



Northeast Region Construction Specifications Institute BOARD REPORT

DATE: 10/17/2021
TO: Northeast Region Board of Directors
FROM: Heath Waldorf, Region Director

SUBJECT: Report of New Jersey

A. Report Summary

1. The New Jersey Chapter won an outstanding Chapter this year for its ability to accomplish tasks deemed important by National. We have taken steps to improve our footing as a Chapter and are confident that with some of the changes being made, we succeed as a Chapter this year. New Jersey will have a challenging year 2022-2023 based on the overall transformation of the National Organization, hosting the 2023 NERCSI conference, and our election season - ensuring we have leadership in place to take on the work for the following years.

B. The Report

1. Summary of activities since last report:

In June, we held a virtual “state of the chapter” meeting to summarize our past year, introduce new board members to membership, and to lay out a vision for the next year two years as a chapter. 19 of our 66 members attended, including 9 (of the 19) from our previous and current FY boards. So, 10 non-board members.

The New Jersey Chapter Board spent the summer in planning mode with two Board only planning meetings; one conducted hybrid outdoors with some on Zoom, the other wholly by Zoom. We resolved to get insurance and migrate our chapter operations to StarChapter (web/event/email/membership CRM, etc.). Insurance is in place as of 10/1/21, and we are in the process of re-building our website with StarChapter.

In September we had two activities:

1. Virtual “Lunch And Learn” by ModerfoldStyles. – Board Member Tim Yarrish presented on Architectural Vertical Opening Solutions. It was 14 total attendees, including 7 from the Board. It may have been better as a “showroom tour” event than online. But online is what people are willing to do in our chapter right now.
2. In person social and networking gathering at a Morristown, NJ converted fire house. This sponsored event allowed guests to engage in person for the first time since preCovid in an outdoor setting. 17 total attendees. The event was predominantly “vendor” members and guests with only a handful of “professionals” in attendance. The sponsor, CertainTeed, was not thrilled with the mix given they need to justify their expense on the event. But they were very happy with the quality of the event and just the opportunity to be out an in person event to connect with other people! This is not a pure “sales” organization. Relationship building was in full effect at this event.

I don't expect we will try another pure social activity until the spring. Any in person activity will have to have a novelty appeal of some sort (unable to do without it being this opportunity through CSI), or have a technical learning element which may be more of a draw for the "professionals" than pure social & networking.

Also in September, we were alerted that our Chapter would be receiving an "Outstanding Chapter Commendation" from CSI National. Our Chapter President attended the Ceremony in Nashville to collect the award and spend time with CSI Leaders from NERCSI and the nation.

2. Status of current programs: CSI NJ has 2 events scheduled for the future:
 - a. Tuesday, October 26th, 4:30pm: How to manage your online presence. A Personal/Professional development opportunity courtesy of the NJ Chapter of CSI. We are bringing in a social media expert to help us improve our skills as individuals and as CSI Chapter leaders.
 - b. Thursday, October 28th, 12:15-1:30pm: Virtual Lunch & Learn sponsored by Rulon about Designing With Wood.
 - c. In the works:
 - 1.) "Dining By Design in 1776" – an exploration of the space guided by the architect, followed by a social opportunity.
 - 2.) For May/June – Minor League Baseball Game Social(s)
3. Problem areas: Our chapter has work to do with respect to a lack of historic chapter administration. We do not have a Chapter Secretary. We are unclear still what the net effect will be of the redrawn chapter map and "home chapter" concept being imposed on us. And as others see, we have too much load carried by too few.
4. Success stories: We are honored to be recognized by CSI for the work we did to engage our membership over the past year. We have taken steps to help instill systems and structures that will enable the chapter to perpetuate its existence for at least the next two years!
5. Liaison Activities: I am working on items relative to the Outreach Committee. See Outreach Committee Report.

C. Chapter Leadership Roster

1. Chapter Officers:

See attached spreadsheet.
2. Chapter Committee Chairs
See attached spreadsheet.
3. Chapter Nominating Committee Appointee
N/A – or Joe Lobdell as he is already our Chapter Nominating Committee Chair

Respectfully submitted;
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END OF REPORT

CC: Region Secretary