Chapter Report (National 2019)

Unlike this time last year when we were hustling around town, finalizing the venues, food and entertainment for the 2018 National Conference here in St. John’s, we take the opportunity to reflect on what was a remarkable and memorable conference and, we take the time to wish our peers with the Saskatoon Chapter, host for 2019, great success. We wish safe travels to all those travelling to and from the conference.

Planning a conference of this magnitude is no small undertaking. After living through such an event as Chapter Chair for the Newfoundland Chapter, I would have to say, the 2018 National Conference is and will probably remain as one the highlights of my working career. Exhausting? Yes. As I recollect, I recall the moment after we concluded our last National Board meeting, closed the conference and said our good-byes, the feeling of emptiness as I strolled through the empty conference hallway leading back to my vehicle. All those months of planning and those days of the conference running on fumes and nerves, had suddenly ended. Wow! We did it.

The months following our conference was quiet. Personally, I felt worn down and needed some time to recharge. So did my fellow NL Executive, which was a very loyal and limited group. We decided that out of respect for our vendors that we would postpone our Professional Development Day from May to September. Our vendors, whom are our sponsors, just heavily committed to our National Conference. At our executive meeting it was suggested that we reduce the sponsorship to nearly half the normal cost in appreciation for the 2018 Conference support. Attendance was lower than had hoped for. Extended vacations, children starting back at all levels of school and hurricane Dorian rolling across the province, all impacted our numbers however, we had great presenters and a captive audience.

Chapter Executive

It has been nearly two years since we had a complete chapter executive. After a nomination and voting process, two of our members decided to the join our Executive Team. Our Voce-Chair and Secretary roles are not filled. We look forward to new insights, approaches and ideas from these members. Although it’s only early, conversations are already occurring around the topics of advertising and attracting new members. Full steam ahead!

Membership

The local economy has taken some hits with major offshore projects completing, less money flowing back from Alberta, etc. Given that we have had a small Executive for some time now, much of our focus has been on conference planning, planning of PD day events and, attending the committee meetings for
those we are a part of. We have not placed much effort on increasing membership. The Chapter will be pushing recruitment on vendors/suppliers, Consultants and Contractors others to improve membership enrollment. As well, as the NL Executive, we are hoping to play a large piece in the renewal of membership dues each year and strategically looking at ways of attracting people from across the province.

Financial Report

The NL Chapter is sitting in a solid financial position. As the Executive, we decided to do the following:

(a) We are sponsoring two paid member to attend 2019 National Conference in Saskatoon
(b) We waivered the $50 fee to attend our PD day
(c) We lowered the cost from $2500 to $1500 for vendors/presenter in our PD day

During our AGM, it was decided that as long as our Chapter is in a good financial state, starting next year, we will also sponsor those members who are the Chairs and possibly Vice-Chairs of National Committees to attend National Conferences.

We also decided that it is time to give back to our fellow members that work and live in other areas of the province which sometimes make it challenging for them to attend events. Starting in 2020, we will be taking our PD day on the road every year beginning in Gander. In 2022, we will travel to Corner Brook. As we travel around, we are hoping to draw more attention to not only CHES NL but to CHES National.

Finally, we are looking to partner with local and provincial construction agencies such as the Newfoundland & Labrador Construction Association (NLCA). We feel that such relationships would benefit all members and build a smarter and safer healthcare environment within our Province. Our goal is to establishing a collaborative team approach including consultants, contractors, vendors and governing agencies. Together we can!

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<tr>
<th>Chapter Executive Listing</th>
<th>National Committee Members</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chapter Chair</td>
<td>Colin Marsh</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vice Chair</td>
<td>Daniel Parsons</td>
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<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Doug Kennedy</td>
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<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Sandra Evans</td>
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All the best Saskatoon Chapter on your 2019 National Conference. Looking forward to the upcoming conversations.

Colin Marsh

Chapter Chairperson
Canadian HealthCare Engineering Society – Newfoundland Chapter