



Transitions

You're looking at an issue of The Bridge that we chose to call Transitions. On July 1, 2011 the Northeast Region of CSI leadership changed. Time will tell what that will mean to the future of CSI, the Region's chapters and the Region itself.

Early in the transition of NE Region Leadership the Buffalo Chapter found it necessary to pay their dues under protest. That action voiced concerns of other Chapters and their members and will be considered by Region Leadership in planning the Region's future.

This issue of the Bridge has the Buffalo Protest letter on page 3 followed by NER President, Ken Gehringer's response.

The emphasis in this issue on Transition is further developed by a Region Guidance letter from the Syracuse Chapter, a listing of region leadership, a report from our Institute Director, Dennis Lemieux and finally Dick Eustis asking **Where are the Volunteers.**

The Bridge will be as flexible in format as we find necessary to present what should interest the membership. Suggestions for future subjects to be covered are welcome.

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TRANSITIONS

By: Edward Healy, Editor

On June 31, 2011 Dick Eustis and Ted Healy completed their terms as Northeast Region President and Secretary. The NER Board had elected Ken Gehringer and Tracey Powell as their successors and their term began. Ken subsequently appointed Brian Neely to complete his term as Vice President. Only Roland Barrett as Treasurer remained from the FY2011 NE Region Executive Committee. The NE Region leadership transition to FY 2012 was a done deal, with a bunch of years shaved off the average age of NE Region Executive Committee members. That may very well be a good thing as youthful energy may help in the resolution of challenges that faced the previous leadership. The Region's future rests with it's new leaders ability to demonstrate value to the membership. Like stocks the Region's past history is no indicator of future performance and that also may be a good thing since recent Region history would indicate some good sized bumps to be negotiated on the road ahead.

Item: The customary events of the FY2011 Spring Region Conference were canceled due to low member registration and a Workshop on the Region's Future was added to the required Spring Board Meeting and the Annual Meeting.

Item: The Board at that meeting reviewed a draft FY2012 budget balanced at \$33,959.00. The Approved Budget for FY2012 was \$42, 930.00. The Board added \$10,925.00 from reserves for Leadership Training, Chapter Visitations, hiring an Event Planner, Teleconferencing, Awards and Planning Committee expenses.

Item: The required Quorum was not present to conduct business at the Annual Meeting.

Item: The President-Elect conducted a Workshop on the Region's Future. see page 6

Item: After the Workshop and before the end of FY2011 two chapters, Buffalo and Syracuse, expressed their feelings on the Region's Future.

Item: How the Buffalo Chapter's leadership saw Region/ Chapter cooperation called for providing future member value, see page 3

Item: How the NE Region's President-Elect responded see pages 4 & 5

Item: How the Region should approach the future as suggested by the Syracuse chapter, see page 6

Item: The critical resource necessary for Future Region Action, See page 16

All that looks like here in CSI's NE Region we've got the makings for some big time ...

Transitions

Northeast Region FY 2012 Leadership

Executive Committee

President

Kenneth Gehringer, AIA, CSI, CCCA

Vice-President

Brian H. Neely, AIA, CSI, CDT, NCARB

Treasurer

Roland Barrett, CSI

Secretary

Tracey Powell, AIA Assoc. CSI

Editor *The Bridge*

Edward Healy, RA, FCSI, Emeritus Member,
CDT

President's Page

Miracles happen overnight, serious change does not. The new Board will be working very hard throughout the year on the goals stated above and improve service to the Chapters. So I am now issuing a challenge to all of you – the next time you have an idea, concern or other, don't sit back and complain about it – do something about it – ACT and help out on a Region Committee or Task Team.

Ken Gehringer

CSI Northeast Region – No Boundaries

Why use “No Boundaries” as this year's value statement? The Region is required to perform several specific tasks required by institute guidelines, other than that we can mold the region into what we (the chapters) want it to be, we are limited only by our imaginations.

At this past April's Board meeting the Region Directors had voted to increase spending for increased services such as chapter visitations, electronic communications and leadership training. This is your money and under our new leadership we intend to spend it in ways that will directly benefit and support the chapters.

At the last Region Board meeting a single word which appeared on the list of what the Region needs to improve really struck home with me – ACT. Three simple letters which when implemented can produce great results. I promised the Region Directors I would do this and part of the plan developed by the incoming Executive Committee to provide increased value and service includes:

Communication– We are looking into telecommunication companies such as Webex, Skype & GoToMeeting to set up direct communication with the chapters on a regular basis. The Region will be setting up Linked-in, Facebook & Twitter accounts as additional means of communication. We are developing a Region website presence on the Institute's microsite.

Networking - It was agreed that the old Region Conference & workshops format were no longer relevant. New ideas for new formats are being explored which will still provide networking and learning opportunities for all members, not just licensed professionals.

Leadership Development – Less workshops on awards, technical, certification, etc. and concentration on true leadership development. The Board approved funding for another Leadership in Action leadership mentoring program through BU's Arch of Leadership Program. Other leadership workshop ideas are being explored.

