A History of the Architects League of Northern New Jersey 1928–Present
As the Outgoing President, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the 2014 Officers and Board of Trustees for their hard work this past year.

Together we have moved this organization forward. We are now welcoming new Trustees, some who are first time Board Members. Serving as a leader is the best way to give back to the AIA and the architectural community. Thank you for stepping up and taking this challenge. To those Board members who are stepping down after years of service, I most humbly say thank you. Your insight, opinions and support made 2014 a great year.

This past year the League has decided to expand its scholarship program. For many years the ALNNJ has offered three college scholarships for students in our territory; in 2014 we added a new award for a High School Senior who is accepted to an NAAB accredited architecture program.

On the National level, the AIA has moved forward with the Repositioning of AIA National which was rolled out at the National Convention in Denver, Colorado. Did you know that about 60% of the 105,800+ licensed architects in the United States are now AIA Members? AIA National is leading the effort to improve the tax incentive for green buildings and helped to successfully block a proposal to raise payroll taxes on architecture firms designated as professional ‘S’ corporations.

I would like to welcome our new 2015 League President Paul S. Bryan, AIA. Paul has been a Board member for many years. Paul also serves as League Archivist, updating the historical page of our website. Congratulations, Paul.

To our members I would like to say thank you for your support and kind words as the year went along. I have enjoyed leading this group through the many events of 2014. I hope you have enjoyed this past year as much as I have. I look forward to serving as Past President, and once again having the “burden of following The Durden”!

Ruth A. Bussacco, AIA
ALNNJ President 2014

As 2015 begins, I look back with pride at all the things the Architects League, under the trusted leadership of Ruth Bussacco, has accomplished over the past year, and look forward with enthusiasm toward what we have the potential to accomplish over the next year and beyond. At the most basic level, the role of ALNNJ and its members is to advocate for the profession. Annually, our challenge is to determine and develop the most effective ways in which to meet this basic goal.

With this in mind, I submit the notion of “breaking down the barriers” – to make an effort to remove any perceived walls that would limit our ability to remain a vital organization within the profession and in our communities. This year we are planning joint meetings and events to promote camaraderie between ALNNJ and other allied professional organizations so that we may share ideas and experiences on issues related to architecture and the construction industry. We will continue our website and social media efforts (like us on Facebook!) to foster dialogue among members, committees, officers and trustees, and to encourage discussion on matters of importance to the organization and the profession. We will strive to celebrate the creativity of our members (we hope to bring back Design Awards in 2015 and will continue our Leagueline Special Members’ Issue). Through our scholarship program (including a new scholarship for high school seniors) we look to strengthen our outreach to the public and help educate society on what architects do. And through educational programs and events, we will continue to encourage and support our Emerging Professionals and future architects, who are most crucial to sustaining our profession.

To remain a relevant organization, the Architects League needs its members to not just feel welcomed, but to participate as an integral part of who we are and what we represent. Regardless of age, race, gender, culture, physical ability, firm size, or area of practice, EVERY ONE OF US has an important role in shaping our organization’s future. Why not help the League help you get the most from your AIA membership?

Together, let’s break down the barriers.

Best regards,

Paul S. Bryan, AIA
ALNNJ President 2015
The Architects League of Northern New Jersey:
A Brief History 1928-Present

by Paul S. Bryan, AIA

“It is certain that we are now upon the threshold of a great development and growth of this territory, the major part of which will consist of construction work, the size and character which is definitely coming within the scope of the architect... Therefore, I am now writing to ascertain if you would be interested in attending a meeting for the purpose of discussing and considering some form of organization by the architects in this vicinity, as may be planned and holding future meetings therefor as may be decided.”

So read the March 23, 1928 letter of Harry Lucht, of Lucht & Anderson Architects in Cliffside Park, sent to 100 architects in the Northern New Jersey region. On April 12, 1928, interested architects gathered for a meeting at Palm Gardens in Teaneck, and thus, the Architects League of Northern New Jersey was born. The impetus for the “great development and growth” was, of course, the George Washington Bridge, for which construction had begun in October 1927. The bridge opened to traffic in 1931, forever changing the landscape of the Bergen County area and points northwest.

