



AIA New England Regional Council

AIANE Regional Quarterly Board Meeting

June 6, 2018

Noon

Boston Society of Architects

Present:

Alan Lagocki AIA

Rich Connell AIA

Helen Fantini AIA

Gina Calabro

Lorin Starr

Arthur Sanders AIA

Carolyn Isaak, Hon. AIANH

Stephanie Herring Assoc. AIA

Katelyn Chapin AIA

Jeannette Schram

Judy Johnson AIA

Paul Bourbeau AIA

Alyssa Murphy AIA

Bonnie Kastel

Glenn Gollenberg AIA

Jim Stanislaski AIA

Vada Seccareccia Assoc. AIA

Peter Kuttner FAIA

Michael Lassell AIA

Nancy Ludwig FAIA

Emily Grandstaff-Rice FAIA

Hilary Barlow AIA

Eric White

Rich Connell FAIA

President-Elect, AIANE (CT)

AIA Strategic Council Representative (CT)

President, AIA WMA

Executive Director, AIACT

Executive Director, AIA WMA

President, AIACT

Exec. Director AIANE

NE Regional Associate Director (ME) 2017-2018

NE Young Architects Regional Director (CT) 2018-2019

Executive Director, AIAME

NE AIA Strategic Council Representative (ME)

AIANE President-Elect 2018

President-Elect, AIANH

Executive Director, AIANH

President-Elect, AIACT

President, AIA MA

Past President, AIANE

Bursar, AIA College of Fellows

Rep. to AIA Small Firm Exchange (ME)

College of Fellows Representative (BSA)

Director at Large, AIA Board of Directors

Incoming NE AIA Strategic Council Representative (BSA)

Executive Director, BSA

NE AIA Strategic Council Representative (CT)

By phone:

Caroline Stevens

Eric Zuena AIA

Megan Nedzinski AIA

Ethan Anthony AIA

Executive Director, AIARI

President-Elect, AIARI

President, AIAVT

President, AIA Central MA

1. PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Meeting opened at 12:04 pm. Introductions were made. Minutes from March: correction of “there” to “their”, third paragraph of President’s report. Change will be made. Stephanie move to accept the minutes with that change made. Nancy seconded. Approved.

Alan spoke about thinking regionally and perhaps establishing a dialogue with planners to create ground floor on transportation issues.

AIA Conference is coming up in NY. Most present are planning to attend. Over 20,000 have already registered.

No pressing issues come to light. But food for thought: What trends in project procurement are happening? As we move forward with digital fabrication, how will certification of manufactured products work?

2. FINANCIAL REPORT:

CI distributed the financial report. There were no questions or concerns.

3. COMPONENT SUPPORT FOR CACE

Eric. This year the CAM will be in Chicago in combination with ASAE. Date is August 17 for CACE, 18-21 for ASAE. National will cover all attendance cost. Reminder: CACE execs must attend at least one of these meetings every three years.

4. ACCREDITATION AND EXCELLENCE FUND:

Each component will receive revenue share funding from National. Funding is based on 3 million dollars. Due to an increase to 3.3 million, \$300,000 has been set aside for an “Excellence Fund,” set up in four ways:

1. Money to support CACE members going to the CAM- ASAE conference this year.
2. Support for volunteer-led chapters. Leaders will get Institute Resource training.
3. Money for an “Excellence Award,” which will be connected to the accreditation process and divided into three categories: 1) members 500 or less, eligible to receive \$3,000; \$5,000 for 500-1000 members, and \$10,00 for 1,000 or more members. You’ll be asked if you want to submit for the award during the accreditation process.
4. Some money is set aside for components going through restructuring to “sections.” The restructuring started with 260 components, we now have 216. Others may want to become sections.

