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Geri Eckner
Mark Lowry
Judy Merrill

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THE COMMENTARY

October 2012 Edition

A Newsletter of the Society For Design Administration
Orange County Chapter

President's Corner

By Nancy Burt, SDA, President

SDA/OC just wrapped up another very successful Canstruction event, the fifth annual here in Orange County. This year, 20 teams participated and were able to donate over 80,000 cans of food to the Orange County Food Bank. The need for donations and food is greater now than ever before, and SDA/OC is proud to be part of this event for such a worthwhile cause.

Another of SDA/OC's philanthropies, Project Playhouse, has also finished up another successful run here in Orange County. Four playhouses were on display at South Coast Plaza for a month and on October 5, the playhouses will be auctioned off, and all proceeds will benefit HomeAid and their quest to build shelters for homeless men, women and children. This year marks the 21st anniversary of Project Playhouse, and SDA/OC is pleased to have been part of this philanthropic event for all 21 years.

In October, the SDA/OC will have an open call for interested members to join our Board. All positions are open and available. We have a need for individuals to help with program ideas, membership recruitment, newsletter writing, etc. All positions require just a few hours' commitment per month – please consider putting your name in the running.

Our current *15-for-12 Membership Campaign* is underway. Beginning October 1, any new member who joins SDA, will receive 15 months for the price of 12. If you are already a member, great! If you know of someone who is not a member but would be interested in joining, please direct them to our website www.sdaoc.org or www.sdadmin.org. If you are reading this and are not a member and are interested in finding out more about our organization, please contact me at sdaoc.chapter@gmail.com. There are often incentives for referring a member, so be sure the person puts your name on their membership application.

On October 20 we will hold a Roundtable discussion at Lutron. These roundtables are our most well-attended events of the year and give all in attendance

(Continued on Page 3)

Upcoming Events

October 2012

October 4 Business Meeting 5:30 pm
Meeting will be hosted by ValleyCrest with dinner provided by Karen Henderson

October 18 Luncheon Meeting 11:30 am
Roundtable discussion
Lutron Event Center, Irvine

November 2012

Nov. 1 Business Meeting 5:30 pm
Meeting will be hosted by Wells Fargo Insurance Services with dinner provided by Wendy Woolsey

Nov. 15 Luncheon Meeting 11:30 am
Topic to be announced.
Annual Election of Officers.
Lutron Event Center, Irvine

December 2012

Dec. 9 Holiday Brunch and Installation of Officers— 11:00 am to 2:00 pm
Home of Wendy and Cal Woolsey

Dec. 23 Christmas Day

Dec. 31 New Year's Eve

Looking Ahead

January 10 2013 Planning Meeting and Business Meeting 5:30 pm
Location to be announced

May 15—18, 2013 EDSymposium 2013
Williamsburg, Virginia

Job Board

Did you know that SDA maintains a Job Board? This includes persons looking for work as well as firms looking for qualified personnel in the A/E industry. Most of the positions are for administrative staff, as AIA maintains its own job board for licensed architects. If your firm is looking for a person with certain qualifications or if you know someone who is looking for a position in an A/E firm, please contact Betsy Nickless by e-mail at betsyn@msa-arch.com.



October 1
October 2
October 4

Wendy Woolsey
Diana Dubich
Robert Hutchinson

November 2
November 10
November 24

Karen Henderson
Cheryl Mathes
Betsy Nickless

December 3
December 17

Lisa Falcon
Natalie Newman

President's Corner

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a chance to ask questions and query others about specifics of day-to-day problems, managing a firm, insurance issues, contract verbiage, etc.

On November 15, we will have a speaker on the topic of Social Media, and we will hold our annual Election of Officers. Then on December 9, we will celebrate the season with our annual holiday potluck brunch, ornament exchange and installation of officers at Wendy Woolsey's home. Please mark these dates on your calendar and plan to join us.

Thank you for your commitment to our organization – I hope to see you at our next event.

Employee vs. Contractor

Determining who is a true independent contractor and who is really an employee involves more than labels. The IRS, DOL, state labor and employment boards, unemployment insurance and workers' compensation authorities all investigate this.

The IRS recently issued a template focused on evaluating your own status. In IRS Publication 1779, the IRS looks at three areas: behavioral control; financial control; and the relationship of the parties to determine worker classification.

Behavioral Control:

A worker is an employee when the business has the right to direct and control the worker.

