



## Northeast Region Construction Specifications Institute BOARD REPORT

**DATE:** October 12, 2022  
**TO:** Northeast Region Board of Directors  
**FROM:** Steve VanDyke, Worcester Chapter Director

**SUBJECT:** Report of the Worcester County Chapter

### A. Report Summary

1. The health of the Worcester Chapter is good. Membership has remained steady, our Board remains nearly full and engaged, and our exclusively live-and-in-person programs have been well attended.
2. The Board reluctantly agreed to sign the Affiliation Agreement, based on the premise that members should not lose the benefits they enjoy, simply because the Institute demanded compliance or termination. Resistance is futile...

### B. The Report

1. Summary of activities since last report:

**January 2022** – the January program was cancelled because the presenter’s company banned travel on the heels of the COVID Omicron surge. This happened at the last minute and we were not able to coordinate a replacement program.

**February 2022 – Door Hardware.** Don Cherry of Allegion prepared an interactive presentation about specifying hardware. Participants were given a basic floor plan and a packet of cut sheets and asked to build hardware sets for certain doors. Don then gave a powerpoint presentation walking through the right selection and why. Participants came away with a better understanding because they actually had to work out the sets themselves. This was a popular program and 18 people attended.

**March 2022 – Supply Chain Problems.** A roundtable discussion on the current status of construction materials and their availability, chaired by Kendra Likely of Rockfon. Panelists included product reps from different industries, a major general contracting firm in Worcester County, an independent specifier and a macroeconomist for Rockfon. Participants gained insight beyond their typical day-to-day projects and a good Q&A session was held. In total, 13 people attended.

**April 2022 – Thin Brick.** A road trip program to Camossee Masonry where Ken Lambert (IMI) presented three different methods for installing thin brick, and then participants had a chance to try their hand at installing thin brick which had been donated by Belden on mockup walls. A journeyman mason was part of the presentation, demonstrating the proper techniques and giving participants advice. 18 people attended, and the program drew in several new faces.

**May 2022 – Building Tour of Polar Park.** Field trip to see the new baseball stadium in Worcester. Tour included access to lots of behind-the-scenes spaces and insight from a former contractor for the park’s construction turned operations manager, on design mistakes from a building use perspective. Very well attended with 34 participating and resulting in new members joining.

**June 2022 – WCCSI Summer Social**, at the Worcester Bravehearts, a college futures baseball team who play at College of the Holy Cross in Worcester. This is an annual event that encourages members to bring spouse, kids and friends. The event is always well-attended and this year we had 16. Next year we may move the event to Polar Park and see the WooSox, Boston's minor league team who moved from Providence to Worcester a couple years ago.

**July 2022 – 24<sup>th</sup> Annual WCCSI Open**, a golf tournament raising money for scholarships awarded in the name of two charter members. Over 125 golfers participated, ~\$14,700 was raised and the Chapter awarded two \$3,000 scholarships to 2 students.

**August 2022 – No program in August.** We typically use this month as an internal planning session, to develop ideas for future programs.

**September 2022 – Architectural Scavenger Hunt.** A team-based game where participants solve clues to find notable architecture in the city, race there to get a photo of their team at the destination, and race back to the start to win prizes. Presenter (Steve VanDyke) gives a presentation on the significance of the destinations. The program had 21 attendees and was the 8<sup>th</sup> time we've done it due to members requesting more.

2. Status of current programs:

**October 2022 – Concrete Repair.** Presented by Dave Mastay, Technical Rep for Sika, and covering what to do when you pull the forms away and the concrete wasn't mixed, placed or finished properly. We have 22 people signed up so far.

**November 2022 –** The building tour we had planned fell apart due to conflict between the architect and owner. An alternate program is being worked out.

**December 2022 – WCCSI Audacious Yankee Swap**, family holiday social with a comedian, meal and exchanging of gifts you'd be too embarrassed to use.

**January 2023 – "Where's Waldo" Code Compliance.** Concept is still developing, but would include participants being given drawings, photos or something with code compliance problems and having to figure out what's wrong. Presenters will then explain the error(s) and what the correct design should have been.

**February 2023 – Worcester Carbon Neutral by 2030.** The Governor's "Leading by Example" policy requires State-owned buildings to be carbon neutral by 2050, but the Worcester City Manager plans to beat that goal by 20 years. City officials will outline tactics to meet that goal.

**March 2023 – Construction Recycling.** Presented by Harry Poirier of Sika Sarnafil, learn tactics to improve sustainability goals and get LEED points.

**April 2023 – Building Tour.** Hosted by Peter Caruso of LPAA, we'll see the new \$300M 5-story Doherty High School.

**May 2023 – Firestopping.** Live demonstrations of firestopping materials and installations at WPI's burn lab. Everybody loves lighting stuff on fire...

**June 2023 –** the 25<sup>th</sup> annual Construction Industry Summer Open golf tournament

3. Problem areas:

a. The Chapter does not comply with many of the requirements of the affiliation agreement that we signed. We have no idea where to find a lawyer to help us, no spare money to pay the lawyer, no volunteers with the spare time to figure this all out and we have no idea when the Institute will require us to get into compliance.

b. We are having trouble getting Board members to step up into the President's role. Marty and I have taken turns as President since around 2015...

4. Success stories: Membership is 38. Eight members have joined in 2022. Five were unaffiliated members forced to join because of the realignment though...
5. Liaison Activities: Outreach Committee Chair

### **C. Chapter Leadership Roster**

1. Chapter Officers:
  - a. President: Marty Helly
  - b. Vice President: Peter Caruso
  - c. Treasurer: Mike Lapomardo
  - d. Secretary: Rob Gutmann
  - e. Region Delegate: Steve VanDyke
  
2. Chapter Committee Chairs: (while committee chairs may take the lead on issues related to that committee title, due to the chapter size the board operates as a committee of the whole on most activities)
  - a. Membership: Harry Poirier
  - b. Education: Roger Hoyt
  - c. Awards: Mike Sheehan
  - d. Programs: Peter Caruso
  - e. Certification: Marty Helly
  
3. Chapter Nominating Committee Appointee: Steve VanDyke

**Respectfully submitted;**

Steve VanDyke

**END OF REPORT**

CC: Region Secretary