Accreditation process will start in September. Focus is on core membership services. There are seven categories. Each component is required to fill out each section. Pretty similar to last process. Accreditation is for three years. You’ll have from September to December to complete the materials. You can select one of seven areas to apply for an Excellence Award; they align with the AIA portfolios. They will go over this at CACE in Chicago. There is a time for confidential discussion. A model policy for sexual harassment has also been created and will be discussed. Seven categories: member communications, advocacy, education, public outreach, governance,

5. STRATEGIC COUNCIL:

Rich submitted a report, which is attached to this document. Had council assembly at Grassroots where they identified a series of study groups. They are included in the report. Council received

excellent feedback from Board on the study groups. Kudos to Emily in reaching out to us and keeping Council updated with what the Board is doing. Board has weighed in on study groups; this is very helpful to eliminate duplication.

They are working on job description for SC representatives. There has been a lot of conversation over hours per week required. It ended up being a “significant” volunteer effort per week. Also looking for a job description for at-large representatives. They also refined the whole election process.

We should be thinking about people for at-large positions. There are regions that have a lot of people on Council because of the size of region and they also have at-large members. It’s a two-year commitment and a good fit for those with a futuristic view.

Rich is a convener for the Forecast Knowledge Group.

Judy: Council is still focusing on public awareness of architects and architecture. They are engaging with National Board as well, which is a big change from last year. How is this study group different from outreach? They look at how we can make the public more engaged in the conversation about architecture. Blueprint for Better is the current campaign. It brings to life the role of architects as thought and action leaders in improving our cities, towns and neighborhoods. One of the AIA’s main goals this year is connecting with civic leaders and elected officials. We want architects to have a key seat at the table when important civic decisions are made.

Next year, Judy rolls off the Council. We need to start looking for “shadow”. A letter of interest should be sent in. The president and two regional reps review.

They are not officially meeting at the AIA Conference this year due to logistics in NYC. They are going to Madison, WI, for one day in July.

6. ANNUAL AWARDS AND ANNUAL MEETING

Caitlin Hart from the BSA reported on the AIANE Awards Celebration. BSA is not putting on a full conference. There may be a keynote in addition to the Design Awards reception and ceremony. The date is Friday, October 12. Reception will be in the gallery space and they will use the Fort Point room for awards. Also, they will have one or two tours the following morning on the 13th. AIANE Council meeting will be scheduled for the afternoon before the awards. They will include an EP discount, and perhaps scholarships will be available. Registration date is July 13, submissions due Aug 17. Call for Entries will be ready next week.

7. AIA CONFERENCE ON ARCHITECTURE

Voting at conference: individuals need to get accredited, June 20, 9 – 12 pm at Javits Center. There is an electronic accreditation process online. It has been distributed to EDs and presidents. Speeches are at 1:30, caucus (Room 1 E 07) follows at 2:45-3:45. Business meeting and resolution voting at 4 pm on the 20th. Candidate voting Thursday, June 21 8:30 am to 2 pm.

Central MA not going. Discussing proxy with John Nunnari.

Resolutions:

18-2. Resolution asks Board to present an amendment to look at titling issue to create consistency. Allied member resolution: Jeannette asked if people are on board with that. Some of it is cleaning up language. Not clear how this might affect components. Trying to find way for them to use AIA: such as AIA Maine Allied Member. Does it dilute AIA brand? Does it create confusion for the affiliate member? Does National have a point of view? Board is supporting it specifically to give time to study the issue. It will go to Secretary's advisory committee.

18-7. Request to set up study group to look at AIA regions and the value they provide to members. They were excluded in the repositioning. Board supports this to study. Next step is to look at context, member value, methodology, etc. Final report by Dec. 2019. CACE Board also recommends studying. Part of it comes from the range of expectations about regions. Some don't meet at all. Some have significant dues. What is purpose of them holistically. Is it to send representation? Some do programming and compete against local and state chapters.

18-3. Emily was one of the authors of 18-1. 18-3 is about the diversity pipeline. Spirit of creating a leadership pipeline is a good goal. Seemed like verbiage was questionable, seeming to implicate quotas, so they are clarifying that. Board supports this. Eric: why is it limited to women and not everyone? This is another study approval.

18-6. Task force for EP program on the National level, is it best serving EPs? Also look at future implementation. This would be about a two-year time frame.

