AIA MICHIGAN

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DIRECTORY AND ACTION PLAN 2014

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Mission Statement

The goal of the Government Affairs Committee (“GAC”) is to establish a long-range plan to update law affecting the profession of Architecture, through legislation, administrative law and legal advocacy. To achieve its goal, the GAC must develop, coordinate and expedite an annual, comprehensive, and pro-active plan for all government affairs, for review and approval by the Board of Directors of AIA Michigan. The GAC is not a policy-making body. The charge of the GAC is to investigate, debate, and recommend actions to the AIA Michigan Board of Directors that advance the interests of the profession, protect the health safety and welfare of the public, and are consistent with AIA National polices. Upon receipt of final direction from the Board, the GAC will implement the policies, taking all necessary and reasonable measures within its authority.

Because the GAC’s goals are long-term in nature, a “Big Picture” approach is required, encompassing awareness of, and interaction with not only architects, but engineers, landscape architects, land surveyors, contractors, interior designers, state and municipal governments, building officials, the Board of Architects, and others. Identifying potential industry allies, key bureaucrats and legislators, and building and maintaining productive relationships is a continuing focus of the GAC. In order to succeed, the GAC must rely on the involvement of the entire membership of this Association.

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Committee Organization and Structure

GAC is comprised of volunteers of members and associate members. Although the GAC has in the past been organized into task force groups or “departments”, that approach changed in 2006 and the new structure will continue. Although the old Task Force Policy Statements and goals remain vital, the GAC henceforth will prioritize and organize around issues as opposed to static concepts that may or may not be as applicable to the current priorities in an often-fluid political, technological and legal environment. Rather than adhere to a rigid structure, task force(s) and subcommittees will be formed on an as-needed basis consistent with committee member interests and talents, and remain in place as long as a need is recognized.

AIA Michigan Government Affairs Initiatives

Overview

Over the past twenty three years, architects across the country have become much more aware of the impact, our collective voice can have on legislative matters. Architects have also begun to see the value that pro-active political involvement can bring to our profession and our individual practices. Every state now has an active Government Affairs Committee looking out for the best interests of AIA members in their jurisdiction. In recent years in Michigan, the GAC has been successful in fending off attacks on our licensing act, opposing interior design licensing legislation and pursuing licensing violators. We have also been very successful in building strong coalitions with engineers, surveyors, landscape architects, building officials, and contractor associations.

GAC has its own agenda, which it manages affirmatively. GAC also functions reactively to matters that arise which impact the profession. Some of these types of issues are re-current, and our response strategy is tailored to bridge between periodic engagements. Other issues require long periods of monitoring without action. Others issues arise unexpectedly and require an urgent response. GAC’s priorities are studied each year, but nonetheless may become fluid, no matter what our intentions might have been. The following is a brief synopsis of the subject matters and issues the GAC expects to engage this year, roughly in order of priority:

I. Architects, Engineers & Surveyors Legislative Committee

In 2010 a significant change was made in the long-standing Architects – Engineers Legislative Committee (“AELC”). The AELC became the Architects, Engineers & Surveyors Legislative Committee (“AESLC”) due to the addition of the Michigan Society of Professional Surveyors (MSPS) to the group. The GAC and its engineering partners held a series of discussions with the MSPS, and determined that the identity of interests between the organizations warranted that MSPS should be welcomed into the alliance. After further negotiations, MSPS became a full member in all AESLC activities in 2011.

The purpose of the AESLC is to assist the participating organizations in promoting public
policies and procedures that advance the interests of architects, engineers & Surveyors. AESLC is the formal interface point between the GAC and its professional lobbying firm, Kelley-Cawthorne of Lansing, MI. GAC relies heavily on the information, advice and guidance of its lobbying professionals to develop its strategies, and to implement them. Therefore, AESLC has long served as the central mechanism for legislative action by the GAC.

In addition, it would be difficult to understate the value of GAC’s strong alliance with the engineering associations through the AELSC. The engineers provide weight of numbers and skill in advocacy that greatly enhance GAC’s ability to be heard. Because the engineer’s Executive Director, Ron Brenke, and the surveyors Executive Director offices are located in Lansing, the engineers and surveyors have been able to develop relationships with key individuals, organizations and departments which in turn benefit GAC and AIA. The engineers and surveyors have been special allies who generously lend their stature to AIA causes. GAC looks forward in continue working with ACEC, MSPE and MSPS as a beneficial relationship.

It should be recognized that all recent legislative successes have been made possible through GAC’s participation in AELSC. GAC involvement in and support of the AESLC will continue as it has in the past with AELSC.

The primary responsibilities of the AESLC are:

1. To review and monitor State of Michigan and local government legislative matters which currently or could potentially affect policies and procedures of the participating organizations.

2. To determine how the committee should act on matters consistent with the best interest of the participating organizations.

3. To have legislation introduced that benefits the design profession and the states citizens.

4. To establish sub-committees and task forces at its discretion to assist in the committee’s efforts.

5. To review, investigate and take appropriate action on matters assigned to committee by the participating organizations.

6. To periodically report to the participating organizations relative to the actions taken directly by the committee and the status of other matters for which the committee is responsible.

7. In order to facilitate reporting and communication each member organization shall continue to have a board of directors member as a part of its delegation.

As does ACEC, MSPE and MSPS, AIAMI holds 4 voting memberships on the AESLC, one of which is traditionally held by AIAMI President Elect.
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In addition, GAC members and the AIAMI Public Policy Director attend meetings on a continual basis as guests and as non-voting members.

II. Professional Practice Task Force

One of the highest standing priorities of the GAC is the advancement of the policies behind Michigan's Architecture licensing laws. The GAC's Professional Practice Task Force is the unit within the GAC with specific responsibility for implementation. The purpose of the licensing law is to protect the public's health, safety and welfare by restricting the practice of Architecture only to persons meeting statutorily prescribed minimum competency requirements. Therefore, the fair and universal enforcement of the law is the focus of the Task Force. In advancing the goals of the GAC relative to professional practice, there are two basic areas of activity for the Task Force: Education and Enforcement.
The GAC Task Force endeavors to educate architects, governmental officials and the public about the licensing requirements of the State of Michigan, who can practice architecture, and the requirements for properly sealed drawings. To that end, the GAC may be represented at seminars or meetings to provide continuing education.

The GAC has also periodically publishes a bulletin-style update, entitled the “Code and Regulation Summary for Properly Sealed Drawings” to Michigan code enforcement officials, summarizing the requirements for properly-sealed drawings. This is done in cooperation with the engineering associations. The update is published every three years in relation to the issuance of the new building code. Unfortunately, for the last code cycle in 2009, the GAC did not publish a new Code and Regulation Summary due to budget limitations. Presently, the program is being revitalized and hopefully will publish a 2012 code cycle edition.

Regarding enforcement, the GAC and the Task Force has historically been a clearinghouse for licensing violation complaints for the membership, the various chapters and even the public. The Association’s historic record of news publications reveals the AIA has been active in licensing enforcement as far back as 1939, just two years after licensing was instituted in Michigan (Thanks to Ben Tiseo for researching the AIAMI records).

With the increased penalties contained in SB 1515 becoming effective in 2009, the GAC has hope that a new era in enforcement might be dawning in Michigan. As a result of AIA Michigan board action in 2012 which budgeted funds to file complaints in court the Committee will be working with Fred Butters the GAC legal council to take necessary action.

As usual, 2013 saw a number of violation reports to which the GAC Task Force responded. One such case involved an individual who was not an architect and had an architect seal made with their name and bogus number. This case is being pursued by Fred Butters, FAIA, Esq. our GAC Legal Council with the local county prosecutor as a Felony charge. Several investigations remain in progress and will be addressed as appropriate under the law.

As a result of perusing several unlicensed activate cases the investigation was halted because the entities we believe are practicing illegally are Limited Liability Companies and as a result members of an LLC is not required to be listed in the annual report like standard corporations are required. In 2014 AESLC will be seeking changes in the LLC law to require LLC’s which are practicing a regulated profession to list all its members in the annual report.

III. Legislative Day(s)

A long-term approach to government affairs requires (among other things) relationship building, visibility, awareness and vigilance. The political environment is constantly evolving, so displaying a consistent presence by AIA is vital. Our professional lobbyist provides an important measure of stability but Legislators must be convinced that AIA represents a significant, active constituency that is engaged in the public forum and will continue to be so engaged. Our Legislative Day events serve to establish AIA as an active participate in Michigan government affairs. There is no substitute for face-to-face exposure with Legislators by the membership,
and no more effective manner of exposure than to appear en masse, along with our engineering allies for added weight.

Therefore, Legislative Day continues to be the signature event for the GAC. At the event(s), members convene to be educated in the current issues, meet with Michigan’s Representatives and Senators and express the profession’s interests and concerns. Over the last 4 years, there have been two Legislative Days, one in Lansing and one organized in the Upper Peninsula. Our committee cannot function effectively without significant attendance at this event. The more participants we have, the louder the voice of AIA Michigan will be. A poor turnout can potentially damage our interests. All AIA Michigan members are strongly encouraged to participate.

As a dividend to the members, this event is fun. Due to budget restraints, some “fun” AIA events have been the subject of cut backs this year. Food and fun are always part of the Legislative Day events, and most new participants find themselves pleasantly surprised how enjoyable and fulfilling it can be to speak directly with their elected officials, and to contribute to the development of public policy. Any member can partake effectively.

Attendees are provided with information, instruction, and partners for visiting with the legislators. Members meet with their Legislators throughout the morning and afternoon, and entertain Legislators during the lunch hour at the buffet lunch hosted by AIA/ACEC/MSPE/MSPS.

Also in March the Annual Upper Peninsula Legislative Day will be held in an office in the Upper Peninsula. In 2014, the GAC will focus more resources on this event, because of the travel distances for members and Legislators make participation more challenging.

