

CTPA Quarterly Meeting Minutes March 25, 2014

The second quarterly meeting of the Chicago Tour Professionals Association was held on Tuesday, March 25, 2014, at the Roosevelt University Gage Building, 7th Floor. Doors opened at 5:15 p.m. and the meeting began at approximately 6:00 p.m.

The program included refreshments, a short business meeting conducted by President Donna Primas, and a most informative and thought provoking lecture with visuals by Rolf Achilles, an independent writer, consultant, authority on stained glass, art, and architecture. Rolf serves as the curator of the Smith Museum of Stained Glass Art located in the east end of Navy Pier and is also a Board Member of the Driehaus and Glessner House Museums. Following his presentation, there was ample time and opportunity for a number of questions from those in attendance. The meeting ended at approximately 8 p.m.

Although 76 people had RSVPed, 5 people arrived who were not on the list, 11 people cancelled with 24 hours or “no showed”, leaving a total of **SEVENTY people in attendance**—CTGs, Candidate Guides, Associate Members, DMCs, and several guests.

Please Remember to RSVP...and then Show Up!

CTPA meetings are “free” and President Primas and the Board wish... **1)** that everyone RSVP by the deadline given in the program announcement and **2)** that those who RSVP but must cancel would inform CTPA as soon as possible. This is a courtesy, an example of professionalism to the host organizations who invite us. It also affects the provision of refreshments. At the time we had to give a guarantee for this quarterly meeting, only 60 had RSVPed, so the food order was based on that number.

When you do make a reservation, please always inform the person taking RSVPs if you must cancel, especially when an event is limited and we have a waiting list. For example, the recent tours of EATALY had a limit of ten people on each of two tours, or 20 total. There was a waiting list of another ten people. Sadly, due to very last minute cancellations and “no shows” (despite reminder emails sent out!) **only thirteen members (of 20!) attended**—Seven at 10:00 a.m. and six at 11:00 a.m. Remember that common courtesy and professionalism will be appreciated.

At the start of the 2014 member directory counting, there were twenty-one new members in CTPA. At this meeting, the CTPA packets and 2014 name badges were distributed. Find out more about all CTPA members by reading the directory! We appreciate those who attended assisting CTPA by relieving the necessity to mail packets out and thereby saving the organization significant postage costs.

The next CTPA Quarterly meetings are scheduled for **June 9** and **October 6, 2014**.

President Primas announced several upcoming April events and tours including DIRTT, a reprise of EATALY, and a visit to The Field Museum to see the Biomechanics Exhibit and reminded everyone to RSVP! (See above boxed note!)

President Primas commented briefly about the certification process and noted that the study dates are available on the CTPA website. Also, this is a voting year for officers. We have no term limits at CTPA, and new candidates are always welcomed and encouraged.

The Presentation: The Chicago School of Architecture by Rolf Achilles

Rolf Achilles presentation focused on the Chicago School of Architecture and reflected his recent book on the subject that was limited and enforced by his publisher to be a maximum of 12,000 words including captions. This book is profusely illustrated and sells for \$10. It is a bargain and should be in everyone's library.

Achilles has a viewpoint that is refreshingly different from many writers on the subject. He began by referring to the Chicago Fire of 1871 as "the city's first urban renewal program" that enabled Chicago to be built in a new way. The city became one that was built by machinery and technology, and largely fireproof due to the use of new materials and methodologies.

(This writer begs your forgiveness for not being able to capture every important thought and idea delivered by Rolf. Our number one reporter/secretary, Judith Randall, the master of Gregg and Pittman shorthand, is on assignment in Arizona and shorthand and perhaps even longhand is not one of my strongest suits.)

We learned that the Monadnock Building was probably the heaviest building in the entire world in the 19th century; that the building was the first to use aluminum in its decoration; that the Auditorium Building was the model for buildings throughout Western Europe; that the ornamentation of the art nouveau movement began in Chicago (!) and was transported from the "new world" to the "old world." (Not the other way around as tradition dictates.)

Rolf Achilles shared enough information and anecdotes to provide a guide with copious amounts of useful material for making and enlivening any architectural tour of the Chicago Loop and central city.

Achilles concluded his remarks by observing that Dearborn Street from Congress to Wacker Drive dramatically represents the history of nineteenth and twentieth century architecture, interiors, mosaics, and public art. We learned that the men and women who rebuilt Chicago physically after 1871 worked with a variety of materials and designs and innovations that impacted the entire world.

I look forward to seeing you on the guide's trails and future CTPA gatherings.

Respectfully yours,

Edward Mazur, CTG
Tri-Secretary

