

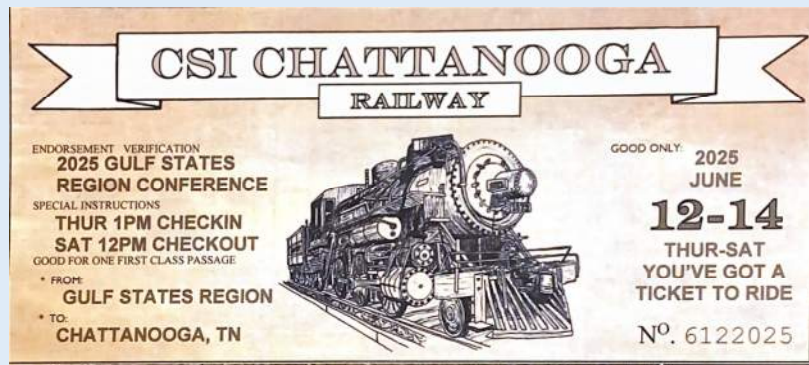


# Chatta Data

Spring Issue 2025

Volume 55

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*The Chattanooga Chapter was  
Pleased to Host the  
2025 Gulf States Region Conference  
Held June 12-14 2025*

**See page 5 for highlights**



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## CSI Fiscal Year 2025

### Chapter Leaders

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President : Tom Deines, FCSI, CCCA	tntconsulting14@gmail.com
President-Elect/Vice-President : Rhonda Bailey, CSI	rbailey@brick.com
Secretary : Jessica Etheredge, CSI,ASID, LEED GA	jessica-etheredge@utc.edu
Treasurer : Amy Fleming, CSI, CDT	afleming@triad-elec.com
Immediate Past President.: Kenny Tyler, CSI, CDT	tylerarchitecturellc@gmail.com
Chapter Director : Bill Wilkerson, CSI	bwilk@dhw-architects.com
Chapter Director : Ronny Rahn	
Board Advisor : Jonnie Cox, RA, FCSI	jamcclung@epbfi.com

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## CSI Fiscal Year 2025

### Gulf States Region Leaders

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President: Mike Zielinski, CSI, CCCA, CDT	mzielinski@lrk.com
Vice President: Gary Bergeron, BS, FCSI, ASHRAE,ASPE,USGBC	gary@kelso-regen.com
Secretary: Jeffrey Parnell, AIA,CSI,CDT,NCARB	Jeffrey@4f.design
Treasurer: John Potter Jr. CSI, Member Emeritus, AIA	csjrpotter@att.net
Immediate Past President: Randall Lewis, AIA, CSI	rlewis@jhharchitects.com

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CSI Chattanooga Chapter

P.O. Box 15974

Chattanooga, TN 37415

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## CSI Chattanooga President's Message



As we look back on 2025, our Chattanooga Chapter had a very busy year, with a lot of things to celebrate. Our chapter maintained ~42 members pretty consistently. In FY 2025-2026 I'd like to see us grow our chapter by at least 10-15%, this seems very doable. The strength of CSI is our diversity of members across the construction industry. When looking at our own chapter, we could use some more industry (contractors & subcontractors), manufacturer's reps and always, students! One bright spot this past year was the number of students that attended our chapter meetings, I'd like to see that not only continue but increase this year.

I want to challenge each of you, who is a member to bring a new member into our chapter this year, and when you do, let's get them actively involved, besides just coming to meetings.

We had 7 educational chapter meetings this past year that provided CEU's. Our 2 best attended meetings were the Chattanooga Lookouts Stadium presentation, "Rounding First Base" and "How Do They Build That", an interactive tour of working cabinet shop. Additionally, we also had 2 special meetings of celebration at year end and at Christmas.

Administratively, Kenny Tyler & Jonnie Cox were instrumental in completing all the revisions to our Chattanooga Chapter Operating Guide, so we can now rest assured that we are legally compliant as of 2025.

