



THE REGION OF THE VIRGINIAS

November 2011 Report

HEADLINES

AIA National Board Meeting

The next Board meeting is December 8 & 9 in Washington DC. The agenda items are as follows:

- **Awards selections:** Gold Medalist, Firm Award, Whitney Young Award, Topaz Medallion
- **Commended Carrier:** A discussion about the commended insurance carrier
- **Budget Update:** Fiscal year 2011 and recommended budget for 2012
- **Bylaws amendment:** Modify Emeritus membership (see page 2)
- **Continuing Education** – Next Steps (see page 2)
- **Announcement of Candidates for office in 2012**

Member Input Received !

- **Associates Attending Convention** - Several of you have mentioned that the National Associated Committee is requesting reduced admission for Associates to the AIA National Convention since the economy is making hard for many to attend. We understand that only 400 Associates attended last year and that Associates make up about 17% to 18% of the AIA's membership. (AIA membership of 76,600 x 17.5% = 13,405 Associates). The discussions have been to reduce admission by half or to reduce admission to \$100. I will support a reduction in admissions fee for Associates. **(Thanks for input from Roberta Guffey, John Braymer and Debbie Burns.)**
- **Small Firm Roundtable** - I've heard from you that the Small Firm Roundtable is underfunded which prevents its members from meeting in person. A small budget increase for this committee has been proposed to allow that to happen. I will support this request. **(Thanks to Brian Frickie who represents us on the Small Firm Roundtable.)**



Member input needed !

AIA member input is needed on the following items:

- **Continuing Education requirements** – The Board is proposing a change in the AIA’s requirements for Continuing Education. (See page 5). The Board will vote on this in December, 2011. The AIA decided that in order to be seen as a knowledge-based profession we had to make it a requirement for our members to continue learning well beyond graduation and internship. In 1996 the AIA voted to mandate continuing education. Since then, several states have taken up the mantle of requiring and enforcing continuing education for architects. We are at a transition point where we need to decide if our original role is still appropriate. It may be that we move on to a new role; that of elevating the level and quality of coursework and being more of a curator than an enforcer. One of the challenges is that different states have different requirements and some states have no requirement. The NCARB requires 18 Learning units with 12 being HSW credits for reciprocity between states. For architects licensed in many states, this may trump both State and AIA requirements.
- What most people seem to agree upon is the desire for the AIA not to be the enforcer because it runs contrary to our objective of supporting our members. The last proposal was for the AIA to randomly audit 2% of the membership. The non-compliant members may appeal, but must “catch up” on their learning units before they can be reinstated. This can be a hardship for members depending on the circumstance which led them to either leave the AIA for a period or not meet the CEU requirements. CACE has a problem with this as a condition of reinstatement.
- **Emeritus Membership Eligibility** - The Board adopted a bylaws amendment in 2009 that reduced from 70 to 65 the age at which Architect and Associate members may become Emeritus if they have retired from practice. A close inspection of the demographics indicates that this practice will result in steep dues decline as baby boomers retire. This means that the AIA would have to reduce service or raise dues if the same level of service is needed by non-dues paying members. There is a Bylaws amendment proposed for the December meeting which requires an Architect member or an Associate member to reach the age of 70 and be retired in order to be eligible for Emeritus status. There is no requirement to surrender your professional license. The timing is important because we must vote in December for the bylaws change to be presented at Grassroots in March then at the National Convention in May.



THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

YAF Director needed for the Region of the Virginias

The Young Architects Forum is still seeking a YAF Regional Director. Please contact the Young Architects Forum Regional Director Advisor; [Jason Dale Pierce, AIA](#) 314.322.4017. See page 4 of this report for details.

Chapter Coordinators Needed !

We held a session on mentoring at Architecture Exchange East to launch some ideas for a mentoring program for the Virginias. There is a Facebook page set up titled, "Virginia Society AIA Mentoring Program". If you are interested in hearing updates, just go there and "like" the page. The AIA Board is focusing heavily on recruiting and retaining emerging professionals so we don't lose another generation of architects due to a poor economy. I'd like to recruit a coordinator from each Chapter for setting up mentoring and outreach programs to keep young members interested and engaged. Please send me the name of a person in your chapter who would be interested in doing this.

Voting at 2012 National Convention

It is VERY important that every vote count at the upcoming 2012 National Convention. If anybody has questions about how to vote, please see me!

Dates for 2012 National AIA Events Published

- Grassroots will be held in Washington DC on March 7-10, 2012
- AIA National Convention will be held in Washington DC on May 16-19th

NOTE: The AIA Northern Virginia is planning a regional party for next year's convention. Stay tuned! I'll be organizing a dinner for Grassroots at Ceiba Restaurant.

