President’s Message

Michael J. Metzger, AIA

Happy Spring! Thankfully the nicer weather has come and hopefully it will stay.

Things have been quite busy over these last few months within the AIA, both nationally and locally.

In early February we launched our very own AIA Eastern PA LinkedIn and Twitter accounts. Please log-in, join our group, post comments, offer insights, and ask questions. This can be a very interactive place for our chapter to quickly communicate ideas and information.

In February we also hosted a round table discussion with members in an effort to better understand our membership and how the AIA Eastern chapter can better serve you. What came out of the meeting is an outreach concept we are calling the Playhouse Design and Showcase. We’ve partnered with Artsquest to create a childrens' village during Christkindlemarkt. We will be looking for submissions from all our members and will select 10 to build. More information will be distributed in the next few weeks!

In March we traveled to our Nation’s capitol for the annual Grassroots event. The event has grown to be one of my favorites within the AIA. Making the trek to capitol hill and meeting with Congressmen and Senators to discuss the issues that are affecting our industry is an exciting event for me.

This year’s Grassroots introduced the term "Repositioning". AIA National hired LaPlaca Cohen and Pentagram, two highly respected marketing firms, to review the organization and present their findings. Log onto the AIA website to watch their eye opening presentation.

In June, I will be traveling to Denver, Colorado for National Convention. Building Leaders is the theme for this year's convention. Colin Powell and Blake Mycoskie, founder of Toms, will be the key note speakers this year. Hope to see you there.

I hope everyone enjoys this beautiful spring, and please feel free to contact me with any questions, concerns, or suggestions!

Michael J. Metzger, AIA
President

2013 Board of Directors

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<td>Past-President</td>
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<td>Young Architects Forum Rep.</td>
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If you are interested in getting involved with the Chapter, please contact Michael Metzger, AIA at mmetzger@spillmanfarmer.com. We are currently looking for a 2013-2014 Treasurer, 2013-14 Secretary as well as a Young Architects Forum Representative for the current year.
Upcoming Events

May 16th
Architects as Leaders: Creating high performing teams
Registration is open, [click here!]

June 2nd
Pat Ytsma Ride Safe Bike Tour
More information at [http://www.patytsmabiketour.com](http://www.patytsmabiketour.com) and page 4 of this newsletter.

June 20-22nd
Building Leaders

September 19th
Topic: Leadership

October 24th
AIA Design Charrette
Join us as AIA members & local architecture students collaborate in our annual sustainable design charrette.

November 21st
Government Affairs and Associates' Night

December 12th
AIA Eastern PA Design Awards
Join us for our annual President's Night and Design Awards
6:00pm-9:00pm
Location: TBA

A Note of Thanks to Our Allied Members
The AIA Eastern PA chapter would like to extend its appreciation to its Allied Members, whose continued support has been invaluable over the years:

**Allied Building Corp.**
Anthony Scarcia, Jr.
ascarcia@alliedbuildingcorp.com

**Modernfold of Reading**
Mark Nattress
mark@mfldofreading.com

**Beth-Hanover Supply Co., Inc.**
George Kragh / Mark Sell
ghragh@ptd.net / m.sell@live.com

**Print-O-Stat**
Sylvia Dugan
sdugan@printostat.com

**Corporate Facilities of the Lehigh Valley**
Beverley Kahler
beverley@cflv-knoll.com

**The Whiting-Turner Contracting Company**
Jack DaSilva
Jack.dasilva@whiting-turner.com
Attention all summer interns who are currently attending an accredited Architecture school and reside in one of the six counties that comprise the territory of the AIA Eastern Pennsylvania Chapter (Berks, Carbon, Lehigh, Monroe, Northampton, Schuylkill). The AIA Eastern Pennsylvania Chapter has a scholarship fund that could help you with tuition!

The AIA Eastern Pennsylvania Chapter Scholarship Fund has been founded to provide scholarship assistance to qualified applicants, currently enrolled in an accredited architecture program, and who are serious about their long-term pursuit of licensure as a professional architect. The AIA Eastern Pennsylvania Chapter, with the continued support of the American Institute of Architects and AIA Pennsylvania, remains committed to cultivating future design professionals who embrace the AIA's ongoing mission and objectives, including the pursuit of design solutions that enhance the aesthetic beauty, public health, safety and welfare, and long-term sustainability. Further the AIA Eastern Pennsylvania Chapter encourages students to live and practice their profession within the chapter boundaries upon their graduation.

