

# **Minutes: AIA New England Quarterly Meeting**

Wednesday, May 26, 2004

BSA, Boston, MA

## **ATTENDEES:**

### **AIA New England:**

John Merkle, AIA	President
Mohammad Farzan, AIA	Treasurer
Carolyn Isaak	Executive Director

### **National Directors:**

M. Hunter Ulf, AIA  
John Hoffmann, FAIA

### **BSA:**

Richard Fitzgerald	Executive Director
George Metzger, AIA	Vice-president
Jim Dunn CPA, Assoc AIA	BSA Treasurer

### **AIA Central Mass:**

Paul Woyda, AIA	President
Nancy Jenner	Executive Director

### **AIA Massachusetts:**

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### **AIA Connecticut:**

Diane Harp Jones	Executive Director
Richard Turlington, AIA	President

### **AIA Maine:**

Dean Blingham, AIA

### **AIA New Hampshire:**

Carolyn Isaak

### **AIA Rhode Island:**

Tom Cousineau, AIA

### **AIA Vermont:**

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### **AIA Western Mass:**

Erica Gees, AIA

### **Nat'l Assoc. Comm:**

Jessica Zlotogura, AIA

### **Guests:**

Leslie Thomas, AIA

**1. CALL TO ORDER:** Called to order at 2:10 PM. The Minutes of the Feb 24, 2004 Meeting were reviewed and accepted.

## **2. PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

John M opened the meeting. John has made three visits to components, all very informative. In March he went to WMA's first annual retreat, brainstorming session. Great ideas and energy, and it was well organized. In April he went to Orange, CT for a tour and panel discussion. Last December he went to the Maine awards banquet, also informative and entertaining. Most groups talking about the same issues.

Reported on a newly Senate approved AIA-supported amendment to the corporate tax bill that put architects into the legislation's tax cut provisions. The amendment would extend a \$200 million tax cut to architects and engineers. To become law, the cut must survive a House-Senate conference committee and be signed by the President. The Senate also stripped from the JOBS/tax bill a provision that would have repealed the 10 percent tax credit for preservation of historic buildings.

## **3. ANNUAL CONVENTION**

Candidates for National Office—This AIANE meeting is one in which we can get insights from our Director's regarding the candidates. Also there are a number of bylaws and resolutions that carry more weight than in previous years. Board is starting to focus more on governance issues. The delegate book has more in it than in many years. The slate of candidates is first rate this year.

Hunter gave a review of candidates. First vice president (president 2006). D Watkins dropped out. Kate Schwensen has a lot to offer. She is currently vice president and involved in architectural education. Currently Dean of Architecture in Iowa. Has everything needed to lead the Institute.

Gaines Hall was on board twice before, however there is an awful lot that's happened in the last two years. Kate is up to speed and could jump right in.

Vice President: six people running for three positions. Hunter has worked with John Baker, Thomas Mathison, and in his incoming directorship class. John Baker is a lawyer and architect and brings a great perspective to the board. Has more of an owner's point of view than an architect's point of view. His law practice focuses on construction law. Thomas Mathison has great presentation ability and is the only candidate who called him to ask what the issues are, etc. Can connect with people. Very involved with Michigan region; does have pulse on what leadership thinks and feels. Great leadership qualities and understands what's happening at membership level.

Stephen Swicegood has good grasp of finances. An amazing designer as well. Speaks up a lot during board meetings with insightful comments. All three would be excellent choices. Shannon Kraus is a bright, young guy. At Grassroots gave his whole speech from memory. Hasn't come up through the components in a leadership level, which might not matter at all. He was involved in the AIAS, however. Nancy commented that he really represents young designers and a growing part of the profession. John H. was very impressed with his presentation at the December board meeting.

