



**29 October 2009**

Executive Directors Report: KJ Morris

**Recent & Upcoming Events/Meetings:**

WMR Conference	October 15-17, 2009	Keystone, CO
Design Awards: Carney Architects received a Design Citation Award for the Sublette County Library		
Honor Awards: Carney Architects was announced as the 2009 AIA WMR Firm of the Year		
Awards were presented in Keystone @ The Keystone Lodge & Spa on October 17 <sup>th</sup> , 2009		
National AIA 2010	June 10-12, 2010	Miami, FL
AIA National Grassroots Leadership & Legislative Conference	February 3-5, 2010	Washington, DC
<b>AIA Wyoming Winter Meeting 2010</b>	<b>February 18 &amp; 19, 2010</b>	<b>Cheyenne, WY</b>
<b>AIA Wyoming Summer Meeting 2010</b>	<b>June 25, 2010</b>	<b>Thermopolis, WY</b>
<b>AIA Wyoming Annual Fall Conference 2010</b>	<b>September 23-25, 2010</b>	<b>Jackson, WY</b>

**AIA Wyoming Focus Newsletter & Website:**

**Newsletter:** The monthly newsletter has been well received by members and allied professionals.

- o Content continues to be driven by the Executive Director.
- o After some experimentation, it appears 1 monthly newsletter and 1 event notice per month is sufficient.
  - o 5 Wyoming Focus Newsletter have been sent thus far
  - o 10 E-news/Event postcards have been sent to inform and promote summer meeting

**Website:** AIA National has again changed the component website launch program. At this point I do not have more information to present than the information below.

- The existing website has been significantly simplified and more static. The technology has changed since we launched 5 years ago, but more importantly, the purpose has changed as members are looking to it more now than ever before. [www.aia-wyoming.org](http://www.aia-wyoming.org) will continue to act as an access point for AIA Wyoming architects and promotion of the profession.
- I might suggest a website design committee to move the process forward quicker.
- If National comes thru, this is what we expect:
  - o **AIA National multi-department team:**  
There are 14 staff from different departments: the Web team, Component Relations, Info Central, Member Communities, and Member Value & Communications.
  - o **AMS (NetForum) integration:**  
Begin assessing the AMS event calendar functionality and its integration with the component Web site templates. Coordinate closely with the director of the AMS, Angel Baltimore, on how to leverage the AMS for the component Web sites.
  - o **Content Management System (CMS) evaluation:**  
Consulting with an outside firm to assess the feasibility of using a specific CMS for the Web site templates. The developers are considering several CMSs, taking into account the usability of each system, the cost to implement and license, and the logistics of integrating each CMS with the AMS (NetForum).
  - o **Site map design:**  
Working on the site map, the overall organization scheme and navigation for the Web sites, and I will continue to do so following the furlough (resuming work the week of June 8).

**Prescribed Schedule:**

- **May/June:** Design templates, then revisions and approval.
- **July/August:** Build and QA page templates.
- **September:** Migration of sites by pilot components.
- **November:** Release templates to all components

**AIA WMR Convention – Keystone, Colorado October 15-17<sup>th</sup>, 2009**

- The AIAWMR CACE (council of architectural component executives) met on Friday October 16<sup>th</sup> in Keystone. We also met with Helene Dreilling, National Component Relations Director (who has recently resigned) to discuss the current climate and agenda at the National Institute.

*Topics included the EVP/CEO perception of components viability, economic status of the Institute, staffing issues, legislative concerns and actions, national strategic planning, The 2009 Institute furloughs, NetFORUM, the AIA website, Document Sales and the state of our components and members. **If you are interested in more detail, give me a call.***

- AIA WMR Elections were well attended by the region. There were two nominations for each available Board position. The elections announced
  - 2010-2011 Regional Secretary: Stuart Coppedge, AIA Colorado
  - 2010-2012 Regional Director: Ed Vance, FAIA Nevada

*Dan Stalker, AIA Wyoming & Rick Bright, AIA Arizona nominations and speeches were appreciated and they are encouraged to run for regional office and serve us in the future.*

- The AIAWMR business meeting included a heated debate about National Bylaws Amendments presented again by the Regional Directors. Specifically the position of more Associate representation on Regional & therefore National Boards and the proposed name change of the International Associate Architect. I would suggest each and every member read the National Bylaws and suggested amendments and voice your opinion to your component leaders or regional directors, it appears the amendments will be presented once again @ the 2010 National Convention In Miami.

