

# SPEE.tectonics

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Knowledge for Creating and  
Sustaining the Built Environment

**March 2012**

## **MARCH 26TH MEETING**

### **PLACE:**

H.E.S.S. Building  
5430 Westheimer

### **TIME:**

5:30 P.M. (Registration and  
mixer)  
6:00 P.M. (Evening Meal  
and Meeting)

### **DATE:**

MONDAY,  
MARCH 26, 2012

### **COST:**

\$30.00 Per Person; Free to  
CSI members.

### **RESERVATIONS:**

Please go to:

<http://www.csihouston.org>

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CSI Houston Website:  
<http://www.csihouston.org>

## **Monday, March 26TH CSI Houston Chapter Presentation "Concrete Restoration Basics"**

Sean Leich of Mapei ([SLeich@mapei.com](mailto:SLeich@mapei.com)) will present "Concrete Restoration Basics" at the Monday, March 26th, CSI Houston Chapter Meeting.

Presentation will give an explanation of concrete and the thought process of diagnosing, repairing, protecting and enhancing concrete structures. Starting with the basic components of concrete, how varying components can drastically affect the finished products, to what effects the environment and installation practices have on the quality and longevity of concrete.

AIA: 1 CEH (LU), HSW are available for course attendees.

## **Monday, April 23RD CSI Houston Chapter Tour of the New Sugar Land Stadium**

Details of location and meeting time as well as meal plans will follow.

**CSI HOUSTON CHAPTER**  
**2011—2012 CHAPTER OFFICERS**

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President, 1 Year	Frank Bain, CSI (713) 827-8844 fbain@wallcoveringsintl.com
Vice President, 2 Years	Greg L. Roberts, FCSI, CCS, CCCA, FAIA
Secretary, 2 Years	Dorothy Gumm Denison, CSI, CCS
Treasurer, 3 Years	Brett Wilbur, CSI, CCS, RA
Position 1, 1 Year	Tom Atwell, CSI CDT, AIA
Position 2, 3 Years	Al Pasek, CSI, CCPR
Position 3, 3 Years	Don Ude, CSI

**CSI SOUTH CENTRAL REGION (<http://www.scr-csi.org>)**

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# March 2012

## President's Message

by Robert M. Cook, CSI, AHC

I and the board have had some lively discussions about how to market our chapter. Some have told me "We do not need to "Market!" I offer the following story to illustrate our thinking and future direction.



CSI Houston has been meeting for over 50 years. Over time the organization has gone through several changes. The membership has gone in the last 5 years from 50 percent architects and 50 % factory reps to about 80 % factory reps. This is due, in part, to more and more architect firms not paying for these organizations fees for their architects. We are still a bargain compared to other like organizations.

Like a successful business that finds their sales slipping, we need to market ourselves. This is going to be done with a series of meet-and-greet meeting or get-togethers like we do at Christmas. Hopefully, we can woo some of the new architects into our fold.

Talk to all of your architect friends, and let's get them to participate. The reps will lose interest if there are no architects to talk to. The few architects we have now are getting overwhelmed, and they may stop coming, It's a vicious cycle we don't want to get started in our chapter.

In following CSI National's revitalization of the CSI brand. we are working toward the same ends in our chapter. From this months "Inside CSI" article we should also be working toward the following 3 goals:

- Getting young professionals to join/participate.

- Raising awareness of the importance of high-quality construction information/ documentation.
- Convincing industrial professionals the association represents all disciplines. Tell them all, tell everyone! Bring your colleague to the meeting.

Remember April 23 for a tour of the new Minor League baseball stadium in Sugar Land.. Hope to see you all there. This should be a really nice project to tour for our annual tour.

Remember, the Tour is the meeting for April: so everyone come out!

Start thinking about getting your golf player forms and sponsorship monies into Amy as soon as they come out. They are coming soon! See you all on March 26th

Respectfully, Robert M. Cook CSI, AHC

## New Accessibility Standards Coming March 15th

by Don Smith, CSI, CCS, RA, LEED AP

For the first time in years, vastly new and different accessibility standards will become law on March 15. Are you ready for the new laws? See the link below for a great deal of information on the new Texas Accessibility Standards.

