

AIA MIDDLE PA CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

Chapter Gets First Look at New Facility

Sheetz Center For Wellness Opens For Employees

The AIA Middle PA Chapter was one of the first groups that was able to tour the new Sheetz “Shwellness” Center recently opened at their Claysburg facility. This Center was built specifically to provide Sheetz employees with an on-site Fitness Center, Education Center, and Wellness Center.

The approximately 10,000 square foot facility provides exercise equipment and a separate room that provide opportunities for Zumba, yoga and other similar activities. In addition, various sessions can be held for large groups so that educational materials and information can be distributed or meetings held for other similar purposes. The Wellness Center section is available for most of the day and night staffed by nurse practitioners who can offer care for minor illness or injuries and to work with the employee to develop an overall wellness plan for better health.



Interesting graphics mark the entrance to the Wellness Center

This beautiful, versatile building was designed and built to LEED standards and has qualified for Silver and possibly Gold Certification. The Center for Wellness will be the first LEED certified building in Blair County. Some of the components that were incorporated into this building for LEED certification are 30 wells that were drilled for the geothermal heat pump system; recycled and recyclable and rapidly renewable building materials were used; natural light requirements for LEED were met throughout the building; and the use of energy conserving light fixtures as well as water conserving plumbing fixtures.



Members tour Fitness Center including locker rooms and saunas

It goes without saying that the Sheetz Corporation understands the importance of their employees and continues to be forward thinking in providing amenities that will continue to inform them of and instill in them health lifestyles and practices. Through these efforts, Sheetz will realize a workforce that is not only healthier, but happier and overall more productive on a day to day basis.

It's easy to see why Sheetz is consistently voted as one of the best places to work!



Treadmills and steppers line one side of the Fitness Center



Tom Columbus of Sheetz and AIA, discusses design with Travis Eckels of Marathon Health

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AIA MIDDLE CHAPTER ADDRESS

If you are using the U. S. Postal Service to Contact the AIA Middle PA Chapter, please use the following:

AIA Middle PA Chapter
c/o Carmen Wyckoff, AIA LEED AP
P. O. Box 1784
Altoona, PA 16603

NEXT MID POINTS

Deadline for articles and information for the next newsletter is:

February 28, 2013

Please contact Dee Columbus, Editor, tdta2000@comcast.net

STAY CONNECTED

Please send new member information and any changes and/or additions in your contact information including email addresses to:

David E. Reasinger, Associate AIA
Pennsylvania State University
1113 Physical Plant Building
University Park, PA 16802
P: 814.863.3868
F: 814.865.3737
der19@psu.edu

WWW.AIAMIDDLEPA.ORG

Please be sure to visit the AIA Middle PA Chapter website to view the following:

- Chapter Officers
- Calendars
- Newsletter Archive
- Executive Committee Minutes
- Membership Information
- AIA Links
- Sponsorship & Advertising
- Mission Statement
- Project Photos

Message from the President

Tom Columbus, Jr., AIA, LEED AP

Greetings!!

I am back! Well, kind of. I have always been involved in our Chapter as many of you know, mainly with the Symposium every other year, but also as a participant and help to anyone on the executive board that was in need of assistance. It had been a pleasure serving as President in 1998 and will be a pleasure serving our Chapter in the capacity of President for the next two years. Our Chapter is relatively small and the need to recycle members in various positions is a must if we are to maintain our status quo.

I am blessed with a very responsive executive board who has committed to working together over the next two years: Dave Albright, AIA, as Vice President, Dan Roe, AIA, as Secretary and State Membership Committee, Carmen Wyckoff, AIA, as Treasurer, Dave Macharola, AIA, as past-President, and Dave Reasinger, Assoc AIA, as Associate Board Member and Assistant Treasurer. Our programs will be headed by Rick Cyman, AIA, as Programs Director South and Brian Endler, AIA, as Programs Director North. In addition, Brian Hayes, AIA, will act as AIA PA Board Representative and Dwight Knouse, AIA, will be our State Government Affairs Committee Representative.

