



**Northeast Region Construction Specifications Institute
BOARD REPORT**

DATE: September 27, 2018
TO: Northeast Region Board of Directors
FROM: Susan Borne, Region Director

SUBJECT: Report of Boston Chapter

A. Report Summary

1. Boston remains an active chapter with successful programming resulting in good attendance at most meetings. In addition to the monthly chapter meetings, the Membership and Programming committees also confer on a monthly basis.

B. The Report

1. Summary of activities from May 1 to September 27, 2018:

May Chapter Meeting (5/9/18; 5:15 – 7:45 PM): “From Research to Specifications to Healthier Environments” (Panel Discussion) – Robin Dobson, “Silent Spring Institute”; Greta Eckhardt, Payette Associates, Inc.; Heather Anne Henriksen, Harvard University Office for Sustainability and Lisa Goodwin Roberts, Kalin Associates, Inc. (55 attendees – attendance was negatively impacted by conflict with Northeast Regional meeting in Burlington, VT).

Overview: Scientific studies are providing ever-increasing evidence demonstrating the effects indoor environmental quality can have on occupant health. We ask: How can results of scientific research on materials be most effectively translated into building design and requirements for construction? We will explore a process that uses facility standards and construction specifications as tools for translating scientific data into documents that can be enforced during building construction and share a case study in higher education.

June Summer Social (6/13/18; 5:00 – 8:00 PM): Glass House, Cambridge, MA (50+ attendees).

Strategic Planning Meeting (8/2/18; 12:30 – 4:30 PM): UMass Club, Boston (20 attendees).

September Chapter Meeting (4/11/18; 5:15 – 7:45 PM): “The Collaborative for High Performance Schools (CHPS) in Massachusetts: Overview, Projects and High Performance Products Database” - Elisabeth Krautscheid, Managing Director of CHPS; Arnel Catalan, Associate Principal, Mount Vernon Group Architects (45 attendees).

Overview: High performance schools are more than just green buildings. Every component is carefully chosen to create a healthy, productive space for students and faculty. Elisabeth and Arnel will discuss how CHPS works with school districts in Massachusetts to create healthy, resource-efficient school buildings, and provide an

overview of CHPS in Massachusetts, and an introduction to the services and resources CHPS offers, including the High Performance Products Database.

2. Status of current programs:

October Chapter Meeting (10/10/18; 5:15 – 7:45 PM): **“NFPA 285 - Fire Test for Exterior Walls” - Panel Discussion** - Donald Havener, Principal Fire Protection Engineer at Cosentini Associates; Brian Kuhn, Consultant at Code Red Consultants; Eric Montplaisir, Principal Fire Protection Engineer at TERP Consulting; Keith Nelson, Senior Architect at ECS MID-ATLANTIC, LLC.

Overview: Hear a panel of fire protection engineers and building envelope design professionals discuss NFPA 285, present historical evidence detailing why NFPA 285 is important and required by the building code, explain what aspects of an exterior wall triggers a code requirement for NFPA 285, provide information on how to design exterior walls that comply with the requirements of NFPA 285, and discuss current nuances in local state building code amendments regarding NFPA 285.

November Chapter Meeting (11/27/18; 5:15 – 7:45 PM): **“NFCA (National Fireproofing Contractors Association) & Fire-Resistance”** - Bill McHugh, Executive Director of the National Fireproofing Contractors Association

Overview: The National Fireproofing Contractors Association advocates for safe buildings through fire-resistance. Hear an overview of the industry from the International Building Code’s Chapter 7, ASTM E119 and UL 263 fire test standards and some of the listed designs., Bill will also look at special inspection of Spray Fire-Resistant Materials and Intumescent Fire-Resistant Materials and how the fire-resistance-rated assemblies are maintained – as required by the International Fire Code and NFPA 101.

December Winter Social, TBD

January Chapter Meeting – Joint Meeting with ICRI at Granite Links, Braintree, MA (1/8/19; 5:15 – 7:45 PM): **“Traps for the Unwary: Practical Tips for Staying Out of Trouble and Avoiding Construction Litigation”** - Jonathan Handler, Partner in the Boston office of Day Pitney LLP and Jennifer Grubb, Senior Project Manager at Simpson Gumpertz & Heger, Inc.

Overview: This presentation will discuss engineering and legal perspectives, on how to avoid traps that can result in litigation. Defending a legal claim is expensive, and a major distraction from running your business which is to be avoided whenever possible. There are some simple measures that can be taken to reduce that risk. Jonathan and Jennifer will discuss common sense steps that can be taken to lessen the risk of litigation.

February Chapter Meeting (2/13/19; 5:15 – 7:45 PM): **“Building Envelope Commissioning”** – Brian Neely, Gale Associates

Overview: When it comes to remaining dry, many new and renovated buildings fail to perform as intended. Building enclosure commissioning helps avoid common construction issues including water intrusion, air infiltration and associated energy loss. Addressing enclosure issues in early stages of construction saves money and time. The presentation will cover: Building constructability , analysis of enclosures, hygrothermal analysis of wall

and glazing systems, mock-up testing, water management strategies, and compliance verification.

