



Lean Construction Institute

Building Knowledge in Design and Construction

August 8 leaves us 2 months from the Congress. We've been actively receiving presentation submissions. Good news, given that the official deadline is the 8th, tomorrow. We'll time stamp them until midnight (we have an old Post Office worker on hand who retired April 15 this year and he's looking to keep in practice).

Most of the presentations submitted so far include an owner presence. Active involvement of more owners has been one of LCI's main objectives. Taking the Congress to the nation's capital and the largest developer and landlord in the country was done on purpose. We want to help public owners understand what is available to them, even given procurement restrictions. More importantly, we want to hear from public sector owners what they need from our community.

We will be in Washington at an exciting time. It will be less than a month until the Presidential and other national elections. It's a busy time for the political sector. We've already had a substantial number of early signups for the Congress. If you're waiting to sign up, don't. We have limited hotel space and it's awarded to the first takers. Don't let a political operative take your room.

Those of you that have submitted interest in committee assignments, thank you. Your patience is paying off. The Board meeting happening next week is designed to get some meat around the committees so we can start contacting interested participants. We hope to have the committee structure in place by the Congress.

We hope to have some news to report on my successor by the time of the Congress. We have a selection process in place that we'll be announcing soon. Certainly by the end of the year we should have a full time Executive Director in place and start building a staff and presence for next year.

Meanwhile, I'm still busy carrying one of the LCI torches. Today I'll be in Cincinnati with Nick Apanius of Messer leading a workshop on the use of Last Planner® in design. Stan Chiu, soon to be of HOK, and dubbed the "Chief Engineer of the Lean Community" by Will Lichtig, often points out that the Toyota Production System is not optimal in design. Toyota recognized this by designing the Toyota Design System, using set based option design to carry many design sets forward before winnowing to a final choice. In similar ways, Last Planner in Design is less about direct task identification and completion as it is about information exchanges that enable best design to go forward. Pull planning in design starts with real deliverables rather than merely relying on the progression of schematics to design to construction drawings. I'll be happy to report on our results next week.

The next week I'll be in Washington meeting with a variety of Association folks including Lisa Washington of DBIA. Wednesday, the 22nd I'll be meeting with Tom Soles of SMACNA, Dennis Langley of MCAA and Dan Walter of NECA. Thanks to Tom Soles and his Board for actively setting up a continuing dialogue with LCI about how we can help their organizations educate their members on lean design and construction. As our influence increases, so does our



Lean Construction Institute

Building Knowledge in Design and Construction

responsibility. Given our size and resources, we'll have to (once again) turn to our membership for help in implementing these programs.