

**PUGET SOUND CHAPTER - SEATTLE, WASHINGTON**

CHECK REGION WEBSITE: [WWW.CSINWR.ORG](http://WWW.CSINWR.ORG) FOR UPDATES

### CHAPTER EVENTS:

#### Big Sky Chapter Board Meetings:

Date: 3rd Thursday of the calendar month

Time: 12:00 – 1:30 pm

Location: CTA Architects conference room; Billings, Montana  
(unless notified otherwise)

#### Quarterly Chapter Meetings:

Date: 4th Tuesday of the month January, April, July & October

Time: 6:30 – 8:00 pm

Location: Bozeman, MT (Price and location to be determined)

#### **Next Chapter Program:**

#### Montana Roofing Contractor's Association Convention

Date: January 24, 2008

Time: 6:30 – 8:00 pm

Registration: Go to the MRCA website

Location: Fairmont Hot Springs Resort, Montana

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Articles, 250 words or less, are requested for this monthly newsletter. If you have articles or information to be shared with the Montana members, please send by e-mail to:

<http://xinbox.com/q9chjf>

### Big Sky Chapter Contacts and Documents

### Find a CSI Chapter

## DID YOU KNOW?



### CSI NORTHWEST REGION

The Northwest Region currently has five (5)  
Chapters registered as CEN Providers.



## CSI Membership Challenge

#### • **Big Sky Chapter Membership Award Levels:**

- 1+ new member - Free dinner at Chapter Meeting (\$20 value)
- 5+ new members - Chapter Dues paid for 1 year (\$40 value)
- 10+ new members - CSI Institute Dues paid for 1 year

#### **NEW CHAPTER MEMBER COUNT**

**00**

### CSI CERTIFICATE AND CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

2008 National Exam Dates:

**CDT** - March 29 - April 5, 2008, at 400+ testing locations throughout the U.S.

**CCS, CCCA, CCPR** - April 5, 2008

#### **2008 exam registration opening October 2007!**

Look for a brochure in both the October and November issues of Construction Specifier magazine.

Big Sky Chapter to offer CDT training classes this fall.

### **Big Sky Chapter of CSI**

**What do you want out of it...what are you willing to put into it?**

# Message from the President

## The President's Specs

By Jan E. O'Brien, CSI  
Big Sky Chapter - President



### **S\_CCESS . . . the only thing missing is U**

Success . . . Merriam-Webster defines success as “a degree or measure of succeeding; a favorable or desired outcome”; to “turn out well.” One year ago, Institute approved the chapter charter request from the Big Sky Chapter, and we officially became the 146th chapter of the Construction Specifications Institute. Throughout the past year, we set many goals for our chapter . . . and attained success in most of them: Newsletter; website; student affiliate group; and most recently as a Continuing Education Network (CEN) Provider. On October 23, the Big Sky Chapter hosted its first Continuing Education Network presentation. Education credits have been submitted to the CEN site, and Certificates of Completion have been emailed to the participants.

However, our New Chapter Member count still stands at zero. Are we showing the benefits of CSI membership with our co-workers and others we do business with? The Big Sky Chapter is offering some pretty good incentives to our members for signing up new members, but it isn't being utilized. Meeting attendance has been “so-so” at best. Would another day of the week work better? Another location? Sadly, this is not uncommon with many organizations.

We would like to get feedback on how the Big Sky Chapter can be more beneficial to our members.

### **Big Sky Chapter News**

The Big Sky Chapter is just one component of the Construction Specifications Institute. As such, our mission is the same as CSI Institute . . . “Advance the process of creating and sustaining the built environment.” We embrace the Core Values of CSI: Foster innovation and creative thinking; Honor and embrace our diversity; Encourage personal and professional growth; Make knowledge-based decisions; Strive for cooperative solutions; Promote stewardship of the environment; Promote and recognize individual and team excellence; Celebrate camaraderie; Keep promises, and trust others will do the same; and Value the needs of those we serve.

Chapter Meeting: The next Big Sky Chapter meeting will be held on Thursday, January 24, 2008 from 6:30 to 8:00 pm at Fairmont Hot Springs in conjunction with the Montana Roofing Contractor's Association. Mark your calendars and plan to attend.

Chapter Development: Monthly Chapter board meetings are held on the third (3rd) Thursday of every month during the noon hour in the conference room at CTA Architects, Billings, Montana (unless noted otherwise). If you have items of business that you would like the board to discuss, contact any of the officers or directors.

The next Chapter Board meeting is scheduled for November 20, in Billings. The business agenda will include the January 24 chapter meeting at Fairmont Hot Springs in conjunction with the Montana Roofing Contractor's Association; progress update on our CDT training program; and chapter membership.

The Big Sky Chapter website is on-line!! The website is updated monthly to help keep you informed of current and upcoming events in the Big Sky Chapter, NW Region and Institute levels. If you have news items that you would like included, please call, fax or email material(s) to us by the 6th day of each month.

Opportunities: There are several Chapter committees that could use your help! If you have a desire to serve on a committee that would better our chapter, please contact any chapter officer or director.

**Move into the “Know Zone” and out of the “no zone”**