Scott Simpson, former AIANE Director, was nominated through VT chapter. Started his directorship during the worst time for AIA at the Monterey, Mexico meeting. Scott was very instrumental in bringing reality to the situation and good business and financial advice. Good with financial issues. Scott is now CEO of a very large firm and there is concern about the time element needed for the job. RK Stewart running for second term as vice president. He's very involved with emerging professionals and IDP. He feels there's still a long way to go with this work and wants to continue. He is also leading the specialty certification group. John H said there is a push to have the vice presidency be a two-year term. Michael Hrick has worked with developing the knowledge committee. Has dropped out.

Diane H. Jones has served on National licensing committee with John Baker, which he now chairs. He has been insightful and has encouraged people on the committee to get to a decision and hasn't pushed his own idea.

Hunter: the slate of VP candidates highlights the necessity to attend the candidates' speeches at the Convention. Can't go wrong with any of the VP candidates.

Secretary: Three people running. Two were in Hunter's class. John Senhauser and Hunter just led effort to change the rules for the Gold Medal awards. So he's spent time with him. In his mind secretary's position requires thorough knowledge of policy as well as mechanics of board meetings, rules, etc. Feels John is immensely capable in that area. Orlando Maione is a great guy, just not sure he has the energy to do this job. Bob Middlebrooks would be a good choice, too. He is sharp and understands mechanics of how it all works. John Hoffman has known Orlando for 15 years or more. He agrees with Hunter that John S would be his first choice.

Bylaws:

Amendment 04-A — allowing one more director from New York on the board due to changing demographics. If this doesn't pass, then NY loses a director. They spent a lot of time talking about this.

B: To increase the number of vice presidents to four and their term of office to two years in staggered terms, two elected in even years, two in odd years. Will help with continuity. Jim Dunn: does this mean representation comes mainly from large firms due to the commitment? Hunter says, yes. John H disagrees and says that some from small firms still manage to make the commitment.

C: Removal of limits on consecutive terms for regional directors...Hunter and John voted opposite on this as well. Same issues apply as in B. Some regions have hard time coming up with directors. If leave it open, region can decide for itself.

D: Voting rights for CACE Representative on Executive Committee...they can vote on board, so they should be able to vote on Ex Com.

Resolutions:

04-1 Dues increase in support of the Institute's annual advertising campaigns, rather than tacking it on as an assessment. It was originally held out from dues to make sure it went toward advertising; now there is more trust in management and the advertising campaign is well structured and working. Questions as to why the resolution still stipulates that exact figure of \$50 is for advertising, really only need at resolution to make the \$50 assessment permanent.

04-2 Opposition to this is about spending the money to collect data. Chicago is putting forth a counter resolution to pass resolution without the funds for collecting data.

04-3 Evolving the Intern Development Program.

The resolution changed several times. Core of it is that AIA wants to be more involved in the IDP program. Makes sense that AIA has input on IDP program. Gene Hopkins developed memorandum of understanding between NCARB and AIA. Jessica: National Associates committee hasn't endorsed it. The resolution doesn't really say anything, it is wishy-washy. Doesn't accomplish anything, however John says it does... it diffuses original California resolution which was too strong.

#### **4. DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

Hunter: just got agenda of next board meeting. He is bringing to the meeting the affiliate member discount issue. Also will discuss specialty certification.

#### **5. NATIONAL ASSOCIATES DIRECTOR REPORT:**

Jessica: Has been following the issue of interns registering to take the exam in another state while doing IDP somewhere else...in MA, answer is yes. Thorny issue is when you go for reciprocity in another state...no one really knows. So you need to find out individually within your own states. If any associates need assistance, contact Jessica.

Associates are pushing for recognition of National Community Service month.

#### **6. COMPONENT REPORTS & DISCUSSION:**

**BSA:** Richard: CE now mandatory. Requirements are identical to AIA. Mini Build Boston scheduled for April on Residential Design. Inaugurated a research grant program. First proposals are due next week. This is an effort to connect world of research to world of practitioners. Big thing going on is the development of the greenway...27 acres! It's a lot of space.... Legislative: George said that friction between governor and legislature is now moving forward somewhat. Construction reform: BSA is on the commission. Governor suspended the school building construction act last year, and there is a proposal to get that going again. Has been discussion around interior design. BSA is talking to the interior designers. Three people on a task force with MIDC. Came to an agreement that MIDC would work to accomplish the bar that we set. But they filed a bill without their input and they had to kill it.