Chapter Support – Chapter visitations are required to be made by the Region President and Vice President to all the chapters over a two year period and we will be taking this responsibility seriously. We will use these visitations to listen, learn and share best practices. We will explore how the Region may be able to help struggling chapters.

Miracles happen overnight, serious change does not. The new Board will be working very hard throughout the year on the goals stated above and improve service to the Chapters. So I am now issuing a challenge to all of you – the next time you have an idea, concern or other, don't sit back and complain about it – do something about it – ACT and help out on a Region Committee or Task Team.

Looking forward to working with/for you.

Kenneth R. Gehringer, AIA, CSI, CCCA
Northeast Region President

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Early in the transition of NE region Leadership the Buffalo Chapter found it necessary to pay their dues under protest. That action voiced many concerns of other Chapters and their members and will be considered by Region Leadership in planning the Region's future

This issue of the Bridge has the Buffalo Protest letter on this page and the FY2012 NER President, Ken Gehringer's, response on pages 4 & 5.

The emphasis in this issue on Transition is further developed by a Region Guidance letter from the Syracuse Chapter (page 6) a listing of region leadership, and A Report from our Institute Director, Dennis Lemieux.

The Bridge will be as flexible in format as we find necessary to present what should interest the membership. Suggestions for future subjects to be covered

June 10, 2011

Mr. Roland M. Barrett, Treasurer
CSI Northeast Region
22 Nancy Road
Milford, MA 01757

Subject: 2011 Region Dues Payment

Dear Roland,

Enclosed with this letter is the Buffalo-Western New York (WNY) Chapter's 2011 dues payment of \$960 to the CSI Northeast Region (NER). We submit our payment to the NER with a number of concerns as presented herein. We trust that the NER will give our concerns due consideration and take positive and prompt action to address them.

The Buffalo-WNY Chapter is a longtime supporter of the NER and we want to continue to support the NER for years to come. However, circumstances have developed in which our Chapter's members have been requesting that the Chapter provide increased services and information transfer (such as lunch seminars and other educational programs), which increases demands on our Chapter's finances.

It has come to our Chapter's attention that the NER's cash reserves in early May, 2011 totaled almost \$90,000, which we believe to be an excessive amount given both the NER's activity in recent years, as viewed by the majority of our Chapter's members and the NER services that our Chapter's members receive. As one means of illustrating that the NER's current cash reserves are excessive, the NER's current account balance is nearly equal to our estimate of approximately three years of NER dues income from the NER's members.

In response to our Chapter members' concerns, we have to question the NER's need not only for such a significant amount of cash reserves, but also why the NER's revenue includes an annual contribution of \$36 from each NER member (e.g., \$20 per member from each chapter plus \$16 per member directly from CSI National). In comparison, our Chapter, which directly serves and interacts with our members each month, receives annual net dues of only \$40. Currently, out of the typical member's total CSI annual dues of \$300, \$40 goes to the chapter and \$36 goes to the NER. We believe there is currently a disparity between the effort put forth by the NER compared with the chapter, which is not reflected in the chapters' and NER's dues allocations.

Accordingly, we are issuing our payment of NER's dues of \$20 per member as invoiced by the NER under protest. It was by a margin of just one board member's ballot that our Chapter's board resolved to issue any payment at all to the NER, even with the compromise of paying under protest as explained in this letter.

We request an immediate Region-wide review of the NER's finances and the need for such excessive account balances and the need for the significant dues levied by the NER on its members. We respectfully but nevertheless strongly request that the next NER budget be prepared with the goal of reducing planned expenses to a level commensurate with the NER's benefits to the majority of its members, or with a significant reduction in NER dues to an amount commensurate with the level of NER benefits available to the majority of NER members. We further suggest that NER dues for the upcoming year be planned in consideration of reducing the NER's significant cash reserves.

The Buffalo-WNY Chapter will not be paying a dues payment of \$20 per member in the future without a commensurate adjustment by the NER in its account balances and benefits furnished to our members. It is our current intent that our Chapter's future dues payments to the NER will depend on the NER's fiscal condition and level of activity that we believe benefits a significant number of the NER's members, and mutual agreement of the NER and the various chapters, including the Buffalo-WNY Chapter, on an appropriate amount of annual NER dues per member.

Our interactions with the leadership in other Chapters have led us to the conclusion that the beliefs of the Buffalo-WNY Chapter, as presented in this letter, are not unique to our Chapter. We strongly believe these issues are of concern to most, if not all, of the NER's constituent chapters. Accordingly, we strongly encourage the NER to seriously consider the views presented in this letter, because we believe that the NER's resulting actions will have an important effect on the NER's other chapters as well as the NER as an organization.

This letter is transmitted in the spirit of Chapter/Region cooperation and to further what we view as a crucial dialogue on the NER's role, finances, and benefits afforded to the NER's members, considered in conjunction with the plans and aspirations of the NER's individual chapters to best-suit and serve the individual members.

