

# BOARD REPORT



## Northeast Region Board Meeting – August 27, 2009

**DATE:** August 13, 2009

**TO:** Northeast Region Board of Directors

**FROM:** P. James Repka, RA; Vice President/President-Elect, CSI-New Jersey Chapter

**SUBJECT:** Report of the CSI - New Jersey Chapter

### A. Report Summary

1. The previous 12 month activities are summarized as follows:
  - a. **AUG 2008** – Began to rebuild the Chapters' web site for a new look and appeal.
  - b. **SEPT 2009** – Co-hosted the Chapters' annual Golf Outing with The AIA Newark & Suburban Chapter
  - c. **OCT 2008** – The new website was rolled out to the public.
  - d. **NOV 2008** – Conducted a joint membership meeting with the Tri state Chapter of Design Build of America (DBIA).
  - e. **DEC 2008** – The December membership meeting was dedicated to the past presidents of our Chapter.
  - f. **FEB 2009** – Conducted a joint membership meeting with the AIA-Central New Jersey Chapter and initiated discussion with the local architecture college as how to incorporate CSI into their academic program.
  - g. **MAR 2009** – Participated at the New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT) Design Showcase.
  - h. **APR 2009** – Conducted a joint membership field trip with New Jersey City University (NJCU).
  - i. **MAY 2009** – Participated in a Product Fair co-organized by 2 New Jersey AIA Chapters
  - j. **JUNE 2009** – Conducted our monthly membership meeting and dinner and annual awards presentation.
  - k. **JULY 2009** – Co-Hosted a charity golf outing/dinner with a local AIA Chapter and was informed that a chapter academic project proposal was to be implemented at a local Architecture School.

### B. The Report

1. Summary of activities since last report:
  - a. **AUG 2008** –

- 1.) With the devoted effort of a chapter member, began rebuilding the chapter's web page for a new look and appeal.
- b. **SEPT 2009** –
  - 1.) Organized and hosted the Chapters' annual Golf Outing which once again was a success. This year it was co-hosted with The AIA Newark & Suburban Chapter.
- c. **OCT 2008** –
  - 1.) The new website was rolled out to the public offering better communication, cooperation and collaboration; and offering a variety of links for professional and personal development.
- d. **NOV 2008** –
  - 1.) Conducted a joint membership meeting with the Tri state Chapter of Design Build of America (DBIA). Commenced the meeting with a few rounds of Specification Jeopardy to break the ice. We had the opportunity to mingle with the lawyer members of DBIA which has allowed us to add another dimension to our chapter- looking at the legal side of things- something that is very important to any business, which we so often ignore. Meeting was a super success!
- e. **DEC 2008** –
  - 1.) The December meeting was dedicated to the past presidents of our Chapter. We honored 12 past presidents of our Chapter and also 3 past presidents of Metro New York who are very active with our Chapter. The meeting was also attended by Scott Tobias, Region President and Institute Director, who we honored as President of Metro New York. Each of our past leaders spoke of their goals, their achievements and their un-accomplished tasks. It was satisfying to find that we have over time accomplished many of the aspirations and un-accomplished tasks of our past leaders.
- f. **FEB 2009** –
  - 1.) Conducted a joint membership meeting with the AIA-Central New Jersey Chapter.
  - 2.) Initiated discussion with the local architecture college as to how and what to integrate into their program that would be of educational use to the students and a potential benefit to the chapter.
- g. **MAR 2009** –
  - 1.) Staffed a booth at the New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT) Design Showcase to foster a stronger relationship with the college.
- h. **APR 2009** –
  - 1.) Conducted a joint membership field trip with New Jersey City University (NJCU). Mark Bess, a member of our chapter, a Professor at NJIT, and our Faculty advisor, scheduled a Systems class at our meeting that was held in the NJCU Student Union building, recently renovated by RBA. Students had an opportunity to be exposed to CSI and practicing architects. Our guest speaker was Horace Walker, principal of RBA who spoke about design process.
  - 2.) We later conducted a walk-through of the Computer building with David Ziskind and David Augustine, VPs of STV who designed the Computer building in collaboration with Michael Graves.

