



# AIA New England Regional Council

## AIANE Regional Council Meeting

April 29, 2020

12:00 – 2:52 pm

Zoom Meeting

### Present:

Helen Fantini AIA  
Elizabeth Cox AIA  
Mike Lassel AIA  
Paul Bourbeau AIA  
Caitlin Osepchuk AIA  
Sarah O'Donnell  
Gail Kubik Assoc. AIA  
Jeannette Schram  
Carolyn Isaak Hon. AIANH  
Lorin Starr  
Roni Phipps  
Eric White  
Tracy Kozak AIA  
George McGoldrick AIA  
Gina Calabro  
Peter Kuttner FAIA  
Jonathan Taylor AIA  
Nancy Ludwig FAIA  
Mariana O'Brien, Assoc. AIA  
Taryn Barrett  
Bonnie Kastel

AIANE President (AIA WMA)  
President Elect, AIA New England (BSA)  
AIANE Secretary Treasurer/Small Firm Exchange (ME)  
Past President, AIANE (NH)  
NE Young Architects Regional Director (BSA) 2020-2021  
Executive Director, AIA VT  
NE Regional Associate Director (BSA) 2019-2020  
Executive Director, AIAME  
AIANE Executive Director  
Executive Director, AIA WMA  
Executive Director, AIA RI  
Executive Director, BSA  
President-Elect, AIANH  
President, AIACT  
Executive Director, AIACT  
Chancellor, AIA College of Fellows  
President, AIA RI  
College of Fellows Representative (BSA)  
President, AIA Central MA  
President, AIAVT  
Executive Director, AIANH

### Absent:

John Nunnari Assoc. AIA  
J. Kristian Whitsett AIA  
Jesse Thompson AIA  
Danielle McDonough AIA  
Tom Hartman AIA  
Bonnie Kastel  
Jim LaPosta FAIA  
Natasha Espada AIA  
Monica Cunningham

Executive Director, AIA MA  
President, AIA WMA  
President, AIAME  
NE AIA Strategic Councilor (BSA)  
NE AIA Strategic Councilor (WMA AIA)  
Executive Director, AIANH  
College of Fellows Representative (CT)  
President, BSA  
Executive Director, CM AIA

### 1. **PRESIDENT'S REPORT:**

Helen called the Meeting called to order at 12:05 pm. Introductions were made.

Meeting notes from Feb. 12 accepted, approved unanimously

Presidents Goals for 2020:

- COVID has definitely hit her personally. She started at new firm a few months ago, and is now furloughed.

### **Small Firm Exchange**

Mike sent out quite a bit of information over the past few months. It is on Flipboard, different members are adding content, and AIA is adding content. They are discussing everything from software to business, legal, digging deep into specific issues. They are working on a way to present the tool kit, a very powerful tool, but need to know how to get word of its availability out there. He discussed working remotely...how is that working for small firms. You'd think that after isolation we'd be ready to get out there, but there is a lot of fear about getting back into the office.

Lorin: perhaps we can address this regionally. There are CDC guidelines about reopening, but operationally, what practices work and what will give some comfort regarding the fear.

## **2. Finances**

Financial report. No comments.

Submittable payment: Good idea to have consistency and make it easier for submitters to resubmit projects. Main reason to have AIANE handle payment is to get out of each component renegotiating each year. AIA New England pays for it, and the annual contribution from hosting chapter is \$1,000. Vote: Moved by Sarah O'Donnell for hosting component to pay an additional \$1,000 to cover Submittable in addition to the \$2,000 contribution to AIANE. Roni Phipps seconded. Eric, presented amendment: Hosting chapter cover the cost instead of paying \$1,000. Gina thinks we should say we'll revisit in three years after new contract with Submittable. Jonathan, suggests just saying AIANA pays.

New motion: AIANE will pay the Submittable cost. The host component will contribute an additional \$1,000 for that cost, in addition to the \$2,000 contribution.

Lorin: the idea is also that we are agreeing to use Submittable. Lorin thinks it is better to just say the contribution is \$3,000.

Original motion, add it will be assessed at the end of this contract (amended by Eric): **AIANE will cover the Submittable cost. The host component will contribute an additional \$1,000 for that cost, in addition to the \$2,000 contribution. This policy will be assessed at the end of this contract.** Gina seconded. Passed.

## **3. 2019 Awards and Conference**

Sarah reported on difficulty in planning this year's conference with all of the unknowns due to COVID-19. They had a retreat on March 12, and have conferred since, and talked with Helen, Elizabeth, Lorin, and Carolyn, and AIA president Taryn Barrett. Went back to her Board, which felt the responsible thing to do and the way to make the planning as low risk as possible, was to plan to hold virtual design awards ceremony from the outset.

Thought of donating some of profit to a non-profit, particularly in light of COVID-19...So trying to turn a bad batch of apples to something they could feel good about. Felt like they could use

money to do some good, and keep interest in the awards program, and way to bring AIA new Englanders together even if not physically.

They are now working on timeline, getting things sorted out. Want to get it out sooner rather than later. Late May or early June for CFE.

AIAVT Board members were so excited about the original vision, so disappointed, but they transitioned with grace.

