



Knowledge for Creating
and Sustaining
the Built Environment

NER Regional Report

The Fall session of the Northeast Region's Board of Directors was held on November 14-15, 2003. The meeting covered a lot of ground, some walked on may times before, some fresh earth. Either way no precious flowers or egos were bruised. The best part was that a lot of decisions were made and very few loose ends were left dangling.

First let me get right to a very sensitive subject, annual assessment. There has been a lot of talk and much to-do about this over the last two years, but suffice to say New Jersey is currently, and intends to stay, in good standing with the Region (NER). That said, the NER is looking at its long term financial health, as well as that of the respective Chapters, to gauge relative value and amount of the annual assessment. A study is being done to compare the assessment amount with other regions and the programs each has in place. Along with this the NER is looking at ways to increase member value, enhance benefits, and increase membership. Membership is an increasingly sensitive area as our ranks have decreased over the last two years. Reasons vary, but overall the individual member basis of our organization has impacted our ability to attract new members as corporations have reduced reimbursements and CSI does not offer corporate affiliations. Increasing the value of membership through educational programs, and other benefits is the focus. Bottom line is that the NER is looking to revise the annual budget process for FY'05 and if possible reduce the annual assessment while improving member benefits.

The next major topic is the NER

Conference. As you are aware the Buffalo conference was moved to September 2004. A big part of this goes to the economy in general, again corporate participation in such events has tailed off. However, another part is the attendance. History has shown that about one hundred or so people sing up for the technical sessions. This is a respectable number, and each Conference I can remember has been successful, but this is only a small percentage of our regional membership - less than 10%. The NER is working on ways to attract more members to attend, including an increased focus on educational sessions and getting back to the conferences roots.

The third topic is the establishment and expansion of the NER website. This initiative has several aspects. First is the centralization of the NER chapters' information, schedules of meeting and programs, and publications. Second is the enhanced marketing and "single voice" that can be leveraged from having the information coordinated and similar in organization. Third, each Chapter is able to link to NER for better communications and information sharing. Fourth is the ability to create templates and standardized process for executing the tasks of officers and committee chairs. This last benefit is being developed by several task teams, each focused on a specific topic or committee area. Once completed it will aid chapters and chapter leaders transfer responsibility as leadership changes and make the running of committees less stressful. This is targeted on making volunteerism easier to commit to and reduce burn-out.

(Continued on page 4)

December 2003

Mark Your Calendars

December 5, 2003

NJCSI Annual
Holiday Party
Black Horse Tavern
Mendham, NJ

January 5, 2004

Chapter Meeting
**Open Systems for
Building Controls**
Echelon Corp

February 16, 2004

Chapter Meeting
**Revisions to
"MasterFormat"**

March 18, 2004

Joint AIA Meeting
Topical Presentation
CADD

April 21-23, 2004

The 48th Annual CSI
Show & Convention
McCormick Place
Chicago

Sept. 10, 2004

4th Annual
Golf Outing
Gamblers Ridge
Cream Ridge



Chapter Meetings are the first Monday of the Month @6:30 at The Hanover Manor.

**New Jersey Chapter
FY 2003
Chapter Officers**

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Immediate

Past President: Ron Davenport, CSI

NE Region Director

NJ Chapter: Mike Debiak, CSI, CDT

Committee Chairs 2003-2004

Education:
Chris Gnash, CSI, AIA

Membership:
Susan Sheffmaker, CSI, AIA

Program:
Les Cadigan, CSI, CCPR

Technical:
Ruma Suma, CSI

Awards, Certification, Student Liaison, Newsletter Editor, and Finance, committees still have open Chairs. If you are interested please contact Mike Debiak @ 718-777-6809



Presidential Specs

It seems like the time is just flying by in slow motion, a living animation. Here it is at the cusp of winter, with the added enjoyment of a lunar eclipse even, and a Holiday Party in the making – December 5, 2003 – and we have to start thinking about January already.