In addition to Lucht, Clarence Tabor, H.G. Anderson, A.L. Vegliante and others founded the League with 18 members. By April 1929, membership had grown to 39. Today, our membership is approximately 450, located principally throughout Sussex, Passaic, Bergen, and Hudson counties. What follows is a brief history of the League, from its inception to the present day, as compiled from the historic archive. We regret it is impossible to recount by name all of the important individuals, and the causes they championed, within this limited space; however, we dedicate this issue of Leagueline to all who have served so diligently to shape the League into the robust organization it is today.
1928-1930: In the Beginning

With tremendous growth anticipated in the region, one of the League’s primary initiatives was to promote the architects’ role in the proper planning and development of communities. Unscrupulous builders and real estate developers of the era were perceived as the greatest threat. Meeting minutes of the time reveal the League had accumulated “quite a list of men practicing illegally without a certificate” and asserted the League was “working to improve the present laws and to provide a severe penalty for violators.”

As 1929 progressed, there was growing concern regarding Building & Loan practices. President Bernard McGuire argued that “[Building & Loan institutions] should demand architectural supervision of the work to safeguard their interests. In many cases, loans have been granted on the basis of rough sketches.” There was also discussion regarding adoption of a new building code in Hillsdale and code changes in Bogota and Englewood. Some spoke of a need for a Unified Building Code in New Jersey. But perhaps the largest single issue of the League during this time was its opposition to the AIA’s endorsement of the Architects’ Small House Service Bureau. The ASHSB had been created in 1914 to combat a shortage of quality middle-class housing, and offered stock plans to prospective homeowners. Many architects in the region viewed this type of agency as negating the need for architects to be involved with residential design. The League commenced a letter-writing campaign to various AIA affiliated organizations throughout the country, and had several pages of articles and letters published in Pencil Points, a national journal for architects and draftsmen. The fight continued into the 1930s, perhaps heightened by the advent of the Great Depression.

1931-1940: The Depression Era

Despite the market crash of 1929, the next decade began somewhat optimistically. “The Bridge and highways are now completed. Due to the conditions, the growth will not start with a tremendous boom and impetus but nevertheless the growth will take place,” wrote Lucht to Tabor, who was now League President. With the onset of development, the League began to take an active role in advocating the development of parks and the mitigation of billboards throughout Northern New Jersey. The League endorsed the Bergen County Chamber of Commerce’s efforts to promote the design of better buildings for roadside markets. (A chicken-coop-looking establishment along the highway in Paramus was noted as a particular eye-sore.) By 1932, times were getting tougher, and it was decided the League would dispense with meals during the regular meetings. Supper could be had at an earlier hour, by those that wished to have it, at a cost of 50 cents and up. The New Jersey Architectural Board requested recommendations from the League with regard to unemployment relief, and an Architects Emergency Committee was established. The good news for the League was that AIA severed its ties with the Architects’ Small House Service Bureau. The League celebrated with a ceremonial burning of stock plans.
By 1935, the Great Depression was in full force, with several references in the archive to bank failures and foreclosures. Lucht, who obtained work with the Treasury Department in Washington, wrote in a letter to Tabor, “A job for everybody, so saith the sage Franklin D. and yesterday hundreds of us received notices that our services were no longer required. When we went home last Sunday, there was a sign on the Cliffside Park Title Co. door CLOSED. And we had some money of ours there.”

As the end of the decade neared, there was much discussion regarding consolidation of the state’s various architectural organizations into the New Jersey Society of Architects. In 1937, after the Society adopted new bylaws, the League applied to become an affiliate of the Society. By 1940, discussion turned to the unification of the Society with the AIA.

### 1941-1950: World War II and the Post-War Boom

The advent of World War II raised concerns among League members regarding the future of the profession. The minutes reflect discussions “on problems facing the architectural profession due to the war and the serious effects which may result upon its conclusion; the tendency of government agencies and bureaus to expand with dire results upon the architectural field. It is agreed that a strong, unified national organization is necessary to cope with the problem.” With regard to the war effort, it was the consensus that architects could best serve for Civilian Defense as individual workers in their local communities, but should tender their services and skills to the state and nation in any way they may be called upon.

As the war concluded, the League’s focus remained the defense of architecture. The Navy Department’s proposal to raze historic buildings at St. John’s College to create a football field was decried as “an uncultured act of vandalism aesthetically and spiritually.”

