

Minutes: AIA New England Quarterly Meeting

Wednesday, February 13, 2002

Boston Society of Architects

ATTENDEES:

AIA New England:	Kerry Dietz, AIA	(President)
	John Merkle, AIA	(Treasurer)
	Barbara Conrey, AIA	(Executive Director)
National Directors:	Scott Simpson, FAIA	
	M. Hunter Ulf, AIA	
BSA:	Richard Fitzgerald	(Executive Director)
AIA Central Mass:	Nancy Jenner	(Executive Director)
AIA Massachusetts:	Marty Smith, AIA	(President)
AIA Connecticut:	-	
AIA Maine:	-	
AIA New Hampshire:	John Merkle, AIA	(Past President)
	Carolyn Isaak	(Executive Director)
AIA Rhode Island:	Martha Werenfels, AIA	(President)
AIA Vermont:	-	
AIA Western Mass:	Marty Smith, AIA	(President)
Nat'l Assoc. Comm:	Helen Risom Belluschi	National Director
Guests:	Michael Ayles, AIA	YAF National Advisory Committee

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Called to order at 2:00 PM. Attendees were introduced. The Minutes of the November 14, 2001 Meeting were reviewed.

2. **PRESIDENT'S REPORT:**

Kerry welcomed the board and read the AIA New England Mission Statement. She reviewed her goals for the year: increase communication through the web site and e-newsletter, better serve members through attendance at the NE annual meeting, and increase participation from the regional schools.

Nancy questioned the board on the preferred frequency of the e-newsletter; it was decided to offer it quarterly after the Board meetings. She also suggested that editorial guidelines would be useful. Distribution: 3 components send them out themselves, while she emails all others. Kerry would like to see the newsletter tied into the web site, along with schedules of national events. Nancy indicates that she receives about 5-10% "bounce back," the need for accurate email addresses was stressed.

Executive Director: Kerry noted that Carolyn Isaak is interested in the position being vacated by Barbara Conrey. Richard moved that Kerry be empowered to enter into negotiations with her on behalf of the Exec. Committee. Hunter Ulf offered thanks and acknowledgement from the region to Barbara for her 6 years as Executive Director.

TIMMS: Nancy indicated that the taskforce is no longer in "crisis management," and that the system has more capability than is being used. Carolyn feels that it is working better; Richard reiterated that it is more flexible for small components. Richard suggested a letter from Kerry to National on the TIMMS resolution.

3. **NATIONAL DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

Hunter noted that the Board Agenda is not yet out, but the new Board "chat rooms" have begun some dialog among Directors.

Ad Campaign: The \$50 surcharge was passed for an additional 3 years. In 2002 the ads will be aligned with AIM objectives. They are setting goals now to evaluate data and establish a direction using audience research and measurement. Kerry emphasized that they must keep members informed.

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Finances: The outlook is good. Despite a \$1.5 million shortfall from contract documents, there is a net income of \$1.4 million above budget due to “belt tightening”. The asset reserves are now \$1.5 million in the red, with projections of \$2.5 million in black in less than 3 years. Contract documents are going to web-based; Nancy indicated the movement is toward “pay per use” rather than licensing has reduced income.

Inclusiveness: The expansion of the “membership umbrella” was discussed. The AIA needs to empower non-traditional membership types; there are a decreasing number of licensed architects amongst graduates and in firms. Richard predicted that we may see the number of licensed members exceeded by non-licensed. Nancy encouraged provision of services to a broader audience. Kerry noted that there is not a concerted effort to reach out to minorities, women, etc. with services. Marty suggested that a “public institution” category should be added. Barbara noted that educators are not served; Hunter concluded that no group feels that their needs are being met.

Process: Hunter noted that written input from the New England board is helpful, even if it can't be placed on the National agenda. Gordon Chong sees to be a process person around the AIM objectives; Hunter noted that the last board meeting produced more “focused” discussions than in the past.

