

Minutes: AIA New England Quarterly Meeting

Wednesday, November 17, 2004 Build Boston, Seaport Trade Center, Boston, MA

ATTENDEES:

AIA New England:

John Merkle, AIA President
Mohammad Farzan, AIA (President Elect)
Greg Ames, AIA (Treasurer)
Carolyn Isaak (Executive Director)

National Directors:

M. Hunter Ulf, AIA
John Hoffmann, FAIA (Executive Director)
Richard Fitzgerald (Vice President)
George Metzger, AIA
Robert Sturgis, FAIA

AIA Central Mass:

Paul Woyda, AIA (President)
Stephen Fleshman, AIA (President Elect)
Nancy Jenner (Executive Director)

AIA Massachusetts:

Katie Crockett (Vice President)

AIA Connecticut:

Diane Harp Jones (Executive Director)

Pat Myler, AIA President

AIA Maine:

Dean Bingham, AIA (President)

AIA New Hampshire:

Amy Bailey, AIA (President Elect)

Carolyn Isaak (Executive Director)

AIA Rhode Island:

Tom Cousineau, AIA (President Elect)

Kathleen Bartels, AIA President

AIA Vermont:

Donna Leban, AIA (President)

David Epstein, AIA (President-Elect)

Michael Hoffman, AIA (Secretary-Treasurer)

AIA Western Mass:

Erica Gees, AIA (President)

Jonathan Salvon, AIA (Past President)

Nat'l Assoc. Comm:

Jessica Zlotogura, AIA

1. CALL TO ORDER: Called to order at 12:10 PM. Introductions were made. The Minutes of the September 1, 2004 Meeting were reviewed and accepted.

2. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

JM noted that we had a great conference in Vermont. Michael Hoffman has a CD of a video on the juring that is available.

JM circulated an email received from Bruce Dicker for later discussion.

New officers were elected at the Annual Meeting: Mohamad Farzan, President; Greg Ames, Pres Elect; and Erica Gees, Treasurer. Leslie Thomas will be the new Regional Director, filling Hunter's position. JM presented Hunter with a certificate and thanked him for his exemplary service to the Region.

Hunter noted that it was his pleasure. It started out pretty rough with the Institute's financial problems and some initiative failures as well as some lack of trust between components and National. But things have turned around dramatically, and he feels that Leslie is going in to this at an opportune time; the Board has worked very hard to take the Institute back. He reaffirmed that the Board is the highest governing authority of AIA and it has now resumed that responsibility. Hunter offered his appreciation and said that he will miss this group.

3. NATIONAL DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

The Directors are preparing for the December National Board meeting.

John Hoffmann said that this past year on the board has been very positive. There is a push to have a new executive vice president in place very soon. They are now establishing the criteria and a process for creation of the position, headed up by Thom Penny.

JH talked about the bill and Bruce Dicker's email. This is in regard to the AIA's supporting a bill to categorize architects as "manufacturers" in order to take advantage of corporate tax relief on overseas projects. JH commented that he agreed this is not what we want to leave as a legacy to our grandchildren. This was, in his opinion, a position taken by the staff, and that the Board will be more active in these decisions in the future so that such things don't happen. But, he stated at this point AIA is not going to go back and say please take architects out of this bill. Bruce's email is available if you wish to read it. Contact Carolyn Isaak at office@aianh.org.

Nominees for Gold Medal will be coming in.

Specialty certification will be under discussion. John asked for people's feelings about these issues. JZ is on the Specialty Certification task Force. They met with a consultant regarding certification issues. It is a much more political issue than she was aware. She feels that if the Board is willing to listen to someone's argument for specialization it means they are willing to entertain something in that regard. The Task Force feels that the AIA does not have the capacity to run a certification program on its own. Hunter agreed that the board felt they should not be in the business of certifying, but they should be involved in the way it happens.

Some people see things happening horizontally, like healthcare specialization, and they are concerned about other groups establishing certification authority. The fear is that that the profession will splinter if AIA doesn't take some active role. And there is a fear that RFP's will start requiring specific certification. How would the general practitioner fit in? JZ is not sure the board will take a position on this, but does want a way to approve or reject a proposal.

Nancy pointed out that the issue is well articulated in Victoria Beech's article in the latest Architecture Boston..

DHJ asked if there was a member who consults with the Government Affairs people at National before a political agenda is established for the year? Hunter said that no one is quite sure how that happens, it is the people in legislative affairs who seem to determine it. National has sent an email to request ideas and concerns about advocacy issues at Grassroots, so we should respond. JH has a Government Advocacy plan received on the 12th.

DHJ: Is Board making sure Documents committee can continue to expand and grow; is money being spent in developing new resources. Hunter responded that the Document committee has a backlog of documents that have been developed and not released, the money is now coming through to do that.

JH: Candidates for offices will be nominated at December meeting.

Note: NJ noted that Grassroots informative session for visits to the hill will be Wednesday afternoon, and hill visits on Thursday morning rather than the afternoon. So plan to be there Wednesday at noon.

