

**BOARD REPORT  
OUTREACH COMMITTEE  
Northeast Region Board Meeting  
March 2023**



**DATE:** March 24, 2023  
**TO:** Northeast Region Board of Directors  
**FROM:** Steve VanDyke, Board Liaison

**SUBJECT:** Report of Certification Committee

**A. Highlights**

1. Planning is underway for a CDT class starting mid-February and running into April.

**B. The Report**

1. Committee Members:

Steve VanDyke, Worcester  
Ruma Som, Metro NY  
Kevin O'Beirne, Buffalo  
Tom Scarlata, Boston

2. Committee Goals:

- a. Organize and manage another virtual CDT preparation class for the benefit of the Region, using last year's lessons learned to improve this year's offering.

3. Committee Activity:

- a. Developed a 10 session program starting 02/22/23 and running through 05/02/23, for a cost of \$100 to members of any Chapter and \$200 for non-members (\$100 rebate to non-members who join a chapter in the NER before the last class).
- b. Reduced the size of the faculty to provide better consistency of teaching style, based on 2022 participant feedback. Faculty teaching this year include:
  - 1.) Tom Scarlata, Boston
  - 2.) Kevin O'Beirne, Buffalo
  - 3.) Bill DuBoise, Metro
  - 4.) Steve Laurente, Metro
  - 5.) Ruma Som, Metro

4. Status of Current Programs

- a. Classes are underway. A total of 57 people signed up, of which, 37 are members (currently) and 20 are non-members. By correspondence, several non-members have indicated that they plan to join and take advantage of the rebate, as well as lower exam fees at the member rate. By comparison, we had 36 sign up in 2022 (25 members, 11 non-members).

b. Of the members who signed up, 28 belong to chapters in the NER and 9 belong to chapters outside the Region.

c. Ten of the fourteen Chapters in the NER have candidates participating, as follows:

1.) Boston .....	10
2.) Eastern NY .....	1
3.) Hartford.....	1
4.) Housatonic .....	1
5.) Long Island .....	1
6.) Metro NY .....	5
7.) New Jersey .....	2
8.) Rhode Island .....	1
9.) Rochester.....	5
10.) Syracuse .....	1

d. Candidates from states outside of the NER include:

- 1.) California
- 2.) Georgia
- 3.) Indiana
- 4.) Maryland
- 5.) Minnesota
- 6.) Montana
- 7.) New Mexico
- 8.) North Carolina
- 9.) Pennsylvania
- 10.) Texas
- 11.) Virginia

e. There was a strong showing by candidates that work for Simpson, Gumpertz & Heger (8), Dormakaba (7) and CDM (3). At a corporate level, these companies value the CDT.

f. Currently, classes have raised \$7,304.81 (\$2,500 goal was set for the Region budget).

## 5. Problem areas

a. Some faculty were very upset at the NER charging for classes, while they were volunteering their time to teach them for free. This was not in the context of wanting to be paid, but rather the perception that it was an unfair cash-grab by the NER when the cost of the study materials and test was already considerable. Feelings were strong enough that some almost backed out of teaching.

For perspective, other chapters offering classes for the Spring 2023 CDT Exam were:

- Central Nashville, 10 classes, free to anyone
- Central Virginia, 12 classes, \$120/\$240
- Greater Lehigh Valley, 11 classes, \$50/\$100
- Central Iowa, no info on website, free to anyone
- Portland, 12 classes, \$150/\$500
- Phoenix, 3 day boot camp, in person only, no cost info on site

- b. We were unable to pre-record sessions as planned based on 1) a lack of skillset and 2) a lack of time. Classes were taught live, recorded live and recordings were posted to a password protected website available only to paying candidates. One session this year was accidentally not recorded.
  - c. AIA approval of the sessions for CEUs seems to still be challenging. We only have 5 of the sessions approved by AIA. By comparison, Portland offers 18 CEUs all qualifying for HSW.
6. Recommendation for goals for next FY:
- a. Consider using the surplus revenue generated to pay a professional to edit pre-recorded videos for next year. This will eliminate the risk of not recording a live session, allow candidates to “pre-watch” the session and allow the live class to be more of a targeted Q&A session.
  - b. Consider the possibility of National waking up and realizing that we’ll have made awesome professional CDT class videos through our own volunteer efforts and with money we raised on our own, and then take them to make them available on the Institute website as if they were their own, because by the affiliation agreement, anything the Region does is the property of National.

**Respectfully submitted;**

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**END OF REPORT**

Cc: Region Secretary