

**NCSE MEETING MINUTES
DRISKILL HOTEL
AUSTIN, TX
SEPTEMBER 27-28, 2011**

The chairman, Andy Peters, convened the fall 2011 meeting of the National Construction Safety Executives at 8:00 AM on Tuesday, September 27, 2011. Andy briefed the group on the emergency evacuation procedures and locations of facilities. Andy welcomed the guests and asked them to introduce themselves. After further introductions of all members, Andy reviewed the purpose of NCSE and the charter.

Members attending were:

Peters, Andy, Chairperson	Parsons	andy.peters@parsons.com
O’Dea, Tony, Vice Chair	Gilbane Building Company	todea@gilbaneco.com
Tim Palmer, Treasurer	TIC Holdings	tdpalmer@ticus.com
Robert Saiz, Mtg. Coordinator	PCL Construction	rjsaiz@pcl.com
Gary Amsinger, Mbr at Large	McCarthy	gamsinger@mccarthy.com
Baldwin, Rich, Secretary	PCL Construction	rsbaldwin@pcl.com
Bardin, Chris	The Layton Companies	cbardin@laytoncompanies.com
Beswick, Gary	AECOM Technology, Inc.	gary.beswick@aecom.com
Bray, David	McDermott	jdbray@mcdermott.com
Davis, Warren	Safe Step, LLC	safestep@satx.rr.com
Dixon, Jim	Jacobs	Jim.Dixon@Jacobs.com
Giles, Brad	Washington Division, URS	brad.giles@wgint.com
Grundke, Eric	Kiewit	eric.grundke@kiewit.com
Handley, Chris	Performance Contractors	chris.handley@pcg.com
Helman, Dan	Babcock & Wilcox	dlhelman@babcock.com
Hill, Darryl	ABB	darryl.c.hill@us.abb.com
Hurley, Don	Zachary	don.hurley@zachrycorp.com
Jackson, Bill	Granite	William.jackson@gcinc.com
Johnson, Bob	Granite	bob.johnson@gcinc.com
Levin, Paul	Sundt	pcevin@sundt.com
Maguire, Michael	Herzog Contracting	mmaguire@herzogcompanies.com
Peck, Chris	CH2MHill	chris.peck@ch2mhill.com
Richardson, Carl	Zachary	richardsonc@zhi.com
Sirofchuck, Tim	Clark Group	tim.sirofchuck@clarkconstruction.com
Softich, Tony	SNC-Lavalin	tony.softich@snclavalin.com

Guests

Dr. Gary Winn, West Virginia University	Jim Duffy, Lend Lease
Rand Magee, Kiewit	Eddie Greer, BCSP
George Barlow, Quanta Services	Cece Weldon, URS
Mark Dumas, Skanska	Chris Waid, Jacobs
Steve Trickell, Zachry	Jim Lastoka, McDermott Will & Emory LLP

Charlie Darnell Roundtable – What’s Working?

Parsons Safety Moment – CII Research

Andy discussed a CII study entitled “Project Site Leadership Role on Improving Construction Safety”. It was to determine the applicable behaviors of key project site leaders in driving safety performance. The objectives were to identify behaviors of leadership that impact safety; the correlations between leadership behavior and performance; and the involvement of employees under that leadership. CII has determined that a company’s perception that zero injuries are possible is directly related to their success in safety. When a company realizes that zero is difficult but possible, the management-dependent safety culture is able to significantly reduce incidents. But when the company realizes that zero is possible, results further improve. Then finally, some companies have determined that zero is sustainable and then caring for others is more evident and there is true organizational pride. Leadership must have a vision of the desired culture. There are several mechanisms that contribute to sustaining the culture and among them are the evident reaction to critical incidents, how resources are allocated and what is measured. Andy emphasized that leadership participation in regular safety activities was a key to sustaining the culture. He also stated that Parsons does not bid a job without a budget for safety and there are requirements for safety staffing on projects.