We believe this dialogue is essential for the long-term well-being of our Chapters, the NER, and CSI as a whole, and look forward to participating in this dialogue with the NER and our fellow NER chapter leaders.

Sincerely,

CSI BUFFALO-WNY CHAPTER

Elisabete C. Godden, CSI
Chapter President

Northeast Region FY 2012 Leadership

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Editor *The Bridge*

Edward Healy, RA, FCSI, Emeritus Member,
CDT



June 27, 2011

Elisabete Godden
Chapter President
Buffalo/Western New York Chapter
c/o Trautman Associates
470 Franklin Street
Buffalo, NY 14202

Re: Region Dues Assessment Letter

Dear Elisabethete:

Thank you for your candid communication in the dues protest letter sent to the Region Treasurer on behalf of the Buffalo Chapter. The concerns made throughout the letter are shared by the majority of the chapters in the Region. I also want to thank you all for your support of the Region in the past.

At this past April's Board meeting the Region Directors had voted to increase spending (taking money out of the reserves) for increased services such as increased chapter visitations, electronic communications and leadership training. This is your money and under our new leadership we intend to spend it in ways that will directly benefit and support the chapters. The incoming Executive Committee is developing a plan that will look to provide increased value and service and at the same time explore at how we can decrease costs and determine how much we can lower the Region assessment. As with any organization spending & income must be balanced. Please remember we are members of chapters who pay the assessment also and share your concerns.

The Region's reserves have increased significantly, unfortunately mainly due to the lack of recent Region Conferences and inaction on the Region's part over the last couple of years. As incoming President of the Region let me begin by saying I hear and understand what you and the other chapters are saying and changes are coming. I know we have all heard this before but I am personally promising this time things are going to be different.

After the April Board meeting the Region Director should have communicated to the chapter the following changes which will be taking place within the Region:

- The youngest Executive Committee members the Region has had in many years were elected to office. We are excited about the opportunity, are committed to CSI's mission, and are working hard on a plan to provide value and service to the chapters;
- Several key points were identified by the Region Directors based upon feedback from the chapter members as priorities for the Region to provide to the chapters. Communication & Networking, Leadership Development, and Chapter Support were identified as the key items to focus on for the upcoming year;
- A single word which appeared on the key points listed above really struck home with me - ACT. Three simple letters which as a unified

(Continued on page 5)

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Edward Healy, RA, FCSI, Emeritus Member,
CDT

word can produce great results. I promised the Region Directors I would do this and the Executive Committee is developing an ACT-ion Plan for Communication & Networking, Leadership Development, and Chapter Support.

Some preliminary items of the ACT-ion plan are:

- Communication- We are looking into telecommunication companies such as Webex, Skype & GoToMeeting to set up direct communication with the chapters on a regular basis We will also explore the possibility of a virtual Fall Region Board Meeting as a cost saving measure in the future. The Region will be setting up Linked-in, Facebook & Twitter accounts as additional means of communication. We are developing a Region website presence on the Institute's microsite.
- Networking - It was agreed that the old Region Conference format was no longer relevant. New ideas for a new format are being explored and will not be called a conference or have the same old format, but will still provide networking and learning opportunities.
- Leadership Development - Less workshops on awards, technical, certification, etc. and concentration on true leadership development. The Board approved funding for another Leadership in Action leadership mentoring program through BAU's Arch of Leadership Program. Other leadership workshop ideas are being explored.
- Chapter Support - Chapter visitations are required to be made by the Region President and Vice President to all the chapters over a two year period and we will be taking this responsibility seriously. We will use these visitations to listen, learn and share best practices. We will explore how the Region may be able to help struggling chapters.

The Regions finances are public information and open for review at any time. Your Region Director should have supplied you with a copy of the Treasurer's Report from the Board meeting. Right now the finance committee is a one person show (as unfortunately most of the Region Committees are) and we would welcome additional volunteers.

The Region Directors made it clear that they like the incoming Executive Committee's ideas but are only willing to give us a year (until the Spring Board Meeting) to prove ourselves and ACT. I only ask that you give us this chance with an open mind that things can and will be different and continue to support us for this coming year.

If you have any questions, or if there is any additional information required, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Very truly yours,



Kenneth R. Gehringer, AIA, CSI, CCCA
Incoming Northeast Region President

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... The Syracuse Chapter President and Board believe that the Region should reduce unnecessary expenses, redefine its role, focus on a few things that will stem membership decline, and increase accountability. The Region should supplement the chapters with valued services. The Region should support the things that get selected and pursue them until the objectives are met. The Syracuse Board suggests hiring an association management company to provide the Region with administrative support staff and assistance with event planning for a Region Conference.