Well I am closing in on the halfway mark in my Presidency and I must say my head is still spinning. I just don't know if it is the whirl of activity we have had or the little voice in my head that told me that running the NJ CSI Chapter was going to be challenging. At least there is a lull in the schedule for the next month, sort of. Anyway, I hope everyone has benefited from the good work your Board has put forth these past few months. The monthly programs will continue in January and there will be an added program early in the year – a networking/membership drive social – details to follow. We will also have two joint programs next year, one with AIA in April, and another with the NJ Professional Engineers in February. Both are expected to be rousing successes. Stay tuned for details and plan to get requests for tabletops in early. In addition, we are looking into a change in venue for the regular monthly meetings to better accommodate travel and our diverse geographic membership. If you have any thoughts on this please contact one of the Board members and voice your opinion, it does count.

I attended the Northeast Regions (NER) Board of Directors meeting November 14, 2003. As the NJ CSI Director I have included a separate report in this newsletter with details of the meeting. As an interim update, NER has made some progress since July 2003; the website has undergone further development, the committee chair positions have been filled, and there has been some healthy discussion regarding the annual chapter assessment. As the NJ Director I have been involved with the development of the NER website and hope that you have taken an opportunity to check it out. The NJ Chapter is currently using this site to post our calendar of events, newsletter, meeting announcements and other document. You can also get the current list of Chapter Officer. In development is a Chapter site, hosted through NER, which will offer us an opportunity to have banner ads and posted advertisements. It would also offer us the ability to e-mail the link to the meeting announcements, newsletter, etc. in lieu of sending large fills. As a reminder, please update your contact information and e-mail address.

I hope to see everyone at the Holiday Party and in January at the monthly meeting.

Happy Holidays!

ReSPECtfully yours,

Mike Debiak,

Tips for Phone-Number Portability

As of November 24, 2003 a new federal law allowing consumers to switch wireless telephone companies without changing their phone numbers goes into effect. Here are some things to remember:

? You can sign up to transfer to a new wireless company by phone or at a retail store. If you go to a store, some companies advise taking a copy of the bill from your present service provider to simplify the transfer to the new one.

? Find out the terms of you current wireless service, and make sure you know whether you will be required to pay cancel an existing contract.

? You can transfer to a new wireless company even if you still owe money to your old one. You remain obligated to pay the old bill.

? Even if you don't switch, you might be able to use the threat of switching to negotiate more-favorable terms with your current wireless company. Many wireless firms are offering discounts to retain customers.

? If you transfer your number to a new wireless company, make sure the deal includes a trial period so you check for "dead spots" where you can't make calls. Trying out a service is the only way to know whether it will work in the specific areas important to you.

? Be prepared to buy a new phone. American cellular phone companies use three different networking technologies, so your current phone probably won't work with your new carrier. (However, T-Mobile and TT&T Wireless use the same technology.)

? Don't cancel your old wireless service until you're sure the new one works. Doing so could cause you to lose the phone number that you want to keep.

? In a emergency, place 911 calls on your old wireless phone. Emergency personnel can't call you back on your new phone until after the switchover is completed.

? If you want to save the names and numbers in your wireless phone's address book, you might be able to download them to your personal computer and copy them later to your new phone. (Some wireless companies will do this for you at their stores.) A WARNING: Saved voicemail messages will not transfer from your old wireless company to your new one.

? You can switch a wired phone number to a wireless phone, then disconnect your wired phone. However, such a switch is likely to take days, rather than the hours required to transfer a number from one cell phone provider to another

As reported by Steve Alexander, Star Tribune

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Military Construction Bill Signed

President Bush on Saturday, November 22, 2003, signed a \$9.3 billion military construction bill.

The amount is \$1.4 billion below last year's level, but \$200 million more than Bush's request. Lawmakers added more than 100 projects for military facilities in their home districts money that the president had not sought.

The legislation provides money for projects throughout the country and improvements at U.S. Bases overseas. One of the final disputes that had delayed passages was resolved earlier this month when congressional bargainers agreed to split earmarks money directed to specific home-district projects 53 percent for the Senate and 47 percent for the House.

