

CTPA Quarterly Meeting

January 14, 2013

Lawry's

69 people had RSVPed to attend, but there were 4 who were ill and cancelled the day of, 7 who “no showed” and 4 who showed up without RSVPing. In the end **62 attended** the first quarterly meeting of 2013 at Lawry's and enjoyed coffee, tea, cookies, cheese and crackers and a time to socialize before the meeting began at 6:00pm.

Brief CTPA Business Meeting

Our esteemed president Donna Primas introduced **Tina Winthur CTG**, **Margaret Hicks CTG** and **Marlin Keesler CTG** who earlier that day completed the final session of the three-part test to become CTPA Certified Tour Guides. Tina is multi-lingual and has been in the tour guide business for a number of years. Margaret has established her own tour company called “Chicago Elevated,” and Marlin is the fastest guide in town, leading City Running Tours. Congratulations to all three!

For those new to CTPA, the CTG test is comprehensive, and those taking it must demonstrate not only general knowledge of Chicago history, architecture and local lore in a written exam, but the ability to provide detailed lengthy commentary on a wide range of items, and then showing the certifying committee they know where things are and how to direct a tour bus around town.

Donna reminded us that 2012 membership dues are due January 31 and made a number of announcements.

- Our updated directory and new ID badges will be available at the Wednesday, March 13 quarterly meeting. Julia Bachrach of the Chicago Park District will be speaking.
- More people than last year have subscribed to the guide liability insurance provided through our affiliation with the NFTGA—approx. 46 people this year.
- Lawry's will be renovating its rooms beginning in June, so we will have to find a place to meet sufficient for speakers for our June and October quarterly meetings.
- On March 25 we will be visiting the Field Museum's two new exhibits.
- There are plans to visit the National Italian-American Sports Hall of Fame on Taylor Street in Chicago's Little Italy neighborhood, the Driehaus Museum and Smith+Gill partners' architecture office.
- Donna also announced that on January 27, the Friends of Bohemian National Cemetery will sponsor a speaker about the Eastland at a Czech restaurant. Look for details in the NEWS YOU CAN USE. The 3pm lecture is free, but dinner must be reserved and paid.

New members of CTPA were introduced: Mary Ellen Beckman, Jacquie Brave, Dan O'Connell and Linda O'Connor. We had a guest and potential new member Joel Margolis. Member Greg Borzo brought a guest, Donna Mitsos, and Amanda Scotese brought a tour guide from her company. There were one or more people from nine CTPA Associate Members present.

Presentation

The speaker for the evening was **Wayne Galasek**, a Certified Guide and chair of our Certification Committee. He displayed his expertise with a PowerPoint presentation and lively commentary of “200 years of architecture in Chicago in one hour.” Wayne is a long-

time docent with the Chicago Architecture Foundation, leading river cruises and children's tours. Professionally some may have seen him in a suit, spats and fedora doing gangster tours of Chicago, among other tours.

For his presentation, he not only educated, but engaged the audience. We were impressed with the sweep of history he covered, from the Greek Revival style we see even today, telling us when and how it came to be in Chicago. Wayne spoke of the first balloon frame structures that originated here and helped Chicago grow quickly. The technological advances of the Industrial Revolution and how Chicago grew to be a huge transportation hub of the mid-19th century America were described, and Wayne showed how America was seeking a national identity while being influenced by European styles.

Out of the 1871 Fire, where a third of the City burned and a third of its people were homeless, we began to rebuild in the same-old European-influenced style. A second wave of modern developments were finally perfected and inserted into the city structures—things like the elevator, telephone, indoor plumbing, fireproofing, electric lights, and steel framing for what became skyscrapers. Wayne reminded us of the great early architects of Chicago like Jenney, Burnham, Atwood, Adler and Root.

We were reminded of the elements of an 1880s skyscraper: foundation, skeleton/frame, wind bracing. Wayne displayed images that showed how early tall buildings looked like three small buildings stacked atop. It took some time until architects learned how to design a tall building, making every inch beautiful, every inch of it tall, as Sullivan said, and to make designs that were unified, whole.

What's known as the first Chicago School of Architecture, those early skyscrapers from the 1880s and 1890s, many still standing on South Dearborn Street, have three defining features: they're tripartite (in three parts like the base, shaft and capital of a Greek column), they have an expressed steel frame, and "Chicago windows" letting in light and air (fixed center pane, with two side windows that open and close).

It was entertaining to hear Wayne describe Chicago's "architectural burp" – the classicism of the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition, which seemed a step back from the Chicago School buildings.

Wayne's illustrated lecture went on to the 20th Century and beyond, with Frank Lloyd Wright's Prairie Style, the 1920's & 30's American Art Deco style, and Mies van der Rohe's severe, boxy Modernism or International Style. Then there was the reaction to Modernism, the hybrid Post-Modern style, which has been popping up around the city for 30+ years.

For many, it was familiar, and yet still new and interesting to hear about our architectural history in Wayne Galasek's engaging and entertaining storytelling style.

Judith Randall, Co-Secretary