



**LEAN
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TRANSFORMING DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION

May 20, 2013

Calling all abstracts: With a focus on proven tools to help teams be more efficient; reports on Lean journeys from within major organizations; and how project owners can use lean thinking, behaviors, and tools to advance their capital programs, we want to hear from you! If you are interested in **contributing a presentation to the 2013 LCI Congress program**, please access the link below. Responses are due **May 31**. Our 2013 Congress takes place in Dallas, TX October 22- 25.

<http://lci2013congress.squarespace.com/>.

The owners' perspective: our Chicago Community of Practice just hosted two great forums. I was privileged to join the Chicago CoP May 9 for a great pair of presentations by Bill Seed of UHS and Al Manshum of Advocate Health Care. Session one was designed specifically as an owners-only forum, with a group of about ten local owners in the healthcare and university arenas being present. We took the opportunity to talk about LCI and encourage the owners to get active in the local CoP, and ultimately to consider membership in LCI. The owners asked many good questions, and several stayed for the second session, in which Bill and Al presented their material to the local Community of Practice meeting. The turnout was over 100 people, and the Q&A again was extensive and engaging. Congratulations to the core group, and in particular Cindy Menches and Rich Seiler who are co-leaders there in the Chicago CoP, and to Drinker, Biddle and Reith, who hosted us in their beautiful downtown facility. And special thanks again to Bill Seed and Al Manchum for engaging their owner colleagues in a truly meaningful dialogue. Here are some of the questions from the audience we noted on a flip chart and had the speakers address: Examples of the real world benefits of Lean; Success stories; Struggles and how to overcome them; How to engage subcontractors in Lean? Are there insurance/bonding issues? How is contract language changing? Options for team organization; Are there risks associated with Lean? What are the incentives?

A few organizational **lessons learned May 9 with potential applicability to CoPs elsewhere:** the owners-only format worked well; this encouraged attendance, and everyone seemed comfortable knowing they would not be accosted by attendees seeking business from them. By choosing healthcare-related presenters in this particular market, a good match was made between the predominant interests of the local owners and our speakers; in other markets, university, industrial or other types of owners might be a good match. And following up with the traditional CoP session allowed owners who wanted to stay to do so, and get exposed to additional Q&A, as well as see the way CoP sessions operate. If any other CoPs are interested in sponsoring owners' forums like this, please let us know. We can help issue invitations and see if we can turn out a quorum to expose more owners to the benefits of Lean.

It is great to see the continuing strong interest in our Communities of Practice (CoP). Hopefully, you have already visited your CoP's landing page on our new website. If you have not, now is a good time to [visit](#). **We would like to have each CoP personalize their page with a quote or two about Lean construction** or how the CoP is furthering the Lean message. Please have your CoP point of contact send your personalization message to Anne O'Donnell at anne@leanconstruction.org.



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A 2012 reprise: I'd like now to invite my friend and colleague Dick Bayer, former executive director at LCI, to join me in a co-authored greeting, and in **announcing that we have available a brief overview of LCI's accomplishments in 2012** now posted to our website. Since Dick was at the helm throughout the year, I will let him offer his thoughts on some highlights of what on almost all counts was a banner year, and one in which LCI's financial and programmatic successes paved the way for greater achievements to come. I can only add my **thanks and congratulations to Dick, Greg Howell, the board, and other LCI staff** for results that speak for themselves. Please [click here](#) to read more about LCI in 2012.

Dick Bayer's Message: The phrase that keeps coming to mind is "play it forward." The entirety of my co-command at the wheel of LCI with Greg Howell was spent trying to play it forward—looking ahead to the place LCI holds in the lean construction conversation today. Because of the groundwork put in place in 2012, we are stronger and more influential than ever. We combined the power of the ideas (the "Greg" part) with the evangelism that allowed those ideas into the trailers and board rooms of companies across North America. And we're actually moving the needle—beginning to transform the industry.

[Read more from Dick Bayer](#)

I also want to **congratulate several of our corporate member design firms on recent recognition**. ENR just came out with their annual listing of the top 500 design firms, with several LCI members featured prominently. CH2M Hill came in at #5 in the overall rankings, plus top-20 rankings in 10 specific areas of recognition, including industrial process, transportation, and international, among others. STV Group came in with an overall rank of 40, plus individual top-20 recognition in transportation, and garnered the #21 slot in the Top 100 pure designers. KHS was 56 overall, #11 in general building, and #30 among pure design firms. It was also great to see a new LCI member firm, Robins & Morton of Birmingham, AL, at position #414 in the top 500 list. Congratulations to each of these firms, and thanks for your strong support of LCI's ongoing efforts to effectively engage the design community in implementing Lean processes and practices.

Welcome new members:

P. Agnes, Inc.
PCL Construction Enterprises
W. G. Yates & Sons Construction Company
The Beck Group
Morley Builders



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CONSTRUCTION LEADERS

Thanks again to all of you for helping LCI *Transform Design and Construction* through Lean.

Sincerely,

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