Summer ebbs, families start making school plans and our meeting season starts to heat up. The Target Value Design conference in Cincinnati is sparking interest as our community starts to move beyond Introductions to Lean and begin hands on deployment of lean tools. If you don't live in the area, plan on coming into the Doubletree early for the reception being hosted on the night of the 23rd by Sustaining Sponsor NewForma. We've committed funds to bring in national teams of experts for this most important offering. All the panelists will be joined at the end of the day by Steve Knapp, a veteran implementer of TVD so make sure you make arrangements to attend right away.

Next will be the co-sponsored event with the Construction Users Round Table in Amherst (outside Buffalo), New York on September 14. The agenda is almost finalized for this event and will include Owner teams discussing their lean implementations. Sponsorship opportunities are still available - click here for the prices and opportunities. We're continuing to work with CURT to bring more owners into the LCI Community.

September concludes with the AGC IPD and Lean Construction Building Conference in San Antonio, September 21-24, 2011. Will Lichtig will be presenting on What Owners Need to Know about IPD and Lean. This conference rolls out the AGC lean program with which we have been importantly involved. It culminates (or starts, depending on your view), Chuck Greco's efforts in leading the AGC Lean Forum-congratulations and thanks to Chuck for his long, good work. More information is available below.

And of course, Congress registration is well underway. The limited block of hotel rooms at the Pasadena Westin are going fast so please take advantage of our terrific rate. If there is more demand, we may be able to extend the block but don't wait until the last minute.

You'll also notice below that we are rolling out the trainers Will Lichtig et al in Northern California to help expand our training corps. Rob Westover, DPR Construction, Bill Whipple, HGA, Sarah Zdarko, Pankow Builders and Paulo Napolitano, Herrero Contractors will try their hand at a half-day training. Nor-Cal is also hosting some Scandinavian visitors August 31, see more information below. And Mike Kotubey and the Kansas City Community of Practice have passed along information on Chapter presentations that can be accessed here.