Andy told us that most leaders on projects had a catharsis when a significant event occurred. Usually it was a tragedy and their value for safety was suddenly established. Without this realization, there is often no change from the cost and schedule priorities on a project. The value for safety changes their priorities and thus their behaviors. This strongly impacts the entire site safety climate and thus the site safety performance. Andy stated that generally, workers under 30 felt that injuries are inevitable. There are six proactive leader behaviors:

1. Challenge the Process
2. Inspire a Shared Vision
3. Enable Others to Act
4. Model the Way
5. Encourage the Heart
6. Promote Safety

Supervisors see themselves as more committed to safety than their craft workers think they are. CII has determined that working with our site leaders to improve safety is very important to achieving zero injuries.

Andy shifted gears and discussed his company’s method of measuring the engagement of leaders. Tony discussed their involvement with JMJ and the impact that they have on leadership. Carl was concerned that quantity of leadership involvement may not equate to the quality. Only four of the members stated that they have an impact on hiring of leadership. Action: We should do a survey to determine safety involvement in the hiring of leaders.

Warren stated that he got a call from a company president that his safety staff was outstanding but his incident rates were preventing him from getting work. He further explained the tactics that should be used to overcome the emphasis on productivity.

Gary Amsinger explained that in his company, safety has been used as a standard for improvement of other departments.

Chris Barden discussed his company's rule that employees have a responsibility for everything within a 30-foot radius, up, down and sideways. Chris uses BIM to show crews the hazards in their areas. When they have a repeat violation by a subcontractor, the PM must respond to the project and stress safety in that subcontractor company.

Tony Softich discussed how they follow-up on project supervisors interaction on the project. They ensure that safety information spreads on a project.

Eric stated that Kiewit senior staff members visit projects and have noticed similarities among successful projects, namely the simplicity of some of the same project safety initiatives.

Robert Saiz stated that our number two leader in the U.S. presented a safety vision class to all supervisors in 35 separate sessions. About 900 salaried and hourly supervisors were trained and each was required to develop a personal safety vision which will be followed up by PCL leaders.

Tim Palmer said that the personal safety plans in Wanzek were well accepted beyond his expectations. He wondered what the next step would be. Several members expressed their opinions. Brad said that his efforts were voluntary but several clients expected a more stringent effort... a mandatory program. URS took it home to the family and it had a great impact. They focused on two work behaviors, two home safety practices and a wellness aspect. Kiewit Energy has personal safety plans but has expanded that to more creativity. Tony O'Dea said that maybe each meeting could be started by sharing a personal plan. Andy said that they track employee and dependent off the job injuries. Bob Johnson stated that one of their sharp young engineers felt that eliminating smoking was key to reducing medical costs.

Prospective New Member Presentations

Tim Palmer, Wanzek Construction

Needless to say, Tim is well-known to our group as the former TIC Safety Director and current Treasurer of NCSE. Tim started in Wanzek in June, 2011. After a fatality in Wanzek, they took a hard look at their safety process and a company called ZII surveyed Wanzek to identify the opportunities. This led to their search for a guy like Tim. The Wanzek Zero Injury Vision is relatively new. Wanzek does direct hire contract work for energy, heavy civil, power, oil and gas, petrochemical and industrial process industries. They also do wind towers. MasTech bought the company in 2008. The company is publicly traded. Their incident rates have consistently improved and are currently holding at 1.5. Reporting of near misses as well as job planning, a short service employee program and stretch and flex have been started. Tim reported that Wanzek did over 2 million hours of self-perform work last year with approximately 1,000 employees.

