Public Strategies, Legislative Affairs and the Architects Voice
President's Column

Our kidloff program for 2007 celebrated our past 150 years with our featured speaker, AIA NJ's Historic Resources chair, Michael Cafafi. Michael gave an engaging presentation on “Teaming and Public Policy in Historic Preservation” including the proposed NJ Historic Properties Reinvestment Act and the redevelopment of Atlantic City.

The League presented an Appreciation Certificate to Jersey City’s Planning Director, Bill Ceccherini for his contribution and support of the Jersey City Walking Tour last October.

We welcome our newest member architects and allied members.

Kevin C Gora, AIA
AIA ALNJ President 2007

Legaleague

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Thank you all for your contributions to the profession!

Joyce Baaga-Gore, AIA, Editor

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Although not part of AIA/NJ, we work closely with the APAC (Architects Political Action Committee). APAC often calls on AIA/NJ to provide an Architect or Architect in attendance to perform a key function that is of particular interest to our developing relationships. As APAC has strengthened in size and ability to be heard in the legislature, APAC is open to everyone – whether or not an AIA/NJ member. Any party with interest in promoting the issues of architecture or the built environment may become a member of APAC.

Members Role
This last section is perhaps the most important part of this article - YOU. As mentioned above we depend on the expertise of our membership to assist in making sure our Legislators receive a closer understanding of how their proposals may affect not just our profession but the health, safety and welfare of our state's citizenry. Along with that AIA/NJ often receives an inquiry from APAC to have an architect with whom the AIA/NJ Position Papers and may be familiar with or known to a particular State Legislator. These Architects are often sent to breakfasts, luncheons or dinners honoring the legislator or even hard-earned events. An occasional golf outing is even a possibility. They are often brief encounters; however, over these meetings a difference in what we need to speak to the particular legislator at a later date to have our concerns heard. We also need your expertise. Maybe you specialize in schools, hospitals, urban renewal, senior or affordable housing or you are a code consultant. Your knowledge could be valuable to a legislator who needs technical assistance in understanding the issues set before them.

When you receive a request to write to your Legislators, DO IT!

The last part is one of the most important parts of the work you can do. If you receive a request to contact your Local Legislator it is because we need your support. What is heard in Trenton is numbers. People and words count along with certain political considerations. Consider being a voting member of APAC. As an AIA representative, I see the importance of supporting those legislators who understand the importance of architects in the decision-making process. If we are to succeed we must be heard and have impact. Last year we won many points but lost some bigger ones. Do not limit your position for afraid of your lack of participation. Get involved and write or call when requested. If you have an interest in this committee or wish to participate in any of the activities mentioned above contact me through this AIA/NJ email address on the AIA/NJ web site. I'm waiting to hear from you.

Scott T. Lurie, AIA
2007 Chair AIA/NJ Codes and Legislative Committee

Public Strategies Impact Advocacy
As your governmental relations consultant Public Strategies Impact is your eyes, ears and voice in Trenton, we interact daily with decision-makers in the legislatures, the Governor’s office and the various executive branch departments and commissions. Administrations and legislature concentrate on the political climate. Public Strategies Impact is ready with a team of bipartisan professionals who have a thorough knowledge of the lawmaking and regulatory processes in New Jersey. We also know the people who make the laws and administer them. On the legislative side, we:
- Together with you, formulate and implement a comprehensive legislative strategy to initiate, support, oppose, or amend bills of particular interest.
- Identify and alert you to new legislation of potential interest. We join with you to interpret bills and develop a position.
- Seek favorable or favorable legislation in the Senate and Assembly, an appropriate, and work for the passage of such legislation when introduced.
- Closely monitor all legislation, flagging and responding to important developments as they occur.
- Issue periodic written reports including notices of bills scheduled for consideration and action taken on bills of interest. We also make written legislative reports to your Board of Directors, legislative or other appropriate committees.
- Testify before committees or draft written or oral testimony for you, as necessary. We will also contact key legislators in advance of votes on bills of concern.
- Advise you as to when your members' direct involvement is necessary and how best to affect it. We coordinate appearances and set up meetings as called for.
- Maintain relationships with legislators and staff in order to enhance their understanding of your issues and concerns.
- Throughout this process, we develop and work with allies and form and maintain relationships with appropriate coalitions.
- Develop a legislative agenda, the overview of your governmental positions and goals, if any, or may be needed and assist in the publication of this document.
- Raise the profile of member architects and the architectural profession before all governmental branches, agencies, authorities and other appropriate entities.
- Work with the Governor’s office and appropriate legislative offices to secure the appointment of AIA/NJ supported individuals to boards, commissions, agencies, etc.
- Attend all legislative committee meetings and prepare background materials for all issues of concern. This includes a synopsis of the document, its effect on AIA/NJ and the architectural profession, recommendations for action, when appropriate.
- Participate in Section Activities, if requested, to present at least annually the legislative activities and programs of AIA/NJ.
- Provide Special analysis of election-year activity and its relationship to AIA/NJ and its members.
- Work with the committee to create an AIA/NJ Grassroots Outreach Plan. This includes an “Architect Ambassador” program to provide contact with local legislative offices by appropriate constituents in all 40 legislative districts.
- Organize, manage and implement a Bi-annual in Annual Legislative Day in Trenton in cooperation with the goals of the committee and the Executive Committee
- Keep current on all issues of AIA at the federal level and attend appropriate events, conferences and activities as requested.
- On the administrative front, we:
- Monitor the New Jersey Register and flag proposed rules and rule changes as they appear.
- Communicate with rule makers through meetings, formal or written testimony, or informal contacts to present your position regarding proposed regulations.