After the war, the League passed a resolution calling for the Federal government to remove wartime controls and restrictions on building. ALNNJ also called on local freeholders to consider New Jersey architects for county projects that had been awarded to New York firms. Due to the post-war building boom, the decade closed on a high note. As Tabor put it, “This territory constitutes one of the richest areas of building activity in the United States, particularly in homes and garden apartments and the industry and business created thereby.”

### 1951-1960: Raising the Profile of Architects

As the 1950s commenced, ALNNJ focused on raising the public profile of architects through the regular publication of “The Bulletin”, which was partially supported by ad revenue. The League had not had a regular newsletter since Tabor’s “Quid Nunc” in the 1930s. The League also prepared ads and articles for publication in the Bergen Evening Record. In 1954, discussion began regarding the sponsoring of a scholarship in architecture. Miss Joan de Ris, a Columbia University student from Englewood, was awarded the League’s first scholarship in 1955.

Later in life Joan de Ris Allen became an architect and an author of several books, including Living Buildings and The Time is at Hand. She currently resides at Camphill Ghent in upstate New York, a residential community for elders, which she helped design.
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DETAILS FROM EARLY ALNJ PUBLICATIONS
A HAND DRAWN ALNJ CARTOON ALPHABET FROM THE 1930s

ARCHITECTS LEAGUE “MODERN VS. TRADITIONAL” EXHIBIT AT THE HOME SHOW, TEANECK ARMORY, 1938
The Architects League of Northern New Jersey

WHEREAS

Having the necessary qualifications, this is to certify that he is a regular Active Member of The Architects League of Northern New Jersey for the period and duration of time he remains in good standing in accord with the Constitution and By-Laws.

Issued and attested by the President of The Architects League.


The Value of the Architect

I. Most people know that the business of designing and constructing a building needs an Engineer; in the same one needs a Doctor; in legal matters a Lawyer. A building with its infinite variety of modern facilities for comfort and health and its claim for beauty needs the Architect.

II. The Architect has expert knowledge of building materials and construction methods, and has been to plan for the installation of plumbing, heating, lighting and ventilation.

III. A building is a better investment if well planned and systematic in appearance. Only the trained Architect can make it so.

IV. It seems no argument that the Owner's interests are best served by the Architect who has devoted years to special training for his work and therefore must be more intelligently qualified than the man with mere interest, obligation and training.

V. From start to finish of a building operation the Architect is the Owner's professional advisor and representative—in drafting contracts, dealing with builders and their men, certifying building changes, and seeing throughout that the work is done properly and on time.
By 1956, “The Bulletin” was turning a profit, and the decision was made to increase circulation to architects throughout the entire state. The new publication, complete with dazzling color covers, debuted in September 1957 as “Jersey Architect”. In 1958, under the direction of Albert Halse, the League sponsored adult education courses in Ridgewood: the technical “Training for Junior Draftsmen” and the informational “What a Layman Should Know”. The League’s efforts to promote the profession culminated in 1960’s “Beautiful Bergen”, a traveling exhibit which showcased noteworthy examples of local architecture. The exhibit received national publicity.

1961-1970: A Decade of Change

Moving into the 1960s, the League looked for innovative ways to build membership and meeting attendance. An “Open Forum” was held in 1962 on various topics, such as writing specifications and filing liens. Member Bernard DiPaola hosted a Hawaiian Luau at his lakeside home in Oakland. Harry Lucht hosted a meeting at his historic brownstone in Wyckoff. The Ridgewood Adult School courses were a continued success. On the legislative front, the League worked to oppose bills in the State Senate regarding the use of stock plans for school construction. The minutes also reflect “heated discussion” regarding a Tenafly design ordinance that had recently passed. By 1964, it was decided that “Jersey Architect” would cease as a League publication. It was continued by the State Society into the 1980s as “New Jersey Architecture”.