The GAC will be asking all members of AIA MI leadership to again make promotion of Legislative Day and U.P. Legislative Day a priority whenever addressing the membership. Legislative Day is scheduled for Wednesday, March 5, 2014 IN LANSING, Michigan.

IV. Proposal for a Single State Fire Code

Since 2000 Michigan has enjoyed the benefits of having a single state family of (building) codes which is based on the International Code Commissions family of codes. Prior to 2000 municipalities in Michigan were allowed to adopt their own building codes, including editions, with modifications for their community. This arrangement caused for a great deal of different interpretations of the codes. AIA Michigan is pursuing the adoption of a Single State Fire Code without exemption or modification much like the Michigan Building Code. The Single State Fire Code Task Force is chaired by Misty Raatz and has been working with Ben Tiseo which both sit on the State Fire Marshals Ad Hoc Committee. In January 2014 it is expected that the State Fire Marshal shall submit a report to the governor supporting a Statewide Single State Fire Code. The governor is expected to approve the initiative and have legislation introduced to mandate a Statewide Single State Fire Code.
V. Proposal to allow submittal of drawings electronically with an electronic seal and signature

In order to accommodate the future AIA Michigan pursued changes to the licensing law and rules to allow for the submittal of drawings electronically with an electronic seal and signature. We all agree that at some point in the future submittal of drawings electronically will be the standard not only in Michigan but throughout the country. In anticipation of that time Michigan will be one of the first states to allow, not mandate, for such submittal. This change will be of great benefit to all because it will save time in submittal as well as plan review which will translate in a financial saving to architects/engineers as well as municipalities. As a result of AIA Michigan’s pursuit on this matter HB 4585 was introduced in the House Regulatory Reform committee on April 18, 2013 and on November 26th the Governor signed the bill which will take effect on February 25, 2014. It should be noted that this bill received unanimous support in both chambers. The State of Michigan Bureau of Construction Codes has purchased the necessary software and hardware to begin excepting electronic submittals in January of 2015. Another success story for AIAMI, mission accomplished.

VI. Proposal to Extend Construction Code Cycle to 6 Years

Michigan’s code cycle is currently 3 years. The Michigan Association of Homebuilders (MAHB’), a group that traditionally styles itself as a political adversary of the AELC, has proposed extending the code cycle to 6 years. The featured reason for this proposal is economic, in that less frequent code cycles means eliminating costs of re-issuing the code books by half, and fewer costs to review and adjust to new code requirements. There may be additional reasons driving the MAHB, such as a desire to slow the pace of changes in the codes in general. Nonetheless, the MAHB has approached GAC with the proposal seeking its support.

After much debate in the legislature and opposition from businesses like Dow Chemical a bill was passed (HB 4561) that would allow (not mandate) the Michigan Residential Code to be adopted up to a 6 year cycle and new materials shall be permitted by an enforcing building official. The Department Director of LARA is the one that would make the determination. PA 504 of 2012 did not alter the 3 year cycle for the other codes.

GAC took a neutral position on this topic.

VII. Sustainable Design Initiative

A very significant new GAC initiative was launched in 2009. GAC and AELC recognized that if sustainable design principles were to be productively addressed by the government, the A/E associations needed not only to have a “seat at the table,” in the policy-development stage, but needed to sit at the head of the table. The AELC resolved to embark on a “Green Initiative” to position AIA/ACEC/MSPE as the governments “experts” on sustainable design. The goal of the initiative is to establish the professional design community as the “resource of first resort” for Michigan’s governmental policy-makers and bureaucrats.
Further, due to term limits and the evolving nature of sustainable design data, the AELC would have to expect this initiative would be a long-term commitment, possible creating a permanent standing obligation for the associations and their members.

A strategy was designed in consultation with the AELC lobbyist. Specifically, AELC would seek meetings with key Legislators and begin an educational process for Legislators and their staff. AELC also convened what became known as “The Green Team” which was tasked with developing seminar-style educational materials and to present an educational program directly to Legislators. AELC pursued this program through 2010, and AESLC expects the Green Team and its work will continue to be a priority in 2013 and beyond.

The AESLC will maintain a presence and communications with the key Legislators and key committees, and be available to review and comment upon any “green” proposals that may come before elected officials. Ultimately, AESLC also expects to initiate responsible legislation and/or regulations that advance the development of a sustainable built environment in Michigan. The development of an affirmative legislative/regulatory position for Michigan is a GAC issue and this Task Force is now chaired by Tim Mrozowski, AIA of Michigan State University.

VIII. Continuing Professional Competency

Michigan’s existing licensing law for Architects at MCL 339.2009 requires that, “A demonstration of continuing professional competence shall be required for renewal of a license.” There currently is no government-enforced mechanism to verify the continuing professional competency of Architects in Michigan. In 2008, the Michigan Department of Business and Economic Growth announced its intention to enforce the foregoing statutory requirement.

The method to be employed will be a requirement that Architects complete a prescribed level of continuing education classes during the renewal cycle. The Department and the Board of Architects began developing the specific requirements and the framework for reporting and record-keeping, and that development continued throughout the year 2009.

GAC assigned a Task Force to monitor, review and comment on the Department’s proposed system of required continuing education for Michigan Architects. In this manner, GAC could have influence in the process and in turn, improve the resulting final system. Former AIAMI President Steve Smith served in the role of point of contact with the Department. Steve attended meetings, reviewed drafts, and submitted comments for the entire year.

The Department determined that a change in the statute was required to authorize the program. Accordingly, HB 6374 was introduced by Representative Pam Byrnes to effect the change. HB 6374 easily passed both chambers and was signed into law by Governor Granholm on December 21, 2010, as Public Act 324 of 2010. The new law amends section 339.2009 which now reads in full:

Sec. 2009. (1) Beginning the license cycle after the effective date of the rules promulgated under subsection (2), a demonstration of the completion of a
program of continuing education shall be required for renewal of a license issued under this article.

(2) The department shall, by rule, establish a program of continuing education for all licensees under this article.

This act is ordered to take immediate effect.

The states JCAR Committee finalized the Continuing Education rules in October 2013 any will take effect at the beginning of the licensing renewal cycle of November 1, 2013. Those architects whose license renewal period ends on October 31, 2015 will need to obtain 24 hours of Health Safety and Welfare credits in order to renew their license in 2015.

IX. Interior Designer Licensing

There was very little activity by the I.D. lobbyist in 2012 until the end of the year when SB 1325 – 1327 were introduced seeking licensing for Interior Designers. The GAC will be prepared to engage itself in another political contest over Interior Designer Licensing if one comes in 2013. This session, GAC feels confident the ID Lobby is facing a far more difficult political environment for a new licensing law such as CIDR is proposing. First, since this occupation is one of the 18 recommended for deregulation by the governors committee. Second, the economic constraints faced by the State will militate against taking on any new bureaucratic commitments. Third, the Republican Majority is philosophically less open to government regulation of this nature. In summary, GAC is hopeful Interior Designer licensing will be a minor issue in the coming session.

X. APAC Fund Raising and Political Contributions

Obviously, there are two components to political donations relative to GAC activities: acquiring donations and then making contributions with those funds. AIAMI dues cannot be used for political purposes. Contributions are strictly drawn from the Architects Political Action Committee funds, so continued donations by the membership must be sought routinely, despite the current economic conditions.

The carefully-studied distribution of APAC funds is a critical component of GAC’s strategy for continued success in the legislative arena, and there is no equivalent substitute for it. As usual, planning in connection with political contributions for this coming year is already underway, in consultation with the Lobbyist. To be successful, contribution strategy must be statewide in scope and non-partisan in nature. The strategy must both recognize the current political reality and also anticipate the future. GAC could not develop an intelligent contribution strategy without professional advice from the Lobbyist.

While at times, a APAC money contribution alone can be an effective measure in building a relationship, the importance of constituents and AIAMI leadership attending a fund-raiser in
person and meeting the legislator cannot be overstated. Connections developed in this manner proved immensely valuable in the past and the same should be true in the future.

APAC contributions were made to a long list of legislators, based on the advice and counsel of Kelley-Cawthorne. In 2012 the approval for political contributions was made by the new separate Steering Committee which is governed by a new APAC Board of Directors. This new procedure with By-Laws adopted by the AIAMI Board in January of 2012 is now in full operation.

Currently Ralph Moxley, AIA is chair of the APAC Board and Kevin Shultis, AIA is chair of the Steering Committee.

XI. **Legislator of the Year**

In 2003, the Legislator of the Year Award was instituted. This award was made part of the AIAMI awards program to “Recognize a state elected official who has made a contribution to the profession as a result of their actions in state government by recognizing the value of architects/architecture in the built environment or community.” The intended recipient is a sitting elected official but can be awarded up to one after leaving office.

**Previous Recipients:**
- 2004 Senator Bruce Paterson (R) District 7 - Canton
- 2005 Representative Christopher Ward (R) District 66 - Brighton
- 2006 Senator Mark Schauer (D) District 19 - Battle Creek
- 2007 None
- 2008 Senator Jason Allen (R) District 37 - Traverse City
- 2009 Senator Alan Sanborn (R) District 11 – Richmond
- 2010 Representative Barb Byrum (D) District 67 – Onondaga
- 2011 None
- 2012 Senator Tonya Schuitmaker (R) District 20 – Lawton
- 2013 None

XII. **Board of Architects**

AIA’s relationship with the Board of Architects is part of the GAC scope of service. Recently, both the goal of amending the ARE Timing statute and influencing the development of Michigan’s continuing education program required interface and dialogue with the Board. Since Dennis King, FAIA is the new Public Policy Director he will serve in the role of GAC liaison to the Board, and a GAC representative attended each Board meeting during the year. GAC expects the same approach of maintaining consistent engagement with the Board will continue in 201 and into the foreseeable future.