- How, when or where to do the work;
- What tools or equipment to use;

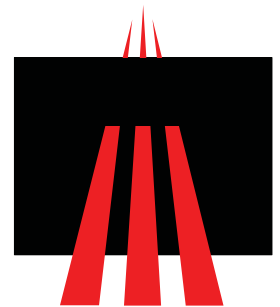
Free SDA Membership

For firms that built a structure for the 2012 Canstruction event, the Society for Design Administration is offering a new one-year FREE membership to the National SDA.

So, if your firm was one of the 20 firms that built a structure for this year's event, please be sure to have your office administrator or management team check out the SDA at www.sdadmin.org. Membership applications are available for download under the Join/Renew tab.

SDA's Mission:

To promote the exchange of ideas and educate its members in the related disciplines of design firm administration.



- What assistants to hire to help;
- Where to purchase supplies and services.

Financial Control:

- Whether the worker has a significant investment in the work;
- Whether the worker is reimbursed for his/her business expenses;
- Whether the worker has an opportunity to realize a profit or incur a loss for doing the work.

Relationship of the Parties:

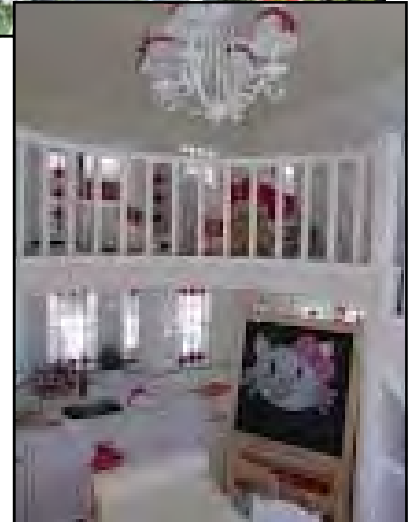
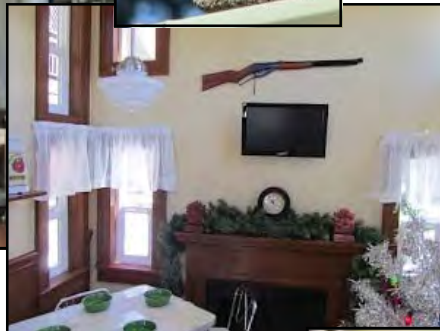
- Whether the worker is entitled to insurance, pension, or paid leave;
- Whether or not there is a written contract between the parties, as other indicators may be unclear.

Source: Forbes.com web site, May 9, 2012

Project Playhouse

Project Playhouse 2012 just concluded with four adorable “kid-friendly, life-sized” houses on display at South Coast Plaza. As we have done for the past 21 years, SDA once again volunteered on the last day of the event.

The auction party will be held on Friday, October 5, where the houses will go to the highest bidders. All proceeds go to **HomeAid**, where they will be used to build shelters for the homeless in Orange County.



Member Profile—Penny Nelson

Interview and Article by Natalie Newman, SDA

For almost 2½ years, Penny Nelson has been the Director of Finance at Douglas Pancake Architects, Inc., and jokes that “I do everything the architects don’t do!” That includes all of the accounting, payroll, human resources, office management, party planning, and whatever else falls across her desk. Since this is a new firm (Douglas Pancake was previously President/Partner in another firm), it’s been fun setting up all of the standards and procedures, and creating their own unique working environment. They are a firm of 19 and concentrate their work on the senior housing marketing: independent living, assisted living, skilled nursing facilities and memory care.



Penny has been an SDA member since 2010 and is currently serving on the Board as Corresponding Secretary. She is the one who sends out the monthly meeting notices and collects all the RSVP's. She also attends most of the monthly seminars, unless she is out of town, and attended the Western States Regional Conference in Denver Colorado in 2010, and the National Convention in Portland, Oregon last May. Having been in the A/E industry for just a little over four years, her favorite thing about SDA is that she's constantly using the various resources to help her learn and grown in her position. She feels fortunate that everyone is so willing to help and pass along their experience and knowledge.

On a more personal note, Penny has been married to her husband Mike for over 25 years. Mike is in sales for a large company headquartered in Kentucky, so he works out of their home. He has been with this job for seven years, but has been in the industry for over 30 years. Penny and Mike have two children, Laura (21) and Jeff (19). Laura works at Disneyland as an Entertainment Host (she's the one you will see with the characters when they are out). She is in the process of being hired on at Disney Cruise Lines, so she may be on a ship as early as December of this year. Jeff is attending Orange Coast College, and works part-time for a mobile veterinary clinic. Both children still live at home.