18-4. Policy statement on codes and sustainability. Goes into history. Another task force, including legal council, institute secretary and president. The Board decided to take a holistic look at position statements and making sure they are relevant. There's some concern that this one needs more input. Cost is 70,000 to 200,000 for a task force. Financial implications will be read at the business meeting. Also implication on the membership.

17-4 from last year. Specialty credentialing. Study is currently still underway. There are financial implications, there is perhaps a feeling that whatever we commit to there will be an upfront cost, and there's already a saturating market. So it needs to be something really valuable. Resilience might be an area in which we could lead and that would have value to the marketplace.

Harassment and Ethics

Eric asked Emily if she can say anything about the look into harassment. There is a call out to Fellows to put in a resolution calling for ethical behavior. The AIA Board has issued a "where we stand" statement. From public outreach standpoint, looks like AIA isn't doing much, but they are:

1. AIA commits to an e-learning program for everyone; member benefit
2. Commits to adopting policies for all leaders and staff
3. Commits to launching a recognition program for great, healthy work spaces putting out guides for good workplace culture. Written for different member status and also for leaders. More to come on mentoring, leadership, licensing
4. Commits to work with colleagues, NCARB, NAB, etc.
5. What is the National Ethics Council doing? Before March 13, they were looking at this. Have met twice since March 13. Their actions are confidential.

Emily is following what's happening, but is not influencing... her work has been organizational. There is a new session on Saturday morning, with an HR professional and a lawyer. They have solicited

sexual harassment stories, an identifying information will be removed, and they will be read and responded to. Creating a safe space.

Can AIA provide any third party reporting to small firms? A web-site was created to report concerns. There is a phone number to call into AIA Trust for a 30-minute consult. AIA also has a page with a link to EEOC.

Eric: understanding that each person/component also needs to be creating a policy and procedure for handling these types of things. Saying it goes to AIA Ethics committee is not sufficient. Would it be beneficial if AIA helped firms develop policies. But text for components is directed to components, so not quickly changed for firms. Emily will ask about this. Components also need some best practices on how to respond if an issue comes up, etc. There's a need for a quick response even before looking into it. There are also state differences that need to take into account. In MA, there is a new pay equity law. Need to help members know what that is and how to apply it.

All awards submissions will now have a box saying that you comply with the AIA Code of Ethics.

Candidates:

There was brief discussion on the candidates. AIANE members will meet shortly after the caucuses to discuss further.

8. REGIONAL ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Recently held a Webinar: "So you just got your license, now what?" Three individuals shared their stories to support those listening in. 107 registrants. Went very well.

Stephanie is on the mentorship workgroup. They are diving into mentorship and how EP's, associates are mentored. Nancy Ludwig wrote an article for aia.org. Stephanie was selected as jury member for National Awards, for EP awards. Asked to partner with Strategic Council professional development workgroup. She will have another call with EP leader at the end of the summer.

See report attached to this document

9. YOUNG ARCHITECTS REGIONAL DIRECTOR'S REPORT

YAF Updates

- COF Emerging Professionals Grant – deadline June 8th
- YAF spotlights – highlighted individual from the BSA working on the Mid-Career Mentorship
- Program with the WID and Women Principals Group, Heather Miller
- Connection Article – interviewed individuals from the BSA who are facilitating the Mid-Career
- Mentorship Program. This will be featured in an upcoming issue of the Connection Magazine.
- Community Group: EP Friendly Firms Initiative

·YARD / RAD Collaboration

- Webinar, "So You Just Got Your License, Now what?" held May 16, 2018
- Firm Award Program
 - § Using template being created by the YAF
 - § Will establish schedule soon with the intention to provide awards at the Regional Conference

EP Groups in New England

- Conference call this summer
- State updates:
 - CT: Firm tours around Connecticut throughout the year

Upcoming Events

- AIA Conference in June
 - AF: Mini-MBA workshop on Wednesday
 - EP track courses

10. SMALL FIRM EXCHANGE

Went to a four-day conference in Louisville. Focused on how to expand knowledge base to all the different firms out there. 1-14 person firms. In Portland, OR, there is a group of practitioners that got together with insurer and created a small group plan for health insurance. However, this is illegal in many states.