Letter of Guidance to the CSI Northeast Region

This Letter is in response to the *Re: Buffalo Chapter's dues protest* letter and Ken Gehringer's reply. The President and Board of the Syracuse Chapter believe that more needs to be done by the Region to provide value to our local chapters and members. In defense of Roland Barrett, Region Treasurer, an adequate amount of money needs to be put aside for cash flow purposes. An adequate balance is required to pay bills timely while waiting for dues to be credited to the Region account. We would rather have too much money in our account versus not having enough when needed. Naturally, the Region creates and votes on the budget, but a growing balance occurs when appropriated line items are left unspent. Moving forward, we should consider spending that money in a new direction that directly benefits the chapters and their members.

The Syracuse Chapter believes that the Region should not provide duplicate or redundant services. The Region should supplement the chapters' efforts, and not add another layer of bureaucracy. So what should the Region provide? The recent Region Governance Survey shows a very strong support for leadership training, professional development, chapter visitation by Region officers and the creation of five districts within the Region. Providing districts is a wonderful idea and great opportunity. District meetings could focus on leadership workshops like the recent ones provided in Albany. Our chapter supports the Region in its efforts to provide chapters and their members these types of services.

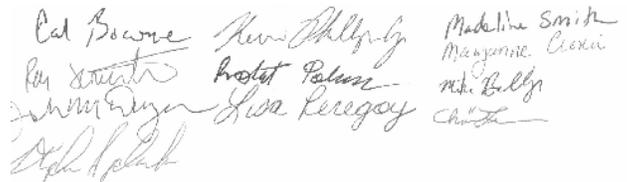
We disagree with the majority's reluctance to reduce the number of Region Directors. As suggested by Cal Bowne, we support reducing the number to offset costs.

In the survey there was 2 to 1 support for providing a Region Executive Director (paid Staff) to assist with the business of the Region. We definitely support this idea, or an alternative idea of hiring an association management company. Either way, having some form of administrative assistance should be very valuable when preparing for a Region Conference.

There has been much talk about changing the format of the conference or even eliminating it in its entirety. There has been resistance to change and passionate feelings regarding a time honored tradition, and we have respect for everyone's feelings and opinions. But the truth is that we need to have some type of change because the present model isn't working. We just witnessed this failure when the last conference was recently canceled due to low turnout. So how do we proceed? Feedback from the Region Governance Survey suggests that there is no consensus on the format, or if we should host a Region Conference at all. Getting everyone on board to form a consensus will be difficult. The Syracuse Board believes that any Region Conference, regardless of its form, should not have a financial burden on any local chapter. We feel that the Region Conference shouldn't distract from the Region's mission, take away from resources, or disrupt day-to-day operations. This is why we believe an event planner should be hired. An Event Planner should take a leading role so the Region can focus on other important issues. Regarding the lack of participants, we suggest debating the idea of combining our conference with other related organizations (AIA, USGBC, etc.). This is an opportunity where the problem of low attendance would be solved while sharing organizational responsibility and resources. Note: This is just a suggestion to facilitate a continuing constructive conversation. A final determination should be supported by a strong majority consensus.

In conclusion, The Syracuse Chapter President and Board believe that the Region should reduce unnecessary expenses, redefine its role, focus on a few things that will stem membership decline, and increase accountability. The Region should supplement the chapters with valued services. The Region should support the things that get selected and pursue them until the objectives are met. The Syracuse Board suggests hiring an association management company to provide the Region with administrative support staff and assistance with event planning for a Region Conference.

We wish the incoming Executive Board much luck and future success! Onward!



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**Northeast Region CSI
Region's Future – Workshop
May 7, 2011**

OPENING

Eustis opened the Workshop Session at 8:30 am. He explained the purpose of the Workshop was to identify programs and services that would be of value to the Region's Chapters and members and to determine program priorities for the coming years. The intent of the workshop was to look forward for ways the Region could be of increased service and provide a greater level of value to both Chapters and to members. The workshop was to determine what the Region would like to accomplish in the future and not to get bogged down on details or individual tasks.

The Board was reminded the Board Members that under the Region's Bylaws, the governance of the Region is the responsibility of the Board and that the Board is responsible for not only the Region's Budget but the determination of the programs that the Region undertakes. He called attention to the "hand-out" that he had distributed just prior to the Board Meeting on the previous day that covered the duties and responsibilities of the Board as a whole as well as the duties and responsibilities of individual Directors elected or selected as their Chapter's representative. This handout also had a page covering the Institute requirements of the Region. Board Members must understand the Region sits between two other entities, the Institute on one side and the Chapters on the other and needs to satisfy both sides which may not be easy.

Eustis also commented on the responses that had been received from several Chapters in response to the request that each Chapter provide responses to six questions.
 What are Members expectations of the Region?
 What are Chapter expectations of the Region?
 What has the Region done well?
 What does the Chapter and Members believe the Region capable of doing?
 What does the Region Need to improve?
 How does the Chapter and Members think the Region can achieve those things that the Chapter and Members believe is appropriate for the Region to accomplish?
 Eustis pointed out that five of the six questions dealt with looking backward, not towards the future. These questions were intended to serve as background information and help the Board better understand the current perception of the Region activities. That information should be of benefit in establishing future priorities.

