2015 Calendar Set at Planning Meeting

New Officers Elected at Knoll Furniture Sponsored Dinner Presentation

The AIA Middle PA Chapter Executive Committee had its planning meeting for the coming year. Events for 2015 were penciled into the calendar including the 2015 Symposium. In addition, a brief general meeting was held at which a slate of officers for the next two-year term was nominated and elected. Your new officers are: President, Dave Albright AIA; Vice President, Brian Endler, AIA; Secretary, Ruchik Vyas, AIA; Treasurer Rebecca Griffith, Assoc. AIA. Out-going President, Tom Columbus Jr., AIA addressed the membership and thanked them for their help and support over the past two years. He related that he has gotten so much out of his experience and wished the best to the incoming board.

Following the business portion of the evening, Knoll Furniture then presented a program on the dangers of mold presence in buildings and how to be proactive in preventing its taking hold in the first place. Whitney Keiter, Kimberly Bombery Smith, Eron Bair, and David Besselman were present from Knoll. Ms. Bombery Smith was the presenter for the evening.

The most important consideration when designing and constructing a building is moisture control and an Air Management Plan should always be included as a integral part of the project. In order for mold to grow, there needs to be moisture, temperature, oxygen, and food. When these four conditions are present, mold will multiply with unbelievable speed and is many times in places where it cannot be seen such as under wall coverings. Because of the health impacts and huge monetary investments that can often be necessary to get rid of mold, every effort should be made in the beginning of a project to prevent mold. It is, therefore, extremely important to meeting with the client or building owner at the very outset of the project to incorporate all steps necessary to be ahead of any conditions that may be conducive to mold production.

ANNOUNCING THE 2015 SYMPOSIUM!
Save the Date – 9/23/15!

Mark your calendars today for the 2015 AIA MPC Symposium!
The day-long event will be held on Wednesday, September 23, 2015 at the Penn Stater Conference Center in State College. Research is currently underway to line up dynamic speakers so that you can earn a range of continuing education credits. As always, we expect to have a great mix of exhibitors, as well as plenty of time to network with colleagues and clients.

Exhibitors are welcome to contact Anne McGrath at annefmcgrath@verizon.net for preliminary information. Feel free to send them her way! Check your inbox and mailbox in the coming months for regular updates.

We look forward to seeing you in September!
**Message from the President**

*Tom Columbus, Jr., AIA, LEED AP*

As we all know, all good things must come to an end! My two year stint as President of the AIA PA Middle Chapter is quickly coming to an end. I am typing this prior to our upcoming General Meeting on 11/24/14 where a new slate of Officers will be elected to carry forth our Chapter thru the next two years.

It has been a pleasure serving you as President these past two years. Being President and representing your best interests at the National, State, and local levels puts an entirely different perspective on being an architect and AIA member. I enjoyed being involved on the National level with Grassroots and the Convention and having input on AIA’s repositioning to better align the Organization with our needs in architectural practice. We also discussed informing the public as best as we can to explain the skills and knowledge registered architects of the AIA bring to the table for any planning, design and construction project. There are a tremendous amount of skill sets we work with in order for us to do our job and add bottom line value to the project. If anyone gets an opportunity to go to a National Convention or to Grassroots, please do so! The events, the discussions, the vendors, the venue, all reinforce your design capabilities and make you proud to be a member of the American Institute of Architects!

Our yearly Architect’s Day in Harrisburg is always a trip to remember. Here I was able to network with State Chapter leaders and our AIA PA staff. The events were always very efficient and worthwhile. We approached our legislative members to explain why certain bills were important to the health, safety, and welfare of the public and better for our economy.

Finally, involvement with you on the local level has always been and will always be a treasure I am thankful for! The contacts I have made networking with members of our Chapter and affiliated members and vendors, has been enjoyable and very worthwhile on both professional and personal levels!

I intend to remain an active member, still chairing the Symposium activities and offering the Good of the Order segment of upcoming Newsletters.

Until next time, from a different perspective,

Tom
Keller Engineers provides Civil Engineering, Structural Engineering and Surveying Services. We deliver complete design services for structures of all types and sizes to architects, contractors, engineers, public and private owners, and economic development officials.

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“We look at Engineering from a seasoned perspective balancing client needs with code requirements and constructability.”
News from Our Affiliates

Architectural Clay Products, Inc. is happy to announce our latest addition to our product collection, Level 43 Mosaics. Partnering with Betona Tile, Level 43 Mosaics brings its own unique edge to sustainable design. Made in America (Michigan to be exact) and created using 100% recycled glass, Level 43 Mosaics truly is a one of a kind product that cohesively blends beauty with sustainability. In addition, Architectural Clay Products, Inc. will soon have stock of a number of colors and styles of Level 43 Mosaic in our warehouse, located in the North Shore of Pittsburgh.

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Penn State University AIAS Off To A Great Year!

Rebecca Griffith and Dave Reasinger of the Middle PA Chapter attended the latest meeting of the PSU AIAS. This group of officers and students have had a very busy and successful semester and are eager to do even more in the second semester of this year.

The following are this years officers and committee chairpersons:

President - Maria Hurtado  
Vice President - David Ackerman  
Vice President - Chris Scalzo  
Treasurer - Natalie Hetu  
Secretary - Valerie Alvarado  
IDP Coordinator - Owen Marhefka  
Freedom By Design Director- Tyler Rafferty  
Freedom by Design Board - Alice Stewart Castner  
Freedom by Design Board - Lauren Obermiller  
Freedom by Design Board - Anastasia Limogiannis  
Social Chair - Brad Pawelczyk  
Media Chair - Mike Lindenmayer  
THON Chair - Megahn Tierney  
THON Chair - Brian Gruendl  

Back row (Left to Right): Danielle Mitchell(NEQ Director), Brian Grundel(THON Chair), Tyler Rafferty (FBD Director), Brad Pawelczyk(Social Chair), Owen Marhefka(IDP coordinator), David Ackerman(Vice President), Anastasia Limogiannis (FBD Board Member)  
Middle Row (Left to Right): Meghan Tierney(THON Chair), Chris Scalzo(Vice President), Lauren Obermiller(FBD Board Member) Valerie Alvarado (Secretary), Mike Lindenmayer (Media Chair)  
Front Row (Left to Right): Natalie Hetu(Treasurer), Amanda Rigoni (Fundraiser Chair), Maria Hurtado (President), Alice Stewart Castner (FBD Board Member)
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