Also looking in to advocating for young practitioners to become leaders locally. Mike's on the outreach group, producing a 1-2 times a month report, distributed to all of the chapters. Audience is everyone, but focused on smaller firms. They want to provide resources larger firms don't have. If anyone has feedback, talk to him, so he can bring it to the attention of the SFX.

See report attached to this document

11. COLLEGE OF FELLOWS LIAISONS' REPORT

Nancy: Glenn Gregg is replaced by Jim LaPosta, FAIA of JCJ Architects. 11 new fellows named in New England last March. 7% of the new class of fellows. The BSA had a dinner for new Fellows for all New England. Induction will be at St Patrick's Cathedral at AIA Conference. At meetings they are talking about strengthening ties between fellows and the Foundation, doing good work, and for knowledge and experience in helping with groups that are a subset of the Foundation. Locally looking to work some on demystifying Fellowship. BSA Luncheon on Fellowship info is June 29. Eric will also see about putting it online as well.

12. DISCUSSION

How do people feel about specialized credentialing? Judy: Does more credentialing dilute the meaning of being an AIA member? Alan: Is credentialing leaving a lot of people out of the loop? Losing ability to get started on the path...this is a detriment to the built environment and to career paths.

Are credentials for the public, or for the architecture/construction profession?

RAD's are more not in favor than in favor...

Peter Exley project: we should have signs with AIA logo for Construction sites...

Is value the conversation? Value is a monetary decision. The question is "what impact are we having.?" "How are we making a difference?" How do we make that clear to a broader group? It's the difference between taxpayer and citizen...

Helen: architect citizens really help educate the public in what architects do. What we do individually is very helpful.

Caroline: AIA logo should spell out what we are....

13. AIA CODE OF ETHICS

Megan: At the COTE conference in VT they started looking at the AIA Code of Ethics. The group wants to add in sustainability verbiage and was invited to draft language. They were advised to work on it in terms of a resolution. Jay Stephens reviewed it. Ethics committee is reviewing it and the COTE group just found out that the proposed verbiage is not being considered at this time. Not sure why its been turned away. They will move ahead to see if Board and Ethics committee review this together. Looking for other component support.

Mike has sent out a floor motion for the AIA business meeting requesting that AIA Board take up the topic; Judy will send out for distribution. BSA board meeting next week; it's on the agenda along with the other resolutions.

14. ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned at 2:58 pm

Important Dates – 2018

Annual AIANE Regional Council Meeting on October 12 at the BSA, preceding the Design Awards celebration. Time to be determined.

AIA New England Regional Council Meeting
BSA Space
June 6, 2018 12pm-3pm

New England RAD Report

Stephanie Herring, Assoc. AIA
Regional Associate Director (2017-2018)

Communications Update

- Gmail for RAD – aianewenglandrad@gmail.com
- Twitter account for NE RAD @AIA_NE_RAD

National Update

- AIA Conference in NY – attending
- AIA Feature Member Profile – Natasha Espada, AIA from Boston was published on aia.org on May 10, 2018
 - o I interviewed Natasha for the article. Read about how she approaches mentorship in her life and in her career. This was a result of my involvement in the NAC Mentorship Work Group.
 - o <https://www.aia.org/showcases/194471-natasha-espada-aia>
- Selected to be the Associate AIA jury member for the AIA National Honors and Awards Department. Jury will meet virtually on October 31. The jury will be reviewing the Associates Award, the Collaborative Achievement Award, the Thomas Jefferson Awards for Public Architecture, the Whitney M. Young Jr. Award, and the Edward C. Kemper Award.
- NAC/Strategic Council Collaboration – I will be working with the Strategic Council Professional Development Work Group this year. A few NAC Members were asked to be paired up with SC Work Groups to help to strengthen the relationships between the NAC and SC. Ryan Gann, Assoc AIA 2018 Strategic Council Assoc. Representative reached out and paired the groups together.

Regional Update

- Webinar, “So You Just Got Your License, Now What?” was held on Wednesday May 16 from 12-1pm.
 - o 107 people registered for the webinar. The three panelists were Korey White, AIA, Beau Frail, AIA and Steven Charles Smith, AIA of CT. Mia Scharphie from Boston was the moderator.

