



If you're receiving this on Tuesday, November 6, you'll hopefully be going to the polls to vote for your candidates of choice. I've already cast my ballot. That's both a great right that we have in America but, I think, also a great responsibility. We are empowered to make decisions on how our country will be operated by our elected officials and, I believe again, we have a deep obligation to the future of the country to participate.

I'm reminded of implementing Last Planner® on our projects. The Last Planner system empowers participants (all participants) on projects to participate in the planning and management of the execution system—how we will build and deliver the project. Fortunately, you don't have to "register" to participate in the Last Planner, you don't have to present an I.D., you don't have to wait in line. You just have to show up to participate in planning the work—this week, six weeks ahead and for the phases that will complete the project within the allotted time. Like voting informs us on the issues, Last Planner educates us on issues that we hadn't thought about before. I was in a trailer in Orlando last week with Dave MacNeel of Baker, and a project team from Balfour Beatty last planning a particularly difficult performing arts center. Some older voices in the room, with 40 years' experience in construction, said "we're used to pushing our guys. We'll push and hope for the best." Newer, fresher voices, with 43 years' experience, pushed back—"we need your participation here, in a visible way, working with other trades so they understand your strategy and your plan of attack. We need your cooperation and collaboration."

To those who say their vote doesn't matter, I push back with 43 years of voting experience, saying "we need your participation here—we need your collaboration and cooperation." In a rights-based society, we often look to our contracts and our constitution to enforce our "rights" ("you contracted to finish that in 35 days and that's what you'll do"). But we need to complement that with our obligations to be responsible. That's why we talk about maximizing the project, not the piece. What's best for the project? We need your vote there, as well, my friends.

The Design Forum Committee is up and active this week and we hope to have a date for the Winter Design Forum in Berkeley soon. The Design Forum continues to be the leading voice of lean in design in the industry. We may be out-growing the spectacular venue that Iris Tommelein and Glenn Ballard have secured for years at the Clark Kerr Campus, UC Berkeley. The committee will be seeking the best venue as well. More on those developments next week.

Victor Sanvido and Greg Howell are collaborating on how the Committees kicked off at the Congress will move forward to answer the six priorities delivered by the Board for 2013:

- Why Lean? - Practice
- TVD – Research
- Big Room/ Culture – Research



Lean Construction Institute

Building Knowledge in Design and Construction

- Last Planner – Education
- Common Language - Standards
- Delivering a Program of Work – Practice

We hope to have Committee chairs and work plans in place soon. We'll be able to inform you in the next couple of weeks where you can go to receive information about Committee work and how you can get involved.

The search for the new Executive Director continues. We have isolated about ten candidates that are currently being reviewed by the search committee. Interviews of top candidates should take place within the next month. We're looking to have the new Executive Director take over January 1.

As we near the holidays, one would think that our presentations would slow down. Not so fast, my friends. Review the offerings below and you'll see that the Communities of Practice have been energized. Join your local community of practice and benefit from these programs. Most of the videos from the Congress are also currently available for members. Access these through the website and understand why the Congress was such a great success this year.

Please exercise your responsibility this week and vote for candidates of choice. And, as always, be safe out there my friends. We need you and so does your family.