DISCUSSION PERIOD

As this Workshop set the stage for the following 2 year's activities, Eustis turned the Workshop over to Gehringer to lead the discussions, determine appropriate programs and to establish priorities for his term as Region President. This table outlines the discussion...

CHAPTER SUGGESTIONS:	DISCUSSION:
1 Chapter/Member expectations of the Region?	
1.1 Do what chapters cannot do	Requires identification hopefully starting with this workshop.
1.2 Run and organize Region Conference	Budgeted \$5000 for a feasibility study
1.3 Bring Chapters together / <u>networking</u> ; Provide <u>networking</u> opportunity	
1.4 "How to" Workshops (e.g., <u>Leadership</u> , <u>Membership</u>); Professional development	Budgeted \$4000 for workshops
1.5 None --	What Region? (Members not aware of Region's existence.
1.6 Chapter <u>support</u> committee chairs	
<u>1.7 Share</u> best practices	
<u>1.8 Support</u> "struggling" chapters	

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CHAPTER SUGGESTIONS:

DISCUSSION:

1 Chapter/Member expectations of the Region? (Cont)

1.9 "What's in it for me?" Voice of the member

1.10 Mentors / Future Leaders

1.11 Mentoring – create succession

2. What does the Region Need to improve?

2.1 Communication

2.2 Website

2.3 Develop social networking (internet and in person)

2.4 Doesn't focus on CSI Mission Statement

2.5 Filter information from the Institute

2.6 Act

2.7 Promote Mission of CSI and its Value to the Chapters

2.8 Visitations - Presence in the Chapters

2.9 Increase involvement of inactive members / non-affiliated (i.e., the silent majority)

2.10 Utilize membership retention programs

2.11 Promote every 1 member counts program in chapters through Region Leadership

2.12 Lower assessment

2.13 Possibly consolidate struggling chapters

2.14 Value proposition

2.15 Motivation

3. What has the Region done well?

3.1 Conferences (Past); Prior conferences provided networking venue

3.2 Build relationships among active members

3.3 Host / Home Base Convention

3.4 Ask for more than volunteers can give

3.5 Build its reserves

Tracey is creating a microsite?

Tracey was going to set up a group with LinkedIn & Facebook?

Do something _ We need more Volunteers!

Budget increased \$1600

New Hampshire/Vermont, Hartford/Housatonic, Districts (groups)

Future leadership development event with motivational speaker

All attendees don't need CEU's; Conferences should provide more than that

Expectations are too high; Combine with leadership development to foster future leaders

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CHAPTER SUGGESTIONS:

DISCUSSION:

**4. What does the Chapter and Members believe the Region capable of doing?
How can the Region achieve these things?**

4.1 Building <u>relationships</u>	
4.2 Face-to-face interaction	
4.3 Implement the " <u>Strategic Plan</u> "	
4.4 Launch <u>microsite</u> (link chapters)	
4.5 Virtual meetings to improve <u>communica- tion</u>	
4.6 Lower Region <u>assessment</u>	
4.7 Show value	
4.8 Sharing best practices (e.g., having leaders of one chapter be active in another chapters).	
4.9 Create plan to attract <u>student</u> members throughout the region (e.g., competition)	The Region needs to do more to attract "Emerging Professional Members" and "Student Members". It was suggested that some type of "Student Competition" be developed that could be held as a part of a Region-wide Event. Expand the awards beyond performance recognition (e.g., project awards, design/construction team).
4.10 Identify issues at the chapter level and address	

ACTION ITEMS:

DISCUSSION - ACTION

1. Communication

1.1 Social Networking	Improve comm. & reach younger members
1.2 LinkedIn, Facebook, Twitter (Social media)	Tracey working on these?
1.3 Website – Create microsite to link chapters	Bulletin Board for sharing best practices
1.4 File Repository – Designate access	
1.5 Region Excom and Directors online meetings	Bi-Monthly TBD
1.6 Region Committee Chair online meetings	Quarterly TBD
1.7 Board Meetings	

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CHAPTER SUGGESTIONS:

DISCUSSION:

1.8 Newsletter (Constant Contact)	There is a need for a greater level of information sharing between Chapters which could be accomplished by more active Region Chairs and more Chapter and Program information in the Region Newsletter. There was also a suggestion of a more frequent Newsletter but no discussion on how Chapter or Program information would be acquired for the Region Newsletter.
1.9 Region News Flash	
1.10 Chapter Visitations	Increased Pres & Vice Pres. Budget \$1,600
1.11 District Workshops	Allocated \$4,000 for workshops
2. Relationships	
2.1 Networking / Exchanging Ideas	
2.2 Future Region Event (formerly conference)	It was clear the Board wanted some type of "Region-wide Annual Event" that would attract many Region Members in addition to Region Board Members and Region Committee Chairs. Although not clarified, it was suggested that this "Region-wide Event" needed to be located convenient to all Chapters in the Region.
2.3 Hire an Event Planner to assist in Future Region Event FKA Region Conference	Budgeted \$5,000
2.4 Motivate Committees & Task Teams,	no "committees of one"
2.5 Committees / Task Teams (12) Academic – Students, Emerging Professionals Awards Certification Communications* – Publications, Website Education – Finance* – Audit books (Prof. \$2,500/yr) Membership Nominating Planning* Fundraising – Product Show* Publications* Technical Website*	(*not required by institute)

