

BOARD REPORT



Northeast Region Board Meeting – November 3, 2012

DATE: October 19, 2012

TO: Northeast Region Board of Directors

FROM: Richard A. Eustis, PE, FCSI, CCCA, CSC; Chair, Region Technical Committee

SUBJECT: Report of the Region Technical Committee

A. Report Summary

1. Prior to July 1st, all Chapters were contacted to determine specific “Chapter Technical Committee activity during FY12 with only limited results.
2. Since July 1st six email messages have been sent to those listed as Chapter Technical or Chapter President where no Chapter Technical Chairs was listed to determine planned Chapter Technical Committee during FY13 or if Chapters intended to consider the Chapter Technical Committee “ACTION” items discussed at the Region Presidents Workshop held in Denver in June 2012. Again there was little response and few knew of the Denver Workshop.
3. There are still several Chapters who have not submitted the name of their Chapter Technical Chair; some have indicated they do not expect to have a Chapter Technical Committee.
4. There are positive signs of increased Chapter Technical Committee activity in the New Jersey and Metro New York Chapters.

B. The Report

1. Summary of activities since last report:
 - a. As the first step in attempting to determine growth in Chapter Technical Activity, an attempt was made to establish a “baseline” based on Chapter Technical activities during FY2012. Very few Chapters responded but some of those that did respond indicated they considered their Chapter Meeting Program as “Technical Activity” as the program frequently had technical content. Others mentioned having articles in their Chapter Newsletter that related to technical issues.
 - b. One of the major topics that was discussed at the Region Presidents Workshop in Denver was for Regions to encourage an increase in Chapter Technical Activity by having Chapter Technical Committees address local technical issues as a way of increasing the “MEMBERSHIP VALUE” provided to members as increased “value” was seen as a way to improve Chapter Membership growth and retention. Through a series of emails, Chapter Technical Chairs, or Chapter Presidents where no Chapter Technical Chair was identified, were contacted and given some suggesting that came from the GL Region and asked if they planned on addressing the activity discussed in Denver or the GL Region. Most did not know of the Denver Meeting activity but a few were interested in the idea. Even after 3 follow-up email messages, less than half of the Chapter responded.
 - c. The Chapter Technical Committee Chair in two Chapters, New Jersey and Metro New York have indicated they intend to undertake increased Chapter Technical Committee

activity along the lines of addressing local technical issues and increasing cooperation between Chapter Committees in activities outside of normal Chapter Meetings.

- d. I attended the Great Lakes Region Conference where the entire Region Conference Program was devoted to being sure all Chapters in the GL Region fully understood the “ACTION” items that came from the Denver Workshop held last June and were prepared to increase Chapter Technical Activity. At that meeting Chapter’s identified a wide variety of potential Technical topics that could be addressed locally and provide a greater “VALUE” to the membership experience. Many of these could equally apply to the NE Region
2. Status of current programs:
 - a. We are continuing to attempt to identify those serving as Chapter Technical Chairs and Chapters that do not intend to have a Chapter Technical Committee. Where a Chapter does not intend to have a Chapter Technical Committee Chairs, we will continue to contact the Chapter President
 - b. We intend to continue working with those Chapters that wish to provide an increased level of VALUE to their members through Chapter Technical Activity and help identify opportunities for activities beyond normal Chapter Meetings. Some of these opportunities can be identified through LinkedIn Discussion Groups that address a variety of issues such as “Shop Drawing Approval” or the implications of approving “Payment Requisitions”. Chapter Technical Committees can also become the “Format and Document Specialists” in Chapter Certification Study Groups
 3. Problem areas:
 - a. The major problem area is the lack of communications on Region Issues and the relationship between Regions, Chapters and the Institute. Many Chapters appear to see themselves as “island” with little or no connection to other Chapters in the Region or the Region itself.
 - b. It is both difficult and frustrating when Chapters do not provide information on the names of Chapter Leaders or if they intend to have active Chapter Committee. The Region needs to provide increased emphasis on timely submission of Chapter Leadership information.
 - c. There is no current set of Goals for the Region or a current “Long-range Strategic Plan”. The Region needs to establish “Annual Region Goals” and advise how each Region Committee is expected to provide support for achieving these Goals.
 4. Success stories:
 - a. An increase in Chapter Technical Committee activity at both the New Jersey Chapter and the Metro New York Chapter is a good sign. In both cases, the Institute Convention provided a good opportunity for face-to-face meetings with Chapter Technical Chairs. The lack of Region Conferences has made this type of meeting or discussions within the Region difficult and teleconferencing is not an adequate substitute.
 5. Schedule of activities prior to next Board Meeting:
 - a. Continue to work with Chapter Technical Chairs as a way of providing support to Chapters in the Technical Area and continue to urge increased Chapter Technical activities in areas that specifically serve the Chapter Members.
 - b. Encourage increased joint Chapter Committee activity as a way of increasing Chapter Member involvement in CSI activities.

6. Changes in Chapter Membership since last report:
 - a. This section used only by Region Directors.

C. Best Practices to share with Region:

1. None at this time but it is hoped that the work of the Metro New York Chapter and the New Jersey Chapter will produce “Best Practices” for future reports.

Respectfully submitted;

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END OF REPORT

Cc: Region Secretary