Earlier versions of the bill set aside roughly \$700 million for Senate projects and \$400 million for House earmarks

As reported by The Associated Press

New York Project Takes “GREEN” to Another Level

Government officials and environmental groups in New York are making a big push to make Gotham green.

The latest move comes from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the city’s Department of Environmental Protection and environmental groups, which have persuaded Pace University to put a “green roof” atop a portion of its downtown New York campus across from City Hall Park. Government officials and environmental groups are looking to use Pace’s green roof as a demonstration project for building owners and developers in New York.

A green roof is basically a rooftop garden where plants, soil and a drainage system are placed on top of waterproof material that is installed over building’s traditional flat roof.

“This is a great place to showcase green roof because it’s visible to so many high rises,” says Jane Kenny, administrator of the regional EPA office that oversees New York, adding that her office overlooks Paces’ rooftop. “We wanted to find a building to set an example for other building owners to follow.”

The EPA and the city Department of Environmental Protection are promoting green roofs to the city’s developers and building owners for their environmental and health benefits, including combating urban heat, lowering heat, lowering energy costs, and reducing air pollution and storm-water runoff.

New York is the latest jurisdiction in the U.S. to encourage building owners and developers to install green roofs in a effort to conserve resources. After the city of Chicago constructed a 2,500-sqaure-foot on its City Hall, the city began offering developers an incentive to install green roofs: Developers can to build a bigger project if they install green roof on their building.

“A network of green roofs provides far more public environmental benefits than a green roof here a d there,” says Leslie Hoffman, executive director Earth Pledge, a New York-based environmental group. Earth Pledge has been pushing for green roofs and is conducting research that will attempt to quantify the energy cost savings and other benefits of green roofs on New York buildings.

Green roofs can cost anywhere from \$15 to \$35 a square foot to install, according to Earth Pledge. Pace University President David Caputo estimates it will cost between \$500,000 to \$750,000 to install the type of green roof he envisions at the campus. “We want sep up space so that it can be used as a study and conversation area,” he says. “I’d like to have an imaginatively planned garden that changes as the seasons

change.” The campus can accommodate a garden on about a one-square-block area on its rooftops.

But installing a green roof a Pace University is still a few years away given the cost of such an endeavor. Mr Caputo says he’s committed to the project and the university plans to raise funds from donors and foundations.

As reported by Sheila Muto, Staff Reported of the Wall Street Journal

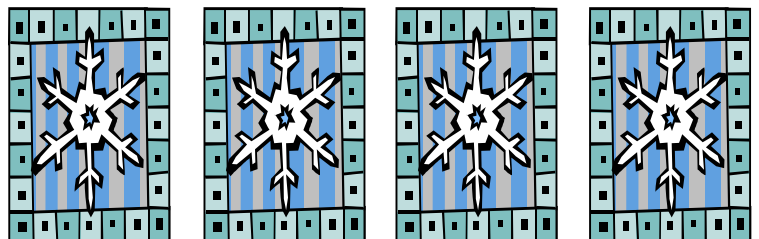
NER Regional Report

(Continued from page 1)

Forth, Lou Matrulli was nominated and ratified for recommendation to Institute as the next Director. He will serve from FY05 through FY08. Lou will be NER Vice President beginning July 2004 filling the place George Rosamond currently holds this position

