

Mark Wylie

1. How has being a member of CSCF's Board of Directors impacted you personally or professionally?

This position has given me an opportunity to be a "voice" for construction workforce, one that has nearly doubled in size since I first came on the CSCF Board of Directors in 2011. I have enjoyed working closely with school systems to help create career and technical education opportunities for young people. As a CSCF Board member, I have appreciated working with community civic and business leaders in many Central Florida industries who I would not have encountered otherwise.

2. What's an interesting or little-known fact about yourself?

When we travel, my wife and I like to visit capitol buildings, and have made it to more than 30 in the U.S. and Puerto Rico. Among others, we have been to the copula on the top of the Missouri Capitol, been given an unplanned tour by an Arizona state senator in Phoenix and seen the "Mile High" marker in Denver, and once was taken on a tour of the U.S. Capitol by our congressman and the Architect of the Capitol.

3. What are some of your favorite hobbies?

Taking pictures of birds and scenery, fishing whenever I get a chance, and visiting my sons and their families.

4. Favorite Book?

Usually anything historical, especially military history. I discovered a website with old radio programs and audio books that are out of copyright and not in libraries, www.archive.org. I have listened to all of the books by Arthur Conan Doyle and Zane Grey, and am currently listening to books written by Anna Katharine Green in the late 1800s, an American author who pioneered the genre of detective mysteries.

5. If you could eat one thing every day, what would it be?

Nothing that would be any good for me. My mom raised a cookie monster before Jim Henson popularized the character.

6. Favorite genre of music?

Depending on where I am, I listen to 1960s rock 'n' roll, Chicago, Frank Sinatra, Neil Diamond, Henry Mancini instrumentals, and 50s-60s country. Nothing that is less than 20 years old, and most of it over 50.

7. Best advice received?

A well-known sales guru, Zig Ziglar, once said something profound, and by which I try to live my life: "You will get all you want in life, if you help enough other people get what they want."

8. What did you think you'll be when you grew up? Were you accurate?

When I was in high school, I wanted to make a career of the Army. While I graduated from the ROTC program and was commissioned in the Army, my interests changed while in school, and I gravitated to business and sales, and then to association management, which is nothing like the Army.

9. In another life, what would your dream career be?

I genuinely enjoy doing what I have done for 35+ years, which is managing a chapter of Associated Builders and Contractors. Through my adult life, I have known many people from various walks of life, and so many of them cannot wait for the workday to end, for the weekend to start, or for that day when they can retirement. That's not me. I enjoy working with my able staff, with member volunteers and with community leaders.

10. What is your unpopular opinion?

Capitalism and free enterprise works, which now appears to be an unpopular opinion among half of the population. I often recall Margaret Thatcher's comment: "The problem with socialism is that you eventually run out of other people's money."

11. Would you rather be invisible or read minds?

I would rather that people be more transparent and amenable to those around them.

12. How do you recharge/de-stress?

My wife and I like to visit National Parks around the country, and enjoy the beauty of nature and America's natural and historical heritage.

13. What would you name the autobiography of your life?

Five Hats: Son, Brother, Husband, Father & Grandfather

14. Who has had the biggest influence on your life thus far?

My wife, Jeanne. Since I first met her in 1971 on an Eastern Airlines flight when we were returning to different colleges from a Christmas break, she has been my life partner, my guide and my conscience.

15. In closing, is there anything else you'd like to add?

Change the oil in your car and the air filter in your air conditioner, and get an annual physical. Nothing works forever without maintenance.