<http://www.tbae.state.tx.us/PublicInformation/NewTAS>

A rectangular box containing a logo for TPCCI (Texas Professional Concrete Contractors Institute) on the left, which includes a map of Texas and the acronym. To the right of the logo, the text reads: "Manufacturer's Representative Waterproofing Products Concrete Accessories Specialty Coatings". Below this, the name "JOHN M. ZIEBELL" is printed in bold. At the bottom left, the address "26911 Bridleway Circle Magnolia, TX 77355" is listed. At the bottom right, the phone number "(832) 746-3507" and email address "johnziebell@att.net" are provided.



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## Houston Code News and Events

By Di Ann Hassloch, CSI, CCS, CCCA, LEED AP

### **New Electrical Code - Effective 09/01/2011.**

On August 10, City Council approved the adoption of the 2011 National Electrical Code and local amendments.

### **New Commercial Energy Codes - Effective 09/02/2011.**

September 2, 2011, commercial buildings and structures shall comply with the 2009 IECC or 2007 ASHRAE 90.1, pursuant to Section 19.53 of Chapter 34, Texas Administrative Code.

In accordance with this provision and the rules thereto, the City has reviewed the codes and has proposed amendments for review by the Energy Systems Laboratory.

Please visit the City of Houston Form & Publications Page at <http://www.houstonpermittingcenter.org/code-enforcement/code-updates.html> to access the new Commercial Energy Codes

### **New Construction Codes—Effective 12/31/10.**

On November 3rd, City Council approved the 2006 Code Package to adopt updated Construction Codes. The new amendments are available at our Forms & Publications page.

Texas Adopts New Energy Code 2009 IECC effective April 1st, 2011. The major points to be guided by for the building envelope are:

- All commercial projects will need insulated glass. No more monolithic exceptions for small window to wall ratios.
- All commercial projects will need to exhibit an SHGC (Solar Heat Gain Coefficient) of .25 or less. This is a major revision and improvement to save energy for our building owners. There are exceptions for projection factors i.e. shading.

As published in the Texas Register today: ADOPTED RULES June 4, 2010 35 TexReg 4727

### **Current codes in the City of Houston include:**


- Building Code: 2006 IBC with Houston Amendments.
- Residential Code: 2006 IRC with Houston Amendments.
- Electrical Code: 2011 NEC with Houston Amendments—1st Printing.
- Mechanical Code: 2006 UMC with Houston Amendments.
- Plumbing Code: 2006 UPC with Houston Amendments.



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Contact:  Carl Metzroth, CSI, at 281-610-4854, or e-mail: Metzroth@ppg.com  
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### FEATURE YOUR PRODUCTS WITH A TABLE TOP DISPLAY

At each monthly meeting, the Chapter encourages Industry Members to provide a table top display of their products and services for the inspection and education of those attending the meeting.

The table top display is also encouraged to be presented during the social hour and after the program for any questions by attendees.

The presentation fee for this time is \$200 for members and \$250 for non-members, or free with a Golf Sponsor-

### WHERE IS YOUR BUSINESS ADVERTISEMENT?

A quarter page ad is only \$250 for 12 issues

A half page ad is only \$500 for 12 issues

A business card ad is only \$225 for 12 issues

Contact Don Smith at  
(713) 688-0092 or [don.smith315@sbdglobal.net](mailto:don.smith315@sbdglobal.net)  
for more information.

## CSI BOARD MEETING MINUTES

### Houston Chapter CSI

Location: HESS Building - 5430 Westheimer Road -  
Houston, TX  
January 23, 2012

Present: Amanda Carrington, Amy Salmeron, Betsy Finch, Bill Fairbanks, Bob Cook, Chuck Vojtech, Don Smith, Doug Frank, Frank Bain, James Sandoz, Logan Vits, Neil Byrne, Tom Atwell

President Bob Cook called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. The November 2011 Board Meeting minutes were approved.

### REPORTS

**Member Services:** Neil Byrne

Programs: Janet Babineaux  
No report.

Membership: Amanda Carrington  
Amanda reported that currently the chapter membership totaled fifty six members.

Awards: Amy Salmeron  
Amy reported she emailed Jeff Holstein regarding the Craftsman Award.

