

Minutes: AIA New England Quarterly Meeting

Wednesday, November 19, 2003 Build Boston, World Trade Center, Boston

ATTENDEES:

AIA New England:	Domenic Carbone, Jr. AIA	(President)
	John Merkle, AIA	(President Elect))
	Mohammad Farzan, AIA	(Treasurer)
	Carolyn Isaak	(Executive Director)
National Directors:	M. Hunter Ulf, AIA	
	Jonathan Hoffman, AIA, (Incoming Regional Director	
BSA:	Richard Fitzgerald	(Executive Director)
AIA Central Mass:	Kathryn Crockett, AIA	(President)
AIA Massachusetts:	--	
AIA Connecticut:	Diane Harp Jones	(Executive Director)
	Richard Turlington, AIA	
AIA Maine:	Dean Bingham, AIA	(President)
AIA New Hampshire:	Douglas Bencks, AIA	(President)
	Carolyn Isaak	(Executive Director)
AIA Rhode Island:	Sandy Taylor, AIA	(President)
	Kathleen Bartels, AIA	
AIA Vermont:	--	-
AIA Western Mass:	John Salvon, AIA	(President)
	Marty Smith, AIA	
Nat'l Assoc. Comm:	Jessica Zlotogura, AIA	
College of Fellows Rep:	Patricia Sherman, FAIA	
Guests:	Greg Ames, AIA, CT, incoming AIANE treasurer;	
	Marcel Sammut, AIA, ME; William Truex, AIA, VT;	
	John Grondalski, AIA, MA;	

1. CALL TO ORDER: Called to order at 12:00 PM. The Minutes of the Sept 3, 2003 Meeting were reviewed and accepted.

2. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Domenic asked for introductions. Domenic reflected on his term as president and on the NE Board. He thanked Jonathan and Al and Alexandra for their work on the 2003 AIANE Conference. He also thanked ever-present host, Richard Fitzgerald. He indicated we had established a nice methodology for moving directors forward and on to the National board. We need to continue to pursue the notion of out-of-the-box thinking. He thinks we've been a precursor to that. Encourages us all to continue in that direction. Also need to make society aware of what architects can offer toward improving security, creating energy, in political leadership. We have been, and need to continue, to be engaged in these. Thanked everyone for his or her support.

Introduced 2004 officers: John Merkle, AIA, president; Mohamad Farzan, vp; Greg Ames, AIA, sec/treasurer.

Hunter introduced John Hoffman who is replacing Scott Simpson. Domenic exhibited the certificate given to Scott who wasn't able to be present. Hunter thanked him for the work he has done at the national level. Scott attended the Monterey, Mexico meeting several years ago that was a turning point in AIA finances. He led through a difficult time and worked hard to get things back on track. We all can be grateful to him.

Scott was elected from the BSA component to be regional representative. BSA and CT switch off on directors from those two components; other components elect the other director. When Hunter's term expires in 2004, Leslie Thomas, AIA will take over his position. John Hoffman will soon head to DC for his Board orientation and begin his term Jan. 1.

3. ANNUAL MEETING

There ere about 75 attendees; there was beautiful weather. Held at Shaker Village. Had a Friday afternoon program on historic properties; that evening had a reception; next day there were several tours. Domenic went to Mass MOCA, where 20% of the North Adams worked in its hey day. It was economically a death knell; today it has been adapted to be a new museum of modern art. There were also home tours. In the evening, the annual design awards. See <http://www.aianewengland.org/designawards.shtml> to view the winners. WMA doesn't have exact figures yet, but said they did okay overall on the conference.

4. NATIONAL DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Hunter gave an update on the last National Board meeting. A discussion followed regarding interns. Jessica spoke about the ARE exam. She said it had more to do with reading guidebooks than with what she does in the office. Patricia Sherman asked if the board discussed whether exam could be given right after school. Hunter replied that there was no formal resolution or position on this. PS surprised that AIA is not willing to make a statement in regard to this. HU: National board did take it upon itself to develop some policies prior to NAB convention. There weren't any black and white results from that conference.

There was a discussion of dues increase and whether or not they will continue to rise. It is board policy to raise dues by a small percentage each year. HU talked about the advertising dues assessment. AIA is now gaining some financial health, so maybe will put this assessment in to regular dues. Without the assessment, AIA could not have covered the level of advertising now in place. The advertising is proving successful. It focuses on how world perceives architects and how we need to change that. The \$50 will flesh itself out in 2004 as to whether we significantly raise dues to roll this in, or how we continue the assessment.

5. NATIONAL ASSOCIATES COMMITTEE:

The National Associates Committee, in conjunction with ArchVoices, has announced the results of the 2003 Internship & Career Survey. Both the full results and an executive summary can be found at www.aia.org. Click on the "E" for Emerging Professionals, then click on the word "Announcements."

The survey was delivered via email to 19,912 interns. 4,816 professionals took the time to respond to the survey, more than have responded to previous surveys about internship.

The search for the next Regional Associate Director has ended. Kristin Hatch, Associate AIA, has been nominated to serve New England from October 2004 – October 2006. Kristin, an enthusiastic candidate, comes to this position after serving the Emerging Professionals in AIA CT. Diane Harp Jones spoke for a few minutes about Kristin's background. Kristin will be invited to attend the next AIA NE Board meeting. She is funded to attend Grassroots 2004. Kristin will be invited to all Board Meetings in 2004 so she may gain a greater understanding of AIA NE and how to utilize the resources available to her and other Associates.

