



Northeast Region Construction Specifications Institute BOARD REPORT

DATE: October 12, 2022
TO: Northeast Region Board of Directors
FROM: Jim Grucella, CSI member Emeritus

SUBJECT: Report of Buffalo/WNY Chapter

A. Report Summary

While the Buffalo/WNY Chapter has regrouped and there is great cooperation between the board, it is still struggling with membership and community. However, we have gained three new people. Our multi-presentation seminars in April were successful with some new prospective members in attendance. 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. Novel ideas as an Octoberfest networking event are finding some traction. Our November multi-seminar meeting event shows a traditional direction that has been successful for many years. Our Ski Day event holds great promise for February of 2023. Further study and consideration for the new CSI agreements are ongoing.

B. The Report

1.Summary of activities since last report: After discussions during our May meeting and subsequent email give and take, Buffalo/WNY agreed to sign the new CSI Agreement. Some further study is ongoing with how to balance its various aspects. While there were some concerns about insurance costs, everyone agreed that we should stay with the CSI and work through any problems. In June, we held our traditional tour and dinner meeting. The site this year was The Buffalo History Museum which was one of the original buildings of the 1901 Pan American Exposition in held in Buffalo. Undergoing a restoration, architectural plans of George Cary were on display along with a plethora of historical artifacts, displays, and treasures. Dinner was directly across the Delaware Park Lake at the Terrace Restaurant overlooking the water. Three new members joined us. There was a brief hiatus from meetings over the summer, until the board convened in early September to begin planning for our activities this term.

2.Status of current programs: An Octoberfest Networking Celebration with a broad invitation to the Construction Industry will take place later this week in an authentic German Beerhall. So far reservations are doing well with both members and curious prospects exceeding estimates. November planning brings a quadruple seminar event during and after lunch with 4 Learning units available for the attendees. This has always been successful, and advance notices have just been sent. December will feature our Christmas Dinner. Plans are well under way for our yearly CSI Architects Ski Day at Holiday Valley Ski Resort. This event is our only fund raiser. A great turn out of sponsors have guaranteed our success and will greet our participants which numbered over 100 last year. Other programs for 2023 will be discussed at subsequent board meetings. 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 chapter members including the editor. We were also fortunate enough to receive a solicitation from an Industry Code expert which was published in our September issue. Kevin O'Beirne is also a member of the Northeast Region Certification Program and is involved in teaching a few sections

to our Region candidates of whom two are Buffalo Chapter members. We are also trying coalitions with other construction groups in the area one being the Finishing Trades institute.

November Seminar Series: 12:15 PM — *The Sound of Well-Being, engagement and Productivity, by Peter J. Kalb National Sales Director, Snowsound USA* Explain how noisy environments negatively impact their occupants. Define the ABCs of acoustic properties as, they relate to interiors. Identify the emotional and psychological impacts of sound on people's wellbeing. Describe the difference between engagement and productivity. Differentiate between NRC and STC ratings as related to acoustic materials.

1:30 PM — *From Spec to Protect, by Rob Emmerson, Sherwin Williams*

Company Determining the optimum coating system, differentiating high performance coating from other types of paint, conditions that drive coating selection, considering service life for a particular application.

2:45 PM — *FRP 101: Heavy-Duty Flush Doors for Commercial Entrances: by*

Kyle Learch Dugan Company How an entrance functions as a system of interdependent components • How a door's operating environment affects performance, durability, and lifecycle costs • Key design and construction differences among flush door alternatives • Basic scientific principles and material properties affecting entrance system service life • How to evaluate door performance criteria to choose the right entrance supplier.,

4:00PM — *Polished Concrete Overlayments-Concrete Overlays that Provide*

Durability, Beauty, and Minimal Maintenance, by Jon Roberts, The MJA Company

This course reviews the key aspects of designing, specifying and installing beautiful, resilient, polished concrete floors & polished overlayments. Essential substrate preparation considerations and joint treatment are reviewed, as well as material options engineered to maximize durability and installation efficiency for new and rehabilitation/repair projects. You'll discover the design versatility polished concrete finishes offer, as well as important specification recommendations and best practices to ensure successful installations and long-term performance.

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, the actual rapport of human interaction has been lacking. It is fortunate there is personal knowledge and experience of working together in the immediate past. New members are less easily attracted by computer screens than by personal contact so our membership has stagnated. We also need to enlarge the net of our operating Board and committees with fresh committee members to relieve some of the weight of our tasks.

4. Success stories: President, Devin Filipiak, has forged new commitments and taken strong leadership to focus us in a positive direction, and as our Communication Chair he has implemented new procedures and access to our website. Stressing a committee concept, where we had committees in name only with the Chair shouldering all the weight of the tasks at hand, he is spreading communication and responsibility among more individuals making tasks easier. A new spirit of cooperation has grown between the board members. A revitalized newsletter is winning readership and has been receiving articles from many of our members especially from Kevin O'Beirne who is a well-known CSI Specifier contributor and blogger. We are beginning to see paid advertisers featured within our pages. The Chapter is realizing the benefits of cooperating in the Northeast Region with a nod to the Scholarship Auction success. Our Certification Chair Kevin O'Beirne has continued to engage with the SCI's Construction Contract Administration Practice Guide by administrating three of its seven chapters. We intend to again offer prep courses in the Spring of 2022 and there is a possibility of Kevin working with the Region as an instructor in a united Certification Teaching group shared by many Northeast Region Chapters.

5. Chapter Leadership Roster:

Devin Filipiak, CSI, CIT
President Filipiak Construction Consulting & Management, LLC.
devin@filipiakccm.com

Vice-President	Suzanne Daddis, CSI, CMAA, NAWIC Mark Cerrone, Inc. sdaddis@markcerrone.com
Secretary	Robert Rumpl, AIA, CSI Trautman Associates rrumpl@trautmanassoc.com
Treasurer	William Ferguson, CSI, AHC SIMONSWERK North America william.ferguson@simonswerk.com
Immediate Past President	Alex Grande, CSI, CDT Kideney Associates
Region Director	Jim Grucella, CSI Emeritus Retired J.gru@verizon.net

Chapter Committee Chairs

Programming/Special Events	Deborah Siener, RA, CSI, CDT, LEED, AP-BD+C Foit-Albert Associates dsiener@foit-albert.com
Academic Liaison	Suzanne Daddis, CSI, CMAA, NAWIC Mark Cerrone, Inc. sdaddis@markcerrone.com
Awards	David Rood, CSI Weatherpanel, Inc. dr701932@srcorp.com
Certification	Kevin O'Beirne, PE, CCS, CCCA, FCSI HDR, Inc. Kevin.obeirne@hdrinc.com
Communications/Marketing	Devin Filipiak, CSI, CIT Filipiak Construction Consulting & Management, LLC. devin@filipiakccm.com
Membership	Brad Vaillancourt, AIA, CSI, RA, LEED, AP-BD+C Trautman Associates bvaillancourt@trautmanassoc.com
Newsletter	Jim Grucella, CSI Emeritus Retired J.gru@verizon.net

Chapter Nominating Committee Appointee: Jim Grucella

Respectfully submitted;

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Region Director, Buffalo WNY Chapter
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END OF REPORT

CC: Region Secretary