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CHAPTER SUGGESTIONS:

DISCUSSION:

3. Leadership Development

3.1 Training Districts (5)

There was a desire expressed to have Chapter Leader Training presented in 5 locations around the Region each year, each location serving 3 Chapters in close proximity. There was some discussion that the Region President's or Vice President's participation in one of these "Leader Training Sessions" might be considered as a "visit" to each of the 3 chapters involved.

3.2 Leadership Training

Increase Region funding

3.3 Mentoring

Emerging Professionals

4. Support chapters

4.1 Visitations (Chapters/Districts)

Indication that Chapters wanted more visits from Region President and Region Vice President but it was not clear what Chapters wanted accomplished by visits other than seeing a Region Officer. President & VP) Budgeted additional \$1,600.

5. Strategic Plan

5.1 Show Value of Region

5.2 Region's Plan (1998)

5.3 Institute FY11-15 (Adoption/Achievement)

5.4 Possible Task Team

Possible Task Team

5.5 Board Meetings

Consider reduction of Board Meeting expenses.

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Editor *The Bridge*

Edward Healy, RA, FCSI, Emeritus Member, CDT

When you see a president's name listed as a member of a committee that probably means one of two things. Either the president in addition to other responsibilities wanted to chair that committee or a volunteer was not designated as chair of the chapter committee on the *Chapter Officers and Committee Chair* form submitted to the Institute.

One of a president's prime responsibilities is to motivate chapter members to participate in the operation of the chapter. Chapter Committees are where active volunteers participate in the creation of outstanding chapters. In that participation relationships are formed; skills are learned and developed; and lasting bonds can be formed between individuals and the organization.

Participation is the engine that drives chapter growth.

NER FY2012 Chapter Presidents

Boston— Brian Neely
Buffalo—Elisabete Gooden
Eastern NY— Annette Woodside
Hartford—Jennifer Casedy
Housatonic—Frank Tropea
Long Island NY—Ken Raikowski
Maine—Bill Charland
Metro NY—Jeff Matles
New Hampshire—Bob Weygant
New Jersey—Charles Vetter
Rhode Island— Tracey Powell
Rochester—Craig Mole
Syracuse—Kevin Phillips
Vermont—Rebecca Leet
Worcester—Martin Helly

A Communication Update

To facilitate the communication process we require identification of those members that have volunteered for leadership positions at the Region and Chapter level. That information is customarily given on the Institute Website in the Leaders area and also on The Regions website. Communication is complicated by issues with the data in both of these locations. We downloaded the NE Region Committee Chairs and list them below as verified. We ask that these chairs make it their first item of business to identify their Chapter Committee Chairs. Chapters can make communication much easier by seeing that both Institute and Region Websites list their Officers and Committee Chairs correctly.

Some chapters do not list a member for some committees. In that case we know what will be achieved. We are not at all certain that listing of the Chapter president or another member that has no time to address committee responsibilities will result in an upgrade in committee performance. A committee of one is also not likely to be an upgrade. The simple act of volunteering does not guarantee participation. **Please copy me with any changes or additions to the list.**

Editor *The Bridge*.

FY2012 Region Committees

Committee	Chapter
Academic Programs	
Ruma Som, Chair	Metro NY
Awards	
Jim Grucella, Chair	Buffalo
Education	
Ken Gehringer, Chair	Volunteer sought?
Finance	
Jay Strother, Chair	Housatonic
Membership	
Edward Healy, Chair	Worcester
Nominating	
Tracey Powell, Chair	Rhode Island
Planning	
Brian Neely, Chair	Boston
Product Show	
Vacant	Volunteer sought?
Publication/Editor	
Edward Healy, Chair	Worcester
Technical	
George Rosamond, Chair	Housatonic
Webmaster/Website/Electronic Comm.	
Dick Eustis, Chair	Maine

The Bridge.

**Northeast Region
FY 2012 Leadership**

Executive Committee

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Vice-President

Brian H. Neely, AIA, CSI, CDT, NCARB

Treasurer

Roland Barrett, CSI

Secretary

Tracey Powell, AIA Assoc. CSI

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CDT

CSI Director's Page

**Denis L. Lemieux, CSI, CDT, AIA,
NCARB, LEED AP, DBIA, IFRAA**

Director-Northeast Region

Email: dllaia@aol.com

Phone: 207-344-6611

Our President,
Paul Bertram, FCSI,
has made it very clear
that his
three major goals
under his
administration are...
membership,
membership,
membership.

