



BOARD REPORT

**Northeast Region Board Meeting
April 11, 2010**

DATE: April 4, 2010
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 a brief encapsulation of our successful membership meetings, our increase of one total member, new directions in Education and Certification, and Awards in the Chapter.

B.

The Report

1.

Summary of activities since last report: The Buffalo Chapter continues to hold Membership meetings on the second Thursday of each month. We held an AIA Symposium as our November meeting which afforded our membership and invited guests an opportunity to garner 4 AIA Learning Units. WE had over 60 in attendance. We celebrated a Christmas Dinner available for all members last December, but only a few members were able to attend because of the weather. The Board of the Buffalo/WNY Chapter finally agreed to charge non-members a small fee of \$ 5.00 to attend our meetings. While we expected some effect as in a decrease in membership, this did not actually occur. We will be monitoring this to see what affect this will have in the long run and if we should in actually increase the stipend.

We debated about the 'Emerging Professional' concept, and came to the conclusion that it includes students. We have a student affiliation with Erie Community College, and three instructors in the Technology Department have been a source of two very real student members. We have agreed that we will no longer charge students for membership. We are considering their involvement in the working of the Buffalo Chapter, perhaps on the Education and Awards Committees. Our Awards Committee has banded together to nominate one of our members for National recognition. While the achievements of our octogenarian and 50 year member were noteworthy, another very well deserving candidate was successful in garnering the Institute Distinguished Service Award. The exercise in the submittal process has brought the chapter close together. Perhaps we will resubmit. We have

our eyes upon the uninvolved members , and are attempting to recruit them for committee positions.

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 an 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 to 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.
4. Success stories: Our perennial success story is our monthly meetings, which always draw between 45 -60 attendees. Vendors 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. We are financially healthy. Ted Czajkowski RA, CSI, arranges programs that are timely and poignant to current interests.
5. Our Education and Certification Committees are working together to interest students in our Chapter. They are working with our board , and have decided that student members will not have to pay the membership fee. While this is not a large sum of money to the Chapter, it is a large amount to the individual students. We are making more of a concerted effort to discuss membership with meeting attendees who are not members, but are taking advantage of our free Learning Program Lunches. The commitment of Ted Czajkowski and Kevin O'Bierne with help from Kevin Mahoney of our Academic Committee will create results in each direction. The slate of programs for this coming year has been strong. Changes in chapter membership since last report: Buffalo/WNY Chapter has gained new members, but has lost some also. We stand at a 58 members and we hope to have better success in marketing during our well attended luncheon meetings. Tim Downey has insisted on regularly scheduled Chapter Board meetings, which has caused a certain solidification that has not occurred since the early part of this decade when we were working on the Buffalo Region Conference.
6. Not So Successful Stories: Cannot seem to raise membership. Perhaps individuals feel that they need not join since they can attend the meetings at no cost. Perhaps our new strategy of charging a nuisance fee for non-members may cause some people to join. We continue to have further discussions at our next board meetings.

C.

Suggestions for the benefit of the Region:

It is important that we as a region continue to have Region Conferences. I sincerely hope that Syracuse can host one next spring. They need not be spectacular events, but could be reasonable events which offer Region members an opportunity for training mixed with further opportunity for entertainment, including spouses who carry some weight in this organization. The venue does not need to be expensive. Buffalo had lunch and a free afternoon at Niagara Falls, a notorious bus trip to Niagara-on the Lake, a tour of the Frank Lloyd Wright Darwin Martin House. Eastern NY had a picnic with fireworks and Sky Lanterns. These distractions are important and can convince a curious member to attend, and need not cost a lot of money. They might even encourage two people who are curious together.

Respectfully submitted;

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END OF REPORT

Cc: Region Secretary