**Rhode Island:** The chapter has followed up its commitment to provide free opportunities for continuing education to its members with building and fire code seminars in February and May. The average attendance was 80 people, more than double the average in previous years (when continuing education wasn't mandatory in the state). The attendance included an average of 10 non-AIA, paying attendees and with sponsorships netted \$1,000 and \$600 respectively in revenue for the chapter.

An Associates Reception on March 29 kicked off our new Associates program. Both Michael Ayles (YAF-CT) and Jonathan Taylor (IDP coordinator-BSA) attended. The Associates joined with the Young Constructors Forum to participate in *Rebuilding Together*, a day of building community

service projects throughout the city on April 24<sup>th</sup>. Other upcoming events include a building construction tour on June 23<sup>rd</sup>. Interns will fill out mock field reports to assist in meeting IDP units for Construction Administration. We have also received a request by one of our members to start a Young Architects Forum.

The chapter has continued to spearhead the *Coalition for a Unified and Effective Code*. The chapter hosted a community forum on April 29<sup>th</sup> with 40 people representing 30 major organizations, the governor's office, as well as the building and fire marshal's office. We are in the process of formally signing on organizations in preparation for next year's legislative push. In the meantime, we have clearly gotten the attention of the building inspectors and fire marshals, who have pledged to cooperate to eliminate conflicts in the current code. We will have a steering committee meeting of the Coalition on June 3<sup>rd</sup>, which will include the leaders of the AGC, the Providence Foundation, RIBA, RI Historic Preservation Commission, and the Governor's Economic Policy Council.

Tom Cousineau participated in a Mentoring Forum at Roger Williams University on April 29<sup>th</sup> with Gary Graham.

The scholarship committee met in April and awarded 5 scholarships totaling \$10,800. This year's Golf Tournament benefiting the scholarship fund will be held August 16<sup>th</sup>.

Our Corporate Affiliates Recognition night is June 30<sup>th</sup> at the Art Club in Providence. The social hour and recognition of affiliates will be followed by an AIA Trust seminar for members. We have designed a new brochure to market to affiliates and will produce a program that gives a short description of each affiliate's service. This program will be distributed to members to raise the profile and added-value for affiliates. The hope is to reactivate the program, which has languished in recent years after a strong start.

As far as other ongoing projects, we are planning to produce a member directory (the first hardcopy since 2000) and bring our new website on-line before the end of the year. The generous offer by Roger Williams University to donate space for a chapter office downtown has fallen through due to structural problems with the building.

**CT:** Diane: Thank you to RI for mandating CE. All of CT's CE programs are now successful! Can we do our winter AIANE meeting at BSA residential show? Thanked John M for attending their meeting. Just finished their Alice Washburn awards program with CT magazine. Very successful to have a local magazine carry stuff like that. Just finished Can-struction project. Began a mentoring program this year....second mentoring program schedule for June hosted by firm principals. Have been running a series this winter and spring on project delivery methods. CT Architecture Foundation will have annual distinguished leadership luncheon in June. Most important thing to do is not honor someone who deserves it, but to honor someone with name recognition... hates to say it. On June 28, 5 pm, Doug Steidl will be joining them for a chapter meeting reception. Would love anyone in the region to come. Every 18-24 months their PR committee hosts a meeting at a hospital in CT in which there members are handicapped. The committee escorts them through the facility. Needed to be contractors and building owners. Will host first regatta in July. Last but not least, in CT have ongoing legislative issues. They have a new commissioner of the Dept of Public works who has been challenging...his philosophy is that everyone in the industry is guilty of wrong doing! On June 22 they're presenting different paradigms on delivery, New Haven. Richard Turlington questioned how we handle nominating fellowship in regard to ethics; had a letter from irate member. There will be a status report form National Board on review of criteria for fellowship (Hunter). Will communicate the concern with National Board. Richard: if you have a member who you believe is acting unethically you report him/her to National.