Penny loves all things Disney! She and Mike have annual passes and love to visit whenever the time allows. When asked if she could have dinner with three famous people, living or dead, she answered that Walt Disney is high on her list. She would also love to meet her five-times grandmother who came from Ohio on the Oregon Trail and to hear her experiences during that journey. She would also like to include Robin Williams – whom she thinks has the quickest wit, and would be hilarious to spend time with.

Penny's other interests include travel and camping. She and Mike just purchased a new travel trailer and are looking forward to trips in it. They also traveled to Spain many years ago, and she says that was the most interesting place she has ever visited. “I loved all of the old fountains in Madrid,

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Member Profile—Penny Nelson (Continued)

(Continued from Page 5)

and the cathedrals in Toledo. The same trip also took us to Morocco, where we felt we had been transported back to Biblical times – not much has changed there in 2,000 years!”

Her favorite food is sushi, but Mexican food takes a close second. She loves to craft – crochet, jewelry making, and her newest hobby of making greeting cards (she just discovered the Cuttlebug!). She mostly wears neutral colors but loves to get that pop of color when matching her jewelry to whatever she’s wearing, or she feels incomplete. Brighton jewelry is her favorite. Currently she is reading *Wild at Heart*, a book that a coworker lent her to help her understand the young man her son has become.

When asked about what type of music she likes, Penny definitely has a crush... I mean is a big fan of Chris Isaak. She has a large range of music on her iPhone, from contemporary Christian to musicals to old favorites from the past three decades. Oh, and of course, Chris Isaak.

SDA/OC Officer Positions

Just in case you are contemplating throwing your hat into the ring for a position with the SDA/OC, here is a list of the various positions and duties of each:

PRESIDENT – Presides at all Chapter meetings and represents the Chapter at higher levels. Informs members of important issues. Coordinates the activities of all Officers, Directors, and Committee members. Serves as the point of contact between National SDA and the membership. Serves as Delegate at the National Annual Convention.

VICE PRESIDENT – Assists the President and leads the meeting in the absence of the President. Chair of the Program Committee by implementing current and future Chapter programs. Arranges and coordinates lunch seminar topics, speakers and meal choices.

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY – Conducts the correspondence of the Chapter and sends out notices as directed by the President. Issues notices of all monthly seminars and keeps records of seminar attendees. Serves as Chair of the Membership Committee. Sends out Membership Packets to prospective members.

RECORDING SECRETARY – Takes minutes of the meetings and maintains Chapter records.

TREASURER – Collects all dues, fees, and other income and receipts and deposits funds in the bank. Prepares and submits financial reports. Maintains financial records for the Chapter; writes checks authorized by the budget. Chair of the Finance Committee.

QUALIFICATIONS

You need to be willing to work as a team with other members of the Board, eager to learn from training provided, prepared to participate as much as possible in Chapter events, and committed to attend the monthly business meetings. Please get participation approval from your company before submitting your name.

Monthly Seminar Highlights

Sub-Zero and Wolf Tour and Cooking Demonstration August 7, 2012

SDA members and friends (numbering 22 of us) converged on the Sub-Zero and Wolf Showroom in Costa Mesa for a tour and cooking demonstration. The showroom is set up in small vignettes with different appliances and equipment showcased in each vignette. The sales reps gave thorough descriptions of the appliances ranging from gas cooktops, convection ovens, to wine refrigerators and more. We were then treated to a wonderful three-course dinner cooked exclusively for us by Chef Chris and showcasing the Sub-Zero and Wolf appliances and equipment. These tours and prepared meals can be arranged for any group and/or individuals wishing to see the products in action; visit www.subzero-wolf.com



Googie Architecture August 17, 2012 Presented by Chris Jepsen, Orange County Archives

Our August 17 lunch seminar featured Chris Jepsen with the Orange County Archives enlightening us on the intriguing yet disappearing art of Googie architecture. Googie architecture began in the 1950s utilizing such artistic features as flying saucer shapes, zig-zag roof lines and boomerang shapes. Often used for restaurants (Norm's), bowling alleys (Kona Lanes) and businesses (Anaheim Convention Center) the new architecture was used to attract customers in the transition from pedestrians in downtown Main Street to more car-centered transportation. Sadly, many examples of Googie style are being demolished. The Orange County Googie Archive aims to document the remaining example of Googie Architecture in Orange County, while they last.