Darryl Hill, ABB Construction

Brad introduced Darryl Hill as a prospective member. Darryl is corporate safety director of ABB and the most recent past president of ASSE. ABB is based in Zurich Switzerland and has about 200,000 employees and subcontractors. They are in eight regions. There is no global OHS organization. Darryl is the leader in the U.S. Needless to say, ABB construction and equipment installation activities are quite extensive in many industries. Darryl informed the group on their eight safety elements. It wasn't until 2004 that they really got serious about safety and started to look at safety as a strategic advantage. Their EMR is currently about 0.69 because of an acquisition merger that drove the data higher.

Bob Johnson, Granite Construction

Bob has been the safety director in Granite for many years. Granite does a variety of work, often related to roads and bridges. They have many hot plants and mining facilities. He discussed a variety of Granite programs – some are behavioral based. Bob stated that Bill Jackson will continue to be the Compliance Safety Manager in Granite.

OSHA Update – Jim Lastoka, McDermott Will & Emory LLP

Jim has spoken at our group meetings many times and his participation is always valued. He was recently on the phone with a reporter about a national article and was asked about the criminal penalties for some OSHA violations. Her view was that the penalties were too lax, but Jim countered that many companies are really trying to comply.

Recordkeeping has been a big theme recently. Goodman Manufacturing was issued 83 citations and potentially fined 1.2 million dollars for recordkeeping violations. It was the biggest case in years. Jim stated that one misunderstanding of the rules can be repeated many times and result in many citations. In that company, there was considerable doubt about the validity of some injuries... too much, perhaps. There was a Vietnamese chiropractor who repeatedly gave workers extensive time off for their alleged injuries. Also, there was some evidence that OSHA had provided incorrect training that resulted in improper recordkeeping. The counting of lost and restricted days was questioned. OSHA withdrew 23 of the 83 citations and the penalty was reduced to \$550,000. Additional training and quarterly submission of logs as well as 2011 and 2012 audits of logs were prescribed.

Jim discussed other cases and the results. Some were on-going so he could not elaborate. He identified the inept application of the OSHA whistleblower program and the redirection that OSHA has undertaken. One notable case involved Union Pacific and another BNSF Railway Company. Both allegedly fired employees who complained about safety violations.

Jim stated that OSHA is beginning to take a more in-depth look at workplace violence incidents.

Employer Expectations for College Internships, Co-Ops and New Hires

Dr. Gary Winn from the University of West Virginia sought our input on the preparation of students for safety employment in the construction industry. He stated that there is constant battling over ABET accreditation standards.

Gary asked us to participate in a research project and would like to receive an extensive statement on the single strength you see in new safety graduates you hire today and why. Also, he would like to know the significant single weakness you see in the safety graduates you hire and why. E-mail your input to Gary at gary.winn@mail.wvu.edu.

Brad emphasized that ABET accreditation is very important. He also stressed that support for students beyond their internship prospects is essential.

How to Deal with the New Sherriff in Town

Jim Stanley discussed his background and the history of OSHA. He explained the OSHA severe violator program and in this author's opinion, he seemed to be emphasizing the value of his consultant services after a complete metamorphosis from OSHA hatchet man from 1971-1996 to a true friend of industry. Little of his talk was on subject. He led a discussion on multi-employer worksite enforcement, but the audience already had a handle on that very basic issue and had very little difficulty with multi-employer issues.

Employee Engagement Surveys

Keith Johnson from Consitrium does employment engagement surveys. The term is a hot button now and started with Jack Welch in GE. Keith emphasized that we need to be cautious in selecting a firm to assess engagement and ensure that we carefully define the survey questions. Questions must be validated for strength and validity. Make sure we don't have potential double answers to a question. Keep the number of questions at a minimum. Tony asked what the appropriate way is to ask a question. Keith said that both the "Yes-No" and response range "1-5" answer selections are valid. He discussed several fallacies in survey taking. Keith does not do interviews to accomplish a survey because the way a person asks the questions can influence the answer. Tony asked if the form such as Survey Monkey is viable. Keith said that the paper survey is good for craft workers but on-line surveys are not usually taken. Very rarely are incentives used to ensure survey participation. Rational engagement surveys usually come out of the HR department. Emotional engagement surveys are more often pertinent to safety.

