

Minutes: AIA New England Quarterly Meeting

Wednesday, April 30, 2003

Boston Society of Architects

ATTENDEES:

AIA New England:	Domenic Carbone, Jr. AIA John Merkle, AIA Mohammad Farzan, AIA Carolyn Isaak	(President) President Elect)) (Treasurer) (Executive Director)
National Directors:	Scott Simpson, FAIA M. Hunter Ulf, AIA	
BSA:	Richard Fitzgerald Jim Dunn CPA, Assoc AIA	(Executive Director) (BSA Treasurer)
AIA Central Mass:	Nancy Jenner	(Executive Director)
AIA Massachusetts:	Peter Nobile, AIA	(President)
AIA Connecticut:	Diane Harp Jones Jonathan Wagner, AIA	(Executive Director) (President)
AIA Maine:	-	
AIA New Hampshire:	Douglas Bencks, AIA Carolyn Isaak	(President) (Executive Director)
AIA Rhode Island:	Sandy Taylor, AIA	(President-Elect)
AIA Vermont:	-	-
AIA Western Mass:	Jonathan Salvon, AIA	(President)
Nat'l Assoc. Comm:		
Guests:	Jack Franzan, AIA	

1. CALL TO ORDER: Called to order at 2:00 PM. The Minutes of the Feb 27, 2002 Meeting were reviewed and accepted.

2. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

DC talked about his goal's: 1) more advanced information from National: we are getting there, but should continue to promote this. 2) to elect the National director a year in advance of the beginning of the term. The idea is to bring a person on board a year ahead to learn the ropes. HU spoke to the fact that the first year is very difficult; coming on the board is a daunting task. If someone came on without regional level involvement, it could be overwhelming. So it's a good idea. Drawback is that if the person is not currently on NE board, that would extend his/her commitment by one-year.

Peter N made motion to change the election process as proposed. Voted in favor unanimously. New director will be elected one FAIA, current vice president, has been very involved though hasn't had as much time on the board. SS: Steve is very good guy state architect in CA; being a state employee time might be an issue. Doug is very calm. Very capable. Robin, since hasn't been a director, is a little bit of an interloper. Very tight race between Steve and Doug. HU: Doug committed to helping members become better practitioners, through knowledge sharing, advertising, and to prove value of architects to the committee: Steve's priorities: National to provide whatever necessary to components to empower them more. Interested in improving internal National communications and externally with components and general public. Considers advocacy a priority. Scott S. recommends that we go to the convention, listen to candidates, talk with them, and make up our own minds on who would be best. NJ: The experience the directors have is as valuable as the speeches. HU: Thinks Jerome and Robin might be his least attractive candidates, but among the rest thinks any of them will do a good job. NJ: Thinks both Stephan and Doug are good. Stephan has appealing background and did some good things as secretary—well aligned with younger practitioners and has a good rapport with the membership. JF: Thinks the premise that either Stephan or Doug would be good is correct; Doug was the first person to see the problems with the financial situation, which is a good recommendation. He is easy to approach. So this fall two directors will be elected; one to replace Scott in January, one to replace Hunter in

Jan. 05. Scott's replacement will come from the CT Chapter. Hunter's replacement will come from either NH, ME, VT, RI, Central MA, or Western MA.

John Hoffman, AIA, from CT is proposed by CT to be the next AIANE Regional Director. He is a past-president of CT. NJ mentioned that for the future we should think about the diversity issue; anything we can do to diversify AIA Board from here in NE would be a good idea.