Visit our website at www.aiaeasternpa.org for more information.
Special Report

Pat Ytsma
Ride Safe
Bike Tour

June 2nd

Please join us in commemorating and celebrating the life of friend and past AIA Eastern Pennsylvania Chapter president, Pat Ytsma, at the Second Annual Ride Safe Bike Tour. Proceeds benefit the Ytsma children’s college fund. Remember, ride safe!

20 and 40 mile rides begin from Earl Adams Memorial Park in Breinigsville, PA on June 2nd. Check-In will be at 7:00 am. The 20 mile ride starts at 8:30AM, and the 40 mile ride starts at 8:00AM. The course will be patrolled for safety and swept at 1:00. Rest stops will be available. Registration is $44 and can be sent by mail to:

Pat Ytsma Ride Safe Bike Tour
c/o Kirk Koehler
1720 Spillman Dr. Suite 200
Bethlehem, PA 18015-2169

Registration is also available online at http://www.patytsmabiketour.com
(please note that a service charge will be applied to online registrations)

Raffle tickets will also be available at the ride for prizes donated by various bike shops generous sponsors.

patytsmabiketour@gmail.com

ARE Study Guide Library

The Chapter has purchased Study Guides, Question & Answer Booklets, and Practice Graphic Vignette Problems for each of the seven divisions of the ARE 4.0. These will be available for any AIA Eastern Pennsylvania Associate Member who is preparing for the Architectural Registration Exams.

Visit our website at www.aiaeasternpa.org for more information.
As we are all aware, our Chief Staff Executive, Caroline E. Boyce, after 10 years of service, submitted her letter of resignation, effective 13 February 2013, to the AIA Pennsylvania Board of Directors. Caroline has accepted an offer to serve as the Executive Director of the Preservation Alliance of Greater Philadelphia where she will be able to share her historic preservation, nonprofit management and advocacy skills. We wish her success.

Recognizing that a change in executive leadership is inevitable for all organizations; AIA Pennsylvania, in May 2009, adopted a Chief Staff Executive Transition policy to assure its stability and accountability until such time as a new permanent leadership is identified. In accordance with that policy, the AIA Pennsylvania Board appointed H. Rebekah Waddell, our present Deputy Director, as the Acting Chief Staff Executive and activated an Executive Transition Committee consisting of the President, President Elect, Immediate Past President and Board Members appointed by the President.

The authorized Executive Transition Committee has been actively engaged in the process of identifying the next Chief Staff Executive for AIA Pennsylvania. The formal recruitment phase of the process ended in late April, with 70 diverse individuals expressing interest in being considered for the position. The Committee is planning to interview candidates in late May, with a second round of interviews and a decision by the AIA Pennsylvania Board expected in June 2013.

In late February, Robert Keaton, our staff Government Affairs Manager, notified the Board that he has accepted an offer from NFIB to serve as their Pennsylvania Legislative Director. Bob’s knowledge of the legislative process and his talent for constructive interaction with state legislators and government administrative staff has been a great benefit to AIA Pennsylvania and its legislative agenda. We wish Bob well in his new career and look forward to occasionally seeing him in action on the Hill.

In the interim, the Board has contracted with the Winter Group, a Harrisburg based lobbying consultant firm, to assist us with active legislative initiatives.

Those of us attending Architects’ Day and participating meetings with legislators to discuss issues of interest and concern to architects, were able to experience the positive results of the Winter Groups’ assistance.

Until a new Chief Staff Executive is appointed, Rebekah Waddell and Lindsey Stitt have assumed all of the administrative and chapter relations duties of our organization. They have been hard at work dealing with daily operations as well as planning, coordination and management of special events including: AIA Grassroots in Washington D.C., AIA Pennsylvania’s Architects Day in Harrisburg, the upcoming AIA National Convention in Denver, CO and the AIA Pennsylvania Leadership Conference to be held in Gettysburg this fall. They are both doing a fantastic job under less than ideal conditions. Please thank them for their extraordinary performance and service on our behalf.
Component Leadership Conference

On April 9th, AIA architects and leadership from throughout the state converged upon Harrisburg to lobby their senators, representatives, administrative, and cabinet leaders during Architects’ Day 2013.