Local Update

Boston Society of Architects

- The Boston Society of Architects EPN Chairs for 2018 are Derrick Nickerson, Dan Ricardelli, Gabriela Baierle-Atwood, Chris Moyer
- Derrick and Dan are transitioning out of their leadership roles.
- The second Bootcamp event of the year will be a Portfolio Review
- Summer Leadership Lunch Series Kickoff event is June 5. The lunches are held during the summer.
- September a photography workshop at the BSA by Peter Vanderwalker
- October there will be an informal meeting for EPs – fellowship focus
- October the AIA New England Conference will be in Boston, date TBD, EP pricing will be available
- November at ABX will offer EP pricing – spread the word to EPs

Central Massachusetts

- The EPN Chair is Meghan Lacoche
- The group is at a grassroots level right now
- They are hoping to collaborate with Western Mass / BSA for future events
- ARE Study Group was formed – so far have 6 people

Connecticut

- The EPC Co Chairs for 2018 of Connecticut are Adrienne Nelson and Arturo Arroyo
- Rebranded, now they are the Emerging Professionals Community (EPC)
- In the fall they are scheduling to have a member social event
- They created a survey to poll their membership to gain an understanding of what programming they should focus on and provide to their members

Maine

- The EPN Chair for 2018 of Maine is Katie Wetherbee Wise.
- Archtoberfest in the fall
- Focus on the ARE 4.0-5.0 transition – making sure AIA Maine has enough study material

New Hampshire

- The EPN Chairs are Jon Allard and Maggie Robidoux.
- Increasing outreach, trying to gain momentum
- Survey conducted last year, it was really helpful to gain insight into what EPs are interested in
- Bowling Event is scheduled for later this year.
- NCARB talk will be held at Keene State College – open to EPs
- Archtoberfest scheduled for the fall

Rhode Island

- The EPN Chair for 2018 of Rhode Island is Kaitlin DeGregorio
- Focusing on partnering up with other groups first to gain momentum and interest
- Partnering up with IIDA this year
- Construction Tours – scheduled for July and October
- Speed Mentorship Event

Vermont

- The EPN Chair for 2018 of Vermont is Catherine Lange.

Western Massachusetts

- The EPN Chair for 2018 of Western Massachusetts is Jason Newman, and incoming chair Garrison Gamble.
- Currently mentoring the incoming 2018 EP Director, Garrison Gamble.

Goals and Next steps

- AIA New England EP Webinar 2 possibly in the Fall, Topic TBD, follow up from Webinar 1
- Keep communication to and from NAC level to NE Region EPN Chair level
- Work with Katelyn on her survey and help to distribute

AIA Central Massachusetts

June 6, 2018

AIACM Program Committee:

March 27th AIACM Hard Hat Tour/Code Night

AIACM program committee partnered with the National Ready Mixed Concrete Association to offer a tour of a HomeWood Suites Hotel under construction in Berlin, being constructed with insulating concrete forms led by the architect who designed it.

Also the same night AIACM presented its annual code topic evening titled: Comparing Massachusetts Building Code 8th and 9th Editions. A code expert from C3 presented the major changes between the editions.

May 1, 2018 Jane Week in Worcester

AIACM co-sponsored film night featuring the newly released film on Jane Jacobs "Citizen Jane Battle for the City" with a panel discussion following.

May 22, 2018 Holy Cross Contemplative Center Tour and Panel Discussion

Tour of Joyce Center - Holy Cross College

"A place for stillness, reflection, and prayer, the new Thomas P. Joyce '59 Contemplative Center is the home of our spiritual retreats. The tour included a chapel, meeting rooms, dining room, and bedrooms for 60 individuals."



In Memoriam



AIA CM Outreach Committee

Public School outreach opportunity:

The AIA CM Outreach Committee recruited volunteers for Spring 2018 to serve as docents for an established Preservation Worcester program that brings an awareness and appreciation of architecture to third grade students in the Worcester Public Schools.

