

AIA Georgia



An Association of
The American Institute of Architects

September 14, 2012

Dear AIA Georgia Member,

Thank you for your AIA Membership. Our organization is committed to delivering upon its mission to serve as the voice of the architectural profession and a resource for its members in service to society. As you may be aware, your membership includes National, Regional, State and Local representation.

In 2009 AIA Georgia leadership voted to restructure to focus on the discrete responsibilities of a state-level professional association. In 2010 we reduced State dues collected by \$90 per member, allowing local chapters to collect any or all of that amount to enhance local programs and directly fund previously reimbursed expenses for leadership training for Chapter Presidents and Presidents-Elect.

In 2010 we also reduced our staff from seven to two and AIA Atlanta assumed full responsibility for the programs and services which AIA Georgia had been providing to the chapter under contract. AIA Georgia entered 2010 with a new Executive Director and renewed focus on Advocacy, the annual State Conference and Design Awards Program, our FAIA Candidate Support Committee, the Architecture Foundation of Georgia and improved communications between and among our seven Chapters, six of which are all-volunteer. These efforts fall in line with many state-supported membership initiatives of the AIA. Below are some accomplishments in these focus areas since restructuring:

- 2010 and 2011 State Conferences, while scaled down in scope, attracted record attendance.
- FAIA Candidate Support Committee put forward two successful candidates for Fellowship last year, and is working with five candidates this year.
- Architecture Foundation of Georgia has re-instituted a Community Grants Initiative in addition to its continued success with scholarship programs.
- AIA GA launched a new website and e-newsletter and our LinkedIn Forum has more than 1,000 members.
- Meagan Hanson, Esq. joined our staff as Director of Advocacy this year. Her work has led to record PAC fundraising and AIA members being seen as a positively recognized delegation at the Capitol.

Last fall at the state conference in Athens, AIA members approved a budgetary measure to transfer money from AIA Georgia reserves to fund the Director of Advocacy position for the first year. This vote in support of our new direction has paid off. Now, in order to build upon this strong foundation, the AIA Georgia Board has proposed a dues increase for all members: \$50 for architect members, \$20 for associate members, and a \$100 administrative fee for emeritus members.

Because of the challenging economic environment, AIA Georgia is committed to, and we believe has been delivering, a more valuable membership experience. Your 2013 Dues Invoice will be coming from AIA National in the coming weeks. We hope you will take advantage of the variety of options for providing your continued support at all levels of your membership: National, State and Local.

Thank you for your time and loyalty,

Roy Abernathy AIA
2012 President
AIA GA Board of Directors

Janice Wittschiebe AIA
2012 President-Elect
AIA GA Board of Directors