Rounding out our group is Adam Fernsler as Assistant Secretary, Danielle Mitchell as President of AIAS Penn State, Joshua Seiler as Vice President of AIAS Penn State and Bob Holland, AIA, as professor/PSU student liaison. Also working with us is Nathaniel Belcher, Professor of Architecture and Director of SALA, Dick Fruth AIA Emeritus, as Chapter Public Relations Officer, Pam Wronski, AIA, as Web Page Committee Chairperson, Dee Columbus as Newsletter Editor, and Tyne Palazzi as Continuing Education Registrar.

This year I will be wearing two hats – one as your President and the second as Symposium Committee Chair. Planning for our Symposium started last year with the help of a very capable Anne McGrath. (Please see a separate article in this Newsletter on this subject.) Our theme this time will center around “Working with affiliate professional disciplines” (engineers, landscape architects, surveyors, etc.) – stay tuned!

For those of you that have been reading my “For the Good of the Order” article in each Newsletter, please be advised this will be temporarily suspended due to my writing of the President’s message while President of the Chapter. We are always open for additional items to be written and published in our Newsletter. Please feel free to submit articles you would like to see included. These can be directed to Dee Columbus at tdta2000@comcast.net.

Finally, I am instituting a slight change with regards to the Newsletter. We are the only professional organization I know of that broadcasts an email telling you the Newsletter is on our website instead of sending it directly to you via an email attachment. Since I am a firm believer in leading horses to water, this Newsletter, and all future ones while I am President, will be attached to the notice. This will save a couple of steps in getting access to it.

Best regards for a happy and prosperous New Year.

AIA Associates Corner – 2013 Links

Safiya Hodari, Associate AIA

AIA PA Regional Associate Director
safiya.hodari@gmail.com

Joanna Beres, Associate AIA

AIA PA Associate Director
joannaberes@gmail.com

David E. Reasinger, Associate AIA

PA Associate Committee Member
der19@psu.edu

Sean Sheffler, AIA

PA Coordinator, Intern Development Program (IDP)
idpcoordinator.pa@gmail.com
https://twitter.com/IDP_PA

To Middle PA Chapter Members:

Thank all of you contributors for 2012 PAC contributions. Our Chapter surpassed our goal as part of the AIA-PA goal of \$20,000.

The goal next year by AIA-PA is \$50,000. Hopefully we can meet our Chapter goal of \$3,000 since we are 6% of the State membership.

These funds provide needed access to our legislators who, by their actions, can affect our practice sometimes dramatically. I am convinced by my witness it is a great investment in our profession's future.

Wishing all of you a happy and prosperous new year.

Frederick J. Fernsler, NCARB, AIA Emeritus
Middle PA Chapter PAC Representative, Emeritus

Save the Date ...

2013 Symposium Set for October 24!

Planning is now underway for our bi-annual Symposium! The day-long Symposium is a great way to earn continuing education credits, network with colleagues, and see the latest in architectural products and services at our vendor exhibition.

This year's event will showcase innovative ways in which architectural and engineering professionals are working together to meet client needs. Be on the look-out for more information, including regular e-mail updates.

For more guest, sponsor or vendor information, please contact Anne McGrath, event coordinator, at 814.539.1317 or annefmcgrath@verizon.net.

Call-Out Box:

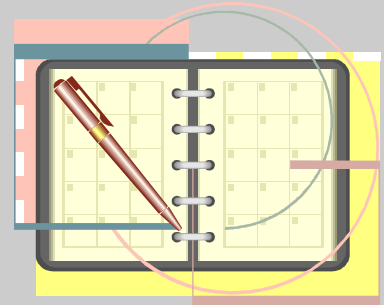
Announcing the 2013 Symposium!

