



BOARD REPORT

Northeast Region Board Meeting August 27, 2009

DATE: August 11, 2009
TO: Northeast Region Board of Directors
FROM: Jim Grucella, CSI, Director, Buffalo/WNY Chapter
SUBJECT: Report of Buffalo/WNY Chapter

A.

Report Summary

1.

This report contains an updates of the Buffalo Chapter since the last Board meeting.

B.

The Report

1.

The Buffalo Chapter continues to hold Membership meetings on the second Thursday of each month. Our last meeting of the year included a tour of the new Birchfield Penny Art Gallery, with a dinner including spouses or dates at Harry's Restaurant on the Niagara River. This was held July 9th, and the time has passed entirely too quickly to this point where I have to scribe this report. We had a few well attended membership meetings in April and May.

2.

Status of current programs: Our monthly membership meetings tend to attract 45-60 individuals every month. About half of these are members, the others are prospects, invited guests, interested architects, people looking for some inexpensive learning units, and sales representatives looking for a good way to come in contact with architects and engineers.

3.

Problem areas: While we have developed a prime venue for displaying the benefits of CSI and the workings of the Buffalo Chapter, new members continue be elusive. Generating interest in Chapter, Region or Institute concerns is another. While new people have stepped up to share their talents in the Chapter, further involvement beyond Chapter concerns is grudging. It seems everyone is looking for what they can get out of CSI, contributing little commitment.

4.

Success stories: Our perennial success story is our monthly meetings, which always draw between 45 -60 attendees. Venders provide an AIA accredited programs offering New York State HW credits and AIA Learning Units. They also gladly

pick up the cost of the luncheon where there are many so many Architectural and engineering firms are represented. There is no lacking of interested presenters. Where we often had to subsidize meetings for missing registrants, we often have to ask the kitchen to bring more food. This leads to a stronger treasury and bank account so we are financially healthy. Ted Czajkowski, RA, CSI, arranges programs that are timely and poignant to current interests. This September we will be charging non-members a small fee to attend our luncheon meetings. After much debate spanning two years, this was decided to increase the benefits of CSI membership. I will report on the success of this new program in my next report.

5. Not so successful stories: We still cannot seem to raise our membership by any significant amounts. Perhaps the registration fee will edge some people to membership. While we have new people in leadership positions, they do not seem to be excited with their roles.

- C. Suggestions for the benefit of the Region:
None

Respectfully submitted;
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END OF REPORT

Cc: Region Secretary