

Yolanda Lettieri, Associate AIA
AIA Northwest & Pacific Region
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NAC ANNUAL MEETING RAD REPORT

This year's National Associates Committee (NAC) Annual Meeting, held October 16-19, 2008, provided a plethora of information, but mainly was a forum for us as representatives of our region to state issues that are pertinent to us and other Associates. Below is a summary divided into the main areas discussed during the meeting: Advocacy, Community, and Knowledge.

Advocacy

The first few hours of the meeting introduced all the new RAD's how the NAC is organized, political positions for officers, elections process, and how the RAD's tie into the regions and the NAC. They also introduced us to the power that the NAC has to communicate with the AIA Executive Committee on issues pertaining to the Associate membership. We are that voice for Associates. They emphasized the importance of expressing ourselves within the NAC and in our regions as that one voice, so that the messages are communicated in a consistent manner to Associate members as well as full AIA members.

Some of the main issues that the NAC will address this year with the "collaterals", or the organizations with which we are associated (AIA, NCARB, NAAB, AIAS, ACSA), are: Intern Titling and AIA Associate membership changes, continue the push toward ARE/IDP concurrency in all states requiring both for licensing, and NCARB evaluation of the electronic training unit submission forms and accountability. We are also wanting to align our initiatives with the AIA Strategic Plan with the following major topics: 1) Inclusiveness and public awareness, 2) Mentorship, and 3) Building Strategic Alliances. We found that these three topics covered our ideas about diversity and what that will mean to the AIA, increasing membership with mentoring and continuity of the profession, and building strategic alliances connects the profession to the community and our leaders. The new Advocacy Director for the NAC leading the charge for 2009 will be Katie Harms, RAD for Central States region.

Community

The 2009 Community Director for the NAC, Mark Schwammel, RAD for Illinois region, will be responsible for communicating with the RAD's by email as well as getting information out to the group as soon as possible. He will be working with the NAC Newsletter Editors, for *Associate News* and *Forward*, Christina Noble and Chris Grossnicklaus. The NAC RAD's are responsible for contributing monthly to the newsletters for Associate readers to see what we're up to, in our regions, as well as topics of interest to us. The Community director is also leading the group in writing the white papers, proposals and responses for initiatives within the collaterals.

Knowledge

The Knowledge Committee is responsible for organizing and developing programs for Associate members at the National Conventions and Grassroots Conferences. Some of the programs set up include a program for the 2009 Grassroots Conference for the IDP Firm Award and Intern Friendly Firms. Since I have taken part in numerous state and regional convention planning committees in the past two years, I volunteered to be a part of this committee. Jack Baumann, RAD from Ohio Valley region, will be leading the Knowledge committee. We also keep track of the CEU credits for programs, and meeting minutes for the conference calls and meetings in-person. One big item we will be working on this year will be a white paper about the effects of the Integrated Project Delivery on the Intern Development Program.

Overall, the NAC Annual Meeting was a brisk overview of everything that has been going on with Associate issues since its conception in 2000, and what will be happening in the future with the membership. It's an exciting time to be recently licensed, and to represent such a wonderful group of individuals in our region who want to make sure that their voices are heard at the national level at AIA. I'm still working on completing what my goals will be as RAD for 2009 for the region, but one of my key issues I will be tackling will be to obtain contact information for all the Associate Directors in our region, and get an updated list of the board members. I would like to reunite all the Associate Directors at next year's regional conference in Anchorage, Alaska. There was some discussion at the regional conference in Hawaii about an Associate Director "Summit". What better way to get the group together to discuss the issues? But I will need to hear some of the local issues within their components to address them at the national level. Without their input, it will get very lonely as a RAD with no constituents. I will also be distributing information about scholarships for Associates to local components and their respective deadlines, to make sure that Associates receive the information on time. These are just a few of the items of importance in our region, and little by little, they can and will be achieved.