#### **4. REGIONS TASK FORCE**

Peter Kuttner presented final Regions Task Force Report. No longer confidential. Some big questions still standing.

They are asking the board to make the final decision, which requires changes to the bylaws, so would be voted on in Philadelphia in 2021 before anything happens.

They picked two center scenarios: new Regions and State Focus. (Renovation and Adaptive Reuse). Wanted to keep some representation. In Renovation: elect regional reps, more of a pipeline for leadership, keeps formal regions. More states could become part of bigger regions, combining some existing regions. Raise minimum membership to have bigger regions. Would have 14 regions. NY, TX, CA, and IL...would stay same as individual region.

Regions would have bylaws and be more structured. There was pushback on this. Favored by leaders in AIA.

Adaptive Reuse: provide for election of regional representation; facilitate communication with strategic council.

Is there a preferred to scenario to advance?

AIA Board went ahead and discussed the following day. Passed a motion to go with States, using them to generate Strategic Councils; regions could still exist in informal manner, as well as other common issue groups, ie Big Sibs, etc. Passed unanimously.

Q: It's decided as far as AIA Board is concerned. Not a given it will be accepted at the Annual Meeting in 2022. Then voted up or down.

Helen: you need another word. State is not a region. What does that mean for AIANE? Peter: AIANE was poster child for formal organization and informal set up. Our undoing of 501©6 and MOU was good model.

Helen Thanked Peter for his hard work on this.

#### **5. STRATEGIC COUNCILOR REPORT**

No one present.

#### **6. RAD**

Gail is defaulting to Caitlin. She broke both ankles right as virus was hitting.

#### **7. YARD**

Caitlin held call on April 4. Tired to keep it light and positive, instead of dwelling on pandemic and stay at home order. Stayed focus on helping EPs, studying for AREs, some fun activities...movies, videos, etc. trying to move forward and let people know they are not alone in all of this. Went over a few YAF updates.

Sent an email with all of those links. Shout out to Nicole in RI for her efforts on that. A lot of the YAF regions are using this time to look at Mission Statements. EP Chairs really stepped up and focusing on their area, trying to help everyone immediately. Thankful to all of them and wanted us to know the amazing job they are doing.

Sarah: as a result of the EPs work, AIAVT added items to their job bank...website update. Talent sharing and gigs (freelance work).

Friendly firms will happen again this summer. Has been reviewing the survey based on some feedback.

*See attached report*

#### **8. COLLEGE OF FELLOWS**

New fellows released last February. In Boston have been working to encourage more people to apply. Our COF liaisons are happy to help folks in other states. Have canceled normal yearly events. Nationally there is a new person in charge who is doing a good job communicating.

Investiture and convocation disappear when Conference disappears. Still have money out in LA for deposits, which they don't necessarily get back. Might have a smaller business meeting there. So assuming they will double up on Philadelphia. Can have two different investitures if needed.

Most new fellows would prefer a real face-to-face event when the world is not in crisis, versus something that is virtual.

Gina asked if there would be any changes to application deadlines for this year? Peter: using same schedule right now. Jury is just finalized, names not released yet. Guessing there may be fewer submissions this year, but it's hard to know.

#### **9. DISCUSSION: ROSES THORNS BUDS**

Jonathan: AIA RI purchased a Zoom account and is using it for meetings. Upgraded to webinar feature, so doing a series. Think they will continue long after this resolves, maybe one a week then, as opposed to four or so at now. Trying to build up attendance. All HSW. Well-received by members and by corporate affiliate members.

Nancy: a ROSE.... She's been pleasantly surprised by great material AIA has been putting. Every other day, she's recommended someone to participate in a webinar. The BSA has also had great input. Grateful for the info coming out on a regular basis.

Lorin: ROSE: She's been impressed overall by how chapters have stepped up to help members. Thanks to AIA, BSA, and other components in New England coming together to do the best we can.

Lorin: did do a survey of Western MA focusing on impact of work at home on practice, revenue, access to stimulus money, etc. Setting up meetings with state legislators to address some of the survey results and some general concerns in the profession, and also how government is functioning, how to keep projects in the pipeline.

Tracy: Hopeful rose: people are starting to realize that they can work from home. Maybe this will open more opportunities for more equity in our firms...alternate means of communication and more collaboration from different parts o the country and the world. Might make collaboration easier rather than harder.

Marianna: Central MA is using various platforms to continue with meetings. Have put together some online courses.

Sarah: Taryn and she hosted a couple of coffee meet-ups with some members, by Zoom, to see how they are doing. People have requested that they do it monthly, to see how things have changed. The inability to know how long this will last is a difficult and of concern. What kind of impacts are firms seeing for billable hours, etc.? They have heard from about 1/3 of their members so far.

Gina: Commends everyone for all the creative activity. Her staff has adapted so quickly; the Board has adapted. It was a lot to figure so out so quickly. They are meeting this week to discuss virtual awards, virtual meetings, etc. CT learned that communication is key and vital. As firms bring back employees and get back to "normal" again, how do we assist our members going through this process? Gina thanks all the other executive directors; they talked together recently and are sharing thoughts and ideas.