XIII. **Energy Code Update**

No update by this legislature on the Energy Code.
XIV. **Service Tax**

Michigan’s budget and taxation problems, which paralyzed the Legislature in 2007, were never fully resolved and are expected to become more exacerbated in 2013. Therefore it remains possible, perhaps likely, that tax and budget issues could again spawn a renewed effort by certain quarters to impose a service tax in this state, including on architectural services. GAC will continue to monitor the situation and act swiftly if a service tax scheme is again introduced. GAC expects its new partner, MSPS, will be helpful in opposing any effort to impose service taxes as well.

XV. **Amicus Cases**

AIA did not participate in any appellate cases as amicus curiae in 2013.

XVI. **Right to Copies of Copyrighted Architectural Drawings through FOIA**

An issue which GAC expects to address in 2013 is the issue of Freedom of Information Act (“FOIA”) requests being refused by municipalities, relative to copies of architectural drawings. Although the statue at MCL 15.233 mandates that “a person has a right to inspect, copy, or receive copies of the requested public record of the public body,” some cities have refused to make copies of architectural drawings, based on the argument that architectural drawings are copyrighted. Rather than make copies, these municipal entities provide only the opportunity to review design drawings, without allowing any copies to be made.

Attorney General Opinion No. 6965 issued January 16, 1998, supports the view that a governmental authority must copy materials that are required by law to be filed, and are in the possession of a governmental authority. The permission of the copyright holder is not required. In 2012 Representative Barb Byrum, on behalf of AIAMI requested an AG Opinion to confirm that architectural drawings are included in documents that are to be provided when making a FOIA request.

GAC finds copies of copyrighted design drawings on file with building review authorities to be an important tool during investigations of alleged licensing violations. GAC is waiting for a response from the Attorney General’s office to our request to confirm that municipalities must provide copies of drawings when requested under the FOIA.

XVII. **Limited Liability Company’s**

In the GAC’s pursuit of several Unlicensed Practices cases an issue which involve different Limited Liability Company’s practicing architecture and as a result of the current LLC report filing requirements it is not possible to determine if 2/3’s of the LLC members are in fact licensed principles as required per MCL 339.2010.(1)
Under the current law LLC’s are not required to list members of the Limited Liability Company. Only the Resident Agent is required to be listed in the initial filing and subsequent annual reports. It is our belief that firms are practicing architecture/engineering/surveying and as a result it is not possible to determine if 2/3’s of the LLC members are in fact licensed principals.

We believe the solution is to revise the Occupational Code, PA 299 of 1980, Article 20 [MCL 339.2010.(1)] or Michigan Limited Liability Company, PA Act 23 of 1993 to add the following language: **If practicing a regulated profession all members of an LLC shall be listed in the initial filing and Annual Reports.**

**XVIII. Membership**

Like most professional and trade associations, AIAMI is currently facing the problem of declining membership trends. Every Committee, including GAC, must make keeping and increasing AIA membership a priority. The GAC stands in a unique position to reach out to new members, and to engage existing members, because political action often requires broad grass-roots support. The GAC cannot be successful without many members calling and writing to Legislators when needed, or without new faces appearing before legislators, or without a network of interested persons gathering and disseminating information on behalf of the GAC.

GAC is committed to the dual responsibilities to not only achieve GAC’s specific goals, but to demonstrate the benefits of membership and to seek new members.

**XIX. Old Business**

Some Government Affairs issues appear and recede like comets, requiring intense activity for a short time then fading away for years, if not forever. Others are like moons that continually and consistently remain in GAC’s orbit, requiring on-going monitoring and attention, year after year. The application of GAC’s resources must continually be adapted to circumstances and some issues must drop down the priority list at times. This does not necessarily mean GAC has terminated its interest in the matter, but that wisdom dictates lesser attention is due. This section is included to remind us of some of those issues which are not expected to be GAC priorities in the coming year, perhaps because of GAC’s political strategy, diminishment of current impact, or lack of resources. Any or all of the following issues could again become GAC priorities in the future:

**Certificate of Merit:** A proposed component of tort reform, which would require that plaintiffs wishing to sue an Architect or Engineer would have to submit an affidavit or certificate from a third-party design professional declaring that based upon his or her review of the allegations, the third party design professional believes that there is a reasonable basis for the commencement of the action, and that the defendant design professional has liability relative to this matter. Without such a certificate, the case could not be filed. A Certificate of merit bill was introduced during the 2007-2008 Legislative session, received a hearing but was not voted upon.
A/E Definitions: AIA and its Engineering partners have refined the A/E definitions as they are set out in the Occupational Code. The purpose is to better delineate the boundary between architecture and engineering, identify the area of “overlap,” and to clarify the practices restricted to each discipline. Ideally, these definitions would be adopted into the administrative law, or if necessary, into the statute. GAC will continue to monitor the state of the law regarding A/E definitions, and will proceed when the best opportunity arises.

Attorney General Opinion No. 7208: In 2002 the Michigan Occupational Code was amended at Section 339.2012, at the initiative of the Michigan Homebuilder’s Association. The square footage exception for residential structures was amended and increased to 3,500 sq ft. On October 3, 2007, Attorney General Mike Cox issued AG Opinion No. 7208, which states that all basements are always excluded from the calculation of floor area, regardless of use or intended use. GAC disagrees with Opinion No. 7208. If a proper “test case” becomes available, GAC may consider a recommendation for action. In the meantime, the AG opinion must be followed by Building Officials.

**XX. Conclusion**

In addition to the foregoing initiatives to be pursued in 2014, the GAC expects to advise the Board on any issues, new and old, that arise or that GAC believes the Board should address, as well as any referred to it by the Board. GAC expects to continue its efforts to build bridges with sister organizations and seek out opportunities to create a wider coalition. GAC will continue to seek new membership, advance the policies of the AIA, serve the profession and protect the public.

2013 was another successful year for GAC, which saw the passage of the Electronic Seal bill SB 4585. There was a strong turn-out at Legislative Day. We believe that continued success is possible if the Board supports the direction mapped out by the GAC and if the membership is motivated to stay active, contribute, participate and engage their Legislators on the crucial issues identified by the GAC and the Board.

* * * * *
AIA Michigan Government Affairs Historical Review

Mid-1980’s

1. Architects and Engineers Legislative Committee (AELC) is created and a Michigan lobbyist is hired (Cawthorne, McCullough & Cavanaugh, now Kelly-Cawthorne):

2. The AELC is primarily reactive to legislation

3. Chapter practice committees are created

4. Vocal complaints are lodged: unlicensed practice is the main issue

5. Joint Task Force is formed to study self-regulation

6. The State informs AIA Michigan that it will no longer enforce complaints alleging unlicensed practice


1991:

1. First AIA Michigan Government Affairs Committee is created


1992:

1. Membership lodged a 500 signature petition - become more pro-active

2. Government Affairs Committee is restructured with self regulation and continuing education as primary goals.

3. Possibility of converting the Current Board of Architects to Class I status is studied.

1993:

1. Government Affairs Summit is held - decisions include to seek standing to undertake litigation to enjoin unlicensed practice and funding the necessary legislative effort with a one time assessment

2. Legal counsel is formally retained

3. Lobbyist duties are expanded

4. Architectural update video and brochure are produced to distribute to legislators.

5. House Bill 4787 is introduced modifying the licensing structure to make it more profession oriented

6. The possibility of funding a special AG is studied
7. Negotiations with builders settle single family SF requirements for the time being resulting in the withdrawal of Senate Bill 330

8. House Bill 5100 is introduced conferring standing to seek injunctive relief as to unlicensed practice on professional organizations and individuals

9. Interior Design practice legislation is re-introduced. AIAMI negotiated with interior design groups over possible conversion of bill to title legislation.

1994:
1. Long-range plan meetings are held with individual Chapters, Public Awareness/Government Affairs are deemed priorities

2. AIAMI Board passes resolution to create legal fund to take action under new standing statute if it passes

3. House Bill 5100 passes but language is immediately misinterpreted by the Construction Code Commission

1995:
1. AIAMI seeks an AG opinion concerning the effect of HB 5100

2. Senate Bill 656 is introduced constituting a severe attack on architects and engineers by homebuilders, building designers, interior designers, mechanical and electrical contractors,

3. AIAMI Board votes to begin select cases against unlicensed practice under the new standing provisions

4. A positive AG opinion received regarding the effect of HB 5100. 4 cases are initiated against unlicensed practitioners.

4. AIAMI launches a safety survey/media campaign.

1996:
1. All 4 cases against unlicensed practitioners are successfully concluded in favor of AIAMI.

2. SB 656 continues to be an issue, meetings with the homebuilders are problematic. Through much effort, SB 656 is stalled in legislative committee.

3. Square footage limits for contractors on single family residential is highlighted as an issue to be addressed in 1997

1997:
1. A series of meetings with interior designers and homebuilders are held in an effort to create a framework within which the differences could be resolved and the organizations could begin to work together.

2. The Homebuilders ultimately break off talks restating their goal to “repeal the seal”

3. Interior designers make clear their intention to create a title act through various amendments to the Architect-Engineer statutes

4. Interior designers draft what becomes HB 4535, seeking assistance from AIAMI with language. While HB 4535 passed Committee, it died at the end of the 1996 session. It was not re-introduced in 1997

5. Additional cases against unlicensed practitioners are studied

1998:

1. The primary focus of the AIAMI Government Affairs activity has become coalition building. The AIAMI Michigan President charges the Interior Design Task Force with rewriting the Interior Designer’s HB 4535 so that it is a title act. AIAMI Michigan Board approves the revised language

2. HB 4535 passes the House and Senate with amendments that are not approved by AIAMI. The Governor signs the bill even though implementation of the bill is not resolved. AIAMI National makes its opposition known

3. Homebuilders write several bills, but no action to introduce legislation is taken. Further Task Group activity to address the homebuilders is initiated.