Hunter: In the past Directors have come to AIANE meeting and endorsed certain candidates. This year there is solid slate of candidates. One person running for treasurer-Jim Gatsch, FAIA-and they fully endorse him. For VP there are 4 candidates, all well-qualified: David Watkins, AIA; RK Stewart, AIA; Jerome Filler, FAIA; Paul D. Boney, FAIA; For First VP: Stephan Castellanos, FAIA, has experience in the institute and as CA director. Doug Steidl, FAIA; is currently the treasurer, a director from OH, and was a lightning rod during AIA difficulties in the past few years. Robin Ellerthorpe,

3. NATIONAL DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

1. Financially, the AIA has made a dramatic turnaround. Overall net assets have increased by \$1.8 million, and liabilities have decreased by \$0.8 million. Operating expenses have decreased by \$400k, and the line of credit has been held at zero.
2. The convention was the best-attended and promises to be the most profitable of all AIA conventions. Among the highlights were the AIA Host Chapter party at the San Diego Zoo and the induction of the new AIA Fellows at the Salk Institute. Also, Doug Steidl was elected vice president/president elect in a runoff, Jim Gatch was elected treasurer, and RK Stewart, Paul Boney, and David Watkins were elected vice presidents. Daniel Liebeskind gave a wonderful presentation about the WTC and received a standing ovation.
3. At the board meeting, we spent quite a bit of time talking about the licensing issue with regard to interior design. "Scenarios" were developed that are to be communicated to the components for lobbying purposes. his continues to be a controversial issue which will likely require further discussion before action is taken.
4. Other "Strategic Issue Groups" at the board meeting included Education, Communication, Membership, and Knowledge. As always, "Livable Communities" was a hot topic as well.
5. The advertising campaign continues to receive very good reviews and is apparently quite effective at raising consciousness about the AIA. The question is whether it will continue to be supported by a special dues assessment or will be folded into the main budget as an ongoing item.

In general, the Institute is in very good shape, both financially and professionally. Recent events have highlighted the value of design in our society, both in terms of symbolism (the World Trade Center redevelopment) and in every day living ("livable communities" and "green design"). Business continues to be mixed for many firms, with some being relatively busy and others experiencing some layoffs, but this is mostly a function of the economy. Hopefully, this will turn around soon.

Gold Medal: looking at how this is structured. Wasn't awarded this year.

There was also discussion about:

Documents: New elec version in works. J Dunn: (on documents committee) there is movement for business plan and it's been on table for years. New elec. Version 4.0 to come out in July. Beta study going on right now. That process went well. He thinks what is lacking is a vision, an idea of what documents should be. Provide over 9 million in revenue...elec docs taking over... no one understands exactly how the docs are being used. No way to really tell, no metering. Need strategic approach to documents. Production is languishing. New documents are produced, but don't have plan or personnel to make them available. DJ: We've been told there will be training available no later than end of summer, early fall, enabling us to do education programs with people in the industry. JD: They have spoken about it. Problem is that knowledge base on documents at AIA is so limited. Each new set of documents deserves its own educational program and experts. Jim Dunning is advocating for Directors to talk about this on National level.

Special Certification: Board voted to fund \$50,000 to do a special study on this and create a policy that can be

endorsed and acted upon. Committee to include people from different areas. Why don't we be a leader in this?

Hunter: Coming up, livable communities and public policies on architectural education. L Comm will include some advocacy issues. Education: Idea is to get some policy before NAB conference coming up.

Sandy: How available are HU and SS for meetings? Both said yes, anytime.

Dissemination of info: HU says that National sent out draft agenda to Eds and presidents of components. HU: also mentioned that AIANE region is very unique. Our board and components connect more than elsewhere except maybe in CA. SS: Would like to make a resolution to National board that all members should have individual vote. Moved, voted, and approved.

4. NATIONAL ASSOCIATES COMMITTEE:

National Associates Committee has launched Associate News, a monthly email to all Associate members. RADs from each region compile relevant information to be sent out in one email update to all members. Features to include:

- Hot off the Press
 - In the Works
 - Regional Spotlight
 - Calendar of Events
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- Rhode Island is slated to be in this month's Regional Spotlight. Steve Ehlbeck sent in an announcement regarding an informational IDP program at Roger Williams University on May 1. As part of Gary Graham's professional practice course, members of the RI registration board will join Sandy Taylor and Tom Cousineau, the state IDP coordinator, to discuss the path to licensure. Students, interns and Associate members are encouraged to attend. It will begin at 6:45 pm.
 - The Young Architects Committee in NH has been keeping busy as well. They participated in the coordination of the Skills USA – VICA state drafting competition held at Dover High School. VICA, the Vocational Industrial Clubs of America, hosts a wide range of vocational programs from architectural drafting to cosmetology. Every year the New Hampshire YACs develop and participate in the one-day high school drafting competition. This year's problem was to design a house with an emphasis on drafting techniques and decision-making. All the students were using some form of CAD over the course of the eight-hour competition. Three winners were chosen and the top candidate will attend a national competition in Kansas.
 - These types of programs have the strength to win national programming awards. Please keep the NAC posted about these fun and exciting programming ideas.