In addition, we act as consultants, advisors, and managers of the Political Action Committee activities of AIA/NJ.

Joseph Simontacchi
Public Strategies Impact

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February 7-10, 2007, some 80 AIA architects from across the country gathered at the Grand Hyatt Hotel in Washington, D.C. for the American Institute of Architects annual Grassroots Leadership and Legislative Conference.

This year the main focus was on Sustainable Design and Green Architecture. The purpose of our visit is to meet with our local district representatives, Congressmen and Senators to convince them to vote in favor of Bills and Legislation that AIA believes will be beneficial to the practice of Architecture and the general Health Safety and Welfare of all concerned.

On the way to Capital Hill it was difficult not to notice the increased amount of security, especially at the Capital building, the House of Representatives and the White House. The photo above illustrates barriers that remain in a defensive position to stop vehicles from entering the grounds of the Capital Building. Upon entering these buildings you have to go thru a secure detection device and have your bags inspected. It is the same procedure for all the museums and Government Agencies throughout the city.

My Representative is Congressman Albino Sires (D-NJ). At New Jersey Speaker of the General Assembly, Albino Sires created the Assembly Committee on Homeland Security and State Preparedness wrote the law to marshal New Jersey’s Department of Motor Vehicles so that terrorists cannot obtain access to fake drivers’ license, helped communities with the cost of homeland security, and increased homeland security funding for the state police.

When asked as Speaker of the Assembly, “What is the most important state issue before Congress right now?” "Homeland security and how to fund it." The realities of 9/11 have placed added pressure on states - particularly New Jersey - and the federal government must devise a plan that finances state and local homeland security efforts in a fair and equitable manner.”

He is newly appointed to the House of Representatives replacing Congressman Menendez who replaced Governor Corzine’s position in the Senate. Homeland Security remains a vital issue in our country and in particular here in New Jersey. My committee AIA/Homeland Security Committee continues with efforts toward assembling pertinent information related to securing the built environment.

I am seeking a few good architects who would like to participate in the AIA/New Jersey Homeland Security Committee.

Respectfully submitted,
Laurence E. Parisi, AIA, Chairman
AIA New Jersey Homeland Security Committee
The School Initiative has been developed by AIA150 for a statewide participation to celebrate the AIA 150. The program topic is “The AIA 10 Principles of Livable Communities”. The presentation is targeted for 6th graders throughout the State. The AIA150 Committee has prepared the program information which was released to all the participants during the Training Session on February 27, 2007 at Somerset Marriott. The AIA150 has approx. 20 participants. The volunteers are responsible for making arrangements with their selected local school. Presentations will be held the week of March 26, 2007. The presentation is an interactive program, where the students will assist in building a simulated community on a computer or in the classroom. Students will experience the 10 principles of a livable community. You can go the website and check out the computer version: www.acereprographics.com

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Michael J. Panico, AIA, St. Francis Academy, Union City
Kevin C. Geary, AIA, Fort Lee Middle School
Stoyack Boys & Girls Club, N. Haledon
Anthony Voight, AIA, Briarcliff Avenue Middle School
Anthony Vans, AIA (Interim Director)
Marcelo Salcito, AIA, Union School, Union
Lawrence Furtado, AIA, Alpine School, Alpine
Peter Puglisi, AIA, Wayne School, Wayne
Tim Lippincott, AIA, Toward Middle School, Tenafly
William Savion, AIA, to be determined
Maurio Capozzoli, AIA (To be determined)
Paul T. Brase, AIA, High Mountain School, N. Haledon
Kenneth E. Ross, AIA, Lakein Middle School, Piscataway
Grady Pi'est, AIA, Wayne Elementary School, Wayne
Sarah MacDowell, AIA, Susan Middle School, Saddle Brook
Patricia Lattana, AIA to be determined
Nazz Pintaric (To be determined)
VivakBihl (To be determined)
Jason Faghy, AIA, Leonia Middle School, Leonia
For additional information, please contact event coordinator: Ben P. Lee, AIA, 973 539-5353
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AIA150 School Initiative

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Answers to the first quarter issue of Leagueline
Think You Know Your Local Architecture—Quiz

Hope you enjoyed the architectural stimulation (there were no winners). We’ll make it easier for you next time.

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Art Motel Residence
Towaco, NJ
American Beacon Mansions
Ottawa, NJ
Hodgkiss Water Company Plant
Ottawa, NJ
Camp Merrill Memorial
Monroe, N.J.
Balzert Deere Courthouse
Hackensack, N.J.
Pequannock United Methodist Church, Pequannock
Norwood Inn
Carvel Ice Cream Shoppe
Carvel, NY
Alpine Tower
Alpine, NJ
Trinity School
Trinity School
Public Library
Lyndhurst, NJ
Prairie Reception
Blenheim Petersen, Architect
Upper Stable Room, NY
Installation Dinner
Saturday, January 6, 2007
Liberty House, Liberty State Park

AIA Grassroots Leadership Conference
February 7 - 10, 2007
AIA YMCA
February 7th membership meeting at the YMCA's flagship
Feast to welcome the fall of the YMCA members
on February 8th, 2007

Looking for Better Window Solutions?

Buda Triplets
Their names are Antonio (2lbs 8oz),
Francesca (2lbs 12oz) and Alessia (2lbs 17oz).
They were born on October 29th at the Valley
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