Helen moved to place an Associate Member on the national Executive Committee as a voting member, effective for 2004; seconded by Martha. The vote was unanimous.

4. GRASSROOTS:

Nancy described the upcoming Grassroots programs, focused on component leadership.

5. CHAPTER REPORTS & DISCUSSION:

Central Mass: They are hosting a design awards program with Preservation Worcester and will use to proceeds to better the profession.

BSA: They are focused on professional development, particularly the Young Designers Professional Development Institute, which is getting good press. They have contracted with RedVector.com to provide online development opportunities. Their K-12 program “Learning by Design” will teach teachers as well as kids.

New Hampshire: They have reissued their “Guide to Services”, sponsored a Design Day in October, and will host chapter meetings on the old State Hospital Campus.

Rhode Island: Martha and the board are working on expanding and engaging Fellows, Past Presidents, and intern architects. They will have a joint meeting with ASLA, and host a birdhouse competition as part of an effort for more visibility. They will continue with their annual Golf Tournament for scholarships; they raise more than \$10,000/ year.

Connecticut: Michael and Helen reported that Connecticut will be doing their golf tournament for the third year, and Construction will happen next week. They are preparing for the 100th anniversary of the chapter.

W. Mass: They are planning a 3 part professional development series: codes, registration issues, and the Mass energy code. In May they will host a meeting at “The Porches” in North Adams, and will host their Design Awards this year. They are sending out a questionnaire to members on the newsletter.

Maine: No report.

Vermont: No report.

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6. NATIONAL ASSOCIATE'S PROPOSAL:

Michael Ayles appeared to ask for a Young Architect's Forum representative on the regional board. He is also looking for his own replacement as Regional Liaison. Kerry questioned the difference between the YAF and Associates; the YAF members are licensed architects.

Several Board members questioned the need, since there is not a separate member category for the YAF. All 5 chapters represented indicated that they have Associates on their board or Ex Com. Young architects should be represented by the Member category. Michael indicated that funding for the YAF was not an issue (he was not requesting money) but that representation was the issue. He will re-send his email from January 18 asking for a Regional Liaison; the New England board members will forward a list of nominees and the Ex Com will select his replacement.

Helen reminded the board that a N.A.C. nominee is needed to replace her as well. Richard nominated Jessica Zlotogura from Tsoi/Kobus; Helen seconded. Helen also reminded the board that the Associate's rep would now be funded by the new associate dues for the region.

By-laws: Kerry asked for a clarification on what "components" represents. Richard suggested keeping the by-laws vague and discretionary; Kerry asked him and John Merkle to propose revisions to the by-laws.

Richard proposed that the board consider the officers and whomever the President wants to ace as the Ex Com at this time. Martha seconded; passed unanimously.

7. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & FINANCIAL REPORT:

Board Books for 2002: Barbara distributed the Board Books for 2002 to the board, Directors, and N.A.C. representative. The books contain the meeting dates, recent Minutes, Bylaws and Strategic Plan. She will send out the new Rosters once she has received all of the new officers from the components.

Grassroots Dinner: Due to prior commitments, it was decided that the region should meet on Wednesday as scheduled. Barbara will notify Domenic that everyone will meet at 6:00 in the lobby of the hotel.

Budget: The new draft Budget for 2002 was discussed. Barbara will revise the dues amounts based on the counts she receives from the Chapters of their Members and Associates. She noted increases from the 2001 budget: \$2500 to reimburse the National Associate's representative, \$300 to purchase an exhibit system for the award boards, and increases to the Newsletter print and mailing for expanded distribution to the all licensed architects as well as Members and Associates in the region. Richard proposed that the host chapter of the annual Design Award program should contribute a portion of the proceeds for assistance with the program; \$2000 was decided upon. Richard moved approval of the revised budget; John seconded. Passed unanimously.

8. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Conrey, AIA (Executive Director)