Some research & sites for you:

[http://blog.aia.org/aiarchitect/2009/05/my\\_aia\\_our\\_aia.html](http://blog.aia.org/aiarchitect/2009/05/my_aia_our_aia.html)

"The three amendments that did not pass all had to do with membership. The first failed amendment, 09-B, was to recognize membership category for public members. This would've allowed the Institute to invite anyone from the public at large to be involved with the AIA for a membership fee, i.e. "Supporter of the AIA." The second failed amendment, 09-C, was to recognize architects licensed in foreign countries as AIA International members instead of International Associates. International Associates currently are licensed in their native jurisdictions, and this amendment would have allowed International Associates to use the "AIA International" designation. The third failed Amendment, 09-D, was a follow-on action from a passed resolution from the 2008 Convention to allow Associate Members as Regional Directors on the Institute's Board of Directors. This amendment would have allowed Associate Members to have voting privileges on the national Board, representing their region."

<http://www.aia.org/practicing/groups/international/AIAB080725?dvid=&recspec=AIAB080725>

**Position Papers Review:**

From: Peter J. Arsenault, AIA, 2008 – 2009 Vice President, Advocacy Chair

Subject: Review of AIA Position Statements

I would like to extend to you an invitation to participate in the ongoing review of several AIA Position Statements. The AIA issues Public Policies and Position Statements as statements of belief to policy-makers, the public, and the construction industry on issues of public policy affecting the membership, the profession of architecture, or The American Institute of Architects. The AIA has a directory of Public Policies and Position Statements and as part of the rules of the institute each Position Statement must be reviewed every three years.

Each of these Position Statements is being submitted to leadership, members, and key stakeholder groups for consideration and comment. Upon conclusion of the public comment period staff will develop a discussion draft of all submitted comments. The Board Advocacy Committee will review the comments prior to submission to the Board for consideration and final passage during the December 2009 Board meeting. Please use a separate comment form for each Position Statement.

For your convenience the following website has been set up to solicit comments on these positions.

<http://info.aia.org/aia/2009PositionsReview.cfm>

If you have any questions please contact Paul Mendelsohn, Vice President, Government and Community Relations, at 202.626-7388 or [pmendelsohn@aia.org](mailto:pmendelsohn@aia.org).

**The Program:**

Currently the duties of the Executive Director are vast and varied. The position of the ED and administrative duties are only getting more complicated with state and national component growth and change. It seems to be consensus that there is too much currently included for a part-time person. An ED Search Committee was created and was to meet over the summer and develop a job description, advertise and hire as described below:

Initial schedule: August: Job Description & Salary defined.

August: Advertise

October: Hire in time for training at Fall Meeting

Revised schedule: December

January 2010

Feb/March 2010

**Schematic Design:**

*The administration and future of the Chapter still has a budget and management issue to tackle. I have great concerns that "we" are not yet qualified to hire someone and be a good employer. We must continue to seek opportunities for our ExCom & Search Committee to learn and be "mentored" by other regional components. I believe the Board & membership need to look to instituting & utilizing Board training, procedural & strategic planning practice and management guides if the chapter is to truly move forward.*

*Secondly, there is the issue of, how do you pay for this person? I have routinely paid for this role through the Annual Fall Meeting. Can that continue in this economy, I do not know. Are there other revenue streams we can consider, yes. Documents, Product rep advertising on the website, Print media, social media, etc.*

**The Concept:**

1. *Administration:* focused energies needed for the Executive Board and Regional expectations
  2. *Communication:* Newsletters and Website – I think the website needs to be outsourced, but overseen by staff & the Exec. Bd. Content will continue to be an issue with an one-staff person working this and social networking opportunities (additional staff or director in near future?)
  3. *Programs:* Annual Meeting and 2 state meetings. Assorted Lunch & Learns around the state. Associate & committee events as well. This is a full time position @ many components.
  4. *Member Support:* Ability to respond to member needs; economically or professional practice.
  5. *Chapter Revenue:* Work with Exec. Bd to develop new revenue opportunities such as advertising and retail sales.
- *Salary: Recent research from ASAE (American Society of Association Executives) for the position of an Executive Director with an operating budget of less than \$300,000 annually finds an average of \$66,000 + benefits for this region. Something to shoot for, I think.*
  - *Location: Several firms have offered space in their offices for AIA Wyoming staff. I think this is a good start to provide some infrastructure without a great deal of investment. It would be nice to have access to the larger printers, phone systems, and technology back up that many office now have as a standard. I honestly believe that the best location for this office is Casper or Cheyenne. The former being the most central the latter having access to the Capitol.*