4. Three cases against un-licensed practitioners are initiated and one case is settled out of court with a voluntary cease and desist order.

5. The importance of political fund-raising has become apparent.

1999:

1. A 1999 goal of the AIAMI Government Affairs Committee was to become a more pro-active legislative committee where the committee had traditionally been primarily reactionary. Unfortunately, the homebuilders introduced SB 149 (which would repeal the 3,500sf exemption) in January, and the Committee spent a tremendous amount of time fighting this bill and HB 4837 (the identical house version) for the entire year. Both bills were bottled in legislative committee and died at the end of the session.

2. AIAMI National claims that AIAMI violated National policy regarding support of interior design practice legislation. AIAMI responds to claim in January. AIAMI National issues letter of apology in October.
3. AIAMI GA Committee organizes fund-raiser for Senator McCotter. The task force prepares primer regarding how to organize a fund-raiser. This primer will be shared with other state chapters.

4. AIAMI GA targets key legislators for fund raising activities in 2000.

5. Legal counsel sends letters to Detroit area design/builders practicing in what appears to be an illegal manner.

6. AIAMI attempts to introduce School Construction Liability clause (which would remove the obligation on the part of the Architect preparing the construction documents to supervise the construction) into SB 805. The Senate rejects recommendation and study begins on the issue for future legislation.

7. AIAMI works with State Building Officials to defeat “Interior Design Threat” through code changes at the International Code Council meeting in St. Louis.

8. AIAMI supports a state wide building code (SB 463) in principle, but opposes three elements of the Bill: energy code regression, stair geometry regression and lack of definition for recreational dwellings.

9. All building officials and inspectors throughout the state received an updated “Code and Regulations Summary for Properly Sealed Documents” laminated sheet (originally prepared by the AIA Detroit Professional Practice Committee several years earlier) for their reference.

10. AIAMI “Capitol T-Shirts” were designed and printed for distribution to all legislators, governor and key department leaders.

11. When AIAMI efforts defeat SB 149 in early November, homebuilders approach looking for a compromise.

2000:

1. Architects and Engineers introduce HB 5878 in June regarding QBS legislation. A/E’s maintaining ongoing discussion with DMB regarding changes in their selection process.

2. Kelley Cawthorne seeks to amend SB 900, modifying the definition of “Agent”. This bill will limit the recovery of non-economic damages to $500,000 for the negligent design and construction of State of Michigan roads, bridges and buildings.

3. AIAMI attempts to amend several bills regarding School Construction Liability, unfortunately bill sponsors are not supportive.

5. Committee develops plan to share cost for a part time Government Affairs Assistant with ACEC. Board to consider for 2001.

6. Government Affairs section developed for the AIAMI web site.

7. Political fund-raisers were held for Senator Gary Peters (Bloomfield Hills) $3,250, Senator Thaddeus McCotter (Livonia) $2,250 and Rep. Bill Byl (Grand Rapids) $4,100. Committee targeting Sal Rocca for Macomb County House Rep.. Senator Leland Burton of Detroit is being targeted for January 2001.

8. A GA task force continues to seek a re-building relationship with key members of the MI Assoc. of Home Builders. Legislative opportunities that present common interests are sought.

9. Interpretations of the Occupational Code regarding construction period services from Department of Licensing. Legislative counsel advises the issue is not worth the potential downside that could be opened if an unfavorable AG opinion were issued which could confuse the issue even more.

10. The Lunch & Architecture program (with local legislator) introduced at AIAMI leadership conference in Traverse City.

2001:

1. SB 900 died in legislative Committee at the end of 2000. Unfortunately, no sponsor could be found and it was not re-introduced in 2001.

2. SB 113 introduced regarding Ontario Reciprocity for architects and engineers. Unfortunately, the engineers continued to oppose the bill, which bottled it up in legislative committee.

3. AIAMI supported HB 6124 regarding The Coordinated Planning Act. Unfortunately the bill had become so watered down that it constituted little more than a notification requirement at best.

4. The Home Builders introduced HB 4423, which increased the single-family square footage threshold to 5,000 sf, less the basement. AIAMI was successful in preventing this Bill from moving forward in 2001.

5. The engineers continued their pursuit of “Privatization of the Professions” with the State Attorney General’s Office. AIAMI continues to support the idea, however, little resource is invested due to the immense political obstacles which make passage extremely unlikely.

6. Senator Beverly Hammerstrom allowed AIAMI to amend SB 358 and SB 670 relative to the 1937 School Construction Law. This amendment will eliminate the Architects responsibility to “Supervise Construction” of a school. SB 358 was
amended to allow a school board to contract with a competent person for the supervision of the construction of a school building, and that such person is responsible for the construction where the design professional is responsible only for the design. The two Bills have are approved by the Senate and have moved to the House.

7. The first CIS Design Boards Newsletter was issued on June 26, 2001.

8. AIAMI/MSPE/ACEC sponsors hugely successful legislative day event in Lansing, on May 8th, the day began with an exhibition of award winning projects from around the State, viewed in the Capitol rotunda. Individual meetings are then held with Senators and Representatives to speak about issues facing the professions. The day was concluded with a legislative reception held at the offices of Kelley Cawthorne.

9. AIA sponsored a fund-raiser for Senator Burton Leland in the office of Allen and Laux (Detroit) on June 5.

10. ALEC representatives continued to maintain a dialogue with DMB regarding the QBS selection process. DMB They assured us that they would utilize a QBS process for large projects.

11. Kelly Cawthorne evaluated an opportunity to amend the State Capitol Appropriations Bill with QBS language but constitutional Title/Object limitations prevented such an undertaking.

12. AIAMI legislative counsel strongly recommends that AIAMI Firms contribute to “The Michigan Promise Fund” sponsored by Rick Johnson (then Speaker of the House).

The GA committee notes the need to evaluate and coordinate donation strategy for 2002.

13. The Government Affairs committee followed up on several licensing complaints over the past year.

14. In response to the Interior Design newsletter dated 10/23/00 suggesting that Interior Designers can seal permit documents, Ron Basso (CIS Deputy Director), after much lobbying from AIAMI, sends response to all state building officials clarifying who must prepare and seal documents.

15. Each Chapter received a list of legislator(s) whose districts falls within the chapter boundaries. This list shall be used by firms within the chapter to host “Lunch and Architecture” meetings with their representatives.

2002:
1. SB 358 and SB 670, which amend the 1937 law to remove the obligation that the Architect preparing the documents for a School project also supervise the construction of that project are passed by the house Committee on Regulatory Reform (they passed the Senate in 2001. Governor Engler signs the bills into law.

2. SB 1215 and SB 1216 were successfully stalled in legislative Committee. The bills, sponsored by Senator Schuette, would allow people who are recognized as “interior designer” to practice indoor architecture and professional engineering and would require building officials to accept their building documents.

3. The Governor signed HB 5883 into law. The new statute mandates that a competitive quality based selection system of selection design professionals be instituted by the Department of Management and Budget (DMB). Discussions are ongoing with the DMB as to how it will interpret the words “competitive quality based selection”.

4. The Homebuilders introduced HB 5819 and it was passed this year reinterpreting the definition of habitable space. They have, in the opinion the GA Committee, started an aggressive misinformation campaign as to how the area threshold is interpreted. In response we have revised and will reissue the “Code Regulation Summary” to building officials state-wide to assist in clarification of the requirements.


6. The Michigan Government Affairs Committee was represented at each of the State Government Network Meetings in 2002. The SGN serves as a tool for state components to facilitate identification of emerging and priority advocacy issues for Architects.

7. The Kelley Cawthorne contract was extended for an additional four years through 2006.

8. The Professional Practice Task force successfully pursued several licensing complaints throughout the year.

2003:

1. The GA Committee drafted three white papers in preparation for 2004 Legislative Day and Howling Event and were presented to the board for approval. The paper topics were “Certificate of Merit”, “Qualification Based Selection” and “Interior Design”.
2. Legislative Day and Howling Event in Lansing in March of 2003 were successful again. The GA Committee will continue to refine plans for a similar function in 2004. This is an excellent opportunity make contact with our legislators and inform them of the issues that affect our profession.

3. The Government Affairs Committee organized a fund-raiser of U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow in September raising $3000.

4. SB 345 — A bill strongly opposed by the committee was successfully tabled through the efforts of Ben Tiseo, Fred Butters and Jim Cavanaugh and their relationship with Senator Bruce Patterson. The bill would have permitted broad joinder of any licensee in any profession in any complaint, with penalties, if any, administered by the Board with jurisdiction over the original respondent.

5. The Professional Task Force pursued numerous complaints of possible occupational code violations. Letters of concern were sent to fourteen different individuals or firms.

6. Legislator of the Year Award. The GA Committee has proposed this award be added to our list of annual awards in an effort to “Recognize a state elected official who has made a contribution to the profession as a result of their actions in state government by recognizing the value of architects/architecture in the built environment or community.”

7. The committee in conjunction with Kelley Cawthorne and the Architects and Engineers Legislative Committee (AELC) began laying the groundwork for several future initiative including:
   - Increasing the penalties for the unauthorized practice of Architecture and Engineering giving local Prosecutors an incentive to take these cases
   - Creating an Article 20 Enforcement Fund removing the economic objection the Department has to addressing complaints.
   - Reforming the State Contract by eliminating uninsurable clauses.
   - Certificate of Merit and other tort reform type initiatives to reduce frivolous lawsuits

8. The Committee was again represented at each of the State Government Network Meetings in 2003. The SGN serves as a tool for state components to facilitate identification of emerging and priority advocacy issues for Architects.