This year, we requested that our legislators endorse legislation requiring Mandatory Continuing Education (MCE) for architects. Legislation proposing MCE has been introduced through Senate Bill 804, sponsored by Senator John Rafferty (R-Montgomery), and House Bill 1096, sponsored by Representative Curt Sonney (R-Erie). Pennsylvania is one of only five states which has not yet enacted MCE for architects.

AIA endorses MCE because it further promotes public health, safety, and welfare. AIA believes that all architects should maintain a professional standard of competence. It supports lifelong learning to remain current with continuously changing building technologies, project delivery methods, and a continuously evolving profession. Since 1994, AIA has offered a continuing education system for members to track these professional development programs.

Architects also discussed with legislators the need to lift the present moratorium on public school project reimbursement through PlanCon, or the Planning and Construction Workbook. Although the Pennsylvania budget is presently very tight, legislators heard our concerns.

This year, AIA Pennsylvania separated Architects’ Day lobbying from the Leadership Conference and AIA Pennsylvania Design Awards, which will be held on November 14th and 15th, 2013 in Gettysburg, PA.

Separating these two events provided extra time to hold a very productive Government Affairs Dinner the evening before the lobbying day. At the Government Affairs Dinner, AIA Pennsylvania was joined by Senators Lisa Boscola (D-Northampton) and Jay Costa (D-Allegheny), Department of State Secretary Carol Aichele, Governor Tom Corbett’s Chief of Staff, Steve Aichele, and several legislative staffers. Legislators and staffers were strategically seated with their constituent AIA architects for the event, enabling AIA Pennsylvania architects to strengthen relationships with their legislators.

During the dinner, Senator Jay Costa received AIA Pennsylvania’s Government Award, for championing legislation in the interest of architects. Sen. Costa sponsored and championed the Historic Preservation Tax Credit Legislation. He also co-sponsored the Energy Efficiency in State Buildings Legislation. Sen. Costa is also a strong supporter of arts and cultural issues. In summary, AIA Pennsylvania strengthened alliances and forged new liaisons with legislators; Architects Day 2013 was a very successful event.
ARE Updates and Changes

The Architect Registration Exam (ARE) is undergoing some more changes this summer; no surprise there. Last year saw changes to the ARE Guidelines and the IDP/NCARB Reporting system. This summer, NCARB is overhauling the ARE test scheduling process. The good news is that the ARE test information, like eligibility and scores, will be more closely integrated with the NCARB website. The bad news is that there will be a blackout period for testing - an estimated eight week blackout period. Here’s the rundown of what Associates need to know:

- No exam appointments may be scheduled for on or after 1 July 2013 until the blackout ends in late-August 2013.
- There will be no exams administered beginning 1 July 2013 until the blackout ends.
- The last day to take an exam before the blackout will be 30 June 2013.
- The last batch of exams taken on or before 30 June 2013 will be scored by Prometric prior to the data migration to the new consultant.
- The last day to contact Prometric to receive authorization to test/candidate ID numbers will be 30 June 2013.
- Staff at your state board will not have access to the candidate database during the blackout so it will not be able to enter or create exam eligibilities or update your name or address information during this time.

NCARB has emphatically stated that there will be no changes to the ARE content, so Associates currently studying for the test will not need to procure different study materials. During the blackout period, NCARB will migrate existing test data to a new testing administrator, and all the data will be contained in a new record, called My Examination, and located within an intern’s existing NCARB record. Some of the benefits of the new system are convenient tracking of exam history, test scores and rolling clock dates, as well as a more streamlined process to obtain Authorization to Test information. The cost of the test will not change, but the penalties for rescheduling now vary from $60-$80. Rescheduling is not permitted after 3 days prior to the test date.

The bottom line is that the new system should make navigating the IDP/NCARB/ARE websites and information easier for interns, but interns who are close to completing their AREs or wish to start should be careful about the timing of their tests. NCARB will grant all ARE candidates an additional 12 weeks to the rolling clock. For candidates whose rolling clock is set to expire during the blackout, NCARB will reset the rolling clock for an additional 12 weeks from the original date of rolling clock expiration.

For more information, visit [http://www.ncarb.org/en/ARE/ARE-Portal.aspx](http://www.ncarb.org/en/ARE/ARE-Portal.aspx), or contact me directly!

Happy studying!

Katie