



**Northeast Region Construction Specifications Institute
BOARD REPORT**

DATE: 10-17-2023
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. The chapter membership is holding steady at 25 members. Participation with Zoom programs is holding steady. Spec-Hunt, Construction Outlook, and Edward Goldberg Memorial Scholarship / Spec Writing Competition will be held in Spring 2024. The AIA & CSI Golf Tournament will be held in August 2024.

B. The Report

1. Summary of activities since last report:

04/20/2023: Construction Outlook 2023 (In-person; large event)

5 Sponsors; 25 Vendors; 12 Volunteers/Speakers; 44 Other Attendees. 81 Total Registered Attendees

08/10/2023: AIA & CSI Golf Tournament (In-person; large event):

5 19th Hole Sponsors; 1 Tournament Sponsor; 9 Tee and Green Sponsors; 1 Beverage Cart Sponsor; 1 Sign Sponsor; 104 golf participants

2. Status of current programs:

The 2023 Construction Outlook was held on Thursday, April 20th at Drumlin's in Syracuse. This is an annual event, and it's our biggest, must-see event of the year.

This is a joint event co-sponsored along with the Syracuse Builders Exchange and the Subcontractors Associates of Central New York.

This event is unique because it gets everyone involved:

CONTRACTORS can see upcoming projects to bid on

ARCHITECTS can showcase their great projects and earn CEU's

PRODUCT REPS can get their products in front of the construction community

We started this event with an introduction by chapter president, Thomas Pratt. Followed by chapter vice-president, Mike Kulik's economic summary, then....

Five CNY architecture and engineering firms discussed projects they had going out for bid including project scope, estimated budget, and current design phase. Each firm showcase a "feature project" they recently designed or was in design. This year's lineup of speakers included: BCA Architects & Engineers, Bell & Spina Architects, in-Architects, King + King Architects, and Klepper, Hahn & Hyatt.

This event also included a sit-down dinner and keynote speaker Alicia Fernandez Dicks, President and CEO of the Community Foundation of Herkimer and Oneida Counties.

Alicia talked about her experiences and involvement with current economic development projects.

Architects who attended this program earned two AIA Learning Units.

Attendees were able to interact with product vendors during a mini-product show with 25 vendor tables within the ballroom. Attendees were able to speak with vendors during registration and during the one-hour break after the dinner/keynote speaker.

We had 5 event sponsors, 25 vendor tables (sold out), 12 volunteers/speakers, and 44 other attendees. Altogether, we had 81 people register for this event.

- The AIA & CSI Golf Tournament had a slight drop in the number of golfers, and we lost several Tournament Sponsors this year. And we didn't have a main Title Sponsor this year. The break down was: 5 19th Hole Sponsors, 1 Tournament Sponsor, 9 Tee and Green Sponsors, 1 Beverage Cart Sponsor, 1 Sign Sponsor, and 104 golf participants.
- The Syracuse Chapter plans on continuing with monthly Zoom education programs.

3. Problem areas:

Our biggest problem is 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:

We gained three new members. But unfortunately, we lost three members. So we are still at 25 total members.

We now have two new Chapter Directors. Kevin Fike and Lauren Johnston were volunteers who officially became Chapter Directors. They ran uncontested during the last election, and they now fill two vacant Chapter Director spots. Up until recently, we had no Chapter Directors. They fill a very important void in our chapter. We now have a President, Vice-President, Treasurer, and two Chapter Directors. The Secretary and two Chapter Director positions are currently unfilled. Our Chapter President takes the meeting minutes since we don't have a secretary.

One of our newest members is a young man from Saudi Arabia. He is interested in taking the CDT. I've been helping him by answering questions and gathering study materials. I've also suggested that he take the Region's CDT study classes in Spring 2024.

We also have one prospective member who is interested in joining the Syracuse Chapter and taking the CDT. It is interesting that the last two people interested in joining the Syracuse Chapter want to take the CDT exam. This can be a pipeline for growing our chapter with newer members.

5. Liaison Activities: None

C. Chapter Leadership Roster

1. Chapter Officers

Thomas Pratt – President

315-637-0081

arch-mgt@tprattarch.com

Kevin Phillips – Treasurer

315-525-4327

kevin@kevindeisgns.com

Mike Kulik – Vice President

mkulik1326@gmail.com

Kevin Fike – Chapter Director

585-489-9268

kfike@visegroup.com

Lauren Johnston – Chapter Director

518-859-0436

ljohnston@pellanypa.com

2. Chapter Committee Chairs: None

3. Chapter Nominating Committee Appointee: Kevin Phillips, Treasurer

Respectfully submitted;

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END OF REPORT

CC: Region Secretary