

AIA MINNESOTA UPDATES



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Membership Update

During these trying times for the architecture field you will be happy to learn that AIA Minnesota Membership continues to show its strength in numbers. **As of June 2011 AIA Minnesota is 2,154 members strong!** Our members see the value in their membership and have found ways to pay their dues, talk to us about financial hardships and have continued to support our organization. Thank you for your continued support!

Membership Orientation

Have you been a long time AIA Minnesota member and still don't know how to get involved? Are you a new member who would like to experience all AIA Minnesota has to offer? Attend the Membership Orientation Refresher Session in July!

Thursday, July 14, 2011
5:00-6:00 pm

AIA Minnesota Office
RSVP to Amber Allardyce at
allardyce@aia-mn.org

This gathering is for members who are interested in learning more about the benefits of your AIA membership. We will provide a brief overview of AIA Minnesota, how you can get involved, how to best utilize your membership, and an opportunity to meet with current members, board members, committee chairs and staff. If you cannot attend in July, let us know and we will send you a personal invitation to a future session.

AIA National Mission Accomplished

It's been an exciting opportunity to work in Washington, DC at the AIA headquarters for the past three months. You should know that I am excited to be back and have a renewed appreciation for the strength of AIA at all levels. I want to thank our AIA Minnesota President, Steve Fiskum and the Board of Directors for encouraging me to take on the assignment, and also for making it possible to leave Minnesota for three months. In addition, all members of the AIA Minnesota staff have stepped forward to ensure that our members continue to be well served.

A very enthusiastic thank-you to Judith Van Dyne (1981), Deanna Christiansen (1988), Tom Moua (1997), Jennifer Gilhoi (2001), Amber Allardyce (2001), Chris Hudson (2004) and Stephanie Pelzer (2008). In addition, Raymond Dehn, Assoc. AIA stepped in for 3 months and helped ease the workload. We have a wonderfully talented and hard working staff and I thank them for their encouragement and dedication. You can see by the dates next to their names that we have the advantage of long-term staff that develop relationships and skills that allow AIA Minnesota to be successful.

The staff at AIA National is equally hard working and dedicated. One of the differences is that they typically have far less direct interaction with the members. However, as I worked daily in the

Member and Component Resources area I constantly heard AIA staff talk about the members, and make decisions based on the best interest of the member. For the first time in my working career, I worked in an environment with more than 10 people! It was eye opening to understand the dynamics of a large work place and to begin to understand the dynamics of decision-making within a complex organization. I have a greater appreciation for the intertwining layers at play. I also enjoyed having "people" who specialize in - technology, scheduling, travel arrangements, facilities, etc.

I am excited to know that one of my assignments at AIA has been fulfilled. That is, a new VP for Member and Component Resources has been identified and will begin in mid-July. My assignment was to generate great candidates for this key position within AIA. In addition to the half dozen people that I specifically solicited, about 60 resumes from the Washington area were received. I'm very pleased that an excellent candidate, and someone I've known for many years, has accepted that position. Susan McDaid is an experienced leader, a strategic thinker and D.C. resident. She will be a valuable asset to AIA, particularly since she has previous work experience at AIA. Mission accomplished!

--- Beverly Hauschild-Baron, Hon. AIA,
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Committee Chairs Meeting

Prior to June 29, 2011, AIA Minnesota hadn't held a Committee Chairs meeting since 2007. All who attended were reminded of the benefits of sharing each committees' key initiatives and activities. Twenty-two committees presented one slide on their initiatives, then categorized those initiatives to create an *AIA Minnesota Weave*. This exercise, led by Jon Buggy and part of an AIA National initiative, helped us gain a larger picture view of the organization and how all of the committees'

activities fit into the mission of serving its members, advancing their value and improving the quality of the built environment.

AIA Minnesota President Steve Fiskum shared the findings and outcome of the Public Relations Task Force, which included three key messages: **Advocate, Transform and Envision**. These key messages, along with opportunities discovered within the **Carlson School Report (Fall 2010)**, will inform AIA Minnesota's Communication Plan

and strategies for communications going forward. Stay tuned for an event that will announce all the ways that firms can share in the messaging and tap into new AIA Minnesota initiatives like the IMS Display Wall. See also the **PR Task Force Report (pdf)**.



See more photos from the Committee Chairs Meeting on the AIA Minnesota Facebook page at www.facebook.com/aia-minnesota