**Finance/Administration:** Don Smith

Don reported that the IRS has received our packet. Chuck asked the CPA to review the current books that he has been keeping. The CPA reported our records look good and that more information has been recored than the IRS normally requires. Boob Cook, Don Smith, and Chuck Vojtech each has a set of records for the past four years. Chuck was asked to provide a "How to Check List" to have available for the next treasurer. Chuck also reported the CPA charges \$80.00 per hour and will most likely require 8 to 10 hours to file the return for 2012. Neil suggested getting a second quote. Don mentioned that the return should be less complicated to file since our information is in order

Treasurer's Report: Chuck Vojtech

Chuck reported the bank balance as of 01/23/12 to be \$22,164.24. The Board discussed the CPA expenses being higher than originally quoted because more time was involved. Bill Fairbanks "moved to pay the CPA the additional fees." Motion approved. Chuck also reported the chapter has received almost \$1,800.00 for certification classes this month; \$400.00 was budgeted. Also mentioned that not everyone pays the PayPal fee and the Chapter has to pay the fee. Don Smith "moved to increase the price on PayPal so as to not loose money." Motion approved. Chuck Vojtech "moved to rollover the CD (#1) that is maturing in June 2012 to the checking account." Motion approved..

Table Top Display: Holly Jordan  
No report

**Public Services:** Lisa Murray  
Bob Cook sent a list of items to Lisa to include on the website.

Golf Tournament: Holly Jordan  
The Board discussed Amy Salmeron and Amanda Carrington taking over the Golf Tournament Committee.

Electronic Communications: Lisa Murray  
No report.

Public Relations: Logan Vits  
Logan reported he has sent out the monthly CSI information.

**Professional Development:** Mark Koehler  
Continuing Education: Mark Koehler  
No report.

Academic Affairs: Robert Byrne  
No report.

Certification: Holly Jordan  
No report.

Technical Committee: J. Peter Jordan  
No report.

**Scholarship:** Frank Bain  
No report.

**New Business:**  
No report.

Meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

**Betsy Finch, CSI  
Chapter Secretary**

## CSI Member Loyalty Program

### By CSI National

CSI's Member Loyalty Program is designed to assist:

- Members whose employers can no longer pay for membership dues.
- Members who have been laid off.
- Members who are being hit hard by the economic crisis and cannot afford to pay for membership dues

CSI is offering a 6 month grace period for membership renewal to members who are facing issues listed above.

#### Eligibility Requirements:

1. The member must be in the Professional, Associate, or Industry level of membership.
2. The member must either:
  - Have been laid off
  - Have an employer who can no longer pay dues
  - Be undergoing financial hardship due to economic constraints
3. Convey this information to CSI

Contact CSI Member Services at **800-689-2900** for more information.

## Using CSI National to Find Your Next Job

### By CSI National

Here are some ideas for using CSI if you're looking for a job, or think you might need to start looking in the next few months. CSI members with other ideas are urged to post them in CSI's forums. Conducting a job hunt?

1. **Visit CSI's Career Center.** You can post a resume and read job postings from across the country for free. Visit the Career Center.
2. **Join a CSI chapter and go to the meetings.** Your local CSI chapter is plugged in to construction in your area. Spend time with people who know which firms are hiring, and who could recommend you. Find a chapter.

Improve your resume:

1. **Get your CDT, or advanced certification.** Show potential employers that you are an expert. CSI chapters offer preparation courses and mentoring for exam candidates – another opportunity for you to expand your network. Learn more about CSI Certification. The early registration deadline for the fall exam cycle is July 26, 2011.
2. **Write a technical article for Construction Specifier magazine.** Contact the Specifier with your article idea at [editor@constructionspecifier.com](mailto:editor@constructionspecifier.com).
3. **Be a speaker for a CSI Webinar.** To submit a presentation complete this form and then email it to [jnorris@csinet.org](mailto:jnorris@csinet.org).
4. **Participate in CSI.** Potential employers are likely to Google your name while considering you. Give them something worth finding:
  - Expert responses to questions in CSI's forums. (Log in before you post a response to have your name appear with your response.)
  - Your membership in a CSI committee or task team at the national, region or chapter level. (See a list of national committees and task teams.)
  - Join CSI's LinkedIn group. (Create a free profile on LinkedIn, then search for "CSI" under groups.)
5. **Tweet what you know!** Create a free profile at [www.twitter.com](http://www.twitter.com) and start sharing what you know about construction and CSI. Then let CSI know by sending a tweet to [CSIConstruction](https://twitter.com/CSIConstruction). CSI follows and promotes CSI chapters and members that tweet.