Virginia Society AIA Design Forum X

The tenth VSAIA Design Forum will be held in Charlottesville on March 16th and 17th and the theme will be "Skins". There will be a regional meeting at the Design Forum and the regional board is invited to attend. VSAIA will publish more details later.



Chapter Visits

I had a warm reception from the AIA West Virginia Chapter in Charleston on November 18th and was able to meet and talk with members and also provide updates. I met with the AIA Richmond Chapter in early July, 2011 and with the Blue Ridge Chapter in Abingdon in late July. I met with the Northern Virginia Chapter in October and I'll be catching up with the Central Virginia on February 23rd and Hampton Roads Chapters in early 2012.

DETAILS

YOUNG ARCHITECTS FORUM – REGIONAL DIRECTOR INFORMATION

The [AIA Young Architects Forum](#) (YAF) regional directors work with their counterparts; the College of Fellows regional representatives and the National Associates Committee regional associate directors. YAF regional directors are responsible for gathering information about issues facing young architects within their geographic areas and disseminating information about national/regional activities and resources for use on the local level. Of equal importance, YAF regional directors serve as an important link between young architects and the national organization. Architects who have been licensed for no more than ten years are eligible for this two-year term with the opportunity to reapply once for a maximum of four years of experience.

Regional director positions available January 1, 2012 (two-year term) are:

- | | |
|------------------------------|--|
| ▪ Southern California | Current YAF Regional Director is John Wyka, AIA |
| ▪ Florida-Caribbean Region | Current YAF Regional Director is Joseph Benesh, AIA |
| ▪ North Central Region | Current YAF Regional Director is Mike Schellin, AIA |
| ▪ Northwest & Pacific Region | Current YAF Regional Director is Janice Li, AIA |
| ▪ Ohio Valley Region | Current YAF Regional Director is Jack Bauman, AIA |
| ▪ Texas Region | Current YAF Regional Director is Wyatt Frantom, AIA |
| ▪ Virginia Region | Current YAF Regional Director is Terrapon Games, AIA |

For additional information and application instructions, please visit the [YAF Regional Directors Call for Volunteers](#). For questions and/or to discuss this position and application process in more depth please contact the 2011-2012 YAF Regional Director Advisor; [Jason Dale Pierce, AIA](#) 314.322.4017.

It is highly recommended that all applicants for this position be vetted with the regional leadership prior to submitting to the YAF Advisory Committee. However if a selection process for the YAF Regional director is not in place in your region direct submission to the YAF Advisory Committee is allowed. Please contact your AIA Regional Leadership to determine if a regional selection process is in place or contact the YAF Regional Director Advisor via the information above.

DUTIES OF THE YAF REGIONAL DIRECTOR:



The YAF Regional Director is the primary connection between local AIA chapters, regional boards and/or leadership and the national YAF Advisory Committee.

1. The YAF Regional Director will keep communications flowing between these groups by:
 - Maintaining quarterly communication with all YAF chapters within his or her designated region.
 - Reporting to YAF Regional Director Adviser with regional updates quarterly.
 - Serve as a conduit between local YAF chapters, Regional Board of Directors and YAF Advisory Committee
 - Disseminating information to and collecting information from local chapters as requested.
 - Submitting an annual regional report four weeks prior to the annual AIA National Convention.
 - Write and/or solicit articles for publication in Connection, the YAF's e-newsletter. Each Director is responsible for providing one article a year to the Communications Advisor for inclusion in one issue of Connection annually. Additional articles are appreciated and encouraged.
 - Participate in a monthly conference call with other YAF Regional Directors and YAF Advisory committee members.
2. The YAF Regional Director contributes to the direction and planning of the YAF by:
 - Participating in the YAF Annual Meeting at the AIA Grassroots in Washington D.C.
 - Working with Advisory Committee members on various issues pertaining to their individual positions on the AdCom.
3. The YAF Regional Director is the primary connection at the regional level to other groups in the AIA by:
 - Communicating with COF Regional Representatives and NAC Regional Associate Directors quarterly about how to work together to support each other's efforts.
 - Suggesting or encouraging young architects for nomination for regional or national awards, positions or committees/subcommittees. Including future YAF Regional Directors.
 - Attending AIA National Convention, when possible.
4. Additional responsibilities may be required by each respective region.
 - YAF Regional Directors are required to work with their respective regions to ensure that expectations from regional leadership are clearly defined and met.
 - The YAF Advisory committee encourages all applicants to discuss the position with their regional leadership (either their Regional AIA President and/or Executive Director) to fully understand the role and commitment that the YAF Regional Director will have to their respective region prior to submitting their application.
 - Presence is strongly encouraged at all regional meetings.



THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

5. Additional items:

- Participation and Funding to national events are required as annual budget allow
- Upon request of YAF, may act as author, speaker or coordinator at selected YAF events
- Depending on budget, may be partially funded to attend the YAF Annual meeting at the AIA Grassroots

END REPORT