Institute Director's Report

June 2011 Board Meeting

We belong to a unique organization. The Construction Specifications Institute is a diversified membership base of allied professionals involved in the creation and management of the built environment. Architects, engineers, specification writers, product manufacturers, facility managers, construction managers, contractors, owners, legal and financial advisors, and emerging professionals are continuously developing and transforming standards and formats to improve the construction industry. CSI provides education and certification programs for professionals to improve delivery processes. CSI continues to create best practice tools to assist users throughout the facility life-cycle of a project.

The mission of CSI is to advance building information management and education of project teams to improve facility performance. This mission should make it easy for us as members to recruit new members. Sometimes, I believe we do not want to let our competition know about CSI, and that is why we do not encourage them to join us. On the contrary, the more diversified we become the more valuable we are and benefit this industry. We all need to surround ourselves with people that know more than we do. They have a tendency to make us smarter.

Our President, Paul Bertram, FCSI, has made it very clear that his three major goals under his administration are: membership, membership, membership. Now is there anything you do not understand about this? President Bertram is ex-military and when he says jump, I jump, and then ask "how high sir". We are in good hands with his leadership skills. He is a no nonsense type of guy. He made it very clear that he wants facts, comment directly about the charges you have been given, no fluff, no dissertation, just the facts. His directive is to focus on 2,756 new members. Do not ask me where he got that specific number, all I can tell you is we need to accomplish his objective. My butt is on the line. I do not want to be present at my last board meeting if we did not achieve this goal. Currently our membership is 11,930 and that means that by next year we need to be at 14,586. There are 10 Regions and that means we the Northeast Region have to grow our membership by 275 new members. Seriously, we can certainly meet that goal. But we cannot depend on other regions to meet their goals so we should double it and get 550 new members. Can you help me? Every thing we do this next coming year needs to be of member value focus and encourage new members to join us. I am committed, and my question to you is, are you? All we need is for you and me as individuals to get one or two persons to join this marvelous organization.

Awards and Honors

CSI members elevated to Fellow:

- J. Gerard Capell, CSI, CCS - Milwaukee
- Teri L. Hand, CSI, CDT - Phoenix
- Lynn A. Javoroski, CSI, CCS - Milwaukee
- J. Peter Jordan, CSI, CCS - Houston
- Stephen E. Nash, CSI, CCS, CCCA - Honolulu

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Director-Northeast Region

Email: dllaia@aol.com

Phone: 207-344-6611

**Richard A Eustis, PE,
FCSI, CCCA, CSC will
be the recipient of
the Distinguished
Membership Honor.**

He will become the twenty-first member in the history of the Institute. Think about it, since 1948 only 21 members have been given this honor.

- John C. Williams, CSI, CCS – Kansas City

The Institute this year will be elevating one of our long-time Northeast member, a friend, to the highest honor of Distinguished Membership. If you are looking for another good reason to join us at Construct 2011 in Chicago, here it is. Mr. Richard A Eustis, PE, FCSI, CCCA, CSC will be the recipient of the Distinguished Membership Honor. He will become the twenty-first member in the history of the Institute. Think about it, since 1948 only 21 members have been given this honor.

This is the highest membership status CSI can bestow. This honor is a membership status given to a member not for specific accomplishments, but as a result of extensive contributions which support the mission of the Institute or its administration. The members of the Board of Directors at the June meeting in Minneapolis, Minnesota unanimously voted to grant the Distinguished Membership Honor to Mr. Eustis. Make your reservations today, and let us all take part in this historic event. Congratulation Mr. Richard Eustis and thank you for all you have done for us on behalf of your selfless commitment to CSI.

The CSI Annual Convention

"Construct 2011" registration is now open. Visit our web site <http://www.csinet.org> and register now. The theme is "Progressive Thinking, Practical Solutions"

Often we are asked what some of our membership benefits are. Here are some of our member benefits:

Education and Certification programs that are design to be enhanced focus on our Mission-Centric Webinars:

- Incorporating LEED into Project Specifications
- Guide Specifications: A Marketing Tool for Manufacturers and Sales Reps
- Writing Effective Sustainable Design Specifications

On-Demand Education

- Change Order Basics: Fundamentals of Construction Contract Modification
- Guide Specifications: An Introduction for Building Product Manufacturers and Sales Reps
- How the Courts Interpret Specifications

CSI Academies

The February 2011 Academies in Dallas, TX, sold out with waiting list. If you want to participate in the next Academies in San Diego, CA mark your calendar for March 1-3, 2012. It is on a first come first serve basis. Snooze and you loose.