Your CSI membership can be a valuable tool in your job hunt! Good luck!

## What happened to the Master Builder? ©2012, Sheldon Wolfe, RA, FCSI, CCS, CCA, CSC

It's time architects accepted reality: They no longer are master builders, and haven't been for a long time. It's nothing to get excited about (well, not *too* excited), and there is no reason to maintain the fiction that architects are what they were in the good old days. In fact, there is good reason to admit the truth and move on.

Building materials have evolved, fabrication and construction have evolved, and the tools of our profession have evolved, yet we continue to create and use construction documents the same way we have done for nearly two hundred years, simply because that's what we have done for nearly two hundred years. And, even though architects do less now than they did many years ago, we maintain the fiction that architects are master builders.

"Heretic!" "Blasphemer!" "How dare you!" "Vile person!"

OK, now that we have that out of the way, let's take a dispassionate look at what architects do, what they did in the past, and what people did before there were architects.

I have trouble answering the first question. Although architecture is a licensed profession in much of the world, and the use of the word "architect", or any of its derivative forms, by one who is not licensed, often is prohibited by law, it can be difficult to define what architects do. It may be easier to answer if we look at what architects don't do.

Good design should be more than an attractive building. As architects will tell you, good design is based on understanding the client's activities, the spaces those activities require, an understanding of spacial relationships and perception, and familiarity with a multitude of building materials and products. It is all of those things, but even that is not enough.

Good design must keep water and weather out, and control light, heat, and humidity; it must consider durability and up-keep of the products used, and the access needed to maintain building systems; it must include selection of the optimum structural, mechanical, and electrical systems; it cannot ignore permit fees, energy costs, utility costs, or taxes.

Good design is *total* design. Unfortunately, architects gradually have given away, or had taken from them, just about everything not directly related to appearance. As we will see, there has been good reason for some of this, while other things have slipped away because they were seen as too difficult or uninteresting.

One of the big changes we have seen in the last decade has been a move away from the familiar design-bid-build delivery system, to design-build, different forms of construction management, and other delivery systems that de-emphasize the role of the architect. The result has been greater control by contractors, with correspondingly less need for what architects offer.

Many owners, including public agencies, have embraced design-build. The attraction is obvious - "Why go through all the trouble of dealing with both an architect and a contractor, who will stand back and point fingers at each other when something goes wrong, when I can hire a single entity that is responsible for everything? If I can buy a multi-million dollar airplane, which is far more complex than a building, without the hassle of both design and construction contracts, why should I not do the same for my new building?"

In theory, the design and construction parts of a design-build firm have equal standing, but in practice, architects are especially vulnerable. You can't design structure without an engineer, you can't design site work without an engineer, you can't design mechanical or electrical systems without an engineer, and you can't build a building without a contractor - but it's hard to say why you need an architect.

Design-build firms often are led by contractors because they're the ones who know the most about construction. They know about costs and schedules, they know how to build, and they know how to hire and employ subcontractors. The only reason they employ design professionals is because states require their certification. Even without that requirement, any contractor interested in self-preservation would still employ engineers to make sure their buildings wouldn't fall down, but what's left that requires an architect?

It doesn't take a rocket scientist to make sure that doors have at least 32 inches clear opening and that there are enough fire extinguishers to go around. However, because certification is required, we still need an architect on the team. But what is the architect's role? It may now be relegated to drawing and specifying what the contractor wants to build. The architect may have little or no interaction with the owner, other than selecting a few finishes and creating impressive perspectives to sell the job. The real design work may be done by someone who knows nothing about architecture, engineering, or construction, other than relative costs.

