



**Northeast Region Construction Specifications Institute
BOARD REPORT**

DATE: 10/20/2022
TO: Northeast Region Board of Directors
FROM: Kevin E. Phillips Jr., CSI, CDT, Region Director

SUBJECT: Report of Syracuse Chapter of CSI

A. Report Summary

1. Chapter membership is holding steady. Participation with Zoom programs is holding steady. 2022 Construction Outlook program was a great success! The AIA & CSI Golf Tournament had the highest number of golfers in a long time, and we had our first Title Sponsor.

B. The Report

1. Summary of activities since last report:

The Syracuse Chapter has switched to Zoom programs vs. in-person programs. As a result, we have “regulars” who attend our Zoom programs that normally wouldn’t because of their physical location. For example, I (Kevin Phillips) will host the Zoom call from Utica, NY. Mike Kulik will call in from Rome, NY. Thomas Pratt will call in from the Syracuse area. And retired Cornell University professor Jonathan Ochshorn will call in from Ithaca, NY. These Zoom programs are very convenient so members do not have to leave work or home to participate.

The Syracuse Builders Exchange have offered us to use their classroom and facilities for a hybrid Zoom and in-person program. We plan on doing a hybrid program test run in the near future and see how it goes.

Some of our programs/events included:

03/03/2022: Control Layers, Abstraction, and Utilitarian Dysfunction (Zoom); 9 participants

05/12/2022: 2022 Construction Outlook (In-person; large event); 6 sponsors; 20 vendors; 42 attendees

08/11/2022: AIA & CSI Golf Tournament (In-person; large event): 1 Title Sponsor; 5 19th Hole Sponsors; 4 Tournament Sponsors; 7 Tee and Green Sponsors; 1 Beverage Cart Sponsor; 1 Sign Sponsor; 123 golf participants

10/20/2022: Designing, Detailing & Constructing Masonry Rainscreen Walls (Zoom); 5 participants

2. Status of current programs:

The Syracuse Chapter plans on continuing with monthly Zoom programs and plan on starting our first hybrid program soon.

We are re-starting the popular Spec Hunt program on November 10th at SUNY ESF which will coincide with the start of a spec writing competition for local college students to win a college scholarship. A total of \$2000 in college scholarships will be given out.

3. Problem areas:

Our biggest problems include finding volunteers and providing a “perceived value” to our members that is worth their dues. One idea is for each chapter of the region to provide one monthly Zoom program (if possible) which could be offered for free to all CSI members of the region. This proposed change would considerably add perceived value to our Chapters and the Region. Would giving our members the option of attending up to 15 programs per month worth over \$300 in annual dues? If we did something like this, then members could pick and choose which programs they want to attend each month. And the potential amount of AIA cont. education credits would be beneficial to architects. Would you spend over \$300 annually for something like this? Or spend over \$300 annually for just one program per month?

4. Success stories:

Other than our successful Construction Outlook and golf tournament events, we were successful in gaining a “microvolunteer”. We sent out a news blast to our members about “microvolunteering”, and one **existing/longtime member** expressed an interest in volunteering. Microvolunteering is volunteering that can be done in small bursts or periods of time. It's a way to volunteer that doesn't rely on big commitments, which can prevent some people from being able to participate." We also mentioned that this is also a great way to network with other construction professionals, and help improve and enhance the local construction industry through CSI.

We also gained one **new member** who expressed an interest in helping with Spec Hunt. This new member also took it upon himself to recruited two more product vendors to attend Spec Hunt. We are hopeful that this member will “microvolunteer” in the near future, or even become a chapter director. Our chapter currently doesn't have any chapter directors. We only have a president, vice-president, and treasurer.

5. Liaison Activities: None.

C. Chapter Leadership Roster

1. Chapter Officers

Thomas Pratt – President

315-637-0081; arch-mgt@tprattarch.com

Mike Kulik – Vice President

mkulik1326@gmail.com

Kevin Phillips – Treasurer

315-525-4327; kevin@kevindesigns.com

2. Chapter Committee Chairs: None

3. Chapter Nominating Committee Appointee: Kevin Phillips, Treasurer

Respectfully submitted;
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Respectfully submitted;

END OF REPORT

CC: Region Secretary