

My name is Billy J. Mathis, CSI, CDT, proud member of the Little Rock Chapter and the Gulf States Region and I am running for the office of Gulf States Region Vice President for FY2013 (July 1 2012 – June 30, 2013). Some of you know me from my time as Awards Chairman for the Gulf State Region. Others may know me from the meetings and such that I have attended. But many of you may not know just who I am and what makes me consider myself qualified to run for office at the Region level. Let me give you a quick rundown of myself and my qualifications.

I consider myself a native of Arkansas even though I was born in Missouri. I spent the bulk of my life in the State of Arkansas and both my parents were born and raised in this state. Upon graduation from High School, I tried college for a year and then enlisted in the United States Air Force as a Law Enforcement Specialist in the Security Police career field. During my 22 – year career I worked many jobs within the Law Enforcement arena including Patrolman, Desk Sergeant, and Flight Chief. I also worked in the staff as Crime Prevention Specialist, Resource Protection NCO, and the Information Security Program Manager for the Installation. In these final areas, I was exposed to the Construction Industry from the perspective of the Owner's Representative for Security. I attended Pre-Construction Conferences, coordinated on Government Contracts from a Security Perspective, and I inspected plans and specifications as well as conducted site visits to ensure compliance with Air Force directives on construction. I also oversaw Security Contracts as a Quality Assurance Evaluator (representative of the USAF at a foreign base).

Upon retirement in 1997, I sought out a job where I could use this limited expertise in the Construction Industry. I came to work for Taggart Foster Currence Gray Architects, Inc., in North Little Rock. This is when and where in 1998, I was first introduced to CSI. I was invited to attend a meeting and I met people like Betty Hays, Jan Sanders and others who not only made me feel welcome but showed me how CSI could benefit my new career. As I become more and more involved, I realized that much of the specialized leadership training I received in the Air Force could be put to good use as Chapter Committee Chair and as an Officer within the Chapter. I eventually climbed the ladder culminating in my being elected a President of the Chapter. After that, I stayed actively involved through Awards Committee Chairman whereupon I was asked to serve at the Region Level as Awards Committee Chair and ultimately as a member of the Awards Committee at the Institute Level as well.

I can tell you what I bring to the table is experience in dealing with people, solving problems, and recognizing when changes are needed. I do not believe in change purely for change sake, however, I also don't believe in the saying "that's the way we've always done it". A good way to put this is "If it ain't broke don't fix it, but if it is, fix it now". My goal in any position is to do what it takes to make it a little better than it was when I took over.

Now that you know a little about me, I look forward to meeting and discussing your ideas and issues facing the Gulf States Region and hopefully working with you to actively bring CSI to the forefront of the Construction industry and /or resolving any issues which may arise as your Vice President.

I understand that in previous years, there has been an active "write-in" program by some members who have been trying to get "Mickey Mouse" elected. In order to both appease the members who think Mr. Mouse would make a good Vice President as well

as bring Mr. Mouse's perspective to the forefront as it never has been before, I have taken it upon myself to contract with Mr. Mouse making him an advisor on my election team. I hope this inclusion of those who support Mr. Mouse will bring about a feeling of inclusion and help them work with the remainder of the Gulf States Region membership to continue making this Region the envy of the Institute.

If any of you have any questions for me on any topic, my email address is [bjmathis@taggarch.com](mailto:bjmathis@taggarch.com) and I will respond as quickly as I can. I want each and every one of you to feel that you have a voice in the Region Board. Oops, now I am starting to sound like a Politician so I guess I better quit while I am ahead. Just remember, please vote for me in the upcoming elections.

Thanks

Billy J. Mathis, CSI, CDT