4. NATIONAL ASSOCIATES COMMITTEE:

Associates Director Report from Kristin was read by Greg Ames (with enthusiasm). It read:

At the end of October, I attended my first national associates committee meeting in Washington, DC. It was an intensely amazing experience. Not only did we get training on leadership, effective meetings and such, but we learned about the power that Associates have to enlighten the AIA as a whole and effect positive change within the organization. The energy and vision of the group of Regional Associate Directors is incredible. Because the National Associates Committee is such a new organization, about 4 years old, many housekeeping duties must be performed to ensure success. In line with other regions, I strongly encourage all regions to have an Associate member sit on their Chapter's Board. Not only does this allow the Associates to have a voice and be represented, but to bring energy and excitement to the profession. I will be putting together a spreadsheet of Associate Directors for AIANE region and distributing this to the AIANE Board and the Associate Directors. My goal is to personally get to know the Associate Directors, and help them to understand their opportunities for growth and development within the AIA. As these relationships form, I will be better able to voice regional concerns to the National Associates Committee; thus improving the experience of Associates in our region. Ultimately this action is aimed at producing high quality Architects that feel supported and proud of their profession. I hope to have the support of the AIANE Board in accomplishing this goal. I am excited to be a part of such a caring and forward thinking organization, such as the AIA and the AIA New England Board.

Thank you,
Kristin Hatch

Greg passed around pamphlets on architectural careers and scholarships.

Jessica said it was a pleasure working with all of the Board and thanked the board for giving Associates an equal position on the board which doesn't happen in all components.

5. ANNUAL MEETING

Donna Leban reported on the recent AIANE Annual Meeting: Brockway Smith sponsored a reception on Friday evening; but the big action was when the fire alarm at the Middlebury Inn went off at 12:30 and guests were evacuated for 2 1/2 hours. The next day lectures and programs were very good. Glen Andres spoke on architecture and planning at Middlebury, including a nice orientation to the timeline of developments; they looked at some of the furnishings developed for the college's specific need for very sturdy furniture. Presented Glen with one of those chairs! Participants toured some of the newer buildings—library, residence halls, science building—with some project managers and students in pre-architecture. There was an exhibit of Art by Architects and the nine award winners at the Saturday reception; a banquet in the evening in front of a roaring fire; and a nice presentation by Michael Hoffman on the jurying process; and the distribution of awards. Sunday there was a tour of marble quarry in Danby; JM said it was really incredible; the largest marble quarry in the world.

They had about 110 people registered, 90 at the banquet. Vermont made money to support their Learning by Design program and a nest egg for outreach.

Next year's meeting is slated for Sept 30, Oct 1- in Central Mass—Concord, MA. They are considering emerging professionals as an overall theme and might have a parallel event on Saturday morning for young designers. Might make event in the evening more of a reception than a dinner—Nancy asked for opinions from those present.

6. CHAPTER REPORTS & DISCUSSION:

BSA: New program is their residential show in the spring, with 50 or so workshops and a trade show. They are actively seeking artisans for this show, as well. The show is scheduled for April 6-. A call will be in BSA's Currents.. Another new program is a research grant program. They awarded \$250,000 to nine research groups. Will have one-day symposium in spring to present their findings and announce next year's grants. This is open to everyone in the region and covers a range of topics; all abstracts are on their web site www.architects.org/grants. Applies to firms as well as academics. Object is to share research throughout the profession. Will publish the results, most likely on line.

Recent Architecture Boston is the first issue of the redesign, AB.

Central MA: Paul reported that they are building momentum for the 2005 Conference. Continuing on with their annual professional development series. 2005 Design Awards program will become a biennial program. They are in their third year of a primary education program in Worcester public school area; looking to expand in to other school districts.

Western MA: Erica reported that 30 students signed up for student membership and to get an AIAS group going. Lecture series is ongoing. Trying to focus more on Associates this year. Recurring discussion at meetings is how to get the public more aware of what architects and architecture are all about. Will do come public sessions with a video plus tours in Holyoke. Trying to work with planning boards and zoning boards in the area. Had an informal session with them and made suggestions as how they can use AIA. They were very receptive. At retreat last spring came up with idea of helping UMass library. Their first class comes in next fall. There is a list of titles that they need...how could AIANE help with this. RF said they could put notice in BSA Currents. There are opportunities for firms and individuals to make donations. Discussion followed about how to monitor donations so as not to overload on one volume, etc. A list of their needs was passed around.

Connecticut: Diane reported on their annual conference which included an historic train ride. They are looking to reshape their annual meeting structure; time for a change. Awards banquet is Dec 6 at Mark Twain Building in W Hartford. They continue with programming and planning for 2005. Will do their regatta again in June!