You are advised to review Keith's power point presentation on the NCSE website to gain a better perspective of his subject.

Background Screening

Melanie Laird from FC Background discussed screening, badging and tracking our workforce. There are numerous reasons to screen employees, namely because construction workers have a 15.1% positive rate of drug use and a 17.8% rate of heavy alcohol use. According to Texas, 7% of all employed workers are felons. Further, 21% of Texas felons have not been jailed. Melanie discussed a plethora of drug testing information... most of which we already knew, but it was good to have refreshers and reminders. Several members commented on the synthetic marijuana issue.

Badging systems have become more sophisticated and the "smart" badges with chips or striping or radiofrequency badges can perform a variety of tasks, up to and including the location of a worker at any given moment when on a project. Tony O'Dea asked why we can't use the drivers licenses and Melanie said it is not public information. You must define the type of badging based on the kind of reports that are needed. Tony Softich explained their use of badge data. Melanie stated that face recognition and hand prints have not been successful on construction sites. Portable or gate sited readers can read badges and give a red or green light to project entry. This real time reporting may not have value without a manned gate or multiple gates. Antennas can pick up badge signals at gates as well. Another consideration is the number of workers entering at the same start times.

Facial recognition is the wave of the future. To use it run the picture through the project data base. Facial hair does not adversely affect the readability of facial recognition software.

AECOM World Trade Center Project

Gary presented two devices to the group; one was a pocket noise dosimeter called a “Sound Checker”. You can see the EAR Sound Checker sale site at: www.earinc.com/shop

Gary also showed a sample of a handrail that is used in nursing homes and hospitals. It has slip resistant qualities that prevent falls.

Gary then showed video clips of the AECOM CEO who was at the new tower construction at the World Trade Center and discussing the progress of the construction. It was a fascinating presentation that helps us realize the importance of construction operations of which we are all a part.

The meeting was ended for the day at 5:00 PM by the chairperson, Andy Peters.

The group enjoyed a cocktail hour (or two) in the Driskill Hotel sponsored by JMJ and dinner sponsored by NCSE at P.D. Riley’s Pub.

Andy re-convened the meeting at 8:00 AM on Wednesday, September 28

Safety Moment

Tony O’Dea read a letter from a Gilbane worker that had been saved by fall protection. It not only was surprising that he had thanked Gilbane and Tony for their efforts, but gratifying that a craft worker recognized one of us for the efforts we do every day. When the scaffold board broke and his retractable stopped his fall in mid-air, an instant realization of the importance of safety was achieved. He thanked Tony for Gilbane’s efforts that largely are never fully appreciated. And he told Tony to ignore the kick back from worker’s who just don’t get it.

Passive Leading Indicators – CII Research Study

Steve Trickell from Zachry thanked Tony for the feedback on the craft worker appreciation for saving his life. Steve volunteered to be the Vice Chair and was then designated as the Chair of the committee. The title of the research study was “Driving to Zero through Leading Indicators”. Steve identified the complexity of the flow of activities in preparation for reporting to the CII conference. Leading indicators are defined as measures of attitudes, behaviors, practices or conditions that influence safety. They identified passive and leading indicators. Their mission was to initiate a step change in safety performance through the identification of measurable leading indicators... The research was domestic only at 60 project sites. The 130 questions were done via a phone call to the project. The passive leading indicators were measured with yes/no answers and consisted of program elements such as “Was drug testing conducted?”

The average scope of the projects was \$365 million dollars with an average RIR of 1.62. Sixty nine percent of projects who had a policy on supervisors receiving monthly health and safety training have an RIR of 0.97; without it were 2.74. Seventy percent that consider safety in the design phase have an RIR of 1.26 and without it were 2.00. The aforementioned are examples of leading indicators that were measured.

