



**Northeast Region Construction Specifications Institute
BOARD MEETING, October 21, 2023**

DATE: October 4, 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 after Covid it was devastated by the resignations of three key people. Events in the past 8 months have been very encouraging, but burnout had reared its fearsome head. Our newly elected President Dave Rood has taken hold of the reins and begin to corral us back together. Old ideas as Half-Day 4 AIA accredited programs, board meetings, historical tours coupled with networking dinners, and new ideas such as plant tour are being examined. Our Architect Ski Day was wildly successful last February and raised a tidy sum but cost us three valuable members. Fortunately, the remaining board members have regrouped to continue moving forward. In October we will have a tour of a new type of roof shingle. December will be or traditional Holiday Networking and social dinner. After a short breather during January to organize the Ski Day, we will welcome a well-dressed crowd of skiers, vendors, architects, contractors, unions and old folks (Jim Grucella) at the ski resort of Holiday Valley in Ellicottville, New York.

B. The Report

1.Summary of activities since last report: The Buffalo Chapter held a May Half-Day Seminar offering four AIA Leaning Units to attendees. The programs presented were: *Fiberglass Fenestration in Commercial Buildings* by PELLA; *Roof and Floor Deck Ceiling Systems* by EPIC METALS; *Sealing Joints in the Building Envelope* by EMSEAL; and *Improving the Performance of Finished Concrete Flooring* by PROSOCO. We had 22 people in attendance at the ‘M’ Hotel in Buffalo. June brought an organizational meeting of the Chapter Board. Having our President and two Board members resign was difficult to digest, but we were able to shuffle members around to have a have a functional operation. Jim Grucella nominated and a new Chapter Director, Rob Fohl, and he was unanimously approved. Programs for the balance of the year were discussed and we agreed that we would try to get a plant tour of a synthetic roofing shingle plant, ECOSTAR, which is our vicinity (our October Meeting), a possible November Seminar meeting, our annual Christmas dinner with a new venue, and a concerted effort to continue our *Architects Ski Day* in February. Our June Social Networking Event Tour was held at the Erie Canal Boat volunteer shop where an actual reproduction of a Packet Boat is being meticulously crafted by volunteers. Dinner was held nearby in the shadows of monolithic ancient grain elevators. Again, there were about twenty participants and guests. Our President Dave Rood has managed to rally our Chapter.

2.Status of current programs: After a September Board Meeting, the plant tour was finalized and will occur on October 24th. Sign-ups are encouraging. The Learning Seminar for November doesn’t seem to have gained traction or an advocate, but a new Special Events Program Committee member has put together a new venue for our Holiday Dinner Event. An enthusiastic Committee is forging ahead with

sponsors for our Ski Day. Currently we have 5 solid sponsors with good prospects to fill out the slate. Last year we had over 150 participants which went a long way to guaranteeing our financial security. The SCOPE Newsletter is still being published with a net of about 400 recipients. We are also trying to form new coalitions with other construction groups in the area one being the Finishing Trades Institute.

3. Problem areas: While the Buffalo/WNY Chapter seemed to have risen to overcome a severe abyss earlier this year, the recent resignation of our President, Vice-president and Chapter Director had 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. Our President Dave Rood is reintroducing the regimen of monthly Board Meetings to marshal our direction ahead. With everyone stuck to the computer screens everywhere, actual person to person relationships lag. People shy away from forming interpersonal relationships to the detriment of business, proper design details and guidance. Members still continue to ignore the ability to post achievements and advertise in our newsletter! (I cannot believe this!)

4. Success stories: President, Dave Rood with his technical has succeeded in melding the Board Members together and will cement a new direction for our Chapter. A revitalized newsletter, THE SCOPE is winning readership and has been receiving articles from some 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 some 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. Brad Vaillancourt, our Membership Chair has assumed the duties of our Communications Chair. Bill Ferguson, our Treasurer is always on top of our finances, and this year had to learn a new program to receive chapter dues. Our Secretary, Bob Ruml besides his regular duties has reached out to work on Special Events and our Architects Ski Day event in February. Our President, Dave Rood has elected to attend the Region Board Meeting as an observer as I cannot attend. It is not unique to our CSI Chapter, as I hear of other Chapters leadership share work together for the goal of promoting CSI and its mission. Where responsibilities become shared, we all lean in to push the ball over the goal line together.

5. Chapter Leadership Roster:

President: Dave Rood, CSI

Secretary: Bob Ruml, AIA, CSI

Treasurer: William Ferguson, AHC, CSI

Membership Chair: Brad Vaillancourt, AIA, CSI, LEED AP-BD+C

Director, Special Assistant to Program and Events Deborah Siener, RA, CSI, LEED BD&C

Certification Chair: Kevin O'Beirne, PE, FCSI, CCS, CCA

Region Director: Jim Grucella, CSI Member Emeritus

Director: Rob Fohl, CSI

Respectfully submitted;

Jim Grucella, CSI Member Emeritus

Region Director, Buffalo WNY Chapter

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END OF REPORT

CC: Region Secretary