2004:

1. A final draft of the increased penalties bill was prepared and readied for introduction in the 2004 - 2005 session,
2. A final draft of the Certificate of merit bill was prepared and readied for introduction in the 2004 - 2005 session.

3. The first “Legislator of the Year” award was conferred on Senator Bruce Patterson.

4. A fund-raiser was held for Representative Chris Ward. Representative Ward was subsequently returned to office in the November election and was elected Majority Floor leader by his party, becoming the 3rd most powerful Republican in Lansing. As his political star seems to be on the rise, the GA Committee believes that his contact will be beneficial far into the future.

5. HB 5656 was introduced which prohibits the State from including an indemnification clause in design services procurement contracts which holds the design professional responsible for anything more than the damage the design professional may cause. The Governor signed the bill into law in late December 2004. Although not all inclusive, this legislation removes perhaps the most troublesome of the objectionable clauses in the contract.

6. The Professional Task Force continued its pursuit of complaints of possible occupational code violations. Letters of concern were sent to fourteen different individuals or firms.

7. The Michigan Government Affairs Committee was again represented at each of the State Government Network Meetings in 2004.

8. In July, the Michigan Court of Appeals issued a ruling that effectively extends the Statute of Limitations for claims against Architects from 2 to 6 years. The GA Committee has monitored the participation of various professional organizations in the progress of that case as it winds through the system to the Michigan Supreme Court. Additional recommendations will be made as that process comes to conclusion and the GA Committee can better determine what if any additional action might be necessary.

9. Legislative Day and Howling Event in Lansing in March of 2004 were successful again, but the individual meetings with legislators were somewhat lacking in terms of attendance. The GA Committee will continue to refine plans for a similar function in 2005 and will investigate ways to motivate a few additional participants. This is an excellent opportunity make contact with our legislators and in-form them of the issues that affect our profession and we need to take better advantage of it.

10. The interior designers made a last minute run at a practice legislation in the dying days of the 2003 - 2004 legislative session. Although the bill was effectively bottled up, the GA Committee expects it will resurface - likely early in the 2006 - 2007 session.
11. Additional opportunities arose to begin to create broader industry alliances (for example with AGC and CAM). While those initiatives remain in the formative stages, the GA Committee believes that every effort should be made to collaborate with allied professions wherever possible. The Committee will continue to advise as those opportunities continue to develop.

12. Significant progress was made on the refinement of the A/E practice definitions as they are set out in the Occupational Code.

2005:

1. A final draft of the Increased Penalties bill was placed on the back burner due to the Interior Design bills.

2. A final draft of the Certificate of Merit bill was placed on the back burner due to the Interior Design Bills.

3. The second “Legislator of the Year” award was conferred on Representative Chris Ward

4. Fund-raisers were held for Senator Mark Schauer and Senator Allen Sanborn. PAC contributions and small group meetings were held with Senator Gilda Jacobs. These were key moves as the Interior Design bills moved to the Senate.

5. Significant progress was made with the negotiation of additional problematic terms in the State Contract with the DMB in the wake of HB 5656. Although additional progress must be made, the Committee is for the first time ever optimistic that a favorable draft can be worked out as the DMB has made several proposals and concessions that address the most problematic aspects of the current contract.

6. The Professional Practice Group continued its pursuit of complaints of possible occupational code violations. Letters of concern were again sent to several different individuals or firms

7. The Michigan Government Affairs Committee was again represented at each of the State Government Network Meetings in 2005.

8. In July of 2004, the Michigan Court of Appeals issued a ruling that effectively extends the Statute of Limitations for claims against Architects from 2 to 6 years. The Committee monitored the participation of various professional organizations in the progress of that case as it winds through the system to the Michigan Supreme Court with the filing of an amicus brief and participation in the proceedings as a “friend of the Court” party. AIA Michigan for the first time ever made its voice heard by the Michigan Supreme Court as the Court granted the application for leave and proceeded to entertain oral arguments on the case. While a decision remains pending, the consideration of the consideration of the
case went smoothly and the Committee is optimistic about the prospects for success.

9. Legislative Day and Howling Event in Lansing in March of 2005 were successful again, but the individual meetings with legislators were lacking in terms of attendance with only 16 Architects making legislative contacts where information gleaned through the Legislative Consultants suggests that the Interior Designers had over 150 participants at their Legislative Day a few weeks earlier. The Committee will refine plans for a similar function in 2006 and will investigate ways to motivate a few additional participants. This is an excellent opportunity make contact with our legislators and in-form them of the issues that affect our profession and it is crucial that AIAMI motivate its members to take better advantage of it.

10. The Interior Designer bills resurfaced in 2005 in title form, and despite the best efforts of the Committee it was only possible to slow them in the House Commerce Committee. The Committee reported them to the floor, but the 2005 year ended and the House did not take them up. We expect that will happen in 2006, and it is crucial to motivate members to participate in legislative contacts and alerts. The alert in the fall of 2005 as the bills came up for vote in the Commerce Committee saw approximately 120 members in support, but that figure is far too low.

Notably, a number of members who participated in the alert and contacted their legislators are members who have not been active in other aspects of AIAMI. The Committee views their participation in the alert as a positive indication and as an opportunity to draw those members into a more active role. The Committee will investigate ways in which that can be accomplished.

11. Additional opportunities arose to begin to create broader industry alliances (for example with AGC and CAM). While those initiatives remain in the formative stages (mostly due to the time that the unexpected Interior Design effort consumed), the Committee believes that every effort should be made to collaborate with allied professions wherever possible. The Committee will continue to advise as those opportunities continue to develop.

2006:

1. The increased penalties bill was introduced by Representative Ward. The bill would have made unlicensed practice a felony punishable by a prison term and a $4,000.00 fine for a multiple offenses. Although the bill passed the House it stalled in the Senate Commerce Committee where it was sacrificed to prevent the passage of the interior design bills. It will be reintroduced in the 2007 - 2008 session, although with the House changing hands some consideration must be given to finding a Democratic sponsor.

2. The Certificate of Merit bill was introduced by Representative Pastor. Although the bill received significant press, it was introduced late in the session such that it
saw no progress. A second bill was introduced by Senator Garcia which actually is a preferred bill since it applies only to design professionals. We expect the bill will be reintroduced in the 2007-2008 session. With the Senate remaining in Republican hands, Senator Garcia is the best choice for a sponsor.

3. The second “Legislator of the Year” award was conferred on Senator Mark Schauer.

4. A Fund-raiser was held for Representative Craig DeRoche. PAC contributions and small group meetings were held with numerous key legislators throughout the year, and members were sent to attend various events for other legislators as well as the leadership of both parties. Each contact is increasingly important as the range of legislative activity AIAMI engages in broadens.

5. Significant progress was made with the negotiation of additional problematic terms in the State Contract with the DMB in the wake of HB 5656. Although additional progress must be made, the Committee is for the first time ever optimistic that a favorable draft can be worked out as the DMB has made several proposals and concessions that address the most problematic aspects of the current contract.

6. The Professional Practice Group continued its pursuit of complaints of possible occupational code violations. Letters of concern were again sent to several different individuals or firms. Although the Board authorized legal action against one firm in particular, a settlement was negotiated wherein that firm agreed to a cease and desist order short of actual litigation.

7. The Michigan Government Affairs Committee was again represented at the AIA National State Government Network Meetings in 2006.

8. In February of 2006, the Michigan Supreme Court issued a ruling that effectively extends the Statute of Limitations for claims against Architects from 2 to 6 years. Representative LaJoy drafted and introduced a bill that would change the law back to its prior state, but that occurred late in the session such that it saw no progress. Again, additional consideration must be given to a sponsor with the change in party control in the House, but the bill will be reintroduced in the 2007-2008 session.

9. Legislative Day and Howling Event in Lansing in March of 2006 were successful again, but the individual meetings with legislators were lacking in terms of attendance with only some 50 plus Architects making legislative contacts where information gleaned through the Legislative Consultants suggests that the Interior Designers again had over 150 participants at their Legislative Day a few weeks earlier. While AIAMI participation represents a dramatic increase over 2005 where 16 members conducted visits, the total number still falls far short of the total that should and must be mounted if legislative successes are to continue.
The Committee will again refine plans for a similar function in 2006 and will investigate ways to motivate a few additional participants. This is an excellent opportunity make contact with our legislators and inform them of the issues that affect our profession and it remains crucial that AIAMI motivate its members to take better advantage of it.

10. The Interior Designer bills resurfaced in 2006 in title form, and despite the best efforts of the Committee it was only possible to slow them in the House Commerce Committee. The Committee reported them to the floor, where they ultimately passed the House. Ultimately the bills were stopped in the Senate Commerce Committee, but at the cost of the Increased Penalties bill.

Interior Design came closer than ever to passage and it will certainly be back again in the 2007 - 2008 session. As difficult as it was to defeat the legislation in 2005 - 2006, the Committee expects it will be even more so in 2007 - 2008.

11. The AIA National legislative alert system was employed on a number of occasions to urge members to contact their legislators on various pieces of legislation and other issues. notably, a number of members who participated in the alert and contacted their legislators are members who have not been active in other aspects of AIAMI. The Committee views their participation in the alert as a positive indication and as an opportunity to draw those members into a more active role. The Committee will investigate ways in which that can be accomplished. However, overall response to those initiatives remains far too low.

12. Additional opportunities arose to begin to create broader industry alliances (for example with AGC and CAM). While those initiatives remain in the formative stages (mostly due to the time that the unexpected Interior Design effort consumed), the Committee believes that every effort should be made to collaborate with allied professions wherever possible. The Committee will continue to advise as those opportunities continue to develop.

13. The change in House control saw election of a new set of House leaders. While Representative Ward may be less powerful, we have good relationships with Representatives Dillon and Tobocman, who are now effectively the new House leadership. With the advice and assistance of Legislative counsel, AIAMI has been able to project the ebb and flow of legislative power such that we have consistently cultivated relationships with various legislators who have ascended to powerful positions within the legislative leadership. The Committee expects that effort will continue and that it will move ahead again as soon as committee assignments and committee chairs have been set.