Warren pointed out that the incentives that were measured (those projects with incentives showed an RIR with 2.46 and without it was 0.58) were also evaluated during a previous CII study in the early 1990s.

Dr. Hintze would appreciate data from the state of Texas so if anyone has projects that can contribute to the study contact Steve Trickell at trickells@zhi.com.

There were six key leading indicators that are tending to show the lagging indicators. Steve reported that by February 2012 they will have a top ten list of leading indicators. They should have a list of passive and active leading indicators. Their report to the CII conference will be in July 2012.

Business Meeting

Emeritus Status

Andy identified that we should be reviewing the emeritus membership status. Looking at the list, there are some that we never hear from and there is doubt that they should be maintained on the roster. Arnie, Bruce, Carmine, Jack and Bob were removed from the roster due to lack of participation.

It was moved and seconded that Mike McGuire be offered emeritus membership status.

New Member Approvals

Tim Palmer, our current Treasurer from Wanzek Construction, was unanimously re-approved for membership.

Darryl Hill from ABB was unanimously approved for membership.

Bob Johnson from Granite was also unanimously approved as a new member.

Openings

Since Kevin Berg has been transferred to Australia and Bechtel has no representation and there are two other companies that have recently left the group, Bechtel, Fluor, Lend Lease and Herzog will be solicited for membership again.

New Officer Elections

Robert was re-elected as Meeting Coordinator, Rich as Secretary and Tim as Treasurer for the next two years.

The group unanimously voted to retain Andy, Tony and Gary in their current positions. Congratulations to all!

Treasurer's Report

The last meeting expenses were \$13,301. and currently there is \$13, 856 in the bank. Our expenses for this meeting should be near \$12,000. All members were provided invoices and are encouraged to pay next year's dues immediately as we may have expenses for meeting deposits at hotels next spring and fall.

Meeting Arrangements

The spring, 2012 meeting will be at the Francis Marion hotel in Charleston South Carolina on April 4-5. The website is <http://francismarionhotel.com/>. Please see the hotel description and pictures at the end of these minutes.

Napa had been selected for the NCSE meeting in the fall of 2012 and arrangements for securing a hotel contract are underway. The meeting will either be on September 26 and 27 or October 3 and 4, 2012. We will let you know as soon as our arrangements are finalized.

Myrtle Beach was selected as the location for the spring 2013 meeting. Do our golfers have too much influence?

International NCSE

Five companies are interested in the international NCSE effort. Andy asked if we should do this as a group or a subgroup of the five companies. Andy will host the meeting in Dubai for the interested companies on October 19-20.

Kiewit Speak Up and Listen Up Program

Eric Grundke discussed the Kiewit Speak Up and Listen Up Program. TIC had been using the program in a somewhat different form. Rand Magee from Kiewit discussed the details of the program. One of the emphasis points the program is the development of supervisors' communications skills. A task that Kiewit worked on was to improve the supervisors' ability to shut down work on a job if necessary. The core of the training program is providing and receiving feedback. Focusing on the message, not the person or emotion, is key. Feedback to the boss must be handled carefully but is essential for safety. Feedback is not about criticism, it is honesty and caring. The video was done by Core Media and with licensing for unlimited use, it cost \$150,000.

ASSE Update

The past president of ASSE, Darryl Hill, gave us an update on ASSE affairs and initiatives. Darryl focused on three initiatives, Professional Competency, Body of Knowledge and the Center for Safety and Health in Sustainability.

Professional Competency: The short term goals are developing an employers' guide and information on interviewing for a safety professional. This can be downloaded on the ASSE

website. Long term goals include working with Professional Associations to define our practice and career professional guides to meet core competencies.

Body of Knowledge: The goal is to be the premier resource and body of knowledge for practicing professionals. Currently, ASSE is assessing how they capture the knowledge of our membership and they are creating a platform that gives our practicing professionals access to that knowledge.