Sarah: VT was contacted by a member of Governor's task force working on reopening plans in different sectors. It was difficult to get a sense of what kind of guidelines could be put together that would work for different firm configurations. Are others hearing about this?

Gina: they are getting contacted. State government network has put together some information on this from other states. Finds that group helpful.

Eric: There are several resources on BSA website, one dealing with construction sites themselves and some about going back to work in offices. Also a plea by AGC and unions on construction site safety in the age of COVID. An area with huge need is recent graduates and students. 80% of summer internships and coops have been canceled. They are working on series of programs for them. Looking at potential competitions over the summer: course on how to compete, then a competition to compete in. A positive: all knowledge communities and committees are online.

Eric on CACE: have been reaching out to other components. Everyone is very nervous; membership dues are coming in, but there are some major problems happening among larger components. CACE sent a letter to National to ask for a Task Force on how to support components during this time. How would national respond if any chapter goes bankrupt? Some chapters are in serious dire straits.

Jeannette: Doing what a lot of other chapters are doing. Design awards postponed until September, and maybe that's not a possibility. Looking at ways to acknowledge winners.

Bonnie: AIANH has continued to publish a print quarterly magazine. Just sent out an issue on education. There is lots of conversation in it about virtual learning.

Helen: encourages being in touch between these meetings...keep sharing ...

Jeannette: if there is info regarding furloughs etc., she'd be interesting in learning how people are handling that.

Helen: How much is too much with screen time; what's successful, what is not?

Taryn: group of women she gathered with online are feeling the importance of the Zoom connections.

#### **10. ADJOURN**

Meeting adjourned at 2:13.

#### **PLEASE SEE ATTACHED REPORTS**

#### **Upcoming Meetings:**

August 26, AIANE Regional Council Meeting, by Zoom, 12-3 pm

September 25, AIANE Awards and Annual Conference, Vermont, virtual

April 4, 2020

AIA New England YAF Report

April Council Meeting

Report by: Caitlin Osepchuk, AIA, YARD

Instagram: @aianewengland

Twitter: @YAFnewengland

- YAF Updates
  - Knowledge focus group
    - Working with AIA knowledge communities to showcase young architects/ emerging professionals within various communities
    - YAF is working to help Eps during Covid-19
  - A'21
    - Working on templates for A'21 submissions
  - Connection Magazine – Q1 magazine published: [Connection](#)
- YARD / RAD Collaboration
  - EP Spotlights
  - Sharing regional events
  - Sharing “help” amidst Covid-19
  - Social Media
    - Instagram: @aianewengland
    - Spotlights – highlight regional representatives – YARD, RAD, Strategic Council, COF rep
    - Twitter: @YAFnewengland / @AIANERAD
- EP Groups in New England
  - Rhode Island:
    - Support for Eps who have been partially/ fully laid off. Unfortunately very common in RI
      - What resources can we get to Eps to help deal with this?
      - Hard to find a job in the current climate
      - Freelance opportunities
      - Help Eps use this time to study for AREs
    - Construction Tours
      - 4 were scheduled; 2 occurred, 2 were postponed
  - Maine:
    - Welcome Jaimee!
    - November '19 started an ARE Program
      - 20-25 people attended
      - Host professionals to discuss information related to that particular exam
      - Last event was 3/10, subsequent events have been postponed
    - Continue reaching out to Eps during this time
  - Vermont:
    - AIA Vermont will be hosting the 2020 AIA New England Design Awards this Fall.
      - Date and Location TBD
    - Vermont's EP Network has been having great success with their Annual Design Competition program and a listing of their past competitions can be viewed via this link - [AIA Vermont Emerging Professionals Network Website.](#)
    - [Started a Firm Tour Program for Eps \(program has been postponed\)](#)

- Learn about different firms in the area
- Learn about office culture
- Provide opportunity to apply for internships or job
- Goals for 2020:
  - To expand participant outreach to professionals at different phases of their career, especially targeting those with more senior Architectural experience.
  - To continue establishing communication lines with schools and to develop relevant programming for students entering the Architectural Profession.
- Connecticut:
  - Had been struggling for attendance/ interest in the past, starting to find their groove
  - Hosting ARE lecture series once a month
  - Hosting networking events – bowling, construction, next event was planned for the summer (TBD)
  - Considering hosting webinars
    - Trying to see what people want to hear about
    - AREs?
    - Further Professional Development
  - Have been reaching out to University of Hartford
    - Providing AEC students with information for internships, jobs, and post graduate life
  - Goals for 2020:
    - Create a Mission Statement to direct the work of AIA Connecticut and better serve their community
- A few regions are discussing what the value of their region's AIA associate membership is
  - What are they providing members?
  - What will members enjoy or find most beneficial?
  - Restructure events to be more open to members (discounted/ free for members?)
  - How can the regions determine what their members want?
    - Post a survey?
    - Post a write-up and prompt members to comment?
  - Work From Home Resources
  - Home office setups
  - Tips for staying motivated
- Ways to help during Covid-19
  - 3D Printing or laser cutting PPEs for medical staff
  - Reach out to schools or Makerspaces to utilize their equipment
- Next call: early/ mid July