



It seems impossible that Memorial Day is already upon us. Come this Friday, many of you will be taking off for a long weekend as summer officially begins. As we do, we'll be reminded by our various Highway Patrols to be careful on the roads—concentrate on safety. Yet we concentrate on safety every day in the places where we work, some of the most dangerous places to work in the country so we need to be heads up at all times. Yet this weekend we celebrate and take time to remember those that have had the toughest jobs in our history, have had to work in the most dangerous “job sites,” and have been pillars of our democracy and freedom. Take some time this weekend to think about our active servicemen and women and our veterans. Think about the sacrifices they and their families have made to allow us to enjoy long holidays like Memorial Day.

Dan Fauchier and I have had the great honor to be partnering facilitators on two Veterans Homes projects in California, one being design built by corporate member Clark Construction in Redding and the other by corporate member Hensel Phelps being built in Fresno. We would start every quarterly session with reference to the importance of the homes they were building. One session, we asked folks to reference a veteran that had been meaningful in their lives. Many people pointed to their grandparents (mostly grandfathers), recalling stories of World War II and Korea. Of course, Dan and I are old enough to have had fathers that fought in both wars, both changed forever by their experiences. One young man had joined the trades after a stint in the Marine Corps. “My father joined the Corps in 1967 and of course served time in Viet Nam. He lost a lot of friends there and I always thought that he lost a piece of himself. My joining the Corps seemed to reignite that lost part and that has brought us closer than ever.” Many of the stories came through choked up voices, eyes misting. I'll never forget the “hardened” construction vets that claimed a great passion for this particular job because it meant so much to them in the context of their lives. It was as if they were building it for their grandfathers and men and women that severed with them.

As we move into Memorial Day, let's keep those memories alive. Engaging in our work with passion, enjoying our families with relish and respecting all that is wonderful about this great country. Remember that as you work on your projects or in your offices, there is someone for whom you will be a mentor, parent, grandparent, hero. So keep yourself safe, healthy and wise—the wealth part will probably take care of itself.

June brings us to an important juncture in LCI history. The first meeting of the new Board of Directors will be held June 12 in St. Louis in conjunction with our third joint meeting with the Construction Users Round Table (CURT) (June 13) and our annual summer Design Forum (June 14 and 15). The CURT meeting is co-hosted by LCI and co-sponsored by AIA and AGC. The Design Forum represents our second direct co-hosting with AIA. Thanks to LCI Board Member and AIA Resource Architect Markku Allison for all of his hard work in bringing this together. And thanks to Boulder Associates and Romano Nickerson, Todd Henderson and Stacey Root for responding when we called for help. Speaking of veterans, long-time Design Forum veteran



Lean Construction Institute

Building Knowledge in Design and Construction

Laura Lesniewski has once again been critical to the development of the agenda and in keeping the conversation we've started at previous Fora going.

Sponsorship opportunities remain for the CURT Conference as well as the Design Forum. This is an opportunity to show your support for our continuing efforts to make lean principles more accessible to both Owners and Designers. Please reference the package details below.

We're also getting our Congress planned earlier than usual. We should have our Event Brite registration open this week so you can make plans to be in Washington D.C. from the 9th through 12th of October. That's going to be a busy time in D.C. with the presidential campaigns roaring to a finish and with much politicking happening in the environs. Our goal is to attract as many government owners as possible so we've lowered the rates for government employees across the board to make it practical and economical to attend. Thanks to Mark Konchar of Balfour Beatty and his committee for getting such a great jump on plans. Also note that the Call for Presentations has been issued and the deadline for submittal is fast approaching. We'll be contacting corporate members soon about sponsorship opportunities for the Congress. It's never too early to plan well, although it's almost always too early to predict with certainty.

I hope to see you in New York tomorrow and Thursday as we kick-off Lean NYC at the Real Estate Board of New York in Manhattan.