



THE REGION OF THE VIRGINIAS

September 2011 Report

The format of these monthly briefings is that the headlines are noted first with details following.

HEADLINES

September AIA Board Meeting – 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
- **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. 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!

Mentoring for the Virginias

There will be a session at the upcoming Architecture Exchange East event to launch some ideas for a mentoring program for the Virginias. The AIA Board is focusing heavily on retaining the interest and membership of emerging professionals so we don't lost another generation of architects due to a poor economy.



THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

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!

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'll be meeting with the Northern Virginia Chapter in October and with the West Virginia Chapter in November.

Regional YAF Director Needed

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.

DETAILS

September 2011 Board Meeting Notes:

REGIONAL DIRECTOR APPORTIONMENT

Based on the current rules, the states of California and Texas are each at risk of losing a regional director due to membership decline in both states and increased membership in overseas chapters. (Since



overseas chapters have grown, this increases the denominator by which we divide to reach the threshold for number of Regional Directors). In addition, the two states are very close to meeting the required threshold. Therefore the Board voted to suspend by one month the action of reducing regional directors while looking for a long term solution that rewards overseas chapters while not penalizing domestic chapters. The AIA will also be looking at ways to give advance notification to Regions in danger of falling below the threshold. For the Virginias, our minimum threshold is 1,318 and we currently have 1,632 members. If the growth of overseas chapters continues on its current trajectory, and if membership holds steady, we may be in danger of being absorbed into another region at some point in the future unless the bylaws are changed.

Region Number	Region Name	Associate & International			9/30/2011 Total		Number of regional directors in 2012
		Architect	Associate	Emeritus			
0	No Region Name	192	324	27	543	0.71%	N/A
1	California	6088	1806	1316	9210	12.02%	4
2	Central States	2892	1068	414	4374	5.71%	2
4	Florida & Caribbean	2306	567	422	3295	4.30%	2
5	Gulf States	2594	924	333	3851	5.03%	2
6	Illinois	2711	686	365	3762	4.91%	2
7	Michigan	932	344	289	1565	2.04%	1
8	Middle Atlantic	2469	801	291	3561	4.65%	2
9	New England	3790	811	577	5178	6.76%	2
10	New York	5070	1326	558	6954	9.08%	3
11	North Central States	2332	696	350	3378	4.41%	2
12	Northwest & Pacific	3799	983	601	5383	7.03%	2
13	Ohio Valley	2336	495	399	3230	4.22%	2
14	Pennsylvania	1896	348	304	2548	3.33%	1
15	South Atlantic	3606	781	494	4881	6.37%	2
16	Texas	4328	1238	573	6139	8.01%	3
17	Western Mountain	3109	871	422	4402	5.75%	2
18	New Jersey	1381	283	221	1885	2.46%	1
19	Virginias	1632	602	227	2461	3.21%	1
Grand Total		53463	14954	8183	76600		



WHAT'S NEXT?

Incoming 2012 President Jeff Potter presented his program for 2012. It involves communications under the title, "Speak the Architect" and supporting components under the title "Optimize capabilities of Components" all with three priorities promoting the value of design, engaging emerging professionals and enhancing members' ability to share knowledge with each other.

GUEST SPEAKER

ASLA President, John Mueller was an invited guest. He spoke about the ASLA's goal of making the public more aware of what Landscape Architects do. The ASLA has case studies showing how architects can best interact with Landscape Architects. Mr. Mueller also talked about ASLA governance matters, such as when members become Emeritus, which may be a relevant comparison to how the AIA handles such matters. The ASLA sees the international Green Building Code as a "game changer" for them.

PUBLIC AWARENESS

The AIA is embarking on a Communications Plan intended to reach out to the general public and improve the visibility of architects and architecture. A plan will be presented to the Board at its December meeting.

GLOBAL CHAPTER

The Board voted to form a "Global Chapter" for currently unassigned members practicing overseas. This is intended to embrace in a formal way those members that have no chapter (component) affiliation to retain them as members. These members have a choice of aligning with several professional architectural associations (RIBA, etc.) We want to maintain the strength of the AIA brand overseas.

ARCHIPAC

Currently the Archi-Pac has raised \$103,000 which surpasses the total from last year. An additional 300 AIA members have contributed from last year.



REVENUE SHARING TASK FORCE

A Task Force, headed by CACE President Mike Waldinger is evaluating how to create a comprehensive revenue sharing program. This goes beyond Contract Documents and is about resources as much as it is about money. The driver will be consistent member's services and the financial model will follow that. One key factor in designing a cost sharing model is phasing it in so there are no dramatic differences in Component revenue. Executive Director, Debbie Burns from AIA Northern Virginia participated in the task force. The Task Force will come back to the Board with a proposal in December.

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.