2007:

1. The increased penalties bill was introduced by Representative Sak and Farrah as HB 4937-4938. The bill would have made unlicensed practice a felony punishable by a prison term and a $5,000.00 fine for a multiple offenses. The bill
passed the House and was assigned to the Economic Development and Regulatory Reform Committee in the Senate.

2. The Certificate of Merit bill was introduced by Senator Garcia as SB 106. The Bill was assigned to the Senate Judiciary Committee and received a hearing on 9/11/07. The Committee was represented at the hearing and several members provided live testimony.

3. No “Legislator of the Year” award was conferred.

4. In April, Legislative Day 2007 was a major success. A record number of members attended the event and met with key Legislators throughout the afternoon. That same evening, members enjoyed a reception with Legislators at the offices of Kelley-Cawthorne.

5. Also in April, the first annual Upper Peninsula Legislative Day was held at the offices of STS in Marquette, MI. Organized by the UP Chapter, members hosted an after-work reception for several Legislators and attendance met the planned targets.

6. A fund-raiser was held for Senator Randy Richardsville, led by ACEC, in which AIA participated. A fund-raiser was also held for Speaker of the House Andy Dillon, led by ACEC, in which AIA participated. A fund-raiser was held for Senator Jason Allen, led by AIA, in which ACEC participated.

7. Working with ACEC, a task force was convened to establish a relationship with freshman Senator John Pappageorge. Senator Pappageorge represents the district with the highest number of architects and engineers in the State of Michigan. The purpose of the Task force was to hold a “get to know you” meeting and share views with the Senator. A 90-minute meeting between the Task Force and the Senator occurred at the offices of Victor Saroki on July 27, 2007.

8. Based upon the information gathered during the Task Force meeting of July 27, 2007, and pursuant to advice of legislative counsel, a fund-raiser was organized for Senator Pappageorge and held on Friday, November 9, 2007. Turnout was strong and met the Committee’s goals. A follow-up meeting with the Senator was held to present the contributions associated with the event.

9. The Professional Practice Group continued its pursuit of complaints of possible occupational code violations. Letters of concern were again sent to several different individuals or firms.

10. The Michigan Government Affairs Committee was again represented at the AIA National State Government Network Meetings in 2007.
11. In June of 2007, the Michigan Court of Appeals issued a ruling that effectively requires architect and engineering firms to organize as professional corporations or PLLC’s rather than corporations or LLC’s.

12. Legislative Day and the Howling Event in Lansing in March of 2007 were successful, with a record number of architects participating. Originally, the Committee goal was to assemble 150 architects in Lansing to reflect the AIA 150 celebration. Although the actual number was much less, the total still represented the highest AIA turnout for Legislative Day ever, by far.

13. The Interior Designer bills resurfaced in 2007 as HB 4770-4771, and required a significant response from AIA. Committee representatives, members and even non-members appeared before the House Commerce Committee to give testimony opposing the bills. Many members from across the state provided written testimony as well. The Committee also secured written testimony from many Municipal Building Officials opposing the legislation. These documents were all provided to the members of the Commerce Committee.

As the ID licensing bills moved toward a vote in the House, the Committee rallied the membership to provide calls and e-mails to oppose the bills. The response was strong enough to delay the vote, and at one point the bill sponsors were so uncertain of passage that the bills were pulled from the House agenda. Despite these efforts, the MHBA entered the contest and threw its weight behind the ID bills. The MHBA reportedly issued direct threats to withdraw funding from any legislators that did not support the bills. This apparently tipped the balance and the bills passed the House by a 2-1 margin. In 2005, the bills passed with just 3 “Nay” votes, so the increase in opposition can be attributed directly to the Committee and the membership that participated.

HB 4770-4772 has been assigned to the Senate Commerce Committee.

14. Efforts were undertaken in the Senate throughout 2007 in anticipation of the ID Licensing bill’s passage in the House. The Committee met with numerous Senators to express AIA’s views and build relationships in the Senate.

15. The AIA National legislative alert system was employed on several occasions in connection with the ID Licensing bills to urge members to contact their legislators. Notably, a number of members who participated in the alert and contacted their legislators are members who have not been active in other aspects of AIAMI. The Committee views their participation in the alert as a positive indication and as an opportunity to draw those members into a more active role.

16. Additional opportunities arose to begin to create broader industry alliances (for example with AGC and CAM). Specifically, AGC sought AIA support in its response to a City of Detroit Executive Order requiring a 51% resident requirement on all construction contracts funding in part or in while by the City.
17. On October 3, 2007, Attorney General Michael Cox issued AG Opinion No. 7208, in which he interpreted MCL 339.2012 to exempt all basements, of any kind or purpose, from the calculation of the 3.500 sq/ft rule for residential structures.

18. On October 24, 2007, Representatives Huizenga, Meisner and Clemente introduced HB 5356-5358, which is intended to reverse the impact of the Miller v. Allstate decision.

19. When the Legislature passed a poorly-conceived tax on services as part of a “midnight budget compromise” at the end of October, the Committee helped AIA and its sister organizations gain its repeal by the beginning of December, 2007.

2008:

1. The increased penalties bill (HB 4937-4938 passed by the House in 2007) was re-introduced in the Senate by Senator Sanborn in 2008 as SB 1515. The bill makes unlicensed practice punishable by a prison term and a $5,000.00 fine, and makes violations that result in death or serious injury a felony. Overcoming opposition by the Michigan Homebuilders and the Interior Design Lobby, SB 1515 passed the Senate and was approved by the Governor in December of 2008. The statute becomes effective on March 31, 2009.

2. Although it received a hearing on 9/11/07, the Certificate of Merit bill introduced by Senator Garcia as SB 106 failed to move out of the Senate Judiciary Committee in 2008.

3. No “Legislator of the Year” award was conferred.

4. In April, Legislative Day 2008 was a major success. A near-record number of members attended the event, and for the second year in a row, more architects than engineers were present. The members met with key Legislators throughout the morning and afternoon, and entertained Legislators during the lunch hour at the buffet lunch hosted by AIA/ACEC/MSPE.

5. Also in April 2008, the second annual Upper Peninsula Legislative Day was held at the offices of Barry Polzin in Marquette, MI. Organized by the UP Chapter, members hosted an after-work reception for several Legislators and attendance met the planned attendance targets.

6. A fund-raiser for Senator Alan Sanborn was attended by AIA members. AIA and its legislative partners also organized and hosted a fund-raiser for Senate Majority Leader Mike Bishop, and another event for Representative Marty Knollenberg.

7. The Professional Practice Group continued its pursuit of complaints of possible occupational code violations. Letters of inquiry were again sent to several different individuals or firms.
8. On October 16, 2008, David Vanderklok of the Mid-Michigan Chapter organized and convened a lunch time roundtable discussion on unlicensed practice which included over 20 attendees including architects, building officials and guests from the state regulatory enforcement department and from Ingham county law enforcement. The meeting yielded a promise from the officials to overcome the previous policy of non-enforcement, and to investigate reports submitted by AIA and others, and to prosecute if appropriate.


10. In April 2008, AIA and its legislative partners ACEC and MSPE, filed an amicus curiae brief with the Michigan Supreme Court, urging the Court to reverse the Court of Appeals decision in Miller v. Allstate. Miller, published in June of 2007, had changed the interpretation of Michigan law and required that firms that could be organized as a Michigan professional corporation or professional limited liability company must do so. The decision had retro-active effect to March of 1963. This meant that firms with non-licensee owners or members, organized since March 1963, were in violation of Michigan law.

11. In July of 2008, the Michigan Supreme Court issued a ruling that vacated the Court of Appeals' decision in Miller v. Allstate.

12. Despite having passed the House in 2007, and despite a major effort by the Interior Design Lobby with assistance by the Michigan Homebuilders Association, the Interior Designer Licensing bills, HB 4770-4772, never received a hearing in the Senate and died at the end of the 2007-2008 legislative session. Much credit for the victory by AIA must be assigned to the strategy mapped out by legislative counsel in the Senate, which was executed with the assistance of the membership.

13. SB 865, designed to restore the historic statutes of limitations for architects, engineers, surveyors and contractors passed the Senate with broad bi-partisan support. In the fall of 2008, SB 865 was voted out of the House Judiciary Committee by a 10-0 vote with a recommendation for passage. Unfortunately, SB 865 was never brought up for a vote before the full House, and the bill died at the end of the 2007-2008 legislative session. The apparent reason for the failure was the efforts of the Trial Lawyers Association (now the Michigan Association for Justice) to interfere with the bill. The TLA/MAJ successfully tied passage of SB 865 to their legislation, which did not have majority support. Therefore both interests were denied passage of their bills.

14. In connection with the push to bring SB 865 to a vote in the House, the AIA National Legislative Alert system was employed. Because circumstances called for several more alerts that asked members to submit e-mails to key Legislators
Andy Dillon and Paul Condino, the national system could not be employed. Instead, AIA Michigan broadcast several alerts during the waning days of the session. Reports indicate that a significant number of members responded to these requests. On the day before the last day of the legislative session, Speaker of the House Dillon reportedly received over 200 e-mails from Michigan A/E’s.

15. Additional opportunities arose to foster and nurture industry alliances (for example with AGC and MITA). Specifically, AGC and MITA joined the push for passage of SB 865 at the House Judiciary Committee hearing, and again during the final weeks of the session. In addition, AGC sought AIA support in its amicus curiae effort related to the case of Oliver-Hatcher v. Shain Park.

16. 2008 saw the first three editions of the AIA Government Affairs Newsletter, which reported to the membership regarding the activities of the GAC, including Legislative Day, Miller v. Allstate, Increased Penalties and SB 865.