1964 brought renewed discussion of unification of the State Society with AIA, so that the Society would be a State AIA Chapter with Sections. This reorganization ultimately came to pass, establishing an officially recognized affiliation between the League and AIA. But perhaps the biggest change for the League came later in the decade. Faced with dwindling membership and a lack of volunteers for its committees, the Hudson County Chapter of the New Jersey Society of Architects began investigating consolidation options with neighboring sections. At the time, the Architects League was the largest of the eight AIA sections in New Jersey (there are six sections today), with 116 members. The Hudson County Chapter had 28 members. Negotiations with the Architects League began in 1969, and by the end of that year, the merger of the two sections was approved. Although names such as “Architects Confederation” and “North Jersey Chapter” were proposed for the consolidated group, the name “Architects League of Northern New Jersey” remained.


During the 1970s, the League formed a Technical Training Committee. ALNNJ sponsored two public education courses, with the first classes taking place at Dumont High School. The League also established an active Speakers Bureau, with members volunteering to speak at various schools and civic organizations. A “Careers in Architecture” event was established for high school students. In 1973 a bill was before the State Legislature regarding continuing education for architects. The League was asked to develop standards for continuing education and forward them to the State Society for recommendation to the Legislature. The 70s also marked the emergence of a new program topic: “Barrier Free Design for the Handicapped”.

OUTGOING ALNNJ PRESIDENT LAWRENCE R. MOON IS PRESENTED WITH GAVEL BY INCOMING PRESIDENT MERRILL J. MARTIN 1960

"JERSEY ARCHITECT" THE LEAGUE’S NEWSLETTER PUBLICATION DEBUTED IN 1957

"BEAUTIFUL BERGEN" PRESENTATION AT A LOCAL HIGH SCHOOL 1960

ALNNJ BROCHURE 1960

ALNNJ PRESIDENT LAURENCE MOON PRESENTS A PORTRAIT TO JACOB SHTER PRESIDENT OF NJ SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTS 1959

OUTGOING ALNNJ PRESIDENT LAWRENCE R. MOON IS PRESENTED WITH GAVEL BY INCOMING PRESIDENT MERRILL J. MARTIN 1960
1981-1990: Continuing Outreach

Throughout the 1980s, ALNNJ continued to build on past traditions. A new traveling exhibit was developed with boards describing the history of architecture, the history of the League, and professional services. The League also continued the “Careers in Architecture” program which included a tour of the NJIT School of Architecture and seminars on drafting and design. With the increasing use of computers in the workplace, a Computer Users Group was established.

1991-2000: The Computer Age

The growth of computer use in the 1990s brought profound changes to the profession and society. When an article in a local paper implied that CAD gave novice homeowners an ability to design complete structures, the League offered a rebuttal: “Drawings are only one part of the services an architect provides for a client,” wrote ALNNJ President Peter Pagani. “CAD no more makes a homeowner into a competent designer than a video flight simulator makes him a fighter pilot.” As the turn of the century approached, the League established its presence on the World Wide Web.

2001-Present: The New Millennium

Since “Jersey Architect” ceased publication in the 1960s, the League newsletter took various forms, and at times revived the names “The Bulletin” and “Quid Nunc”. Eventually the newsletter was named “Leagueline” and continued as a monthly publication into the 2000s. Composing, typing, printing and mailing the newsletter on a monthly basis was an arduous task, and the increased use of email was quickly making the format obsolete. In 2003, the monthly Leagueline was revamped to become a quarterly publication. The new format allowed the time to cultivate in-depth features on relevant architectural issues, professionally designed and printed, in color and with photographs. AIA National took notice: in July 2005, AIA National Best Practices cited the Leagueline as a model for state and local components for the creation of successful newsletters.

At present, the League offers vital educational programs to its members through its regular monthly meetings, Arthur Davis Lecture, and, in conjunction with AIA Newark & Suburban, the annual Trade Show which provides several educational seminars and puts members face-to-face with vendors offering the latest information on building materials and technology. ALNNJ remains ever mindful of supporting our future professionals through our scholarship programs, funded largely through the Annual golf outing that will mark its 16th year in 2015. The League offers three scholarships for undergraduate and graduate students in architecture, and this year marks the establishment of a new scholarship for high school seniors that have been accepted to an NAAB accredited architecture program.