Please join the National Associates Committee in San Diego to honor the 2003 Award Recipients at the National Associates Committee Awards Reception, Thursday May 8th at 6:30 p.m. in the Green Room at the Marriott San Diego Hotel & Marina. Among those to be honored include:

- Chapter of the Year
 - IDP Outstanding Firm award
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- Last week's AIA Architect led off with a feature by the National Associates Committee. The NAC posed 3 questions to the candidates running for office in 2004 about public safety, specialization/certification, and responsibilities to interns. If you missed reading the article, but will be at Convention, I strongly encourage you to read the Candidates' responses. It's an effort on the part of the NAC to offer a level playing field upon which to compare respective candidates.
 - The NAC launched an effort to compile some information about the ARE in an effort to see what impact the exams and the licensing process are having, if at all, on the future of this profession.

We're looking to see how many sections are taken in a given year, how many pass the test in a given year and the number of candidates eligible to take the exam. I'm not yet sure how we're planning to coordinate the effort to get this information from NCARB and/or the state registration boards. We may call upon an Associate in each state to help us gather this information. I'll keep everyone posted about this effort.

5. CHAPTER REPORTS & DISCUSSION:

Central Mass: Katy Crockett reported on events in Central MA.

BSA: 135 people at annual day on the Hill. Issues: 40B, affordable housing; SBA; public school funding; interior design effort to get a practice act in MA (BSA's approach is to be conciliatory and clear about what they'd support. At an impasse at the moment).

New Hampshire: The March 21-22 IDID Conference was a success all around. We had the full amount allowed (84) for the LEED training, 86 for the banquet with John Todd, and 115 for the Saturday Workshops. We had 16 sponsors/exhibitors and made profit, and are planning to proceed for next year.

Our May 22 Chapter Meeting was hosted and sponsored by The Scott Lawson Group and Nobis Engineering. Both have new buildings in Concord, NH, designed by AIA/NH firms--Bruce Ronayne Hamilton Architects and Sheerr McCrystal Palson, respectively. We toured both buildings and had presentations on hazardous air pollutants and on open-book management.

On June 12 we will have our eagerly awaited annual house tour. This year we will visit a house designed by Banwell Architects and one by Sheerr and White Architects, then we'll board the MV Kearsarge for a tour around Lake Sunapee viewing many other new homes.

The Young Architects have selected their project for the 2004 Design Competition. It is for the Bethlehem, NH Women's Rural Entrepreneurial Network (WREN). WREN currently operates both as a training center, and as a gallery and store for its members. It also hosts a restaurant. It is seeking design advice for an adjacent vacant lot that would both accommodate its own office/gallery/space needs and add some additional retail space to add energy to downtown. Last year we had 8 submissions from interns and young architects for a small town library in Randolph, NH, and they were very well-received by the town.

We are planning our second annual Design Day in the fall, November 8, at the Kimball Jenkins Estate in Concord.

Rhode Island. Sandy reported on RI events.

Connecticut: AIA Connecticut is still offering an ARE Review series every Wednesday evening at its office - 85 Willow Street, New Haven, CT. AIA Connecticut's Fourth Annual Golf Tournament is scheduled for Tuesday, May 13th at the Traditions Golf Course in Wallingford. On May 15th AIA Connecticut and COTE will sponsor a day-long program entitled Geothermal Systems at the Southbury Hilton, 1284 Strongtown Road, Southbury. The Florence Griswold Museum in Old Lyme will be the site of a June 10th chapter meeting.

