



June 1, 2010

Paul W. Welch Jr., Hon. AIA
Executive Vice President

TO: Board of Directors
Executive Committee
Presidents, California AIA Chapters
Executive Directors, California CACE
AIACC Senior Staff

FROM: Paul W. Welch Jr. Hon. AIA
Executive Vice President

RE: *Insight: Connecting AIA Leadership in California*
June 2010

Greetings:

I've heard from several of you that while you are inundated with "junk mail", this is an important vehicle to stay connected with all that's happening at the AIACC. So, if you are one of the folks that haven't had a chance yet to read this publication – please take a few moments – I promise you'll find something of interest.

If you have any questions or need additional information on the items listed, please visit the website, contact the staff member, or feel free to drop me a note.

[Paul](#)

Perspectives

“We live in a moment of history where change is so speeded up that we begin to see the present only when it is already disappearing.”

- [R. D. Laing](#)

Over the last several weeks, during my visits and phone conversations with members’ and architectural firm principles, I am increasingly optimistic that recovery from this

devastating recession is on the horizon. Conversely, while I am told that while things are improving, it's clear to most that project delivery and the way firms practice, will not be the same. I'm not sure what that means exactly, but I listen carefully to the counsel of the experienced, especially the prophecy of adverse consequences, germinated in a tight, competitive economy, but continue and flourish when times are better. A couple of examples come quickly to mind: increased use of indemnification clauses; and creative, severe abuse of the Qualification Based Selection (QBS) process.

Change encompasses the notion that survival and remaining relevant often depends on increased awareness as to what needs changed, and the courage to act. Such is the case with the AIA. Soon, AIA National will launch a national search for a new Executive Vice President/CEO. Like other large corporations, leadership transition affords an extraordinary opportunity for assessing organizational behavior, evaluating programmatic effectiveness and identification of disconnects that frequently accompany not-for-profit organizations and negatively impact member services. Self-examination is not synonymous with finding fault or rationalizing falling short of desired goals and objectives. Instead, leadership transition provides a window for an organization to explore and examine the means and methods by which members of the AIA can be better served, it compels the leadership at all levels to work collaboratively in enhancing the relevance of organizational programs and activities, while advancing member value.

Recently, in response to the change of leadership at national AIA, the AIACC conducted a charrette to evaluate the delivery of member services, and explore ways to better collaborate with AIA national. In doing the charrette, we learned a lot about ourselves and how we can individually and collectively improve the value of membership. We hope to have the results of the charrette documented and distributed prior to the AIA convention in Miami.

Transitions

On the heels of what I wrote above, I find our office amidst with change as well. I am pleased to announce Nicki Dennis Stephens, Hon. AIACC, successfully passed the LEED Green Associate exam. I am also proud to share with you that Nicki has been elevated to the position of Senior Director. She will act in my absence as AIACC’s primary

component officer and ensure systems remain in place to continue to provide our members with excellent member-value and support.

Legislative Affairs - Mark Christian (mchristian@aiacc.org):

California Grassroots:

- The AIACC held a Sacramento “Day at the Legislature” on May 11th, and 13 architects from the AIA Central Valley, East Bay, and San Francisco members were in attendance to visit their respective legislators.
- The issues this year are:
 - [our sponsored legislation AB 1746](#), which improves how architects report compliance with the architect continuing education requirement;
 - [opposition to the proposed Independent Contractor Withholding requirement](#),
 - [support for the California court construction program](#)
- Many local components are scheduling visits in their legislative districts. [Click here](#) if you need chapter-specific assistance.

Sponsored Legislation:

- The AIACC’s sponsored legislation, AB 1746, passed the State Assembly without a single “No” vote, and has its first hearing in the State Senate is scheduled for June 7th.
- This bill changes how architects report their compliance with the disability access continuing education law. If enacted and unchanged in the State Senate, the change would take place for the 2013 renewal period.
- Instead of requiring architects to submit the Provider Course Documentation Form along with the renewal application, the architect would only have to certify he or she took the required coursework and maintains the documentation in the event of an audit by the California Architects Board.
- This change will simplify the renewal process for architects and allow the CAB to process applications in a more effective and efficient manner.

Administrative Office of the Courts Contract Language

- AIACC staff continues to work with the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) on the indemnification language in its standard contract.
- That language exposes architects to uninsurable defense obligations.
- The negotiations with AOC staff certainly are taking longer than we would have expected or hoped for, but we remain hopeful that we can agree to language that is reasonable and insurable for architectural firms.

Regulatory Affairs - Kurt Cooknick (kcooknick@aiacc.org):

Indemnification:

- Education efforts related to the recent UDC v CH2M Hill decision continue. The AIACC is working with Contract Solutions Group to provide a series of seminars that will provide design professionals with “work arounds” to avoid assuming defense obligations of clients. More information on these opportunities will be forthcoming in the next few weeks.

CAB Amends Public Access to Licensee Information

- As you may know, the California Architects Board (CAB), through its regulation and enforcement committee, decided to make licensee contact information more easily available to the public. While this is a long-standing requirement, the ease of accessing this information may be problematic for individuals who work out of their homes.
- AIACC staff is looking into this to determine the operative problems this change may have inadvertently caused, and remedies if appropriate.
- Contact [Kurt](#) if you know of any architects who are being negatively affected by this change.