**Western MA:** Erica: We concluded the spring portion our WMAIA/UMASS lecture series on April 20 with a lecture and slide presentation by Patricia Phillips Site Seeing Observing Public Art. Other guest speakers this semester included Heidi Gilpin Moving Embodied Architectures: Performance and New Media, Anthony Deen Meeting Points: Architecture in a Multidisciplinary Practice and Yes Weinand New Modeling. This has been a very successful series with a broad spectrum of members and non-members attending.

Our dinner programs included a presentation by Daniel O'Connell and Sons Building the unbuildable, which was sold out. Our final dinner program for the spring is a tour of Mount Holyoke College Science Complex and Blanchard Campus Center. Both of these programs have sold out.

Our afternoon professional development series included a presentation by the Rita Seraderian P.E. of PCI Architectural Precast and Integrated Building Systems, Eric Wight – Building Code-Streamlining plan reviews and Steven Simulski PhD: Avoiding Moisture Problems in Energy Efficient Wood Frame Houses. This spring program is always very successful in that it focuses on topics that relevant to our members and other area professionals. This series also often attracts local contractors.

Thanked John M for attending their retreat and for his comments, which people are still commenting on favorably. This was\ our first annual retreat for all our members. We had approximately 25% of our members attending in addition to graduate students from the UMASS architecture program. Our focus was "Architecture and Design and our Presence Regionally" Three themes were presented for discussion within the context of our focus: Media, Programs and Awards and Education. As a result of the ideas generated at the retreat and a strong desire on the part of the executive committee for more presence in our region we have begun with the redesign of our website. We are getting ready to launch our website this fall. Kevin Chrobak a member of our executive committee has taken the lead on this. Julie Waggoner another member has taken the lead on contacts with the local press for an ongoing series of articles on regional architecture and better awareness and coverage of our members in general. Sigrid Miller Pollin our liaison at UMASS is working on starting a local chapter of AIAS. Our chapter has also begun an annual award for students at UMASS as have a few local firms. We hope to expand this with more firms participating. Next year the Architecture degree program officially begins with its first enrolled class. Part of the degree will include a semester internship practicum. We are considering options for our role in fostering this liaison with our members. Many other suggestions were made at the retreat that we are beginning to implement.

**New Hampshire:** New Hampshire is creating a new educational program, NH Learning by Design. BSA's Polly Carpenter has been advising and Leslie Thomas has been setting up the program with the assistance of the Education Committee. We will go into fourth grades for three consecutive weeks, one day each, in October, with the end result being a model "Shoebox Clubhouse" the students will design and construct. The Public Relations Committee is working on a couple of journalistic initiatives: NH: Design Matters and Point Counter point, the former for the public media and the latter for the NH forum. They are also setting up an AIANH Speakers Bureau. The 2005 Awards Program and Intern Competition are beginning. The 2004 IDID Conference on March 26-27 was very successful. The group is now planning for its next event, probably in the fall of 2005. Recently had a tour of the Stata Center in Cambridge, and the June AIANH event will be a tour of the Zimmerman House in Manchester.

John Merkle suggested we put out a call for books to be donated to the Umass library for their new architecture program.

**Maine:** The state legislature recently enacted the first-ever model building code, however it is voluntary. If a community institute's something, they must put in the IBC. But they can keep what they have now. Maine is way behind in collecting taxes; a tax cap voted on in November puts the state in a serious financial bind. They were successful in halting a cookie-cutter school plan. DownEast Magazine had an article about hiring an architect and the Chapter received a number of inquiries

afterwards. They are changing their Design Award Schedule. It will start in the fall, with submissions due in February for a gala celebration in June.

**Central MA:** Paul reported that Central MA continues on with its professional development series. They are putting together their annual scholarship awards jury. Nancy Jenner and Paul are starting work on next year's AIANE Regional Conference.

**7. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & FINANCIAL REPORT:**

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

**8. ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 5:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Carolyn Isaak (Executive Director)