



**Northeast Region Construction Specifications Institute
BOARD MEETING, MARCH 25, 2023**

DATE: March 14, 2023
TO: Northeast Region Board of Directors
FROM: Jim Grucella, CSI Member Emeritus

SUBJECT: Report of Buffalo/WNY Chapter

A. Report Summary

While the Buffalo Chapter seemed like it was on the road to recovery it was devastated by the resignations of three key people. Events in the past 5 months have been very encouraging, but burnout had reared its fearsome head. Our newly elected President has begun to take hold of the reins and begin to cobble us back together. Our Architect Ski Day was wildly successful and raised a tidy sum but cost us three valuable members. Fortunately, the remaining board members have regrouped to continue our operations. In May we will hold our newest Half Day Seminar Event and June will be an Awards Dinner for all of us who stayed around! The SCOPE our newsletter will resume publication in April.

B. The Report

1.Summary of activities since last report: The Buffalo Chapter held a November Half-Day Seminar offering four AIA Learning Units to attendees. Programs were provided by Dugan Assoc. Snowsound, Sherwin Williams and the MJA Company. Twenty people were in attendance. Our December Holiday dinner at Mangia's Café and Restaurante had a festive group of 25 people in great comradery. February featured our Annual Architect Ski Day at Holiday Valley Lodge in Ellicottville NY. There were over 150 people in attendance and we had 17 sponsors some who were able to exhibit their products during the entire day. This is our only money-making activity and we did very well this year. March brought about a devastating resignation of three key people from our Board. The President, Vice-president and a Chapter Director succumbed to over extending their volunteer efforts. Dave Rood has taken on the challenge as President to rebuild the Buffalo Chapter with help from the remaining board members. New members will be recruited to fill less volatile and entry type positions. A visionary board meeting has been scheduled for later this month.

2.Status of current programs: We are working on a May Half Day Seminar with four presentations. These have been successful for us in the past. There have been no plans yet for our early summer awards dinner which is held in June. Kevin O'Beirne our Certification Chair, also a member of the Northeast Region Certification Program, is involved in teaching a few sections of the CDT to our Region candidates. We are also trying to form new coalitions with other construction groups in the area one being the Finishing Trades Institute. The SCOPE will restart publication in April.

3.Problem areas: While the Buffalo/WNY Chapter seemed to have risen to overcome a severe abyss, the recent resignation of our President, Vice-president and Chapter Director as left a large hollow in our leadership. While we have new President, many duties have had to be reassigned. We are now stretched very thin. We have a scheduled Board meeting the last week of March where we will begin to trade ideas and expectation of direction for our Chapter. Some new members who have been standing on the sidelines will need to be conscripted.

4. Success stories: President, Devin Filipiak, had forged new commitments and taken strong leadership to focus us in a positive direction, and as our Communication Chair he had implemented new procedures and access to our website. Our new President, Dave Rood, has experience in technical sales and business ownership and will cement a new direction for our Chapter. 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 CSI Specifier contributor and blogger. Jim Grucella has been a conscientious editor photographer and reporter. 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.

5. Chapter Leadership Roster:

President	David Rood, CSI Weatherpanel, Inc. dr701932@srcorp.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 Kidney Associates
Region Director	Jim Grucella, CSI Emeritus Retired J.gru@verizon.net

Chapter Committee Chairs

Programming/Special Events	Jim Grucella, CSI Emeritus Retired
Certification	Kevin O'Beirne, PE, CCS, CCCA, FCSI HDR, Inc. Kevin.obeirne@hdrinc.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