When: Thursday, October, 24

Where: Blair County Convention Center

What: Continuing education, networking, hands-on vendor exhibition

Info: Anne McGrath – annefmcgrath@verizon.net or 814.539.1317



New This Year -

Affiliates and Symposium Vendors Can Save Through April 1

Affiliate information for 2013 will be emailed soon to existing affiliate members as well as other companies that may be interested in joining the chapter at this level. But this year, there's a twist.

Call-Out Box:

*To bring more value to the Symposium and the affiliate program, we are offering current and potential affiliates a discounted rate when they join AIA-MPC as a 2013 affiliate **and** secure a booth for the Symposium at the same time.*

Through April 1, companies can join as 2013 affiliates and secure a Symposium booth for \$525. This bundled package offers companies a 10% discount on both opportunities.

Affiliates receive access to the chapter mailing list, one complementary article in the newsletter, a business card ad and one complimentary ticket to the annual AIA-MPC picnic.

Companies that are interested in only one option are still welcome to participate at either level. Affiliate memberships are offered at \$150 and Symposium booths can be reserved for \$425.

More information will be available soon at www.aiamiddlepa.org, and in emails sent to current and potential affiliates and Symposium vendors. In the meantime, if you have any questions or need more information, please contact Anne McGrath at annefmcgrath@verizon.net or 814.539.1317.

Our many thanks to our affiliates for their continued support!

In Memory

PA MIDDLE CHAPTER LOSES A STRONG FRIEND AND SUPPORTER

On January 11, 2013, Mr. L. Robert Kimball passed away. The PA Middle Chapter wishes to acknowledge Mr. Kimball as an advocate for our cause and will sorely miss him. He and his employees have shown continual support of the Middle Chapter. We will be forever grateful for the many times Mr. Kimball opened his estate, Klein Immergrun to the Middle Chapter for our annual picnics. Our condolences to the family and employees. The following is the obituary that appeared in the Johnstown Tribune-Democrat:



EBENSBURG — KIMBALL – L. Robert, 89, Ebensburg, passed away Jan. 11, 2013, at Conemaugh Memorial Medical Center. Born March 6, 1923, in Ebensburg, son of the late Leo C. and Ursula (Myers) Kimball. The last surviving member of his immediate family, he is preceded in death by his brothers, John R. and William Kimball, and his sister, Kathryn J. “Susie” Dandrea- Long. A humble man of accomplishment, he often said that his family was his best accomplishment. He will be sadly missed by the love of his life, his wife, Mary Louise (McNelis) Kimball, to whom he was married almost 66 years; children, John (Sheila) Kimball; Ann (Csaba) Balazs; Kitty Kimball Gleason; R. Jeffrey (Debbi) Kimball; Susie (Leo) McCafferty; Sandy (Thomas) Giotto; Patty (Jeff) Kendall; Greta (Art) Rooney; and Mary Jo (Andy) Hopton. Also survived by 26 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren. Mr. Kimball retired in 2011 as president/CEO of L. Robert Kimball and Associates, the company he founded in 1953. He started his career in Ebensburg as a two-person surveying and civil engineering firm and grew it to its present status as an employer of as many as 600 employees and 16 offices. A graduate and recipient of the Distinguished Alumnus Award at Pennsylvania State University and a registered engineer in seven states, Mr. Kimball also was a highly decorated war hero, having served as an Air Force captain in World War II. The recipient of the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Air Medal with three Oak Clusters and the Croix de Guerre (France’s highest military award). He also served as a major in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers during the Korean War. Mr. Kimball had been awarded a myriad of philanthropic, civic, professional and social awards and held memberships in many civic organizations. He also was an inspired artist, having painted many family portraits and landscapes of his beautiful second home “Klein Immergrun,” which was often the site of many creative endeavors and family celebrations. Member of Holy Name Roman Catholic Church, where a funeral Mass was held at 11 a.m. Tuesday, the Rev. Msgr. Arnold L. Gaus, celebrant. Friends were received at Askew-Houser Funeral Homes Inc., Ebensburg. Entombment at Holy Name Mausoleum. In lieu of other memorials, donations may be made in Bob’s memory to the charity of your choice.

