



## THE REGION OF THE VIRGINIAS

December 2013 Report

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### **HEADLINES**

On Friday, December 13, 2013, Helene Combs Dreiling, FAIA was installed as the 90<sup>th</sup> President of the AIA. Helene is the third woman AIA President in the Institute's 156 years and will be followed by the AIA's fourth woman President, Elizabeth Chu Richter in 2015. Helene is the third AIA President from Virginia. She follows William "Chick" Marshall, FAIA in 1975 and R. Randal Vosbeck, FAIA in 1981.

The AIA Presidential Inaugural was held at the Andrew Mellon Auditorium in Washington DC. It was a beautiful venue and Helene's husband, Mark McConnell gave the invocation. Many friends, family and AIA members from the Virginias were in attendance. It was a fabulous night!



Elizabeth Chu Richter FAIA, AIA 2015 President, Helene Combs Dreiling FAIA, 2014 AIA President, Katherine Schwennson FAIA, 2006 AIA President, , Susan Maxman FAIA, 1993 AIA President.



Helene congratulates outgoing President, Mickey Jacob FAIA and his wife, Diane Jacob at the AIA Board meeting.



Mickey Jacob welcomes Helene as the 2014 President at the Inaugural. There was a standing ovation!

Helene will preside during the on-going governance restructuring and repositioning efforts that were started in 2012-13 and she will undoubtedly pursue priorities of her own. Helene comes with a unique background, having spent 7 years as a Vice President in the AIA National Component.

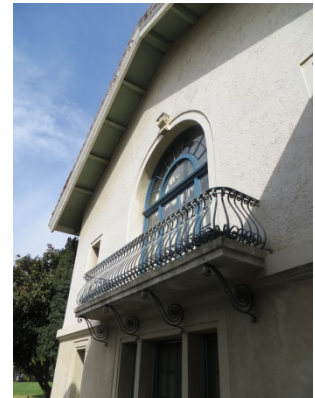


THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

## AIA GOLD MEDAL



The Gold Medal was awarded to Julia Morgan, an early 20<sup>th</sup> Century architect from California. She is the first woman to be given the Gold Medal. Having designed over 700 buildings of every type, she was a structural engineering pioneer as well as a talented designer. Some of her most famous commissions were the Hearst Castle in San Simeon, St. John's Episcopal Church in Berkley, the Asilomar YWCA in Pacific Grove and several buildings for Mills College. I visited Mills College last year and share these photos with you. All of her buildings have survived the earthquake prone San Francisco area.



## WHAT'S GOING ON AT THE AIA

In his management report, Robert Ivy gave the following updates:

- The AIA will be buying more “air time” with NPR (National Public Radio) being a major media outlet. Listen for spots on the “Morning Edition” and “All Things Considered” shows.
- The AIA's new electronic Contract Documents will be launched in early 2014. The software is being Beta tested now by AIA members and others.
- The AIA is going to start charging non-members for things like transcript services and is going to make some information available exclusively to members.



- The AIA is working to reform the Federal Design/Build process to make it more equitable for architects and is promoting compliance with the 2030 Climate commitment which was in jeopardy of being undermined.
- The AIA is working with the Rockefeller Foundation and Design for Humanity to explore the objective of “Resilient Design”, creating buildings more resistant to severe weather events.
- The AIA has created a **Repositioning Scorecard** to track progress and report it to members (Paula has copies). A communications audit is underway to improve the way the AIA communicates and evaluate its website.

## NEW REGIONAL DIRECTOR



As Helene assumes the 2014 AIA Presidency, Paula Loomis, FAIA has now assumed the role of Regional Director for the Virginias. Paula and I attended the December 2013 AIA Board meeting together and we’re preparing this Regional Report together.

As 2014 gears up, Paula will be contacting Chapters about visits and will communicate with the Regional Associates Director, JW Blanchard and the new Young Architects Regional Director (yet to be named).