Rhode Island: Kathy Bartels reported on their Annual meeting, Nov. 15. New officers were elected. Tom is confirmed as president for next year. Steve White, dean of architecture at Roger Williams is president-elect. Showed *The Rural Studio* after their meeting; Kathy offered to loan it out. Proposed to chapter regarding hiring an executive director; met with Sharon Snow of BSA who will analyze their finances and propose a course of action. They are looking for someone who can manage database, help with corporate affiliates, and some event planning and sponsorship solicitation. If you have potential candidates, please let them now. Had emerging architects forum at end of September with about 90 people Their Associates group may merge with Young Architects Forum, rather than have two groups. Awards Dinner is Dec 9 at Harper Court in Newport.

Vermont: Donna reported that in October they toured (have had joint meetings with VT Green Building network) the NRG building, which is a LEED building. Next month's awards dinner is at Main St landing in Burlington. Proposed that in addition to design awards that they give a public award. She asked for advice and various ideas were put forth; client awards, craftsmanship awards, etc. In the planning stages for joint ski event with landscape architects, to coincide with Stowe's winter carnival. Have co-sponsored with Efficiency VT a conference which is by far largest gathering of architects during the year. Intended for builders and engineers as well. Out of that conference came the *High Performance Guidelines* by Efficiency VT. AIAVT helped edit it and got their name on it. Now in process of doing an owner's companion as the book is very geared to architects and designers. Book is also available on line, or free from Efficiency VT. You can take an exam at the back of the book and get LUs.

Maine: Dean Bingham reported that the speaker at their Annual Meeting will be Terry Ranken, FAIA, who will talk about his 40 years of practice, Dec. 2. Have a biannual design awards now, and banquet will be in the spring of 2006. Been having a hard time getting new board members. Next president is John Gordon, who will serve for two years. Last month they met with Gene Hopkins and Robin Lee to talk about Fellowship. Have an upgraded web site. Dean may attend AIANE meetings since John lives so far away.

New Hampshire: Carolyn reported that the first Learning by Design program was in October and very successful. We received 45 entries for the Awards program, juried by western MA, arranged by Eric Gees; The Intern/YA Competition brought 9 entries. The Banquet is January 14. All submissions are on exhibit Dec 8-Jan 14 at the NH Institute of Art in Manchester. NH gives Honorary member awards and is discussing initiating a client award. Fellowship committee makes the nominations. Our third Design Day was Nov. 6 in Concord, geared for non-designers to get an introduction and hands on experience in architecture, landscape design, and interior design. At our October Board Retreat, NH voted to bring our Associate Director to Grassroots at least once during their two-year term; We had a tour of three medical facilities in November; planning for 2005 is underway. Our president, Eric Palson has also written an article on specialization in the Nov NH Forum. AIAS group in Keene has met with AIANH and wants to participate. Among other things, they will write a column for the Forum. Our Intern study guides are now housed at the NH Technical Institute, and we will be updating them with assistance from NHTI.

7. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & FINANCIAL REPORT:

Budget: Carolyn presented the Year to Date Financial Report for AIANE. 2005 Budget was proposed and accepted unanimously.

Carolyn indicated that she will create a submission schedule for the AIANE Quarterly Newsletter. Richard noted that submissions should be relatively brief.

8. NATIONAL/LOCAL COLLABORATION:

The Board ended the meeting with a lengthy discussion on National/Local Collaboration. Following are some comments:

People don't know what they get out of National; how do we inform them? National doesn't want to compete with local components. Some things are best done by National: dues, legislative, documents, etc. As Board wrestles with these issues, they want to find out what components feel would be of most benefit. Correspondence that went out has a few questions for components. If there is an opportunity to create an alignment between what component and National is doing, it would benefit both.

Asking for feedback: Paul W—National provides continuity and assurance that what a component is working on is being carried out at a National Level.

AIA CT greatly values the National ad campaign. It is a direct member benefit that is best accomplished at the National level.

We wish we had more talking points on how AIA National benefits local members.

Board has created a policy framework for dealing with issues and requests; how does each item fit in with AIA agenda.

What services do you depend on? .David Epstein—Vt would benefit from technology assistance for components, for instance to create an email newsletter.

RF: Should be a drive to increase kid's interest in being architects. Could be done from the National level.

Create templates for certain programs.

Access to database for compilation for case studies of campaigns, for such things as professional services tax, tort reform, etc.

Erica: We're still not out there enough.

How can National help components, not just members? Could National create a database of resources, an informational database; a comparative database available for members, useful particularly to find consultants etc for specific technical issues, etc. Would help smaller firms to be competitive in specialized market.

Need an equivalent of the NEJournal of Medicine for architecture. Hunter said that AIAJ is an attempt to get there....

Need to coordinate research from independent groups and have it in one place. Donna—Should be a resource for when you need the information, not sending it out all of the time. Like a library catalogue. Erica: we are the perfect group to do this. Need to take a lead on this.

RF: National needs to recognize challenges as opportunities, not become defensive.

There was a lengthy discussion that led to topics about mentoring, emerging professionals, etc.

Further comments should be emailed to Hunter asap.

9. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 3:10 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Carolyn Isaak (Executive Director)