Through these collective efforts, the League remains an advocate of the profession, and with the support of its members, will continue to do so in the years to come.
THE HISTORY OF ALNNJ SCHOLARSHIPS

The Architects League awarded its first academic scholarship on May 19, 1955 to Miss Joan de Ris of Englewood, a student at Columbia University School of Architecture. Since that time, the League has developed a scholarship program that includes:

• The Clarence Tabor Memorial Scholarship Award
• The Albert O. Halse Memorial Award
• The Architects League Scholastic Achievement Award
• The Architects League Scholarship for High School Seniors

Clarence Tabor (1891-1966) was a Charter Member of the League, served as President in 1930 & 1931, and was recipient of the Vegliante Award in 1934. Born in Chicago, Tabor designed many homes throughout the New York metropolitan area, and maintained an office at 45 Broad Street in Ridgewood. He designed the Glen Rock Municipal Building and drew plans for the original Glen Rock Bank and All Saints Church. The Clarence Tabor Memorial Scholarship Award is given to undergraduate students entering their fifth and final year of their undergraduate architectural program, and is based on scholastic excellence, attitude toward the profession, probable success as an architect, and need for financial assistance.

Albert O. Halse (1910-1978) of Hackensack, was President of the League in 1965, and was a professor of architecture at Columbia University. Halse published several books, including *The Use of Color in Interiors* and *Architectural Rendering: The Techniques of Contemporary Presentation.* The Albert O. Halse Memorial Award is given to undergraduate students for excellence in architectural delineation and/or architectural models. In 1988 a bequest from the estate of Helen Ahnemann Halse was made to the League to continue the award as a memorial scholarship.
LEGACY TOURS, LECTURES AND AWARDS

In addition to our Memorial Scholarships, the Architects League has legacy programs to honor some of our members who have passed.

Ted Kessler, AIA was a longtime Architects League member who is remembered for his generosity to the profession. He was well known for leading architectural students and others on walking tours throughout Manhattan. The Ted Kessler Walking Tour, led by Joe David, AIA, remains a tribute to Kessler’s memory and legacy. It is an annual event for members and guests of the Architects League of Northern New Jersey, with new tours premiering in the fall and then repeating the following spring.

Each November, the League honors the memory of Arthur Lewis Davis, AIA through the Arthur L. Davis Lecture Series. The series features a speaker of notable architectural importance. Mr. Davis joined the Architects League in 1970. He served the League as Treasurer, Vice President, and in 1985 as President. Arthur was the recipient of the Vegliante Award— the League’s highest honor — in 1997. He was a man of great humor and a great lover of all things cultural. Following Arthur’s passing in 2000, his wife Lenore, until her death in 2012, provided annual donations to the League to support the lecture series. Since that time, the League has honored the Davis legacy by continuing this event.

Since 1933, the League has presented the Anton L. Vegliante Award, its highest honor, to members who distinguish themselves for their contribution to the advancement of the profession. Anton Vegliante came to this country from Italy and started his career as a painting contractor. He taught himself English and became an architect. He lived and practiced in Garfield where he designed numerous churches and schools. He served as Vice President of the Architects League from 1928 to 1931, when he died at the age of 47. Anton is remembered as an honest Architect, precise, meticulous, dedicated to his profession and respected. He loved architecture. Upon his death in 1931 his will stipulated that a bequest be made to the League, to be held in trust, and that the annual interest income from the trust account would be used to make an award to the member who had distinguished themselves in the preceding year in the profession, or who, because of their achievements or accomplishments, would be deserving of the award. Mr. Vegliante’s strive for excellence remains our inspiration in the years since his passing.
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To schedule a Lunch & Learn seminar, please contact Jean Cruz at 732.947.3543 or Jennifer.Cruz@EDGonline.com.
## ALNNJ 2015 Budget

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$167,300.00

$167,300.00
Member Meeting
Update on USGBC and LEED
September 25, 2014

The ALNNJ September 25th membership meeting at Maggiano’s in Hackensack was well attended by about 80 members and guests. Jason Kiwinski, AIA, LEED Fellow and Chair of the Committee on the Environment (COTE) gave an update on USGBC-NJ and LEED v4. Mr. Kiwinski is co-founder of USGBC-NJ and a founding partner of The Green Living and Building Center, an integrated green consultancy specializing in product design, construction and education.

