

BOARD REPORT



Northeast Region Board Meeting – April 11, 2010

DATE: April 6, 2010

TO: Northeast Region Board of Directors

FROM: Kevin E. Phillips, Jr., CSI, CDT,
Syracuse Chapter President and Region Director

SUBJECT: Report of Region Director, Syracuse Chapter

A. Report Summary

1. The Syracuse Chapter is concentrating on retaining existing members while gaining new members.
2. We are having success with many of our “unique programs”.
3. We are reaching out to colleges and universities to assist professors while introducing students to CSI. We hope to gain many new student members and retain them as Emerging Professionals.
4. We decided not to host the next Region Conference.

B. The Report

1. Summary of activities since last report:

We lost our Region Director, Rick DeVaul. Kevin Phillips has temporarily filled his vacancy. John Dwyer has expressed interest in becoming our next Region Director. **Also, I would like to thank the entire Syracuse Board for a job well done and for working hard to meet new challenges and initiatives this year.**

2. Status of current programs:

The Syracuse Board has paid the fee to remain an AIA/CES Provider. We are having much success with our unique programs that people can't find anywhere else.

3. Problem areas:

Trying to get more members to volunteer on the chapter board and committees is a problem. The lack of CSI volunteers was the main factor in the Syracuse Board's decision to not host the next Region Conference. We actually had MORE non-members wishing to help with the Region Conference. Even though the Board was very enthusiastic about hosting the Region Conference, we were seriously lacking the number of volunteers to make this happen. Therefore, we decided to document our many ideas and keep them on-hand for the possibility of hosting future conferences. Sorry for getting everyone's hopes up. It just wasn't feasible at this time.

4. Success stories:

- a. **Construction Outlook 2010:** This has become an annual event that creates a lot of interest and large crowds. We had *THREE large conference rooms* filled with people. This program was in conjunction with the Syracuse Builder's Exchange. We were pleased to present this program for our members and the construction community that was intended to offer a glimpse into the future. We invited the principals of several architectural and engineering firms from the greater Central NY region to address our group and roughly outline the projects they had going out for bid. This included the scope of the project, estimated budget and current design phase. Each A/E firm spent a few minutes showcasing a "feature project" that they recently designed or is in design.

I would also like to give a special thanks to Ron Fiorentino and Steve Poplarski who took the lead on this program.

- b. **Education for Architecture, Engineering, and Construction:** A panel discussion of Education for Architecture, Engineering, and Construction by representatives of educational institutions and principals from regional architectural and construction firms. This program promoted a useful dialogue between construction firms, educational institutions, design and construction firms, students, and everyone concerned with the education of future design and construction professionals.

People who attended this program became familiar with educational resources available from CSI including:

- The CDT Certification program and associated training programs.
- The CSI Project Resource Manual (PRM).
- CSI Lesson Plans for documents courses.
- The value of professional organizations for continuing education and mentoring.

Students who attend two meeting during this semester will have the opportunity to get a FREE CSI Syracuse Membership for one year. This includes both local and institute dues. The Board budgeted \$1000 for scholarship money. This scholarship money is being used for the free student membership initiative.

Since this program was very successful, we will probably make this an annual event in the future.

I would also like to give a special thank you to Maryanne Cronin who took the lead on this program. I would also like to thank Rick DeVaul who assisted earlier on with the development this program.

5. Schedule of activities prior to next Board Meeting:

We will continue with many of the same programs from the past including our annual AIA/CSI golf tournament. Currently, we are planning a new program titled, Meet the Estimators. We are hoping that this new program will attract large crowds like our Construction Outlook program.

6. Changes in Chapter Membership since last report:

We have gained a few members. We are expecting an increase in the number of student members from the free student initiative. I know of at least four students who have turned in forms to Maryanne Cronin, Chapter Academic Chair. This is part of our grassroots initiative to attract college students who we hope stay members when they become Emerging Professionals. We hope these young members stay CSI members for life!

C. Suggestions for the benefit of the Region

1. I liked the idea of having the Region Leadership Training. I was hoping that more members from Syracuse could attend the April 10th meeting in Albany. Hopefully, we could have more participants at future meetings.

Respectfully submitted;

Kevin E. Phillips, Jr., CSI, CDT
President and Region Director
Syracuse Chapter
The Construction Specifications Institute
1 North Park Row
Clinton, NY 13323
(315) 853-5704
kevin@kevindesigns.com

END OF REPORT

Cc: Region Secretary