Three AIACM members volunteered and after brief training have been teaching classes to third grade students in the Worcester Public Schools. **The 3rd Grade program** – required 2 hours of classroom time and 4 hours for a follow-up field trip, plus about 4-6 hours of prep.

Emerging Professionals

AIA Central Massachusetts now has an Emerging Professional Chapter Rep! Meghan Lacoche
mlacoche@grlarchitects.com

Meghan is currently in the process of planning an informal social event to gather potential Emerging Professionals in our area.

AIA Connecticut

Report for AIA New England

June 8, 2018

1. In April, AIA Connecticut launched the new version of the Communique. In May, we launched a new digital magazine, *ArchiType*. The magazine features articles written by members, spotlights on firms, member news and events. In late June, we will be launching a new website and database.
2. Connecticut Architecture Foundation Scholarship Benefit Gala Lecture, Reception & Dinner was held Thursday, April 19, 2018 at the University of Hartford. The Distinguished Leadership Award Recipients Patricia and John Patkau of Patkau Architects, Vancouver, British Columbia were honored. The Gala benefits The Connecticut Architecture Foundation, The University of Hartford Department of Architecture David LaBau Memorial Architectural Scholarship, the Fred Mahaffey Memorial Architectural Scholarship, and the Hartford Master of Architecture Scholarship. The lecture is supported by the JCJ Architecture Endowment of the University of Hartford Department of Architecture.
3. The AIA Connecticut 2018 Design Awards program is set for a submission deadline of September 7th with jury day of September 19th. The jury consists of: Robert Gurney, FAIA, Robert Gurney Architect, Washington, DC; Celia Imrey, Imrey Studio, Planning & Design, New York, NY; and Stephen White, AIA, Dean and Professor, Roger Williams University, School of Architecture, Art and Historic Preservation, Bristol, RI. The 2018 AIA Connecticut Design Jury will convene on September 19. The Design Awards event will be held in December at the Canal Dock Boathouse at New Haven's Long Wharf. The boat house will be unveiled in the next month. Gregg Wies and Gardner were the architects.
4. AIA Connecticut is pleased to announce that Cornell professor Jenny Sabin will be the Keynote Speaker for the chapter's Annual Conference, to be held at the Trumbull Marriott, on October 5, 2018. Sabin is the Arthur L. and Isabel B. Wiesenberger Associate Professor in the area of Design and Emerging Technologies and the newly appointed Director of Graduate Studies in the Department of Architecture at Cornell, where she established a new advanced research degree in Architectural Science with concentration in Matter Design Computation.

5. Two long-time AIA Connecticut staff members retired or will be retiring. Janice Harris, Communication Manager, retired in March after 14 years on staff. Joanne Rees, Deputy Director and Program Director is retiring on June 15th. Joanne has been with the AIA Connecticut chapter for 24 years.

6. New staff at AIA Connecticut:
Marie DelGrosso, Accounting
Amy Fernald – Communications & Graphics Manager
Irene Gonzalez, Events Manager
Kristen Leigh, Program Director
Maria Nazarko, Office and Documents Coordinator
Pat O'Brien, will continue in her role as Membership Manager.

Respectfully Submitted,



Gina Calabro
Executive Director
AIA Connecticut

AIA Connecticut is the voice of the Architectural Profession, dedicated to serving its members, advancing their value, and improving the quality of the built and natural environments.

It is our vision to continually enhance and effectively communicate the Value of Architects' services

AIANE Report
AIA Western Massachusetts
6.6.18

Our **Women in Architecture** committee organized their second program: *In Conversation with Frances Halsband*, which took place on April 26, 2018. The program focused on the distinguished career of Frances Halsband FAIA, founding partner of Kliment Halsband in NYC. Ms. Halsband presented some of her work and then engaged in a conversation with Sigrid Miller Pollin FAIA about her career and approach to architecture. The program included a self guided tour of the renovation/addition to South College at U.Mass by Kliment Halsband and a reception. The following day Ms. Halsband met with architecture students for a casual discussion.



