**AIA Virginia Membership Meeting: Government Advocacy Advisory Council Update**

Throughout 2017, our focus has been on meeting several strategic plan goals. We have worked to build relationships with legislators, policy-makers, and government officials in order to position ourselves as the authoritative resource for design, building, resiliency, sustainability and policy issues.

* We identified and built or renewed relationships with key influencers in General Assembly and on Capitol Hill in DC. Those relationships were particularly beneficial as we worked to preserve the Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit during the 2017 legislative session.
* Issues surrounding public procurement usually take the bulk of our time, but this year we didn’t have quite as many battles to fight in this arena. We kept a close watch on a number of bills, but stayed out the fray for the most part as other entities duked it out.
* There was some movement on the efforts in the General Assembly to redefine what constitutes a small business in Virginia, though minor. We anticipate this will be an issue that will be considered again in the 2018 session. Though AIA Virginia doesn’t take a position on this issue (because we have members with strong views at both ends of the spectrum), we try to keep you informed of activity on this front so you can advocate your positions directly.
* We saw lots of regulatory bills last session and anticipate that we’ll continue to see bills focused on reducing regulatory burdens in Virginia in the upcoming session. We watch these carefully to ensure that the health, safety and welfare of the public isn’t jeopardized.
* We’ll be keeping a close eye on the elections next week and we will work to build and renew relationships with new members of the General Assembly and the leaders of key committees.
* In June, we adopted a Directory of Public Policies and Position Statements which incorporates the principles of the Virginia Accord and AIA Virginia’s and AIA National’s public positions into a comprehensive directory.
* This brings me to our final major area of focus in the first half of 2017: building a culture of support for the PAC. A strong PAC is critical to our advocacy efforts and is completely funded by donations from members just like me you. Remember: Our membership dues will dues will never, ever be used to support a candidate. Please give today at aiavapac.org/give.