Certification of construction documents typically consists of the architect signing a statement that says, "I hereby certify that this plan, specification, or report was prepared by me or under my direct supervision..." or something to that effect. Question: When the architect is not in charge of the design process, when the contractor drives the decisions, isn't the architect's certification of the drawings and specifications no more than "plan stamping"?

To be continued...





## CSI Corporate Partner Program

# Join CSI's Corporate Partner Program!

- ▶ **Gain Broader Exposure for Your Company or Product**
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- ▶ **Train Your Team to be Thought Leaders the Construction Community Trusts**

CSI's **Corporate Partner Program** is designed for building product manufacturers, contractors, design firms and federal agencies that have multiple employees interested in joining CSI and accessing CSI's products and services at **value pricing**.

Each partnership is **customized to meet your strategic business goals and objectives**. This program provides businesses and organizations the opportunity to gain wider exposure by developing a formal relationship with CSI and its member network. By joining, Corporate Partners demonstrate their support for CSI and its mission: to advance building information management and education of project teams to improve facility performance.



## Become a Corporate Partner

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through Workforce Development
- ▶ **INFLUENCE**  
the Direction of Commercial Construction
- ▶ **SHOWCASE**  
Organizational Excellence

## Corporate Partner Benefits

### EXPOSURE

- Logo on [www.csinet.org](http://www.csinet.org)
- Article in CSI Weekly e-newsletter and other construction related publications
- FREE banner space in CSI Weekly
- Use of CSI's Corporate Partner logo on your website and other approved marketing pieces
- Discounts on listings in BSD's SpecLink
- Recognition on CSI's Facebook page and CSI's Twitter Feed
- Networking at local CSI chapter meetings and invitation-only events

### EDUCATION

- CSI's Certification programs
- CSI Academies
- Customized on-site training
- CSI's WebReach program



For more information visit [www.csinet.org/corporatepartner](http://www.csinet.org/corporatepartner), or contact:

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## CSI Institute and Regional News

by Dorothy Gumm Dennison, CSI, CCS, CSI  
CSI Director—South Central Region

### INSTITUTE REPORT

- a. The first time for region presidents to attend Institute Board Meetings happened this year in Minneapolis board meeting.
- b. **BRANDING-** CSI is looking for a way of identifying themselves and are preparing an RFP to obtain services. AIA for example has a branding called DESIGN MATTERS.
- c. A new program is being developed by CSI under the Certification Committee for government employees and businesses that deal with government construction for a certification test called CDT-G. This should bring in new members and lots of interest and recognition for CSI.
- d. Paul Bertram, Institute President, has made a strong effort to encourage members to increase membership – His belief (and mine too) is that interesting and hot topic meetings bring people to meetings, thus increasing membership.
- e. There is the Corporate Partner Program going on to encourage businesses to support CSI and its role in the construction industry.
- f. Paul Bertram encourages region members to write articles for chapter newsletters, attend chapter meetings other than your own.
- g. One other endeavor that CSI is doing is planning to send the Specifier to all universities involved in construction for their library.
- h. IPD/SMART Data Dictionary – working on an international construction dictionary which will be accomplished along with BIM.
- i. A committee has been set up to capture and catalog all existing (and new) education programs that CSI has developed to make them available for a nominal price.

## CCCA CANDIDATES NOW REQUIRED TO HAVE TWO YEARS OF EXPERIENCE

By Holly Jordan, CSI, CCS, LEED AP, SCIP

At the recommendation of the Certification Committee, the board revised the experience prerequisite for Certified Construction Contractor Administrator candidates from "strongly encouraged" to a requirement attested to by two people.

Implementation of this modification will align the advanced certification exam candidate prerequisites and enhance the CCCA credential. CCCA candidates registering for the spring 2012 exam will be the first group that will have to meet this requirement.

### South Central Region Meeting Notice

by Lisa Murray, CSI, CCS, LEED AP  
CSI South Central Webmaster

April 12-15, 2012 will bring the 2012 South Central Region CSI Conference. The event is open to all region membership and will occur at the Historic Downtown Fort Worth Hilton. Join Ft. Worth Chapter next April as they celebrate their 50th Anniversary by hosting the event. Theme for the event is "New Frontiers." Highlights for the event include:

- Education Programs for up to 6 CEUs.
- Spouse programs.
- Golf Outing at The Golf Club at Fossil Creek designed by Arnold Palmer.
- Evening Social Events.
- Region Awards Luncheon
- Region Board Meeting

Be watching for more information circulating soon.