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Monthly Seminar Highlights (Continued)

Design Professional & Mechanic's Liens

September 20, 2012

Presented by Hal Block, Esq., Musick, Peeler & Garrett, LLP

The Design Professional Lien is the exclusive remedy when construction has not yet commenced on a project. It becomes null and void once construction commences. It can be converted to a Mechanic's Lien once construction commences.

Design Professional Lien Requirements:

- written contract
- property owner who contracted for the Design Professional services must be the owner of the real property at the time the DP lien is recorded
- building permit or other governmental approval has been obtained

Mechanic's Lien is for a claim against the real property on which the claimant has bestowed labor furnished material for the value of the labor done or material finished. Anyone who has furnished labor, services, material or equipment, and has properly complied with Notice requirements may file. Other issues to be aware of:

- a Preliminary Notice (previously a 20-Day Preliminary Notice) should be filed at the commencement of services to secure a position and lien rights.
- some definitional changes made in July 2012
- security needs to be provided for some big projects
- prompt pay requirements and progress payments
- retention
- Mechanic's Lien Release Bonds (now 125%)

Canstruction 2012

By Betsy Nickless, SDA/CDFA

This year's Canstruction® event was the biggest and best ever! Twenty teams built structures overnight beginning Friday, August 31, at South Coast Plaza. Over 80,000 cans were donated to the Orange County Food Bank after they were de-Canstructed on Sunday, September 23. Over \$10,000 in cash was donated to the Orange County Food Bank.

But what happened in between those two dates?

- Millions of people visit South Coast Plaza every month, and they were spectators at the world's most unique food charity combined with a design-build competition.
- A jury of five judged the structures and determined the winners of Best Meal, Structural Ingenuity, Best Use of Labels, Honorable Mentions, and Jury's Favorite.
- Over 3,000 people voted online to select the People's Choice award winner.
- The Awards Gala was held at a new location (SOCO), where people were treated to delicious food, photo booth fun, raffles and silent auctions, and a lively awards presentation where the winners were announced.
- Dozens of volunteers gave of their time during Build Night on August 31, The Awards Gala on September 16, de-Canstruction on September 23 and in the days in between.
- Over \$10,000 in cash was donated to the Orange County Food Bank.

THANK YOU! to all the SDA volunteers who participated in the event. It wouldn't happen without you.



More Canstruction

Congratulations to the winners:

Jury's Favorite	TOW Away Hunger (Tow Truck)	Disneyland Resort – Design & Engineering
Best Use of Labels	All Hands on Deck to CAN Hunger (Pirate Ship)	Bassenian/Lagoni
Best Meal	Let's Not CANDy-Coat It...Help Bag Hunger! (M & Ms)	WATG / Cadmus Group
Structural Ingenuity	Tee'ing Off FOREEEEEEEEEE Hunger (Golf Ball)	Fluor
Honorable Mention	Say Gnome to Hunger (Gnome)	Dougherty + Dougherty Architects LLP
Honorable Mention	Lego of Hunger, One Roll at a Time (Lego & Sushi)	TCA Architects / VCA Engineers
Honorable Mention	Buzzzz Off, Hunger (Winnie the Pooh)	Ewing Cole
People's Choice	Let's Not CANDy-Coat It...Help Bag Hunger! (M & Ms)	WATG / Cadmus Group



More Canstruction



More Canstruction



Recently Completed Projects



USC John McKay Sports Center Los Angeles

MEP Engineer: Gotama Building Engineers, Inc.

Architect: HNTB Architecture, Inc.

SDA Member: Natalie Newman,
Gotama Building Engineers, Inc.

Japanese Garden Renovation Huntington Library San Marino

Landscape Design Build Contractor:
ValleyCrest Landscape Development

SDA Member: Cheryl Mathes,
ValleyCrest Landscape Development



City of Fullerton Community Center Renovation Fullerton

Architect: Crane Architectural Group

Landscape Architect: Nuvis

Construction Manager: Griffin Structures, Inc.

SDA Member: Karen Henderson,
Griffin Structures, Inc.



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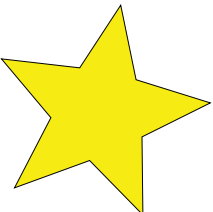
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And thanks to our fabulous proofreader
and photographer,
Betsy Nickless!

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The Commentary

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