

Maine Chapter – First Decade

Written by El Richardson for the 10th Anniversary Celebration

An organizational meeting initiated by Robert Armitage was attended by representatives of all segments of the Industry, was held in Portland on Dec. 9, 1966. Mr. Arthur Brown, Region 1 Director of CSI, explained the necessary steps for the formation of a CSI Chapter in Maine.

Other meetings and the work of a committee headed by Bob Armitage culminated in formal presentation of a Chapter to the Portland Maine Chapter of CSI on March 31, 1967. Chartering Night was attended by officers of the Boston, Hartford and Rhode Island Chapters with the Charter being presented by Kelsey Saint, then Secretary of the Institute. The Chapter was off to a good start under guidance of its new officers and directors:

President	Robert Armitage
1 st V.P.	Lloyd Cushman
2 nd V.P.	Roderick Ling
Secretary	Elford Richardson
Treasurer	Richard Danforth
Directors	Ralph Knowlton
	Arthur Ford
	Howard McCartney
	Raymond Mercer
	George Barnes

The 50 Charter Members, 28 Professional and 22 Industry, were a good representation of Architects, Engineers, Contractors, Manufacturers and Suppliers. The present doubled membership is still good in all segments with a somewhat large percentage of Industry Members.

For geographic reasons Chapter Meetings were held in various parts of the State to even out travel by the members, also to make the Chapter more appealing to prospective Maine members. Armitage obtained Institute approval to change the Chapter name to Maine Chapter.

The first year activities of the Chapter were concerned with education of the membership to the use of the CSI format, building Chapter membership and starting to spread the word of CSI's efforts for better specifications to the construction industry of Maine.

Our first Chapter President would have liked more time to accomplish these objectives, but in the interest of involving more members in the action, it became a policy of the Chapter to elect new officers each year.

Lloyd Cushman, 2nd Chapter President, 1968-1969, was also a prior member of CSI in the Boston Chapter. The second year was noted for the vigorous efforts of the Technical Committee and heavy commitment made by the Chapter to specifications work, concentrating on:

Miscellaneous Metals	Armitage, Chairman
Concrete	Danforth, Chairman
Millwork	Wright, Chairman

All these specification committees brought their work to the membership via panel discussions at Chapter Meetings

Niran Bates, 3rd Chapter President, 1969-1970, kept the pot boiling for Technical Document Activities. Niran also promoted closer ties with education fields, bringing us a few educators as members and recommending an education committee be formed the following year.

The Maine Chapter sponsored the formation of the New Hampshire Chapter scheduling a joint meeting with prospective N.H. members in June 1970. Paul Tolman became the 1st President of the N.H. Chapter.

This was the year our newsletter evolved into a publication, Maine-ly Specs, complete with advertising to make it self-supporting.

Howard McCartney, our 4th Chapter President, 1970-1971, continued to press for full participation in the technical document activity. Tilt-up Construction (chaired by Danforth) and Utility Construction (chaired by Knowlton) were added to work on specifications in progress. The Concrete Specification and the Utility Specification were displayed at the Institute Convention.

The Chapter started its educational endeavor at Central Maine Vocational Technical Institute. A series of lectures were given by Chapter Members to acquaint technical students with the various aspects and importance of good construction specifications. Howard was a prime mover in the Chapter's educational efforts at CMVTI and chaired the Education Committee in subsequent years.

Elford Richardson, 5th Chapter President, 1971-72, came on board just in time to attend the Institute Convention in Anaheim, California and accept for the Chapter, the Institute Award for the most improved newsletter for calendar year 1970

As a forerunner of the Chapter's own seminars, the Chapter assisted the New England Continuing Education Council in promotion of the "Northern New England Project Leadership Seminar for Construction Superintendents and Owner's Representatives".

For the first time the Chapter scratched the surface in delving into the make-up of Divisions 15 and 16. Panel discussions on each division indicated much more study and discussion would be warranted.

Kenneth Jackson our 6th Chapter President, 1972-73, had an exciting year with planning for and hosting the Region 1 Conference in October 1972 at Kennebunkport. The conference was well attended and its theme, "Construction Management and Performance" was timely and well received. Armitge and Knowlton served as Conference Co-chairs.

This was the year the Maine Chapter placed a candidate in nomination for Region 1 Director. Bob Armitage was elected Director and was proudly acclaimed by the Chapter.

This was also the year of the Institute big membership drive. With the help of many members, the Membership Committee announced the astounding result of 67% increase in members bringing the total to 97. Pete Churchill served as Membership Committee Chairman that year.

William Whited, 7th Chapter President, 1973-74, made a special effort to involve our many new members in Chapter activities. The Chapter ranked high in retention of members and added new members bringing the total to 99 in April.

This was the year of the Chapter's first seminar, Ken Jackson's brain child, a "Specifications Seminar" was held in the Augusta Civic Center. With many helping hands of the membership it was a success and provided stimulus for future Chapter seminars.

Robert Whitmore, 8th Chapter President, 1974-75, saw the Chapter break the 100 barrier in membership.

The Chapter went all out in its efforts to promote closer ties to the State's educators. In addition to the continuing series of lectures at CMVTI, the December Chapter meeting held at the University of Maine featured a panel discussion on "Education and the Construction Industry". The Chapter sponsored an "Education Construction Planning" seminar, another Ken Jackson special. Participants were State Board of Education personnel, School Superintendents and Building Committees, and members of CSI, AIA, CEM and AGC. A new program of lectures similar to those at CMVTI was inaugurated at the University of Maine.

In April 1975, the Membership Committee reported an all time high of 116 members.

Richard Eustis was our 9th Chapter President, 1975-76. Dick's target for the year was to build on panel discussion programs by having each program chairman, with an ad-hoc committee, develop discussion material into "Recommendations to the Construction Industry". Such recommendations would be channeled back through appropriate areas "To bring the expertise of CSI to bear on the various industry problems".

This was the year the Chapter had to become reconciled to the idea of an enlarged Region 1. Since it also called for a new Section Director, our own Ralph Knowlton ran for the office. Although he lost to Steve Blumenthal, to quote Dick Eustis, "The closeness of the election is proof in itself that the two best men in the Region were competing for the position".

The Chapter ran two seminars, one on "Construction Contract Documents", and the other, "Designing for the Physically Handicapped". The latter was sponsored in cooperation with the Pine Tree Society for Crippled Children and Adults.

The Chapter received from Region 1, a Technical Excellence Award for its Utility Specification. The Education Committee, with new chairman Melvin Cole again put on lecture programs at CMVTI, EMVTI and the University of Maine.

Richard Danforth, our 10th Chapter President, 1976-77, was our first President from the ranks of "Industry Members". Dick has been consistently active in Chapter affairs since the formation of the Chapter.

The seminar of the year, co-sponsored with the Martin Marietta Cement Co., featured "Designing and Specifying of Cast-in-Place Architectural Concrete".

This was the year when the Nominating Committee, chaired by Dick Eustis, decided it was time to let the officers have a second year to accomplish their goals and the same officers were nominated and re-elected to office for our 11th year, 1977-78.