Our devoted Product Show chair Amy Fleming was instrumental in boldly changing venues this year, moving the product show from the Chattanooga Whiskey Company where we have been for the last several years to The Chattanooga. We had great attendance; the vendors were happier with the new venue and the speakers for the CEU sessions were excellent. Additionally, our overall attendance was up from previous years.

The chapter awarded 3 Marshall Hildebrand scholarships this year, \$1,500 to Kaori Oliveros, \$1,000 to Abby Comer and \$500 to KayLyn Wagner. The Marshall Hildebrand Scholarship is awarded to encourage and assist qualified students who pursue education in the field of architecture, construction management or other construction related fields so that they might further their goals and exemplify the ideals of CSI.

Finally, our Chattanooga Chapter hosted the Gulf States Region Conference in downtown Chattanooga at the Holiday Inn. As a Chapter President, I could not be more proud and appreciative that so few dedicated members of our chapter (and a few very dedicated wives) accomplished so much. We had over 70 attendees who from all the feedback we received seemed to not only enjoy themselves but felt that they got their money's worth.

*Continued page 4*

## President's Message Continued

From a full day of CEU educational sessions on Thursday, to GSR region business Friday morning, then highlighted with the Tivoli Theater update and walking tour, this conference had a lot to offer. A special thank you to each one of our chapter members that worked so hard, that sacrificed so much of their work and personal time, and that showed up when it mattered to make this event a huge success!

Not lost in all the GSR Conference events was how well our Chattanooga Chapter did on Awards night. Bill Wilkerson, Ronny Rahn, Kenny Tyler, Jessica Etheredge, and Jonnie Cox were all award winners. And... our very own Cindi Brooks was the very deserving recipient of the Robert V. Bishop Award, the highest CSI award that is bestowed in the Gulf States Region.

My vision for FY 2025-26 is simple:

Continue to present quality educational programs that are both interesting and offer CEU's to our professional community.

Grow our chapter by at least 10%-15% - welcome new members in areas where we don't have many – industry, manufacturer's / product reps, and as always – more students! The future is about the students – we had 4 of them at the GSR conference that attended the entire conference, which was exciting and an impetus for the upcoming year's growth.

Look for innovative ideas and opportunities that we haven't explored before to make our chapter more dynamic, just because "we've always done it that way" doesn't mean that we can't and shouldn't be looking for new ideas and ways to do it better.

If we have 42 members, we'd like to see more of you at our meetings... what are the rest of you doing on Thursday nights? Come and join us, get a delicious meal, network and learn something new! I hope to see more of you at our chapter meetings this coming year.

*Tom Deines, FCSI, CCCA*

Chattanooga Chapter CSI President



## **CSI Chattanooga Chapter Slate of Officers FY 2026**

President:	Tom Deines, FCSI, CCCA
Vice President:	Rhonda Bailey, CSI
Secretary:	Jennifer Flowers, CSI
Treasurer:	Amy Fleming, CSI, CDT
Past President:	Kenny Tyler, CSI, CDT
Director 1 :	Bill Wilkerson, CSI
Director 2:	Ronny Rahn, AIA, CSI, NCARB
Board Advisor:	Beth Eubanks, CSI

## Gulf States Region Conference Highlights

The Chattanooga Chapter was delighted to Host the Annual Gulf State Region Conference in June. For any chapter that hosts a GSR Conference they know it takes a village to accomplish putting a conference together. The conference committee, led by Chair, Kenny Tyler, consisted of Rhonda Bailey, Amy Fleming, Jessica Etheredge, Bill Wilkerson, Ronny Rahn, Leslie Tyler, and Trixie Deines. There are no words to express how appreciative and proud the Chattanooga Chapter is for their devotion, not to mention skills, to ensure a successful conference for all the Gulf States Region members to enjoy.

Thursday there was a full day of CEU's with theme being Reuse, Adapt, Recycle. Say RAR! Historic Preservation was the head liner for the sessions with the day ending with a Chattanooga Historic Trolley tour.