**Finally:**

I have decided not to apply for the new full-time position. I am incredibly grateful to the members of AIA Wyoming for allowing me to serve them these past 6 years in varying capacities. I have been exposed to amazing people, places and opportunities that I had not expected nor did I understand I "needed". It is for these reasons I have continued in this role as long as I have, it is the members of AIA Wyoming & AIA WMR and their influence on my life, personally and professionally that has been truly humbling. So again, I thank you.

I am proud of the legacy I am leaving behind, one created along with the AIA Wyoming leadership and membership. AIA Wyoming has proven itself to be chock-full of talent and architectural passion. I feel Roger Strout should be commended for truly jumpstarting the chapter's life in his Presidency. He had a vision of "raising the bar" and I think we have done that and continue to do so with our state meetings and growing political influence. We also have some money in the bank, and for that I am proud.

I have willingly been the AIA Wyoming test "Staffer" and I am excited for the future of the Chapter and this office. After a great deal of consideration and personal debate I have chosen to focus on other projects, such as licensure, my family and my own non-profit adventure. Recent events have made this all very hard for me, but I hope to return to "the other side" of the Chapter, with an offering of my unique experience and promise of service as a active member of AIA Wyoming. I will of course do whatever needs to be done to assure a smooth transition and that the membership support or programs do not suffer. I do ask that the Board and members be very specific in directing me over the next few months to ease the transition of administration and events.

## Announcements

AIA WMR Firm of the Year is Carney Architects

Carney Architects also received a Design Award for the Sublette County Library

New AIA/Registered Members

Jen Mei from Carney Architects

Eric Helgoth from Strout Architects

## ARE Library

We now have 9 ARE candidate actively using the library. All are grateful for the access to the Kaplan cards, Ballast books and MEEP book. Most should be completed by June 2010.

## **Reports Due from ExCom and Committees: (highlights key information)**

### ExCom

Treasurer Report – Lisa Hubbard

Membership Report

Associate Director – Brandon VanTassell

Executive Director – KJ Morris

### Allied Reports

State Board of Architects & Landscape Architects Report – Arne Jorgensen or Tim

IDP Coordinator – Ed Armstrong

National Convention – Mike Potter

YAF- Suzanne Norton

### Committees

#### **Executive Director Search**

- **Organizing & Selection Committee: Ed Armstrong(chair), Mike Potter, Lisa Hubbard, Larry Berlin, Glen Garrett, Sallie Means, Nick Laferriere, Tim Schenk.**

CES – Jo Haley

AEF – Glen Garrett

GAC – Mike Potter

SFC – Del Acker

Wyoming Design and Construction Industry Forum – JW Stamison

K12 Programs – Randy Byers, Sallie Means, Doug Selby, KJ Morris

Bylaws – Lisa Hubbard & Nick Laferriere (Mike & Ed Consult)

Officer Elections & Nominating - Mark Kucera, Glen Garrett, Lisa Hubbard

Events & Awards – Stephen Dynia

WY USGBC – James Holloway (advocacy), Linda Kiisk, Tony Denzer, John Griffith-Groathouse Const. (co vice chair)

Natural Disaster – Mike Potter (SGN)

## **Suggested Future Business & Committee Meeting Structure**

1. 3-5 minute reports from Exec. Committee
2. **Every committee chair is expected to have submitted reports 30 days prior to meeting to be posted and made available to members prior to Biz meeting.**
3. Ea. Committee will get 3- 5 minutes to do a summary of report if they feel it necessary
4. New Business (5-10 minute discussion)
5. Attending members will then be broken up into committee-based discussion groups
  - a. Use this time to better plan and strategize our committee activities with member input
  - b. Inspire some new committee participation
  - c. Committees get this chance to discuss and take some action while in the room together
  - d. Committees advance on their mission and AIA Wyoming membership benefits
  - e. New committees get the chance to develop