Certification Preparatory Materials

- Individual exam Study Guides
- 3 CSI Practice Guides
- Construction Documents Education Program (CDEP)

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The first book in the new series of CSI branded books with Wiley Publishing Agreement was executed in December 2010 is ***BIM Content Development Standards, Strategies & Best Practice*** by **Robert S. Weygant**, (the present President of the New Hampshire Chapter. Editor)

- Construction Specifications Education Program (CSEP)
- Construction Administration Education Program (CAEP)
- Product Representation Education Program (PREP)
- Chapter preparatory courses (<http://www.csinet.org/chapterprep>)
- CSI Online CDT Prep Course
- CDT Flashcards (PDF and iPhone versions)

The CDT prep materials (online Prep Course and CDEO) are in process of being updated to reference the new Project Delivery Practice Guide rather than the PRM. This revised course will be available soon.

The Construction Specifier magazine

Construction Specifier continues to be CSI's most important monthly publication. Circulation is approximately 25,000 with all CSI members and qualified individuals receiving it. We are currently looking on providing all schools, universities and community college libraries that are involved with the construction industry a free copy. We cannot think of a better way to introduce emerging professionals to CSI.

One other member benefit program is the Compliant with CSI Formats and Guidelines - Stamp of approval Program. The CSI Compliant Document Program for Guide Specifications is a structured program for reviewing guide specifications for conformance with the CSI formats and guidelines. The guide specification should conform to the intent of MasterFormat, SectionFormat and PageFormat. Other good specification practices as identified in the Project Resource Manual (CSI Practice Guides) should be utilized for a specification to receive recommendation by the reviewer for CSI compliance designation. The CSI Compliant Document program is not an evaluation of the technical merits, correctness of the material submitted, or the appropriate use of the work result being specified.

The next member benefit is the **CSI News Brief**. The News Brief is still a big success with near 22,000 subscribers.

CSI has MasterFormat, Green Format, and CDT Flashcard applications for the iPhone. The Membership Directory app will be available at the Convention.

The first book in the new series of CSI branded books with Wiley Publishing Agreement was executed in December 2010 is BIM Content Development Standards, Strategies & Best Practice by Robert S. Weygant. Expectation is for 3 titles per year. All must be mission centric, must be reviewed via Technical Committee, receive CSI logo and wording of support on the approved titles.

Author issues were discussed and as soon as the dust settles I will report some of those findings.

Also mark your calendar for September 12-14, 2012 for the 56th CSI Annual Convention in Phoenix, AZ.

The Bridge.

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Principal Region resources to accomplish agreed upon goals and objectives are two in number.

1. Budgeted funds
2. Time volunteered by members

The Region board approved a FY2012 Budget with funds taken from reserves to accomplish identified Workshop objectives. However goals and objectives will not be accomplishment without the second resource. The volunteer time of the membership sufficient to staff the effort has not been there in recent past history.

Chapter President Check Alert: We just took a look at the chapter committee chairs as listed on CSI-net.org and NERegion.org and only 48% are filled. That's about 100 leadership volunteers we haven't yet identified. We're guessing the true number may be lower as 1 chapter has only 3 chairs listed and 3 chapters show none listed.

Editor *The Bridge*

As Dick so well states, the question is ...

WHERE ARE THE VOLUNTEERS?

Where are the Volunteers –

The Maine Chapter along with many other Chapters struggles each year to find volunteers to serve in a variety of leadership positions as well as to serve in numerous other capacities such as serving on a committee. This is one of the changes that has occurred over the past three decades. If one looks back into not only the Maine Chapter's history but also the Institute's history, there were long lines of members wanting to participate in the various activities.

The really difficult question is, "Why did this change occur"? If one looks, it is easy to find multiple opinions, some suggest the change was a "generational thing", others have pointed to changes in family values, while other have pointed to electronic communications. If a volunteer considers only negatives in volunteering is it any wonder that few step forward. I have done and continue to do my share of volunteer activities in not only CSI but several other organizations. I volunteer and I believe others also do because we believe the goals of the organization are worth our effort. In making that effort we found opportunities for both personal and professional growth. We learned from others and eventually we passed knowledge on to others. In the process if we managed to include having "fun" it became easier to build interest in serving as a volunteer.

I think I can safely say that I have gained more from my volunteer activities than the time that was used. Every volunteer activity is an opportunity to learn more about not only the specific activities related to the volunteer activity but also about many other issues. Volunteer activities open new friendships and exposure to different ideas. Just the opportunity to have open discussions among people striving to reach the same goal is worthwhile. I have enjoyed all of my volunteer activities and while all included a share of "fun", those with a sufficient level of "fun" helped to maintain my interest in the purpose of the volunteer activity.

In this Member's opinion, the future of CSI is dependent on involving a greater number of people in volunteer activities. There are very few things in this world that are not the result of a compromise to differing thoughts, building on the ideas of others or an "accident". As a membership-based organization, we do not have money to pay for all of the creativity and we don't have time to wait for progress to come as the result of "accidents". We also must recognize what others may call "problems" are really "opportunities for progress". So if we are going to effectively contribute to progress, the missing resource is more volunteers to turn problems into progress. Why not volunteer today for something you find of interest and become a part of the progress movement?

Richard Eustis
Sept, 2011