

CSI Mid-Atlantic Region
Erie and Northwest PA Chapter
 2017 Fall Chapter Report

August 8, 2017

1. CHAPTER ADMINISTRATION

| Office | Name | Phone | E-mail |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|--------------|----------------------------|
| President | D. Marshall Fryer | 814-838-6037 | dmfryer2@gmail.com |
| 1 st Vice President | John Stehli | 440-463-0313 | jcstehli@en.com |
| 2 nd Vice President | vacant | | |
| Secretary | vacant | | |
| Treasurer | D. Marshall Fryer | 814-838-6037 | dmfryer2@gmail.com |
| Immediate Past President | Patty Downey | 814-882-1910 | pattydowney@roadrunner.com |
| Director | vacant | | |
| Director | vacant | | |
| Director | vacant | | |

2. CHAPTER MEETING INFORMATION

The monthly chapter membership meeting is held at 7:00 PM on the third Wednesday of the month, at Millcreek Brewing Company, 4102 West Lake Rd, Erie PA. Note that in the event of a facility tour preceding the dinner, the meeting location may be changed to be closer to the tour site.

The dinner that precedes the meeting at 6:00 PM typically costs \$20 for members and \$25 for guests. This includes a cocktail hour from 5:30 PM to 6:00 PM with a cash bar. Note that several of our meetings each year are designated by the board as free dinners for members, to enhance attendance.

Average attendance is 6-7 members (about 25% of our membership), and 3-4 guests.

The regular chapter board meeting is held at 12:00 PM on the second Wednesday of the month, at Dickey's Barbecue Pit, 3716 Liberty St, Erie PA.

3. STANDING COMMITTEES

| | Chairperson Name | # of Members | # of Projects |
|---------------|------------------|--------------|---------------|
| Awards | vacant | 0 | 0 |
| Certification | vacant | 0 | 0 |

| | | | |
|------------|-------------------|---|---|
| Education | vacant | 0 | 0 |
| Finance | vacant | 0 | 0 |
| House | vacant | 0 | 0 |
| Membership | D. Marshall Fryer | 1 | 1 |
| Newsletter | vacant | 0 | 0 |
| Nominating | vacant | 0 | 0 |
| Program | John Stehli | 1 | 1 |
| Technical | vacant | 0 | 0 |

4. CHAPTER PROGRAMS: 2017-2018

| Month | Date | Program Title |
|-----------|------|------------------------------------|
| July | | no meeting |
| August | | Board planning session |
| September | 20 | TBD |
| October | 18 | TBD |
| November | 15 | TBD |
| December | | no meeting, possible holiday party |
| January | | no meeting |
| February | 21 | TBD |
| March | 21 | TBD |
| April | 18 | TBD |
| May | 23 | TBD |
| June | | no meeting, possible family event |

5. SPECIAL PROJECTS / DISCUSSION ITEMS FOR MEETING:

The Erie and NW PA Chapter finds itself in a very difficult situation. Our one and only project at this time is called survival. Up until a few years ago, our chapter was sailing along smoothly, but some unfortunate things have happened. Beginning with the national economic problems of the early 2000's and the lack of recovery in our area since then, our member numbers have been shrinking. Of course, this is not only an Erie problem, we understand that many other chapters are seeing similar declines.

Where we went wrong: Ever since I joined CSI around 1999, our chapter has had a good core of members to fill our offices, director slots, and committee chairs, but those officers and board members were relatively consistent. The same few people kept rotating through all the positions. Some are now retired and/or have

drifted away, and we have tried to bring a couple newer members onto the board each year. But over time, we clearly failed to recruit and successfully integrate enough new talent, and our chapter governance stagnated. For various reasons, the last half dozen or so of these new faces have failed to make a long term connection with the organization, leaving us with a small and rather burned out governance team. About a year ago, our then current president opted for a career change that necessitated vacating her positions. None of the other board members volunteered to step in and take over, so it fell to me (as the immediate past president) to assume a caretaker role, until a suitable replacement could be identified and elected.

Since then, several of our other current officers and board members also decided to step away from the board, at least temporarily, and mostly due to professional pressures, lack of free time, or burnout. This means that nearly all of our elected officer, board member, and committee chair positions have expired and are now vacant. Only John Stehli and I remain as officers. We are in the process of individually contacting all of our chapter members and a few prospective members, in hopes of identifying a core group that would be willing to take over. John and I would serve as advisors, to provide some guidance and continuity, as we strive to rebuild the chapter board almost from scratch with a new team of governing members.

I have made it clear to the remnants of the old team, that there is a limit to my own efforts, as I am already retired and have plans to leave the area within a couple years. I see this as a last-gasp effort to rejuvenate the chapter. If these efforts remain unsuccessful a year from now, I will likely be recommending to the regional and national office that the chapter be disbanded or merged with another chapter.

Respectfully submitted,

D. Marshall Fryer
Acting President / Treasurer
CSI Erie & NW PA Chapter