Our **COTE** committee organized a program on the 2030 Challenge/Commitment on May 8 that focused on the metrics and standardized reporting for firms that agree to make the Commitment. We had a large turnout and hope that more firms will join the challenge. The program took place at the Bechtel Environmental Classroom, a field station owned by Smith College that is an LBC (Living Building Challenge) building by Coldham & Hartman.



photo: Ethan Drinker

We held our second annual Day of Service on May 19. For the second year a group of WMAIA volunteers helped a Springfield based organization, Gardening the Community.



Finally, we are continuing to plan for AIANE Awards/Conference for 2019!



AIA Small Firm Exchange information

To the New England Region,

June 5, 2018

Greetings,

As your regional Small Firm Exchange Representative, I'd like to provide you with an update on the events, programs and practice tools the SFX is currently developing and implementing for its members. The May edition of our bi-monthly [newsletter](#) highlights the [curated collection](#) of workshops, events, and vendor locations geared towards small firms at A'18, the [business plan beta template for small architecture firms](#), opportunities to [submit your project photos](#) for a chance to be featured on SFX social media accounts and more. The SFX quarterly report, attached, highlights the achievements of the group from the first quarter of 2018.

Regarding health insurance we would like to quickly survey our components regarding general questions on healthcare coverage – please take a brief moment to answer the following questions:

- 1) Does your chapter/component provide its membership with the opportunity to participate in a group health insurance pool?
- 2) Would your local chapter/component be interested in having the option to provide your membership with the benefit of joining a group health insurance pool to increase the affordability of health insurance?

I know our Maine component has discussed this issue and it is one I and many other members of the SFX group have been discussing.

Please let me know how I can best serve your needs so I share our regional small firm needs at the national level.

Thank You

Michael W. Lassel
mike@lasselarchitects.com



Small Firm Exchange

AIA Member Group
Quarterly update

5/24/2018

Regional Representative Report / 2018 Q1

[Find Your Rep](#)

Visit SFX on our website and social media channels

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[AIA Small Firm Exchange Website](#)

SFX Mission & Objectives

Advancing the mutual interests of architects practicing in small firms.

- Advocate for small firms within the AIA and in outside organizations and agencies
- Promote leadership in small firm professional development and practice
- Facilitate and support the local component round tables and small firm networks.

Advocacy

A number of State Government Network representatives are also owners of small firms. Through SGN and AIA component state lobbyists, advocacy issues such as Interior Design licensing and professional licensing are being shared and discussed. A summary of the July [2017 SGN meeting recap](#) and the [2017 federal agenda and issue statement of values](#) are on aia.org.

Leadership Development

Over the last three years, SFX and AIA staff have been researching leadership development programs, documenting examples of local and state component leadership programs for other components to consider and has been supporting the creation of a Strategic Council white paper advocating a focus on a national leadership development skills program. You can learn more about these programs on [leadership education for architects and emerging professionals](#).

A'18

Each year the SFX curates a lineup of workshops, seminars, and events that are most relevant to small firm leaders at the AIA Conference on Architecture. [The A'18 Small Firm Practitioner Collection](#) of education and networking opportunities is tailored to help small firms get the most out of the national convention. SFX leaders have submitted a number of program abstracts being considered for A'18, some teamed with other Knowledge Communities.

Chapter Roundtables

Many components have created roundtables as a forum to discuss firm administrative issues. For more information on creating a Small Firm Roundtable in your component, visit the [Small Project Practitioner Roundtable Toolkit](#).

Outreach

SFX disseminates resources for members in small architecture firms and AIA Components through a bi-monthly SFX eNewsletter, AIA Knowledge Net and social media platforms. Members are encouraged to subscribe by selecting Small Firm Exchange from the list of knowledge communities in their member profile, [subscribe now](#) (Please note that you will need to log into your AIA account to access this page).

Small Firm Practice

SFX is in the process of updating the annual [Small Firm Business Model Survey](#) to learn more about business characteristics of successful small firms. Data collected from the 2017 survey is displayed in the [Business Models for Small Architectural Firms Dashboard](#). In last year's survey SFX found a majority of respondents did not have a business plan. As a result, SFX is developing a prototype business plan template to help small firms elevate their business model. The business plan template will be available in late Q2/early Q3.