

# John M. Griffith, FCSI

*"For your dedicated service in providing educational opportunities to construction industry professionals; for leadership and guidance in updating the curriculum at Dunwoody College of Technology to include the CDT program as a graduation requirement; for mentoring students through introduction to CSI and encouraging their involvement; and for your efforts in promoting the principles of CSI, you are advanced to Fellowship in the Institute on the 14th day of May 2010."  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania*



JOHN "GRIF" GRIFFITH was born in Minneapolis in 1945. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from the Minnesota State University Mankato in Speech and Theatre.

Griffith is the CEO of Empirehouse Inc., a glass and glazing company located in Mounds View, Minnesota, serving the upper Midwest. He also worked for PPG Industries in Milwaukee. He started in the glass business repairing broken windows, working his way through high school and college obtaining training to become a journeyman glazier. He is experienced in the business of metal and glass and its installation.

He served as a Park Board Commissioner for Robbinsdale for over ten years. He has also served as a Trustee for his church for over a decade.

Grif has held many positions in the Minneapolis-St. Paul Chapter, including President, Vice President, and Region Director, and has served as member or chair of numerous committees. He also was active in assisting the Minneapolis-St. Paul Chapter and the North Central Region when developing their long range planning programs.

Grif was instrumental in creating a strong bond between his Chapter and the Minneapolis-based Dunwoody College of Technology, and developing student activities curricula.

For many members, Grif has been a primary fixture in the CSI experience. He has an uncanny ability not only to get people to step up for the organization, but to do so enthusiastically. He has done this by setting an example, creating an energy that makes people want to get more involved, and ensuring that new leaders have the tools to be successful. His talent for making the best use of all resources available to him, for driving for change when change is needed, and not to falling into the trap of "we've always done it that way", has made him a valuable asset to the various CSI committees and boards on which he has served.

During more than twenty years as chair or member of the Minneapolis-St. Paul Chapter's Product Fair Committee, he helped improve education programs, worked hard to bring in more students and help them network, and increased exposure to other organizations and the construction community in general. Grif has also played a key role establishing the current structure of the chapter board, with administration through an executive director.

As president of the North Central Region, Grif played a major role in revitalizing the region and helping to develop chapter leaders throughout the region. He played host to national and regional conventions, as co-chair of the host committee for a wildly successful 1995 national convention and 1999 region conference.

## **CSI Membership**

Minneapolis-St. Paul Chapter, 1983 to present  
Twin Ports Chapter Charter Member

## **Institute Offices, Committees**

Convention Host Co-Chair, FY1995  
Institute Director, FY2007-2010  
Region Boundaries Task Team, FY2008  
Compensation, Performance, Evaluation Committee, FY2009

## **Region Offices, Committees**

President, FY2009-2011

## **Awards**

### **Institute**

Certificate of Merit and Appreciation, 1995  
Certificate of Appreciation, 1998  
President's Plaque, 2000  
Certificate of Merit and Appreciation, 2001  
CSC Program Directors Award, 2006

### **Region**

Institute Director's Certificate, 1995, 1999, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2005, 2008  
Certificate of Appreciation, 2002, 2003  
Region Service Award, 2008