W. Mass: Jonathan reported on events in Western MA and the planning of the Annual conference for Sept. 19-21. Schedule is on the Western MA web site, www.wmaia.com.
WMAIA update:

AIANE Conference: Planning is on going but schedule is set (see wmaia.com). The call for entries went out a couple of weeks back.

Rundown of Events:

1. Dinner Meetings: We have two more dinner meetings this spring before we take our summer hiatus. May 8th is talk by our local Habitat for Humanity. June 11th we are having a tour of two homes in Conway designed by Turner Brooks.

2. Professional Development Seminars: We just completed our spring afternoon professional development seminars. We had a total of three (noted below), which when combined with our Dinner Meetings and Lectures provided our member the opportunity to meet the Commonwealth of Massachusetts' new requirement for continuing education.

Rules and Regulations of the Architectural Access Board

Presented by: Deborah A Ryan, Esq., Deborah A, Ryan & Associates

Intellectual Property with an Eye on Architecture

Presented by: Attorney Richard Michaud

Concrete Masonry Building Envelope Systems and the Massachusetts Energy Code

Presented by: Wagdy Anis, AIA

3. Lectures: We are just finishing up our spring lecture series which is co-sponsored with the University of Massachusetts. This year's lectures are on the following topics:

Frank Furness, H.H. Richardson, and the Idea of Unitarian Architecture

Presented by: Professor Michael Lewis, Williams College

Housing the Lowest Income Americans: Boston's 400 Year Struggle

Presented by: Lawrence Vale, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Translation and Perception: Gropius, Photography, Building

Presented by: Professor Karen Koehler, Lecturer, Smith College and Coordinator Five-College Architectural Studies Project

Designing in New England: Gordon Hall at the University of Massachusetts

Presented by: Professor Sigrid Miller Pollin, University of Massachusetts

(This lecture will be held May 7th.)

4. Outreach Programs: Coming up on the weekend of May 31 - June 1 we will be hosting a Box City at Sumner Avenue School in Springfield for 20 to 30 elementary school age children. It will be a two afternoon event focusing on buildings and cities.

Maine: Slowly, ever so slowly, Maine is showing signs of spring and with this annual celebration of rebirth comes hope for the Maine economy. Some of AIA Maine firms have experienced lay offs and project cancellations. Although the state's lean budget has been temporarily settled, more revenue is needed, and tax reform is in the wind.

There are more than a dozen legislative proposals being discussed before the current legislative session. In particular, one proposes a sales tax on all professional services except medical, and the other is a gross receipts tax. Since Maine legislators are under the gun to deal with budget shortfalls and rising property taxes, restructuring Maine's tax code within the next year is a real possibility. As in years past, AIA Maine will get it facts and figures together and work toward a common sense approach. AIA Maine is also promoting the adoption of a single, national model building code.

Vermont:

On March 19th the Chapter held a very successful program on "Internship, Mentoring and Your Firm". The panel; a 2nd Vice-President of NCARB, the IDP coordinator of Vermont and three members of the State Board of Registration for Architects made informative presentations, which were followed by many questions and answers.

AIA Vermont's future programs will be "Great Camps of The Adirondacks" with Harvey Kaiser on May 22nd. On June 21st the Chapter will board a bus to Montreal for a tour of Pointe-a-Calliere by Dan Hanganu the project Architect. The Executive Committee will have an all day retreat on June 27th.

International: RF reported on International members: 20-30 people each month show up at event for

international students. Looking at reforming NCARB etc because they've had trouble getting licensed, etc. RIBA members in NE have formed a local group.

7. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & FINANCIAL REPORT:

Budget: Carolyn presented the Year to Date Financial Report for AIANE.

New Bus: CT (DJ) seeing some economic recovery. RI: seems to be holding its own. JS: WMA going through it okay. Jack F: doesn't know a non-profit not planning something. All raising money for building; slowed down, but still moving and have not scrapped plans. DJ: No schools have scrapped plans. A few in WMA did halt projects. JD: heard horror stories from other parts of country, but NE seems to be doing okay. DC: certain sections bad, like retail/hotel in Chicago. NH: pretty solid except for north country; ME is hurting, paper industry is collapsing.

8. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 4: 29 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Carolyn Isaak (Executive Director)