

BOARD REPORT

Northeast Region Board Meeting

April 18, 2022



DATE: April 18, 2022
TO: Northeast Region Board of Directors
FROM: Devin Filipiak, Filipiak Construction Consulting & Management, LLC.
Region President and Interim Region Director

SUBJECT: Report of Buffalo/WNY Chapter

A Report Summary

While the Buffalo/WNY Chapter has regrouped it is still struggling with membership and community. Our multi-presentation seminars in November and April were successful with some new prospects in attendance. The CSI Architect Ski Day in February was extremely successful and a credit to the committees that worked so hard to achieve a stellar event. As our sole fundraiser, the Buffalo Chapter relies on a substantial participation to stay solvent. Our newsletter, *The Scope*, once again heralds our people and activities to our Chapter and our many web contacts. It is also a source of informative and humorous articles from Kevin O'Beirne. Meetings will have a good foundation of interesting presentations or social occasions. Our membership numbers, although stagnant through the shutdown, have shown an increase of four this year which is encouraging.

B The Report

- B.1 Summary of activities since last report: The Buffalo/WNY Chapter held a Half Day Seminar in November to allow some members and guests to garner some much needed Learning Units for State certification in New York State and others. It was well attended and culminated in a Happy Hour which was much appreciated. December brought our annual Christmas Dinner which was entirely social in nature. Opportunities for interaction outside business concerns were happily engaged. While well intended participation indicated a great turnout, a cautious County government caused some trepidation with an uptick of the Omicron Covid Virus and a few members were unable to attend. We still had a respectable event with nearly all board members and guests present. February saw our third Annual CSI Architects Ski Day at Holiday Valley Ski Resort. This event is our only fund raiser and once again was very successful. We had an increase of participants over February 2020. Last year, because of Covid, the event did not occur at all. There were 101 skiers and 24 cautious people in attendance. Industry sponsors were pleased with the turnout and it was a great day to be on the slopes. March saw two member events. One from our supplier member from Weatherpanel and a Coatings and Corrosion Forum from a member of International Union of Painters and Allied Trades. April, saw us host a Seminar including three presentations which contributed three Leaning Units to our attendees which had a respectable but unimpressive attendance.
- B.2 Status of current programs: New vigor and affirmation have energized our Architects' Ski Day event in February 2022. Fresh ideas and commitments have led towards a great event after missing last year! This is the most important fundraiser for the Buffalo/WNY Chapter. The Programming Committee is diligently working towards a May networking event and there are initial plans being floated for our annual June dinner membership meeting. Our newsletter, *'The Scope'*, has tapped into some of the writing skills and expertise within our chapter, with national CSI blogger Kevin O'Beirne providing a monthly article and contributions from a few writers including the editor. Kevin is also a member of the Region Certification Program and is involved in teaching a few sections to our Region candidates of whom two are Buffalo Chapter members.
- B.3 Problem areas: While the Buffalo/WNY Chapter seems to have risen to overcome a severe abyss, and virtual board meetings set us on the right path last year, the actual rapport of human interaction

had been lacking. We are currently working hard to develop meetings where networking and personal contact are possible. Costs of hosting a meeting have increased making meetings additionally challenging . New members are difficult to come by. New committee members prospects are difficult to convince to sacrifice some personal time as it seems everyone is scrambling to catch up these days.

- B.4 Success stories: Our Chapter Board members have forged new commitments and taken strong leadership from our President to focus us in a positive direction, and as our Communication Chair has implemented new procedures and access to our website. Stressing a committee concept, where we had committees in name only where the Chair shouldered all the weight of the tasks at hand, we are trying to spread communication and responsibility among more individuals making tasks easier. A new spirit of cooperation has grown between the board members. A revitalized newsletter '*The Scope*' is winning readership and has been receiving articles from many of our members especially from Kevin O'Beirne who is a well-known contributor to the National '*Specifier*' magazine and has a national CSI Blog. We are beginning to see paid advertisers featured within our pages. Our Certification Chair, also Kevin O'Beirne, has continued to engage with the CSI's Construction Contract Administration Practice Guide by administrating three of its seven chapters. We encourage and offer prep courses this Spring of and Kevin is working with the Region as an instructor in a united Certification Teaching group shared by many Northeast Region Chapters. Two of our members have elected to study for the CDT designation.
- B.5 Schedule of activities prior to next Board Meeting: We will be actively working on creating new possibilities to engage our members and attract new individuals to our Chapter through learning and social events. All our committees will meet to discuss the past experience at our last Ski Day and discuss improvements and new features. '*The Scope*' editor will be working to obtaining articles and improving our message. We will be looking to locate new venues to hold our monthly meetings. Our Program Committee will actively continue to find new topics of interest for our presentations.
- B.6 Changes in Chapter Membership since last report: We have added 2 new members and new prospects have been identified.

C Best Practices to share with the Region

We continue to promote our newsletter as an advertisement for the Buffalo Chapter. It lists our Board Members, Committee Chairs and monthly activities for easy access. While virtual meetings are a viable tool, actual meetings are key to engaging and including everyone to share our knowledge and experience and we have enjoyed 5 successful meetings this year.

Respectfully Submitted;

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END OF REPORT

Cc: Region Secretary