- 3.) Following the 2 meetings, we offered free membership to students which resulted in 3 new student members and one Intermediate member

i. **MAY 2009** –

- 1.) We staffed a booth at the Product Fair co-organized by AIA Newark & Suburban Chapter and The (AIA) Architects League of Northern New Jersey; the largest product fair in NJ.

j. **JUNE 2009** –

- 1.) At the regular monthly membership meeting and dinner, we presented a number of awards to various chapter members and non-affiliated professionals for noteworthy assistance during the previous year. Highlights of the evening included award presentations: to Mark Bess, of NJIT, awarded the Presidents Certificate; to NJIT, the Chapter Organizational Certificate of Appreciation for efforts in the Academic front. And to Linton Stables of The Metropolitan NY Chapter, the Chapter Certification of Appreciation for being best presenter of the year. This was a result of our General meeting in the NER conference at NY, where discussion was held to encourage interrelationship between chapters and to use each other's expertise as needed.
- 1.) Several members attended the CONSTRUCT2009 & the National CSI Annual Convention coming back with valuable information to implement at the chapter level.

k. **JULY 2009** –

- 1.) Co-Hosted a charity golf outing/Dinner with the New Jersey Suburban Chapter of AIA.
- 2.) Initiated board discussion how to draw new membership and maintain it from an inactive nearby chapter.
- 3.) Informed that a new specifications module was to be integrated into an existing course syllabus for the 2009/2010 academic year at the New Jersey Institute of Technology.

2. Status of current programs:

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|-------------------------------------|--|
| a. <b>Certification</b>             | Nothing to report  |
| b. <b>House</b>                     | Nothing to report  |
| c. <b>Membership</b>                | Made an increased effort to make personal contact with members prior to their renewal month and to those whom let their membership lapse.                        |
| d. <b>Technical</b>                 | Briefed the Board regarding ongoing progress of NJ's plan to adopt a new edition of the IBC.   |
| e. <b>Electronic Communications</b> | Rebuilt the Chapters' web page for a fresh and more user friendly appearance.  |
| f. <b>Editor</b>                    | Nothing to report.   |
| g. <b>Education</b>                 | Various board members have initiated and received confirmation of the integration of a specification program in a local University's 2009/2010 academic program. |
| h. <b>Academic Liaison</b>          | Worked closely with local colleges to establish a direct relationship to the students and staff.   |
| i. <b>Program</b>                   | Worked to prepare a complete 2009/2010 calendar of membership program events.  |

- j. **Awards** Presented to those whom provided noteworthy assistance to the Chapter during the 2008/2009 membership year.
- k. **Planning** Begun to look at plans for future chapter goals and tasks to accomplish those goals.
- l. **Golf Chair** Planned, organized, and co-hosted a charity golf outing during the summer of 2009.

3. Problem areas: Our biggest challenge is to maintain and increase membership during the current economic situation. We are planning to personally appeal to individuals to renew their memberships when due and offer exclusive, one-time benefits to those becoming new members. Multiple chapter committees will have input how to accomplish this goal
4. Success stories: Our most gratifying success stories for the past year has been:
  - a. The success of our golf outing; a co-sponsored charity golf outing at a local premier golf course that drew as many participants this poor economic year as in more prosperous years past. Both our chapter and the AIA Newark & Suburban Chapter realized the potential for a poor turnout this year due to the economy. Rather than competing against each other, we decided to combine forces to assure a successful outing.
  - b. Our joint membership meetings with local Professional Societies: We conducted a number of joint membership meetings with local AIA Chapters and The Tri state Chapter of Design Build of America. We opted to do this to gain greater exposure to other design and construction professionals in the hope of increasing our membership and affiliated membership.
  - c. And the inclusion of CSI specifications program in the upcoming NJIT academic year as a course inclusion
5. Schedule of activities prior to next Board Meeting:
  - a. Ongoing monthly membership meetings.
  - b. Continue to develop professional relationships with nearby/local professional societies and construction/manufacturing/sales affiliates to expand the CSI - interdisciplinary network through joint membership meetings and other venues to be identified.
  - c. Follow the development and progress of our integrated academic program at NJIT and seek new opportunities to initiate additional programs at other learning facilities.
  - d. Develop a plan to draw new members from the professional, manufacturing/sales, and academic fields and retain current members.
6. Changes in Chapter Membership since last report:

Our membership statistics for the previous 12 months were as follows:

Member Type:  
Start Total: 107 (100%)  
Associate: 12 (11.2%)  
Industry: 32 (29.9%)  
Intermediate: 6 (5.6%)  
Professional: 54 (50.5%)  
Student: 3 (2.8%)  
End Total: 94 (loss of 13%)

We ended the previous 12 months with 94 NJ home chapter members. We lost many members due to this economy but also attracted a few new members.

### **C. Suggestions for the benefit of the Region**

1. NONE

#### **Respectfully submitted;**

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**END OF REPORT**

Cc: Region Secretary