March Chapter Meeting (3/13/19; 5:15 – 7:45 PM): “**A Comparison of Health-Focused Rating Systems: WELL and Fitwel**” - Blake Jackson, AIA, LEED/WELL Faculty, Fitwel Ambassador and Sustainability Design Leader with Stantec – Boston and Steven Burke, LEED/WELL Faculty, Fitwel Ambassador, Sustainability Manager at Consigli Construction Company

Overview: Interest is increasing in how buildings impact our health and well-being. The design community is becoming more concerned with incorporating evidence-based approaches to better impact occupant health and well-being. The WELL and Fitwel ratings systems have recently emerged, with the same goal, to promote better health outcomes through better, measurable design. While these systems are similar, they are unique in their approach and certification process. Blake and Steven will give an introduction to the systems, pointing out where they complement other ratings systems like LEEDv4, where they synergize, and where they diverge, to help us understand where each can be used, in tandem or stand-alone, to promote better health outcomes, and to meet the health and wellness goals of their clients and projects.

April Chapter Meeting (4/10/19; 5:15 – 7:45 PM): “**ADA Requirements for Buildings**” - Kathy Gips, Director of Training, New England ADA Center

Overview: ADA requires accessibility in employee- only areas and the Massachusetts accessibility regulations do not; Massachusetts covers private residential and the ADA does not. Kathy will present critical areas where the regulations of the Massachusetts Architectural Access Board and the ADA Standards differ. She will discuss where the requirements conflict and present a few resolutions. Finally, since the ADA is a civil rights law, requirements for accessibility in older buildings not planning alterations will be addressed.

May Chapter Meeting (5/8/19; 5:15 – 7:45 PM): “**On Solid Ground? The Next Frontier in Floor Finishes**” - Emily R. Hopps, P.E., Associate Principal in the Building Technology division of Simpson Gumpertz & Heger Inc. (SGH)

Overview: Concerns for health, safety and the environment triggered a major overhaul of construction materials, including those used in the flooring industry. Many floor systems, historically considered reliable, were redesigned, sometimes resulting in a loss of durability. New floor systems introduced to combat these negative effects, left the industry without track records and testing to verify performance. Emily will delve into the recent history of flooring failures and extract lessons-learned for future floor system designs. She will explore the variety of floor finishes available today and discuss how these new systems can be integrated into current projects.

June Summer Social: TBD

Pop-Up Functions: TBD – one planned for Fall 2018 and one planned for Spring 2019

3. Problem areas: The Boston Chapter is continuing to work on adjusting to the loss of the old CSI chapter website and deciding the best option for providing the Chapter members with up-to-date pertinent information without taxing the time and energy of the members who have volunteered to do so. The Chapter is also looking into ways to communicate and potentially attract new members by effectively using other forms of social media: Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter and Instagram.
4. Success stories: The Boston Chapter has a strong core of active members and volunteers and has been successful recently in attracting some new faces to the group.
5. Liaison Activities: Communications Committee

C. Chapter Leadership Roster

1. Chapter Officers

President:	Bob McEachern (bmceachern@rtsreps.net)
President-Elect:	Susan Borne (susan.borne@sherwin.com)
Imm. Past President:	Cynie Linton (clinton@kalinassociates.com)
Vice-President:	Howard Levine (hlevine@duncangalvanizing.com)
Treasurer:	Viesturs H. Ule (vhule@aol.com)
Secretary:	Craig Boucher (craig.boucher@gcpat.com)
Director:	Alain Stanislas (Astanislas@Dorcken.com)
Director:	Heidi Jandris (heidi@jandrisandsons.com)
Director:	Matt Zyrkowski (mzyrkowski@iconarch.com)
Director:	Kelsey McMenamy (krm@gainc.com)
Director:	Tara Ikenouye (tikenouye@wje.com)
Director:	Len Anastasi (len@exo-tec.biz)
Director:	Andrew Jeffrey (aejeffrey@sgh.com)
NE Region Director:	Susan Borne (susan.borne@sherwin.com)

2. Chapter Committee Chairs

Membership:	Kristin Norwood (knorwood@smma.com) – Co-Chair Jared Gorman - Co-Chair
Programming:	Craig Boucher (craig.boucher@gcpat.com)
Communications:	Susan Borne (susan.borne@sherwin.com) - Interim
Operations:	Kelsey McMenamy (krm@gainc.com)
Awards:	Tara Ikenouye (tikenouye@wje.com)

3. Chapter Nominating Committee Appointee

Kelsey McMenamy (krm@gainc.com)

Respectfully submitted;

Susan Borne
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END OF REPORT

CC: Region Secretary