2009:

1. AIA assumes chairmanship of the joint Architects-Engineers Legislative Committee for 2009;

2. Senator Alan Sanborn introduces the GAC’s SB 0035, a bill designed to restore Michigan’s statute of limitations for architects as it was before the 2006 Supreme Court decision in Ostroth v. Warren Regency;

3. Statute of Limitations bill strategy leads to re-drafting SB 0035 for planned re-introduction in Senate;

4. Revised Statute of limitations bill re-introduced in Senate by Senator Alan Sanborn as SB 882;

5. GAC appears before Senate Judiciary Committee to testify regarding SB 882 (Statute of Limitations). SB 882 ordered out of Committee without opposition;

6. At Senator Sanborn’s request, GAC meets with the legal team from the Michigan Association for Justice (AKA the “Trial Lawyers”) to discuss SB 882 and seek resolution of any differences between the Associations. No compromise is reached and SB 882 proceeds to the floor without amendment;

7. SB 882 passes the Senate 36-0;

8. GAC assists the ARE Timing Subcommittee in goal-setting and action planning; GAC receives and reviews the AIA National Public Policy Directory;

9. GAC’s ARE Timing Bill introduced by Representative Barb Byrum and 32 co-sponsors as HB 4793;
10. GAC and the Board of Architects meet jointly with DLEG to promote HB 4793 (ARE Timing);

11. GAC members Ben Tiseo, AIA Associates Sam Moschelli and Tim Flinton testy before the House Regulatory Reform Committee in support of HB 4793 (ARE Timing); The bill is ordered out of Committee by a vote of 10-0;

12. HB 4793 (ARE Timing) passes the Michigan House by a vote of 107-0;

13. HB 4793 (ARE Timing) Passes Michigan Senate;

14. HB 4793 (ARE Timing) signed by Governor Granholm, and becomes Public Act 143 of 2009, and is immediately effective;

15. GAC assists with AIA MI recommendations to fill vacancies on the Board of Architects and Board of Engineers;

16. GAC (Ben Tiseo) updates advocacy tools for 2009-2010, cross-referencing full AIA MI membership roster with all legislative districts and legislators. This is a data tool which has proven invaluable and must be kept current;

17. Michigan’s GAC activities received recognition in a feature article in the February 2009 edition of The Angle, the newsletter of the AIA Government Affairs Advocacy Team;

18. Legislative Day event in Lansing a success, ARE, Statute of Limitations and Transportation Funding are discussed with dozens of Legislators;

19. The third annual Upper Peninsula Legislative Day was held at U.P. Engineers & Architects’ offices in Houghton, MI;

20. GAC monitors Service Tax issue and new “Green” legislation proposed by other interests;

21. GAC appears at Senate Judiciary Hearing on SB 0035 (Statute of Limitations), bill is ordered out of Committee without opposition;

22. GAC leads coalition partners ACEC, MSPE, AGC and MITA in meeting with Speaker of the House Andy Dillon, in advance of SB 0035;

23. GAC studies four new “Green” bills introduced in Legislature, determines affirmative action required to influence legislative process for developing “Green” polices for the State of Michigan;
24. GAC presents Alan Sanborn with its Legislator of the Year Award at the AIA Michigan Design Awards at the Book Cadillac Hotel in Detroit.

25. GAC forms the “Green Team” to promote A/E involvement in the development of sustainable public policies for the State of Michigan;

26. Green Team makes two well-received presentations to House Energy & Technology Committee (Green Team includes Ron Campbell, Alan Cobb, Kim Stevens-Len);

27. Green Team makes third presentation, open to all Michigan Legislators and their staffs. The event is well-attended by both A/E’s and law-makers;

28. Governor Granholm issues Executive Order 2009-31, abolishing Michigan’s Interior Design Advisory Committee;

29. Connecticut strikes down that state’s interior designer licensing law as unconstitutional;

30. GAC reviews HB 4756, which would upgrade Michigan’s energy code to comply with IIEC 2009, and recommends support for the bill;

31. Florida Court issues preliminary injunction preventing the enforcement of Florida’s Interior Designer licensing laws;

32. GAC closely monitors CIDR Capitol Day event in Lansing, and the new Interior Design licensing legislation introduced;

33. During the year, GAC monitored activities of groups advocating for and against Interior Designer licensing, in Michigan and throughout the country. Contacts were maintained with groups allied with AIA’s policy position;

34. GAC attends fund raising events for Senators Bruce Patterson, Sanborn and Allen;

35. GAC attended a fund raising event for Representative Barb Byrum;

36. GAC participates in fund raising event for Rick Jones, candidate for Senate in the 24th District;

37. Ben Tiseo represented GAC as a seminar presenter at a South East Michigan Building Officials and Inspectors Association(SEMBOIA) conference;

38. GAC reviews case of Miller-Davis v. Ahrens for possible amicus participation: GAC recommends no action;
39. GAC (along with partners ACEC/MSPE) declines to re-issue tri-annual Code & Regulation Summary for 2009, due to budget concerns. GAC suspends, but does not terminate the program;

40. GAC assists AIA MI Board with budget management issues relative to costs of GAC activities;

41. GAC reviews the case of \textit{CTE v. City of Grand Rapids}, for possible amicus participation: GAC recommends no action;

42. GAC reviews HB 5479, which would provide targeted historic tax credits for specific projects. GAC recommends monitoring the bill;

43. GAC assists AIA MI Board in securing new contract with Kelley-Cawthorne;

44. The Professional Practice Group continued its pursuit of complaints of possible occupational code violations. Letters of inquiry were again sent to several different individuals or firms, and GAC was able to negotiate resolution of several disputes without litigation;

45. 2009 saw three more editions of the AIA Government Affairs Newsletter, which reported to the membership regarding the activities of the GAC, including Legislative Day, GAC’s \textit{Green Initiative} activities, the success of the ARE Timing bill, and the progress of the Statute of Limitations bill;

46. Opportunities for forging productive relationships with other industry associations continued to be sought and addressed by GAC throughout 2009. This included the discussions of possible amicus participation, described above. In each case other organizations approached AIA for assistance. GAC respectfully reviewed each request, analyzed the issues and shared its reasoning for its recommendations;

47. GAC (Steve Smith) monitored and advised DLEG in its development of requirements and procedures for Michigan’s continuing professional competency program for Architects, expected to be launched in 2010.

2010:

1. Representatives of GAC and the Michigan Board hold a lunch meeting with State Senator Jason Allen of Traverse City to discuss issues of interest to AIA;

2. GAC provides assistance to the Department (DELEG) in identifying potential candidates to fill coming vacancy on Board of Architects;

3. GAC’s Ben Tiseo publishes his yearly compilation and analysis of Michigan architect and engineer active licensee totals;
4. AIA MI co-hosts four successful Legislative “Meet & Greet” events at Kelley-Cawthorne offices in Lansing, MI, event at AEW offices in Shelby Township, MI, at Albert Kahn offices in Detroit, MI, at OHM in Livonia, MI;

5. GAC assesses proposal by DMB to utilize MI-Deal format for A/E professional services contracts;

6. GAC assesses SB 192, related to double taxation of sub-consultant costs in architectural contracts;

7. Sustainability Update, produced by GAC member Tim Flintoff, is published to Legislators;

8. GAC representative attends State Government Network meeting at AIA HQ in Washington, D.C.;

9. Ceremonial signing of HB 4793 into law (PA 143 of 2009: Allows architecture license candidates to begin testing before experience requirements are completed). Event attended by Sam Moscelli, Shelli Authier, Timothy Flintoff, Tracy Petrella, Dave Knapp and Derek Roberts;

10. GAC continues work on statute of limitations reform bill; draft and present proposed substitute language;

11. GAC submits proposed substitute language for SB 192 (Tax on sub-consultant costs);

12. GAC representative attends Board of Architects meeting, at which the Board’s rule-making limitations are addressed, relative to the establishment of a formal continuing competency system for Michigan;

13. GAC works with industry and government allies to present written positions in opposing SB 974, 975 & 976 (Interior Designer Licensing);

14. GAC begins assessing International green Construction Code (IgCC) immediately upon its publication;

15. GAC reaches out to universities, emerging professionals and associates in promoting AELC Legislative Day 2010;

16. AIA Legislative Day event in Lansing a success: Statute of Limitations reform, Interior Designer Licensing and issues related to sustainability are discussed with dozens of Legislators;

17. The third annual Upper Peninsula Legislative Day was held at U.P. Engineers & Architects’ offices in Houghton, MI;
18. GAC reviews HB 4575 (To re-allow localities to adopt own building codes),
   GAC’s Ben Tiseo testifies in opposition before the House Regulatory Reform
   Committee;

19. Ben Tiseo is awarded AIA fellowship based on his extensive work with GAC;

20. GAC reviews and assesses HB 1111 – 1114 (To create tax incentives for LEED-
certified buildings);

21. GAC in dialogue with HB 1111-1114 sponsor; GAC drafts alternative language to
   conform HB 1111 – 1114 with AIA National policy;

22. GAC representatives attend Senate Commerce and Tourism Committee hearing
   on SB 1111-1114 (LEED tax incentives);

23. GAC presents Barb Byrum with its Legislator of the Year Award at the AIA
   Michigan Design Awards at the Book Cadillac Hotel in Detroit;

24. GAC co-hosts fundraiser for State Representative Pam Byrnes of Chelsea;

25. GAC assists in drafting bill to enable continuing competency system in Michigan;

26. GAC representatives attend House Judiciary Committee hearing on SB 882
   (Statute of Limitations reform);

27. Campaign to pass SB 882 includes multiple GAC efforts to promote passage of
   the bill;

28. GAC representatives attend fundraiser for Speaker of the Michigan House, Andy
   Dillon;

29. GAC representatives contact key individual members of the House in lobbying
   push for SB 882;

30. AIA/ACEC/MSPE issue “Action Alerts” asking all members to contact their
    representatives and Speaker Andy Dillon to bring SB 882 up for a vote and to
    support the bill;