6. CHAPTER REPORTS & DISCUSSION:

Western Mass: Our fall official fall program began after the AIA New England Conference. So far we have had one legal seminar presented by Jay Gregory of Donovan Hatem and David Thompson, PE the topic was expert witnessing. We have had the first two in our six part lecture series cosponsored with the University of Massachusetts. The first 10/16 was presented by Frederick Schwartz of "THINK" the collaborative design team which was the "original" finalists in the re-design of the WTC site. The next 11/17 was presented by Delores Hayden an architectural and urban planning professor at Yale University, her topic was new perspectives on urbanism that include domesticity, gender and race. We have had to reschedule our October dinner meeting to sometime in January. We were going to touring the newly completed Smith College Campus Center. We have our annual meeting coming up in a few weeks, it will be held at the Brockway Smith manufacturing plant in Hatfield, Mass and include a tour of the expanded facility.

New Hampshire:

Our second annual Design School I set for November 8. Our newsletter, the NH Forum, continues to grow. We now have two pages each for the Granite State Landscape Architects and the Office of Sustainability Programs at the University of NH. Our second annual Intern/YA competition is underway, as well as our 20th annual Design Awards Program. The Board recently held its annual retreat. One item in discussion was about preparations for Grassroots. Last year we did not get information on issues in advance—we want to make our discussion with legislators more substantial. We're going to try to stir up some interest among our membership. Also looking to get more engaged in NH legislative affairs.

Rhode Island:

Chapter is about to inaugurate a revised Website with fresh new graphics, and an improved menu and content.

At an earlier members meeting this fall, the Chapter Mentoring Program was launched. It is apart from the AIA Intern Mentoring Program, in that its purpose is to bring together students from architectural schools with members of the profession.

At this same meeting, an effort was begun to create a YAF group in the state that would interact with a YCF (Young Constructors Forum) group already active locally. A representative from the RI YCF spoke at the gathering.

On November 8th, AIA/ri in conjunction with the Providence Preservation Society hosted an unveiling gala at the Providence's beautifully restored City Hall for the publication of the new "PPS/AIAri Guide to Providence Architecture".

On Nov. 19th, 2nd annual "Film fest" held at local cinema/eatery. Feature presentation was an absorbing video documentary, still in the making, about the dramatic story of Rhode Islander John Nicholas Brown's short-lived summer home on Fishers Island, designed by Richard Neutra, personally narrated by its producer.

A well attended, moving memorial service was held at Roger Williams University for former Dean of the RWU School of Architecture Raj Saksena on Nov. 22. A scholarship fund in his name is being started at the University. Inquiries through AIA/ri will be responded to.

A well-attended annual business meeting was held at the RISD Museum of Art on Dec 2, at which Executive Board and Committee reports were given, and a new slate of officers voted in for 2004.

The chapter Design Awards Dinner is coming up on Friday Dec. 12.

Starting off the new year in early January will be a retreat meeting to brain storm events for the new year.

AIA/Rhode Island is hosting a dinner to celebrate the visit by Eugene Hopkins, FAIA, President of AIA National, on Thursday, January 29, 2004, at the Biltmore Hotel in Providence. The event is the centerpiece of the three-day visit by the national president to Rhode Island, January 28-30. AIA New England members will be invited to attend. For more information, contact Kathleen Bartels, kbartels@LLBarchitects.com.

The chapter will be proposing an amendment to the bylaws to add an Associate Director to the Executive Committee. AIA Associates have served on the board for years, but the creation of a specific directorship is intended to improve services and communication with Associate members.

Maine:

TAX REFORM. Maine is experiencing a significant state budget deficit. A sales tax on professional services is possible. We will be trying to negotiate the absence of this, or at the very least, the terms.

STATE WIDE BUILDING CODE. Building Code Work Group has been studying this. Recommended the I-code family of codes. However, the State Fire Marshal's office is pushing for NFPA 5000

BI-ANNUAL DESIGN AWARDS. Had a record number of prepaid entries (61) with 58 actual entries received. Had four winners, one top, three honorable mention. Jury was from Massachusetts, Andrea Leers FAIA, Charles Rose AIA, and Elizabeth Ericson FAIA.

WEBSITE. Maine AIA website has been recently redesigned for a new look. We are planning to further improve it with a project type/office grid, or some similar way to designate what types of projects our member offices are involved in.

MEETINGS. Have had some difficulty attracting members for regular meetings. We have been meeting about eight times a year. Attendance for meetings with either rock star architects or significant code issues is up to 60 or so. Attendance for other meetings is more like 10 to 15. The Architalx program, which annually has four significant architect/landscape architect speakers during the month of April attracts 200 or more, but they have a significant budget for speakers. We may back off to only one or two "attractive" meetings per year, with numerous tech seminars for LU's sponsored by industry, and held in at least two state locations.

MEMBERSHIP. Steady, up slightly.

7. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & FINANCIAL REPORT:

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

Board approved to send the AIANE Exec Director to the annual Convention. Line item for National Convention was raised to \$3600 to include this expense.

8. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 2:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Carolyn Isaak (Executive Director)