Center for Safety and Health Sustainability: The purpose was to elevate the safety profession. Darryl reviewed several items that indicate the importance of sustainability.

Cal OSHA Update

Bill Jackson discussed some of the upcoming safety and health standard proposals. The standards board of California is the only agency that has the authority to adopt safety and health standards. They can also grant variances from standards.

California does not always meet federal requirements for “at least as effective” nor do they always meet the federal deadline of 6 months after promulgation.

The standard board’s e-mail address is: www.dir.ca.gov/oshsb/oshsb.html. There will be a regulatory agenda included on the NCSE website.

Updates in Professional Certifications and BCSP and ASSE Foundation

Eddie Greer is chair of the ASSE Foundation... it was started in 1990 and generated funding for scholarships and research as well as accreditation activities. Since inception they have raised over 5 million dollars. There are two opportunities to pursue a PhD at Oregon in Occupational Safety and Health. Approximately \$150,000 in scholarships is available per year.

The BCSP is in their 45th year and the mission statement says BCSP is the premier safety certification organization. The vision is to be recognized by practitioners and stakeholders as the premier safety certification society in the world; they are also ANSI accredited. Out of 300 certifications in safety, most are bogus... 12 are sponsored by BCSP and ANSI... 5 just by BCSP. Eddie reviewed the available BCSP certifications and the requirements. Those are in the BCSP website for review.

Eddie discussed a proposed certification, ASP, for persons who have working in the profession for 10 years and have no degree but are otherwise qualified.

BCSP is taking over two other certifications that are environmental related. Eddie said that the passing score for the CSP exam is determined by testing existing CSPs and checking the average scores – of course it is a bit more complicated than that but you get the idea.

Dare to Lead – Continuous Learning Creates the Best Leaders

Eddie continued with a presentation as titled above. The best way to understand this important presentation is to go to the NCSE website.

Leadership attracts followers... it inspires others to exceed their perceived talents through guided empowerment and being enabled. Influence is the key. We must have competence to lead because if we

don't, others won't follow. Communication with all levels is also a key as expected and listening is critical. Compassion is important because you must have a love for people. Of course, character is also necessary... character is what you have when no one is around. Connection is needed. Eddie was asked by Dick Cheney to introduce him to others and to develop a cell phone policy. Because Eddie had connections with other companies, he was able to lay 5 cell phone policies on Cheney's desk in two hours. Commitment, Courage and Credibility are other essentials of leadership.

Effective leaders adopt continual learning. We all learn from others formally or informally to continue to grow. When people understand you get their attention. When people trust you earn their loyalty and when people know you really care, you catch their hearts.

There are powerful leadership words such as "What Do You Think". Also "I Appreciate You" is important. Eddie asks construction workers "In the last 7 days has anyone told you they appreciate you?" And just saying "Thank you" has great impact. It is dangerous to say "You did a good job.... But".

Power, greed and arrogance are not what good leaders are all about. Eddie continued with an explanation of Transactional and Transformational Leadership... Transformational is more successful, they are person focused, not task focused. Leaders lead best when they focus on the group not themselves. Leadership fundamentals are the same as other presentations... Challenge the Process, Inspiring a Shared Vision, Enabling Others to Act, Modeling the Way and Encouraging the Heart are keys to leadership.

World Trade Center Presentation

Jim Duffy showed the site of the construction of the new towers and reviewed Lend Lease actions just after the tragedy in 2001 and subsequently. Jim's company has had extensive work on the projects. The explanation of the progression of the work and pictures were fascinating. He explained how the exhibits were brought back into the museum. Interestingly, when the debris was removed from the site there was a tree still alive and after a time in a nursery it was brought back to the site and replanted. As an afterthought, a cooling system had to be installed behind the bronze letters on the names in the granite.