## DETAILS

### GOVERNANCE RESTRUCTURING

In September 2013, the Board of Directors voted to redefine the structure of the AIA. Instead of a single Board of Directors with Regional Representatives, a bi-cameral (two governing bodies) approach was adopted. There will be a smaller “Board” comprised of elected officials and either elected or appointed “At-Large” members. And there will be a larger “Council” which acts as the think tank that lays the ground work for the future direction of the Institute. The Council will initially be composed of the same regional representatives that we have now. Then, as Regional Directors cycle off, the Council has the ability to choose replacements that are; regionally-based, practice-based or knowledge-based depending on the Institute’s needs at that time. It will be up to the future Council to decide its own composition.

These are some of the concerns that have been expressed from board members:



- Smaller, less populated areas fear that they will have no voice at the national level.
- The proposal calls for a “Leadership Development Committee” of the Council to appoint the At-Large members on the Board of Directors. Some feel that anybody serving on the Board of Directors should be elected, not appointed.
- It is unclear who presides over the Council and the relationship between the Board and Council needs to be clarified.
- There is concern that the Council could be taken over by a special interest area.
- There have been discussions about how to ensure diversity within the new structure.

### **GOVERNANCE RESTRUCTURING SCHEDULE**

The schedule for voting on the more detailed provisions (below) is as follows:

Dec 2013	Board of Directors votes upon revised governance structure
Feb 2014	Governance restructuring is presented at Grassroots. The member congress evaluates it, makes comments, asks questions.
Mar-Apr 2014	Revisions made based on member congress input
May 2014	Board of Directors votes upon revised governance structure
May 2014	General membership votes on revised governance structure

Bylaws would be rewritten to follow the agreed-upon governance model. I’m not certain whether revised Bylaws would be available for vote at the May 2013 Convention or if the structure only would be presented and voted upon.

In September, the board evaluated two options for how the bi-cameral structure would work: (Option 1 was to leave things the way they are).

*See the October/November report for more details.*

### **MEMBER RESOURCES TASK FORCE (MRTF)**

The Board directed that the AIA Management together with the MRTF wind down the Institute’s current revenue-share resourcing model with components in successive 20% reductions over a 5-year period. These other measures were passed:



- The results of the planning shall be provided in an implementation report to the Board in September 2014.
- The planning shall be directed toward a winding down beginning in 2016.
- The current total Contract Documents (CD) revenue share distribution (about \$4m) by the Institute to the components will be maintained at its current level through 2014 and 2015 subject to downward adjustments if revenue declines during that period.
- Each component will continue to receive its current level of CD revenue share funding in 2014 and 2015 subject to downward adjustment if net revenue from CDs decline.

Lastly, the Board voted that beginning in 2014, members who want to form a new chapter within the United States or its territories must submit a petition bearing the signatures of no fewer than 100 Architect/Associate and/or International Associate member in good standing. These members must state that they reside or work in the territory of the proposed chapter and will consent to being assigned to the proposed chapter if it is formed.

#### **NEW OFFICER CANDIDATES**

The following people have declared their intention to stand for election in 2014:

##### 2015-16 Secretary

Jerome Eben, AIA

##### 2015-16 Vice Presidents (Two will be elected)

Bill Bates, AIA

Frances Pitts FAIA

Edward Vance AIA

##### 2015 First Vice President/2016 President Elect

Don Brown, FAIA

Russell Davidson, FAIA

Gabriel Durant Hollis FAIA

**NOTE:** Based on the new governance model, the Vice President positions will go away. This will be the last election of AIA National Component Vice Presidents if the governance model is approved by the general membership at the AIA Convention in June 2014. The Secretary and Treasurer positions will remain.



THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

**REGIONAL YOUNG ARCHITECTS FORUM DIRECTOR NEEDED**

Corey Clayborne AIA will be stepping down from his position as Regional YAF Director this December and will be stepping onto the VSAIA Board of Directors. YAF is looking to recruit a Regional Director for the Virginias for a two year term starting January 2014. If anybody is interested, contact Corey at [cclayborne@wileywilson.com](mailto:cclayborne@wileywilson.com)

END REPORT