The region website has been completely revamped. To find out more about the region, catch an update on the Conference planning, or find fellow chapters around the region and their programs and activities visit <http://www.scr-csi.org>. If you have comments or suggestions contact webmaster at information below:

Lisa Murray  
713-297-7387  
[lisa@mosaicdesignspec.com](mailto:lisa@mosaicdesignspec.com)

## “Strictly SMITH-ly”

by Donald F. Smith, Jr., CSI CCS RA LEED AP

### Commentary on “What Happened to the Master Builder.”

On page 8 of this issue of SPEC.tectonics, Sheldon Wolfe gives his first in a series of articles on “What Happened to the Master Builder.” In this article, Sheldon gives his views on “... what many see as a decline in the profession of architecture. I won’t be talking about the buildings, though that would be an interesting subject, but about the practice of architecture—where it is, where it has been, where it might go.”

This month I will offer another point of view to Sheldon Wolfe’s article, “What Happened to the Master Builder?”

This change in leadership from the single master Builder leading teams of artisans to one part of part of a team of specialists. By extending the size of the built projects and watching the behavior of the materials used in the construction, they learned to create larger spans to suit the larger projects they built.

I think there are two points to be made here. First, the architect reviews the owner’s program and project budget, attends meetings with the owner, the owner’s user groups, the architects consultants, and if he is lucky, has the same contractor on board to offer guidance during the schematic and design development phase where most important decisions are made. The second point is that the person or team that puts a bid together is not the same team that constructs the project. The construction cost and the team of both the general contractors forces and the subcontractors that he must use are given to the general superintendent to come up with a construction plan and execute it to achieve a planned result. The contractor may have limited or no say in the materials and systems used in the construction until the actual bid process, mainly because he may not have been on board during the owner and architect meetings discussing the program, budget and form of the project design.

One big change is that modern design and construction is no longer directed by the few, but by scores of specialists in different disciplines each with separate agendas which must fit into the total design and the project construction. The medieval crafts of artisans were refined by sharpening the understanding of the techniques and understanding the limits of the physical properties of materials they used. Today, the owner, architect, engineers, and contractor each have their own roles and goals for the project. Wolfe postulates that design and construction should have equal stand-

ing, but says that “... in practice, architects are especially vulnerable.”

An architect designing and documenting most projects today has considerable contact with the owner’s project representative, but the skill level of that individual owner’s representative may vary quite a bit from project to project. Architecture is view by most Owners as an project investment. It not only has value the day it is built, but also it must have value to a future owner.

The difference between most projects is the program and goals, the funding of the project, and the skill of the construction team, especially the owner’s representative. The depth of understanding of the program and goals. Great design seems to inspire the entire team. A great design captivates the teams imagination. Everyone wants to be a part of it’s successful project completion so they can say “I helped build that!” Poor design addresses the other end of the spectrum; contractors view it a just another job the be executed quickly for a profit.

The skill level of the team translates to how close they team can come to reaching all project goals. The smart owner representative will examine his own strengths and weakness as well as those of the other leading team members. What he is looking for is a construction plan that achieves user relationships, that will achieve project productivity goals, offer value and durability for ease of maintenance, and flexibility for anticipated change. By understanding the creative talents of the entire construction team, he has the ability to supplement areas of real or perceived weakness by the use of specialized consultants.

The construction jobsite is no place to explore or confirm theory or concepts. The only difference between a dream and reality is a plan! You go with what you know.

**“Good judgment comes from experience, and experience comes from bad judgment.”**

Barry LePatner, Esq.

... Just My Opinion

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# March Through April 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<i>FEB 26</i>	27	28	29	<i>MAR 1</i>	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14 CSI Planning Meeting — Looscan Library	15	16	17 St. Patrick's Day
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26 CSI Board / Chapter Meeting—HESS	27	28	29	30	31
<i>APRIL 1</i>	2	3	4	5	6	7
8 Easter Day	9	10	11 CSI Planning Meeting — Looscan Library	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
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