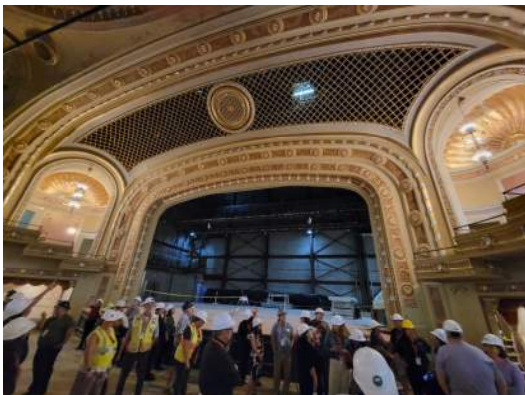
Friday started with GSR Board meeting, then on to Opening Session where GSR chapters reported on their chapter's accomplishments. Leadership training began with Mark Dorsey, CSI National CEO, and William Sundquist, CSI National Chair, inviting the attendees to become Honorary Board Members for an hour. They lead discussions on what makes CSI relevant, successful, and what we stand for.

Darson Buckner's enthusiastic presentation, "Do the Loco-Motion with Me" started with everyone getting up and forming a train around the room, with inspirational music of course! Darson discussed the ways to "Sell" CSI as a Volunteer Organization

Next up was Kathy Proctor and Suzan Jordan's inspirational presentation "Fun and Informative CSI Events". It was definitely FUN! They shared several ideas for ice breakers for chapter meetings and the importance of welcoming new members or attendees. The presentation ended with all tables being given a song to play on their Kazoo's. There were many musical talents discovered along with motivating comradery in the room.



After a delicious lunch at Rodizios Grill it was time for the **Keynote Speaker**. Michael Schnoering with Mills +Schnoering Architects, LLC, gave an informative overview of the design and processes for the Tivoli Theatre and Tivoli Center Renovation project. When the session was finished attendees put on their hard hats, walked to the Tivoli Theatre construction site, and toured the historic beauty being restored as well as the new additions to the theatre and Tivoli Center.



Friday ended with the Gulf States Region Awards Banquet. This is the opportunity to recognize chapters and members for their special service to the region. Chattanooga Chapter received Awards for Special Publications and Chapter Meeting, "Round the bases of the New Home for the Chattanooga Lookouts". Jonnie Cox, FCSI received a People's Choice award for her special service and exceptional work on amending the Chapter Bylaws.



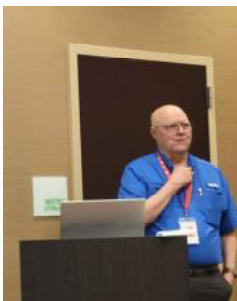
The most prestigious award the region has is the Robert V. Bishop Award. This award is voted on by past recipients of the Bishop Award. Cindi Brooks, CSI, Chattanooga Chapter member, received the award for FY 2025. She received the medal and plaque, in addition to her name being added on the plaque with all past recipient's names. You could see by looking at Cindi's face how honored she was to receive this award.



Saturday leadership training continued with Karina Kane, the Knoxville Chapter and GSR's rising star, presentation on "Make CSI Relevant to Emerging Professionals". Emerging Professionals are a key part of CSI's future and continued success.



Jack Potter's presented "Treasurer's Proper Processes". His presentation discussed treasurer duties and maneuvering BillHighway, a site for organizations to collect and manage finances in addition to membership management.



The conference ended with Closing Session and the "Passing of the Gavel" to Gary Bergeron, FY 26 Region President, and "Passing the Buck" to the Knoxville Chapter, next year's host for the Gulf States Region Conference. See you next year in Knoxville!





# 2025 CSI GULF STATES REGION CONFERENCE SPONSORS

## GUEST SPEAKER SPONSOR



## AWARDS BANQUET



## TROLLEY TOUR



## HOSPITALITY ROOM



## FELLOWS BREAKFAST



## EVENT HALL



## CEU SPONSORS



## EXHIBITORS



## BANQUET CENTERPIECES





## Chapter Meeting

### “Round the Bases of the New Home For the Chattanooga Lookouts”

Driving into Chattanooga on I-24 there is a beautiful view of the Tennessee River and Moccasin Bend. However, there has been an eyesore, across from the river, of the old U.S. Pipe and Wheland Foundry buildings that were in disrepair and abandoned over 20 years ago. In 2017 the reimaging of the 400 acres just south of downtown, known as the South Broad District, was in full swing. The new stadium is expected to be a catalyst for broader development, bringing in new residential, retail and office spaces to the area.