31. GAC assists in dialogue between AELC and ASHRAE relative to government
    affairs, identifying common goals and purposes;

32. HB 6374 is introduced to enable a formal continuing competency system for
    Michigan;

33. GAC representatives attend House Regulatory Reform Committee in support of
    HB 6374; September 21, 2010: HB 6374 passes the Michigan House, 96 – 11;
34. December 3, 2010, HB 6374 passes the Senate unanimously;

35. HB 6374 becomes Public Act 324 of 2010, being signed by Governor Granholm on December 21, with immediate effect;

36. GAC representatives meet with Michigan Association of Home Builders (MAHB) representative in effort to identify common ground;

37. GAC representatives attend Michigan Board of Architects meeting;

38. Dec 16 – Agreement finalized to bring MSPS into AELC, to become AESLC;

39. GAC re-drafts statute of limitations bill for immediate introduction at the opening of the new legislative session in 2011;

40. GAC reviews and assesses issue regarding fees charged in connection with outsourced building inspection services;

41. During the year, GAC monitored activities of groups advocating for and against Interior Designer licensing, in Michigan and throughout the country. Contacts were maintained with groups allied with AIA’s policy position;

42. The Professional Practice Group continued its pursuit of complaints of possible occupational code violations. Letters of inquiry were again sent to several different individuals or firms, and GAC was able to negotiate resolution of several disputes without litigation;

43. Opportunities for forging productive relationships with other industry associations continued to be sought and addressed by GAC throughout 2010;

44. GAC (Steve Smith) monitored and advised DLEG in its development of requirements and procedures for Michigan’s continuing professional competency program for Architects, expected to be launched in 2011;

2011:

1. First Architects, Engineers, Surveyors Legislative Committee (“AESLC”) meeting is held;

2. GAC reviews newly-introduced SB 48, to require school building site approval by local unit of government;

3. SB 77 (Statute of limitations reform) introduced, sponsored by Senator Tonya Schuitmaker;

4. GAC representative Gary Quesada testifies before Senate Judiciary Committee on SB 77;
5. GAC coordinates lobbying efforts in Senate to promote SB 77 and passes the Michigan Senate 35-1;

6. GAC representatives attend House Judiciary Committee Chairman John Walsh’s fundraiser and lobby for SB 77;

7. GAC representatives meet individually with each member of the House Judiciary Committee to promote SB 77;

8. SB 77 brought before the House Judiciary Committee for two hearings in June. GAC and AIA members appear in support and GAC representative Gary Quesada testifies in favor of passage at both hearings;

9. GAC coordinates AIA Action Alert broadcast to membership in effort to pass SB 77 before summer break;

10. GAC coordinates final push for passage of SB 77; GAC representatives meet with Governor Snyder’s attorney to discuss remaining political and legal concerns with the bill;

11. SB 77 passes the Michigan House, 87-21, sent to conference committee;

12. Governor Snyder signs SB 77 into law, in October to take effect January 1, 2012;

13. GAC participates as co-sponsor of five Legislative “Meet & Greet” at NTH Offices in Northville, MI, at Thousand Oaks Country Club in Grand Rapids, MI, at the Spicer Group in Saginaw, MI, at Rowe Engineers in Flint, MI, at Byce Engineers in Kalamazoo, MI;

14. GAC reviews proposal by Governor Snyder’s office to eliminate historic preservation and brown-field tax credits;

15. Governor Snyder re-organizes DELEG, regulation of architects now conducted through department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (“LARA”);

16. Legislative Day event in Lansing a success, statute of limitations reform and sustainability are discussed with dozens of legislators. The event was attended by 158 participants (77 architects);

17. The fourth annual Upper Peninsula Legislative Day was held in Marquette, MI.

18. GAC reviews possible amicus curiae participation in Cedroni v. THA case;

19. GAC reviews new HB 4561, to extend building code cycle from 3 years to 6 years;
20. GAC representatives meet with representatives of Construction Association of Michigan (CAM) to discuss new CAM legislative affairs committee;

21. GAC reviews new bills HB 4694 & 4695, to prohibit sole source specifications in government projects;

22. Fred Butters, FAIA files a motion with the Michigan Supreme Court to participate in Cedroni v. THA as amicus curiae;

23. GAC reviews Michigan Supreme Court decision in Miller Davis v. Ahrens;

24. GAC’s Ben Tiseo lobbies key Legislators for AIA participation in developing alternative to historic preservation and brownfield tax credits;

25. GAC representatives attend fundraiser for State Representative Kurt Heise;

26. GAC representatives attend hearing on SB 566-568, historic preservation & brownfield tax credit replacement bill and dialogues with key legislator regarding AIA views;

27. GAC nominates State Senator Tonya Schuitmaker for AIAMI Legislator of the Year;

28. The Professional Practice Group (PPG) continued its pursuit of complaints of possible occupational code violations. Letters of inquiry were again sent to several different individuals or firms, and GAC was able to negotiate resolution of several disputes without litigation. New PPG member Ben Hammond engaged subjects in relation to numerous potential violations;

29. GAC (Steve Smith) continued to monitor LARA in its development of requirements and procedures for Michigan’s continuing professional competency program for Architects, expected to be launched in 2012.

2012:

1. Ben Tiseo publishes his yearly compilation and analysis of Michigan architect and engineer active licensee totals;

2. Note: any bills not signed by the governor by December 31, 2012 are dead;

3. SB 48, to require school building site approval by local unit of government did not move for a vote before years end;

4. SB 770 and SB 870, restricting school districts from seeking qualified bonds if their previous school bond debts are not paid off it also establishes a limit to funds available from the state. The bill first passed the Senate in June 2012 and
then passed the House in December. This bill became PA 437 of 2012 when the governor signed it into law on December 14, 2012;

5. SB 1038 a Lien Law bill that made it clear that Design Professionals could lien properties. However this bill was blocked from moving forward by the Michigan Bankers Association and did not move in 2012;

6. SB 1325 – 1327 a bill that would license Interior Designers was introduced late in the year and as a result it did not have any hearings. We expect this bill to be reintroduced in 2013;

7. HB 5461 is a bill that was introduced at the request of the Michigan Home Builders Association and would change the mandatory adoption of the Michigan Codes from a 3 year cycle to a 6 year cycle;

8. HB 5466, to prevent public agencies from requiring Design Professionals to indemnify the public agencies from its own mistakes passed the House in June. After last minute negotiations, brought on by the AGC, it passed the Senate in December and the governor signed the bill on December 22, 2012. The signed bill now PA 468 of 2012 exempts the 15 state universities;

9. Legislative Day event in Lansing was a success; Indemnification reform, Lien Law and transportation are discussed with dozens of legislators. The event was attended by 148 participants (54 architects);

10. The annual Upper Peninsula Legislative Day was held in Marquette, MI;

11. GAC representatives attend fundraisers for State Representative Kurt Heise and John Walsh;

12. The Office of Regulatory Reinvention submitted its report in which it recommended the deregulation of 18 occupations. Included in the list were Community Planners, Interior Designers and Landscape Architects. No action was taken in 2012 but is expected in 2013;

13. At the request of AIAMI Representative Barb Byrum submitted an A.G. Opinion addressing the cities of Livonia and Dearborn refusal to provide copies or allow photos of permitted drawings;

14. The rules outlining the Mandatory Continuing Education for licensing renewal for architects / professional engineers / professional surveys slowly is working through the administration review process before holding a public hearing;

15. AIAMI held several meetings with the state Fire Marshal and several fire fighters associations to discuss changing the state law that would require a Single State Fire Code. Progress was made and a bill may be introduced by the end of next year;
16. AESLC has had discussions to introduce a bill in 2013 that would change Article 20 (A/PE/PS licensing law) to permit the electronic submittal of drawings for permitting. Currently Article 20 only allows “original” seals and signatures. The Bureau of Construction Codes is also promoting this change to the Department and the governor as good business;

2013:

1. AIAMI had HB 4585 introduced and the Electronic Seal & Submittal bill passed both chambers unanimously and will go into effect in February 2014.

2. Ben Tiseo and Misty Raatz were both appointed to sit on the State’s Fire Marshal Single State Fire Code Ad Hoc Committee in early 2013. That committee work is quickly coming to an end. It is expected that the State Fire Marshal will make a recommendation to the Governor in January 2014 to support legislation to implement a Statewide Fire Code

3. The Certificate of Merit bill SB 309 was delayed by testimony by representatives of BOMA and is being revised to continue work on its passage in 2014.

4. The Architects Engineers Surveyors Legislative Day on March 15th was another big grassroots success with a total of 132 A/E/S visiting 106 of our 148 Legislators and discussing issues important to our professions.

5. In October Fred Butters, FAIA, Esq. the AIAMI Government Affairs legal council filed a lawsuit against an individual for advertising and practicing architecture without proper licensing. The Professional Practice Task force is also pursuing two other cases of Unlicensed Practice; one includes an individual that had a “licensed architect” seal made up without being licensed.

6. Little movement was noticed in the Sustainable Design arena.

7. A new bill was introduced regarding Historic Tax Credit. AIAMI GAC is evaluating this bill to form a position.

8. AIAMI is actively engaged with the request of the AG in the FOIA clarification to require communities to provide copies of submitted drawings even if they contain a copyright notice.

9. Progress was slow on the governors initiative of the deregulation of 18 occupations (ID HB 4378 & SB 479) but movement is expected in 2014.

10. The new Mandatory Continuing Education Rules went into effect on the November 1, 2013 licensing cycle for architects/engineers/surveyors.

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