Activities, Events, and Meetings Put on Calendar

CHAPTER OFFICERS HOLD ANNUAL PLANNING MEETING FOR 2017

Officers of the Middle PA Chapter along with representative officers from Penn State’s SAIA met at The Nittany Lion Inn in State College to put dates to the various regular meetings as well as activities and events. In particular, the bi-annual Symposium that will be occurring again in 2017.

Discussions were held with the SAIA students to enhance the participation and contributions both to the Middle Chapters by the students as well a greater involvement by the professionals from the Middle Chapter with the architectural department of PSU.

A very productive meeting, the attendees also turned their attention to getting more participation and involvement by Middle Chapter members in the Chapter itself. With a new chapter president about to take office—Brian Endler, AIA and other officers and any other nominated candidates will be voted on at the next regular general membership meeting — more members are needed to take an active role in the ongoing chapter business. Anyone interested in an office on the Executive Committee, a committee chairmanship, or membership on any committee, please contact any member of the Executive Committee. Your input and participation is vital to the continuation of the Middle PA Chapter.

Merry Christmas

And

Happy New Year
PRESENTER’S MESSAGE

December 1, 2016

Next

At the end of this month my two-year term as chapter President will expire. This has been my second gig in the position, and I can attest that it’s a very different animal than it was 20-ish years ago.

The unique (but ongoing) task of preparing accreditation application as required by national’s recently created Core Member Service initiative was a daunting and frustrating process, as I believe I’ve shared in past columns; and I’m committed to continuing this effort to achieve the remainder of the required three-year chapter accreditation period.

Years ago, the chapter functioned more like a social club. Meetings were an opportunity for members to get together, have a drink and a meal, occasionally get updates on national and state efforts to strengthen our profession, and recognize practice and design excellence of our colleagues.

Things began to change with AIA’s continuing education requirements, and are now further impacted by national’s Core Member Service initiative that requires each chapter to prove they serve their membership with all services that national deems important. That’s okay, but many of these requirements include branding and policy support to national and not the other way around. But enough about that. It is what it is.

The bigger change in recent years is really the decline in broader involvement of the membership in meetings and chapter business. That probably has a lot to do with the changing nature of our profession and the pressure on our time to deliver projects faster and cheaper. It also has a lot to do with attrition of firms and members within the chapter. I enjoy the comradery I share with the small core group of active members and would love to see that group grow so more of us could have a chance to pull our attention from the grindstone occasionally and have an hour or so of commiseration together. Maybe learn something more than the rapidly shifting regulatory and rapidly evolving technical requirements of our noble profession.

So, that brings me to “Next”. Brian Endler will assume the role of chapter president for the next two-year term, and I’m going to work closely with him, as past presidents did with me, to address all the challenges the position now holds and ensure it’s a positive period for Brian and all our members. Brian faces the same demands of practice we all do along with the demands of a young family, so I would encourage as many as can to step forward and help him to keep the chapter viable so we can enjoy what it can offer.

david b. albright, aia, architect
GOOD OF THE ORDER

In a few short weeks we will be seeing a new National Government take hold. A new President along with his new Cabinet and a new Congress will be in command. As always, nobody is exactly sure what this will bring. However, two things are certain. One is that the AIA will be on Capitol Hill as an advocate for National programs that affect our practice during Grassroots. And, two this advocacy fueled by you, has had an effect in the past on Government direction. AIA National has an open request (Call for Issues) on subjects you feel affect our designed environment. This is a grass roots effort on AIA’s part. They are also calling upon any of our members to be there in person to help the effort. I have had the pleasure to be there in person in the past on your behalf and found it to be a worthwhile endeavor. Please consider inputting to AIA National with any issues and also consider being there in person to help carry the torch!

Until next time,

Tom
On October 31st, AIAS at Penn State hosted one of our most valued traditions at Penn State: The Annual Stuckeman Halloween Parade. Usually, AIAS is partnered with the first year faculty, but this was the first year where it was run entirely by AIAS. The tradition consists of freshmen architect students making "costumes" according to a theme and presenting a skit; this year the theme was "Rocky Horror Architecture Show". Entries included "Amityville Horror House", "Ghost Busters", and "Psycho". The winner, "Charlie Brown Movie", received a live fish as a reward. Other events that occurred throughout the day were apple bobbing, pumpkin carving contest, a studio wide trick-or-treat, and a food and T-shirt sale. Overall, the event was very successful with the entire studio (faculty and students) coming together to watch the freshmen skits.

- AIAS 2016-2017 Board

Penn State University AIAS Officers

Listed below are the officers and Advisor of AIAS at Penn State for this 2016/2017:

Mark McWilliams President
Anna Zaat Vice President
Taylor Conrad Secretary
Mieke Kissick Treasurer

KENDALL MAINZER Advisor
Stuckeman School Lecture Series

Each year the Stuckeman School Lecture and Exhibit Series hosts vibrant, thought-provoking professionals, educators, builders, artists, and icons from the fields of architecture, landscape architecture, and graphic design. We house exhibits showcasing spectacular projects and bodies of work that challenge us to achieve more than just the obvious or adequate. Our guest lecturers and exhibitors come from around the world, and span disciplines and approaches to reveal new ideas and technologies, provide professional focus, and inspire.

All lectures and events are free and open to the public. Unless otherwise noted, all lectures take place in the Stuckeman Family Building Jury Space at 6:00 p.m. Exhibits are housed in the school's Willard Rouse Gallery.

2017 Schedule

LECTURES

- Jan 25 | David Gouverneur
- Feb 3 | "City, Energy, Information" Symposium
- March 22 | Shannon Nichol, Bracken Lecturer
- TBD | karlssonwilker
- TBD | Jason Lutes

Pennsylvania Architectural Registration Exam Study Materials

We are happy to announce that Mr. Rick Karcher, AIA, has arranged for his firm, McKissick Kasun, to house the study materials for anyone embarking on the registration process to use. The materials are archived at their Hollidaysburg office at 412 Allegheny Street, Hollidaysburg, PA 16648. Thanks, Rick!
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