On November 21, 2024 the CSI Chattanooga’s Chapter Meeting “Round the Bases of the New Home for the Chattanooga Lookouts” was of great importance to members of the chapter and local Chattanooga residents. Presenters for the meeting were the Architects, Ray Boaz with Derthick, Henley & Wilkerson Architects and Bob Franklin with Franklin Architects.

Most of the former foundry buildings have been saved. Fans will enter through the former Power House building, a spacious brick building that is located just behind home plate. Several of the buildings being repurposed date back to 1936 along with another foundry landmark that dates back to 1882.



The stadium presentation showed the amenities that the stadium will have including the Pattern Shop with stage for live music, the Munch Hall, the Chattanooga Lookouts Batters Eye Club and the Right Field Bar. The presentation ended with renderings showing upcoming South Broad District planned projects that will be seen from the Stadium.

The Chattanooga Chapter was honored to have the designers for the stadium project provide this presentation and it was the highest attended meeting of the year.

Take me out to the ball game in 2026!



Right Field Bar



Pattern Shop

A promotional banner for the CSI National Conference 2025. The background is green with a geometric pattern. On the right, there is a photograph of two women talking. The text on the left reads: "Your Connection to New Knowledge and Community" in white. Below this is a red button with "Register Now" in white. At the bottom left is the CSI logo, and to its right, the text "NATIONAL CONFERENCE 2025" and "October 15-17 | Cleveland, OH" is displayed in white.

## What I Learned from CSI– Flat Coke and other beverages?

By: Gary Bergeron, BS, FCSI, ASHRAE, ASPE, USGBC

Have you ever been at a line at a food drive-thru restaurant and noticed a large silver tank on the side or back of the building? If you are part of the building construction and design community you might know that silver tank is a carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) tank. The CO<sub>2</sub> is used to provide the carbonated water or fizz in your soda, pop, coke, cola, soda pop, or soft drink. This large silver CO<sub>2</sub> tank is a lower pressure tank and replaces the multiple old fashioned small red cylinder with a black carrying handle.

It was when we did a five year commitment as concession chairpersons for our children's high school football games that became intimately familiar with the little red high pressure tanks. Depending on their size the red tanks can be heavy, difficult to keep in stock, and filled with enough gas to last an entire high school football game.

The silver tanks hold much more CO<sub>2</sub> and are filled easily by the CO<sub>2</sub> supplier from a tank truck. These silver CO<sub>2</sub> tanks are filled at a much lower pressure which makes them less hazardous to the user. The CO<sub>2</sub> supplies the soft drink machine with carbonated water in a pre-mix or a post-mix manner. The soft drink

fountain heads are calibrated with the correct amount of water, syrup, and CO<sub>2</sub> to provide a consistent drink quality. The water line is equipped with a stainless-steel backflow preventer at the fountain head to prevent any carbonated water from backing up into the domestic water system and causing copper poisoning.

I didn't realize it until I started researching this article but there is food grade CO<sub>2</sub> and normal grade CO<sub>2</sub> which is very important. The food grade (99.9% or higher) is purer and yields a much better tasting product.

There are safety hazards with the large CO<sub>2</sub> tanks. The amount of gas in the large tank can be enough to fill an entire room. OSHA estimates the current average CO<sub>2</sub> death toll at **90 fatalities** per year. CO<sub>2</sub> poisoning occurs when the CO<sub>2</sub> concentration goes over 5,000 PPM in an enclosed area. This is why a CO<sub>2</sub> detector/ alarm is located inside many restaurants that use the large capacity tank to alert the occupants of a leak. CO<sub>2</sub> is heavier than air and can fill a room undetected due to its colorless and odorless nature. The tanks are also required to be secured to an adjacent wall (usually with a yellow chain) to prevent them from overturning.



