



June 18, 2013

We have just returned from **an eventful and successful week-long round of events in Colorado Springs**. From June 11-12 **we sponsored a board meeting and co-sponsored a Lean Summit meeting** with our partners at Construction Users Round Table (CURT), AGC and AIA. **We then co-sponsored our annual June Design Forum** with P2SL and AIA June 13-14. I'll write more about the latter event in the next newsletter, but will give you some insights from the other meetings this time around. Much of **our board session** was focused on the **next steps in our strategic planning process**. We now have five specific areas of focus, or value indicators, which will serve as the major headings under which the broad array of actions we will take to meet our goals may be categorized and evaluated for success. These five areas include: 1) grow and sustain members; 2) develop knowledge; 3) create industry capacity; 4) develop collaboration and distribution channels; and 5) create industry demand. If you match these up with the major board-directed committees we established last fall at the Congress (research, education, standards, Communities of Practice, conferences), you can readily see how these headings will serve to continue to focus our activities. To give you a sense for how actions toward our goals is progressing, I'll provide a brief update on just one of the board committees this time (education), and will cover the others in future newsletters.

Our **Education Committee** is co-chaired by Sarah Zdarko and Ashley Colburn. Three subcommittees are busily engaged in generating content for different aspects of Last Planner® training: an introductory course, an intermediate course, and LP® for executives. The committee also is working on an approved "Intro to Lean" that will be the LCI-endorsed version available for presentation around the country. These training materials are slated to be available by the time of the Congress meeting in the fall. So stay tuned...

Speaking of Congress, we are still **soliciting abstracts for presentation**, so if you are an excellent presenter whose only character flaw is procrastination in submitting abstracts for Lean conferences, take heart. We'll be glad to take a look, but please get your submission in as soon as possible. Our initial review session focusing on abstracts submitted to date is coming up later this week. Meantime, our planning team has made great progress this month in lining up featured speakers to round out the program. More specifics about those speakers, several of whom are non-traditional in the sense that they are drawn from Lean expertise outside design and construction, will follow in future newsletters. [[click here for abstract submittal form](#)]

Our **annual Lean summit with CURT, AGC and AIA included many great presentations** again this year. In no particular order of precedence, here are some thoughts on take-aways: **Annamarie Thurnquist of Danis** reminded us of the ability of value stream mapping to promote process improvements even in discrete but critical areas such as submittal approvals; sometimes letting a member of the team leave a bit early one day each week to ensure submittals are delivered on a timely basis can reap real rewards in schedule savings. Also, making simple milestone deadline dates highly visible across work sites is surprisingly effective in promoting on-time delivery and personal commitment to project success. Our own **Greg Howell of LCI** talked about, "What is this Thing called Lean Construction?" He included a list of reasons why Lean gets adopted based on actual projects at home and abroad, such as to increase profitability (Peru, Denmark, USA); reduce stress on project managers (USA); reduce the risk of catastrophic loss (UK); make projects a reliable customer for just-in-time deliveries (Sweden); [[to read more, click here](#)]

**Thanks to CURT also for inviting me to address their summer membership meeting** as a featured speaker. I used the opportunity to talk about LCI's development as an organization, our current goals, and some basics on Lean tools and techniques. I wound up with an encouragement that we work together to further the cause, since we can't transform our industry without owner support, and owners will only see Lean tools and techniques proliferate in project delivery to the extent that LCI is successful in its transformational mission.



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In conjunction with AGC of Greater Florida, we are pleased to offer an excellent **Introduction to Lean Construction and Design**. If you are in the central Florida area on July 11, 2013, do not miss this event. For details, [click here](#).

I had the opportunity to make a brief visit to one of our newest members while I was traveling through Denver last week: **PCL Construction and their local rep Terry Brickman**. PCL is a Canadian firm, and is approaching their Lean journey with focus these days as they are seeing more and more Canadian owners beginning to specify Lean delivery in their RFPs. This is consistent with what we're hearing from a number of sources and locations across Canada; there is clearly something of an upsurge in interest in both Lean and LCI membership occurring north of the border.

Speaking of Lean becoming more and more pervasive in this country and abroad, the recent ENR release of the **Top 100 Design Build contractors includes 21 names among the LCI corporate membership**. Our co-founder, Greg Howell, whose encyclopedic mind on the industry and Lean far exceeds my own, reminds us also that numerous other names on the list are pursuing Lean projects, but are not yet members of LCI. So it appears that upwards of a third of the major firms in the Top 100 are engaged in Lean to at least some degree. This is an encouraging sign that our collective efforts are continuing to pay off.

Our partner organization, the American Institute of Architects (AIA) has a program coming up we want to make you aware of: **AIA's Virtual Convention**. AIA is hosting this online event in parallel with its national convention in Denver. This one of a kind event will feature several live streams of for-credit Continuing Education seminars, as well as keynote speaker Cameron Sinclair, Co-Founder of Architecture for Humanity. The Virtual Convention experience also includes a 3D expo floor with exhibitor booths in a fully interactive virtual world. The event runs from June 19th through the 22nd. Official hours and more information: <http://vexpo.aia.org/index.php?page=home> Here is the link to sign up for free: <https://secure.hyperfair.com/global/registration/submit/AIA2013:Attendee>.

Let me close this week with my thanks to all of you for what you do every day in countless ways to help transform our industry, but also by reiterating some good words Annmarie Thurnquist included in her Lean Summit presentation last week: ***Change is a challenge for the courageous, an opportunity for the alert, and a threat to the insecure***. Let's be alert and courageous in promoting transformation through Lean, and let's keep reaching out to the insecure for whom these changes still seem more threatening than promising.

Sincerely,

Dan C. Heinemeier, CAE  
Executive Director