Green Safe Tool Council

Joel Guth, a founding member of the council explained that their goal was to provide safe and efficient tools to our jobsites. GSTC will encourage the innovation and development of safe and healthful tools as well as promoting and educating the construction industry about safe tools that already exist. GSTC will develop standards for tools such as exposure limits for silica that are pertinent for all countries. Please refer to the Green Safe Tool Council website: www.GreenSafeTool.org. The information there is far more comprehensive than can be capably reported in these minutes.

Andy dismissed the meeting at 4:15 PM.

We will see you in Charleston, South Carolina for the spring 2012 NCSE meeting on April 4-5, 2012.

You have until March 5th 2012 to secure your reservations directly with the **Francis Marion Hotel**. Don't wait until then, as the room block may fill up and you may not be able to stay in the conference hotel, and most likely will pay a higher rate at nearby hotels. **Call the Francis Marion hotel directly at 1-843-722-0600 or 1-877-756-2121 to make your reservations and make sure you get the reduced rate of \$175 per night for a city view or \$205 per night for a harbor view room. March 5th is the deadline. When making your reservations, it is essential that you identify the group as NCSE to make the reservation, and make sure that you call Rich Baldwin at 303-909-3927 if there are any hiccups in making your reservations.**

The hotel website is <http://francismarionhotel.com/>.

Let's shoot for full attendance and please plan to stay until the end of the meeting.

Remember to refer to the NCSE website for copies of the numerous presentations from the recent meeting.

Respectfully,

Andy Peters, Chairperson

Tony O'Dea, Vice Chair

Rich Baldwin, Secretary



Francis Marion Hotel Exterior View

Named for [General Francis Marion, the “Swamp Fox”](#) of the American Revolution, the hotel opened in 1924 as the largest and grandest in the Carolinas. It was originally built by local investors at a cost of \$1.5 million from plans by noted New York architect W.L. Stoddard, who also built the gracious [Poinsett Hotel](#) in Greenville, SC. Throughout the years, many notable historic and famous clientele enjoyed the hotel's full service and convenient location. In 1996, an extensive restoration earned the hotel the esteemed National Trust Award and once again the Francis Marion opened its doors as Charleston's Grand Hotel. More recent refurbishments have added to the comforts of today and enhanced the hotel's historic ambiance with sleek room décor reminiscent of the 1920's grandeur.

Today, our [traditional services](#) continue to provide doorman and bell service, concierge, valet parking, room service, wireless Internet services, business center, newsstand, gift shop, Starbucks™ and a well-equipped fitness center. Guests can enjoy classic Southern cuisine for breakfast, lunch and dinner in [The Swamp Fox Restaurant & Bar](#), a Charleston restaurant, known for its artfully prepared dishes using local farm fresh ingredients. Or simply relax with cocktails and jazz piano music in The Swamp Fox Bar. The hotel also offers complete spa services at the on-site [Spa Adagio](#).

Few hotels in the Historic District offer visitors an opportunity to immerse themselves in Charleston's past and present with such convenience. Our exceptional location provides guests with an easy walk to an array of shops, restaurants, antiques and attractions, including the South Carolina Aquarium, Charleston Harbor Tours, College of Charleston and the Charleston Visitor Center.

A simple stroll across the street to Marion Square, a six-acre park notable for its Revolutionary War and Citadel beginnings, will immerse you in today's exciting outdoor festivals and premiere events. [Southeastern Wildlife Exposition](#), [BB+T Charleston Wine + Food Festival](#), [Fashion Week](#) and [Spoleto Festival USA](#) are a few of the many prominent events with national and world-wide attendance.

Restaurants abound in the King Street area with choices from world-class restaurants to trendy bistros, bars and nightlife such as Fish, Virginia's, Basil and Hall's Chophouse. Upper King Street is also known for its Design District Shopping, a perfect location for home décor and accessories. Head the opposite direction on King Street for excellent shopping on mid and lower King Street, including Croghan's Jewel Box, Bob Ellis shoes and M. Dumas & Sons and dozens more.



Francis Marion Hotel Typical Harbor View Room