Annual Arthur Davis Lecture Series and Spouses’ Night Event: Evening with Alexander Gorlin, FAIA
Thursday, November 20, 2014

The annual Arthur Davis Lecture & Spouses Night was held on November 20, 2014 at the Hilton Meadowlands in East Rutherford. Alexander Gorlin, FAIA gave a presentation featuring his award winning work which has been exhibited in the MoMA, the Venice Biennale and the Chicago Athenaeum, as well as published in the New York Times, Architectural Record and Interior Design. His firm is currently involved in the renovation design of Eero Saarinen’s Bell Labs Campus in Holmdel, New Jersey, an abandoned 2 million square-foot corporate research facility repositioning itself into a thriving mixed use town center.

Awards were given to the Leagueline 40 Photo Contest winners: Joe David - 1st Place, Matt Fink - 2nd Place, and Joyce Raspa - 3rd Place. Ruth Bussacco received Honorable Mention.

The Edison Museum and House Tour
October 4, 2014

ALNNJ members were invited by AIA Newark & Suburban to attend the October 4th tour of Thomas Edison’s laboratory, grounds and mansion. The tour was led by the National Parks Department. We started at Edison’s home Glenmont, in West Orange, which was designed by the Architect Henry Hudson Holly. Holly also designed Edison’s laboratory complex which is a short drive from Glenmont. The fully built and furnished home was purchased by Edison for his second wife.

The laboratory complex of red brick buildings includes over 300,000 items of artifacts pertaining to Edison, including personal affects, patented items, tools, phonographs and other sound making and movie making devices.

Ted Kessler Walking Tour
Central Park
Saturday, October 25, 2014

On a beautiful Saturday, October 25th, Joe David led approx. 25 architects and friends of ALNNJ on a 5-hour tour of Central Park and the Museum Mile. Highlights included the Museum of Natural History, the Great Lawn, Bethesda Fountain and Terrace, Belvedere Castle, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Frick Museum, the Guggenheim Museum and the Jackie Onassis Reservoir. We posed for a group photo at the Richard Morris Hunt Monument on Fifth Avenue and E. 70th Street, thus honoring one of our nation’s greatest architects whose work included the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Leadership Conference,
November 15, 2014

ALNNJ Members Ruth Bussacco, Paul Bryan, Steve Lazarus, Ben Lee, Terry Durden and Larry Parisi attended a dynamic session by Glenn Tecker on Effective Practices of Successful Boards at the AIA-NJ Leadership Conference, held on November 15, 2014 at the Trenton Country Club. The session was Step One in strategic planning for the future of AIA-NJ.
**Recommendation**

Ten Paintings

**February 2015**

- Jeff Chin-Hong Lai: New York: Assembled Realities thru February 15 Museum of the City of NY mcn.org

- Li Xia: Xuan Burberry thru February 15 Museum of the City of NY mcn.org

**March 2015**

- Noble Maritime Collection

A museum and study center Celebrating the working waterfront of New York Harbor Snag Harbor Staten Island noblemaritime.org

**Recommendation**

Noble Maritime Collection

**Events**

**January 15**

- New Year’s Day

**January 2015**

- The Architects League of Northern New Jersey Calendar of Events 2015

- Monday thru Friday:
  - 1 thru 5
  - 6 thru 10
  - 11 thru 15
  - 16 thru 20
  - 21 thru 25
  - 26 thru 30

**Looking ahead:**

- Whitney Museum on the HighLine Opening Spring 2015

**New Members**

The League is pleased to announce our newest Allied Member:

- David Grimes, Wausau Tile

The League welcomes you and looks forward to your involvement and participation. Please make a point of introducing yourself at the next dinner meeting or event.

**Members are among the judges participating in Lego Night**

On Friday, November 14, Members of the Architects League of Northern New Jersey attended the Hasbrouck Heights Public Library’s 26th anniversary of Lego Night. The event was well attended by children of all ages with their parents. Many kids displayed a mastery of the Lego building media.

Architects League members Richard Basta AIA, Ruth Bussacco AIA, and Bill Martin AIA, watched the action and listened to the kids enthusiastically describing their creations. The kids were divided into age groups and their creativity was amazing. First place, second-place, third-place, and honorable mentions were bestowed based on creativity, imagination, and overall presentation.

The Architects League of Northern New Jersey sincerely thanks Hasbrouck Heights Public Library director and staff for a truly great event.
just a few more....