Bulk silver CO2 tank w/ chain



Bulk silver CO2 tank

## Update From CSI Board of Directors Chair

### William Sundquist, FCSI



The CSI Board of Directors is dedicated to understanding the needs of our CSI Community and ensuring we maintain an organization that keeps CSI relevant while providing tools for you to be effective in the AECO Industry.

I want to highlight a few ways CSI is working to fulfill that mission.

At our recent Winter meeting, the board discussed ways to strengthen our **volunteer leadership** pipeline. We worked to better understand what motivates members to take on leadership positions, why they stay engaged, and what keeps people from getting involved. I have seen first-hand how volunteering with CSI at all levels can help build relationships and careers. I encourage you to plug into a local CSI chapter and explore how you can help make our community stronger.

Our **certification programs** are another way we help ensure the CSI community is prepared to shape our industry. As connectors across disciplines, CSI members can feel confident that their work in organizing construction documentation makes an impact. The CSI board, volunteers, and staff ensure our four exams are up-to-date and relevant for today's workplace. Join me in congratulating the members of our community [who recently passed their exams](#). Also, the [Fall certification cycle is now open](#), and I encourage you to take the next step in your career by adding CDT®, CCS®, CCA®, or CCPR® behind your name.

The breadth of work CSI accomplishes is our commitment to impacting the profession. Our recently released **CSI Annual Report** is a great way to understand all of the resources available in our association.

The CSI Board of Directors is also committed to ensuring our standards and formats are up-to-date and embedded into relevant technology, so you have the tools to do your work more effectively. I'm excited to share more about this topic later this year.

Lastly, I encourage each of you to take advantage of the human connection that is provided at all levels of our organization. These valuable opportunities help facilitate the role each of you contributes to the innovation of our industry. Because **as we invest in people, we create a strong foundation.**

**As we elevate our profession, we ensure its legacy. And as we execute our projects with precision and purpose, we build a future that reflects our highest aspirations.**

Thank you for being a part of the CSI community!

William Sundquist, FCSI

Chair, CSI Board of Directors



Taylor Gaddis, CSI-EP

George Holden, CSI

KayLyn Wagner, CSI-S

CSI Certification

CDT®, CCCA®, CCS® and CCPR™

CSI is the community's authority on communication and construction documentation.

Through CSI's Certification Program, you can strengthen and demonstrate your understanding of the entire construction process and concrete skills in:

Construction Document Development

Specification Writing and Enforcement

Product Research and Sourcing

Communication with design and contracting teams

2025 Fall Certification Exams

Early Bird Registration	8/12/25 - 9/11/25
Standard Registration	9/12/25 - 10-22-25
Final Registration	10/23/25 - 11/10/25
Exam Window	11/11/25 - 12/11/25

Visit [csiresources.org/certification](https://csiresources.org/certification)

For More Information

March Anniversaries

Joshua Dial, CSI

Member Since 2012

Will Tutton, BA, CSI

Member Since 2012

Bill Wilkerson, CSI

Member Since 2017

April Anniversaries

Royce Cornelison, CSI, Assoc. AIA

Member Since 2001

Tom Deines, FCSI, CCCA

Member Since 1993

Bruce Martin, CSI, Member Emeritus

Member Since 1985

Houston Spencer, CSI, Member Emeritus, CDT

Member Since 1987

Jan Pass

Member Since 1988

May Anniversaries

Cindi Brooks, CSI

Member Since 2002

*“Yesterday is History*

*Tomorrow is a Mystery*

*Today is a Gift*

*That is why we call it the Present*



## *Gulf States Region Conference to be Held in Knoxville, TN Summer 2026*

The Construction Specifications Institute is a nationwide non-profit technical organization dedicated to the improvement of specifications and building practices in the construction industry through service, education and research. Founded in 1948, CSI provides a forum for architects, engineers, specification writers, contractors, suppliers and others in our industry. Membership is open to all who are involved in the built environment. Please contact Chapter Membership Chairman or any chapter officer listed in the newsletter.

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*Editor: Cindi Brooks, CSI*