Professional Practice -Nicki Dennis Stephens (ndennis@aiacc.org):

Online CES:

- The AIACC is in the process of developing five more hours of online continuing education on accessibility and hopes to have them ready for beta-testing to the Board of Directors by August 1.
- Staff is working with aecKnowledge to provide video production and hosting services.
- The AIACC has contracted with Kerwin Lee, AIA to provide two, 1 ½ hour online courses: “Accessible Multi-Family Dwellings” and “Accessible Public Accommodations”.
- Contact [Nicki](#) if you would have any questions or need more information about this program.

CALGreen – Education Campaign

- As you know, the AIACC is participating in “The Green Codes Educational Collaborative” to provide tools and education for the design and construction community to implement CALGreen.
- Each organization recently sent a release out to its constituency, outlining the goals and timeline for its efforts. As a result, several local municipalities have contacted the AIACC, looking for information and guidance.

- The AIACC has contracted for the development of a matrix comparing requirements of CalGREEN, LEED, and Build it Green - to share with building officials and a template to put local requirements in context. This document will be released the week of June 7.
- The AIACC is also producing a series of online continuing education courses to educate members of the design and construction community. While the specific details are still being worked out, we're working with various stakeholder groups to develop the following:
 - "CALGreen 101": a general overview of CALGreen, the development process, the measures, etc. We're working with California Buildings Standards Commission staff to develop content for this program.
 - CALGreen Commercial Education Program: AIACC has contracted with Simon & Associates to produce a 2-hour course that will incorporate strategies for meeting CALGreen requirements for commercial buildings.
 - CALGreen Residential Education Program: AIACC has contracted with Simon & Associates to produce a 2-hour course that will incorporate strategies for meeting CALGreen requirements for educational buildings.
- These video presentations will use both the presenters and graphic illustrations to provide an engaging experience for participants. We intend for these to be provided in the \$30 per hour range (with an additional discount for AIA members), and AIA continuing education credit will be available. We plan to have them available August 15.
- The AIACC will be seeking resources to help defray the cost of this effort from members of the Collaborative and other industry groups.

Practice Series:

- The "Practice Series" is a progression of discussion papers designed to address priority issues and concerns as identified by a survey of California architects.
- The Series offers varying perspectives and mitigation responses suggested by experts, consultants, architects, and other allied professionals who, through their own experiences and observations, add value to the conversations.
- The first issue was slated for publication mid-May, but we're still having challenges obtaining authors. Want to contribute to this effort? Contact [Nicki](#).

Integrated Project Delivery (IPD):

- Members of the IPD Steering Committee are presenting at the National AIA Convention in Miami – Wednesday, June 9, 2010 from 1-5 p.m. Read more about their presentation in the "Convention" section at the end of this document.
- The IPD Steering Committee is focusing on reinventing the committee structure to include groups in both northern and southern California. To that end, we will

be holding a “recruitment” event in both San Francisco and Los Angeles later this summer. Once in place, the Steering Committee will hold a “training”/ identify broad goals and then the local groups will develop specific strategies to meet those goals.

- [Click here](#) to volunteer.

Capitol Forum:

- The K-12 Schools Practice Area Group met last week to discuss the role of DSA in the future.
- Results from this meeting will be used to draft a whitepaper which suggests strategies for improving the office and its impact on school construction.
- The Healthcare Practice Area Group is meeting with a group of concerned industry stakeholders on June 17 to identify issues of concern, create a strategic approach to the problem, and identify opportunities for innovation in healthcare facility design and practice. The goal of this symposium is to publish a report which explores the challenges and consequences of healthcare delivery in California and clearly identifies opportunities for change.
- Contact [Nicki](#) for more information.

Communications/Public Affairs - Lori Reed (lreed@aiacc.org):

- Everyone is getting more and more information...and inboxes continue to fill up. At every level of the AIA, components lament on membership not reading their information (and thus not clearly understanding the value of their membership). To put this into context for the AIACC leadership...below are the “open rates” for the various AIACC publications you receive.
- The open rate for *Firm Focus* (sent bi-weekly) is 38% and the open rate for *Relevance* (sent once a month) is 40%. These rates vary from month to month.

Awards - Mandi Hultsman (mhultsman@aiacc.org):

- Thanks to all who encouraged entries into the AIACC’s awards program. Thanks to your efforts, 382 projects have been registered thus far. We’re still a ways from our goal, but efforts continue to close the gap.
- The submittals are due June 17 and the jury will be held in mid-July.

Governance - Brenda Balstad (bbalstad@aiacc.org):

AIA Convention:

- National AIA candidates’ responses to the AIACC questionnaire were published on the website. To review their position the issues facing the profession, the organization, and the future [click here](#).

- Interested in more information about National AIA candidates? [Click here](#) to access their speeches from Grassroots 2010.
- **Members of the IPD Steering Committee will be presenting at the Convention** on June 9, 2010 Implemented collaborative project delivery tools and techniques Session ID: 10WE041 (Pre-Convention Seminar)
- California Events at Convention:

California Regional Breakfast

Thursday, June 10, 2010

7:00 - 8:00 a.m.

Loews Miami Beach Hotel, Room: Poinciana 2

California New Fellows Reception

Friday, June 11, 2010

6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Loews Miami Beach Hotel, Room: Poinciana 2

[Click here](#) to RSVP for either event.

AIACC Board of Directors Meetings – REMINDERS:

- **July 30, 2010**
Board of Directors Meeting – Burbank
9:30 a.m.
The Board meeting will be held at:
Woodbury University
7500 North Glenoaks Blvd.
Burbank, CA 91504

The meeting agenda will be distributed to you on or before July 16, 2010, via BaseCamp. If you have any suggestions or have something to add to the agenda, please [let me know](#).