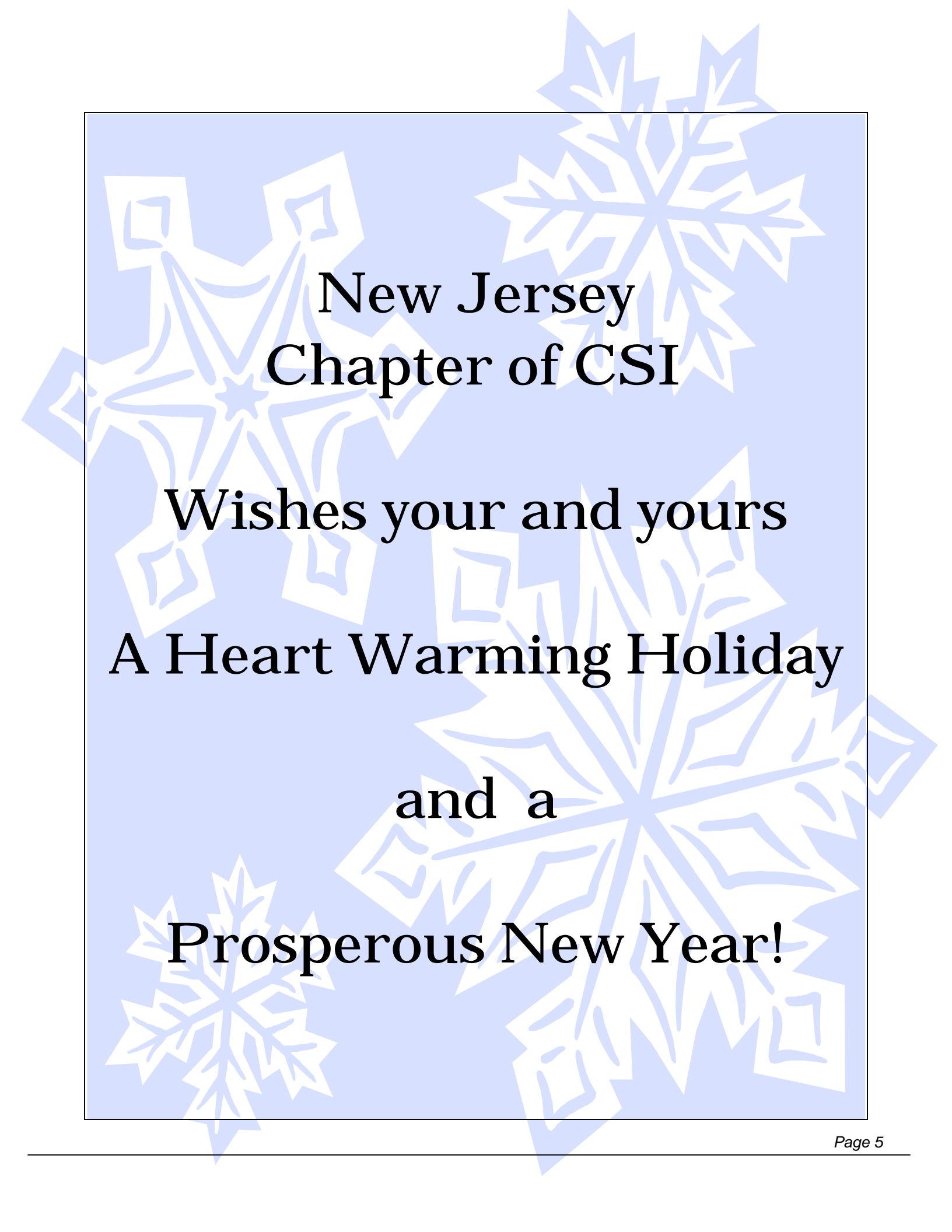
Next, but certainly not last, the NER is looking to broaden and deepen its relationship with schools, colleges and universities. This initiative is focused on establishing a better understanding of the benefits of CSI membership and increasing the spectrum of educational opportunities for construction minded students. This is also geared toward cultivating future CSI members and leaders. Trying to bring the future to the present.

Finally, you will see a mailing from the NER regarding proposed changes to the by-laws. This is designed to bring the NER in line with Institute and correct some of the outdated issues that do not fit with the way our world is changing around us. Please review these changes and consider each on its own merits. But most of all please vote. Your voice counts and in this case silence is not golden. This is your organization; CSI is made up of individuals not corporations. Please take the time to demonstrate your individuality.



“Make everything as simple as possible, but not simpler.”

- Albert Einstein (1879-1955)



**New Jersey
Chapter of CSI**

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A Heart Warming Holiday
and a
Prosperous New Year!**

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