



THE REGION OF THE VIRGINIAS

October 2011 Report

HEADLINES

YAF Director needed for the Region of the Virginias

Teera Games, AIA has moved to North Carolina leaving the office of Regional YAF Director open. Potential candidates should contact the Young Architects Forum Regional Director Advisor; [Jason Dale Pierce, AIA](#) 314.322.4017. For more details, see page 3 of this report. Typically this person would be licensed for 10 years or less.

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.

Member input needed !

The AIA Board met in Chicago on September 16 and 17, 2011. Updates follow at the end of this paper, but 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 Thanks to Bill White from the Blue Ridge Chapter for his comments!
- **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. No specific proposal was offered however the Board is considering putting forward an amendment at the AIA National Convention in 2012.

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 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 will be meeting with the West Virginia Chapter on November 18th. I'll be catching up with the Central Virginia 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.
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



CONTINUING EDUCATION TASK FORCE

A Task Force headed by Doug Benson evaluated whether the AIA should continue its requirement for members to earn 18 Continuing education Credit Hours per year with 8 being for Health safety and Welfare with 4 of those credits being for sustainable design. After randomly seeking input from AIA members across the country and abroad the Task Force learned that generally AIA members don't mind earning the continuing education credits and even enjoy it. A surprise finding was that members would like to see the CEC offerings be more challenging. Ken Ross at the Institute is working to strategically recruit faculty and identify subjects instead of issuing an "Open call" for sessions. The recommended change is to continue with requiring 18 credits, but with 12 HSW and no sustainable design credits. The AIA now has the ability to monitor each members' transcripts instead of conducting random audits as it has in the past. There were strong feelings about enforcement of this requirement. Many felt that this is the responsibility of local licensure boards since many states require CEC units. The enforcement plan was not decided and the vote on the change in CEC units will occur in December.

EMERITUS MEMBERSHIP

The AIA conducted an age-trend analysis to predict the issues we will face with an aging workforce. The statistics point toward fewer working architects, more emeritus architects and fewer younger architects entering the profession and becoming AIA members. The AIA isn't the only organization faced with this demographic which is largely the result of the baby boom. There are social, cultural and financial consequences of continuing this trend such as:

- Decreased dues revenue
- Fewer architects in the workforce
- Perception of inequity (working members supporting emeritus and younger members)

A proposal will come before the Board in December.

END REPORT