

Good Afternoon,

Well fall is here, are you ready? Corn, beans and sugar beets are ready to harvest. Not sure what I will talk about next month with most of the crops harvested. Guess at that time we will all be getting ready to bunker down for the winter months.

The month has me, along with Cathy Mosley, Kristen Nyht and Jeffrey Ferweda at the Large States Conference held in Princeton, New Jersey. We began Thursday evening having dinner with our peers. This was very important as I got to sit down with the other attending Presidents to discuss and share about each other's backgrounds and what each Region was doing, a great time to potentially steal ideas. Friday began with a brief tour of Princeton University followed by a full day of defining our purpose and future planning discussions. We concluded Saturday morning with conversations about Large States and a wrap up of this year's meetings and discussions about topics for next years gathering.

I know many of you have heard talks about Large States, but do you really know what Large States is about and why we meet? The group meeting began between two states, Texas and California back in July of 1997. Based on the positive responses of that bilateral gathering it was suggested that the other Grassroots peer groups of individual state regions meet to share information.

The first true meeting included California, Florida, Illinois, Michigan, New York and Texas. These meetings discussed budgets, staffing and legislative issues of common interest. Mostly information of specific concern to a state component office.

1998 followed the same format but now expanding to AIA issues as their major focus. Moving on, 2000 AIA Philadelphia joined as a participation component. 2012 added New Jersey along with senior management from the national staff.

The group has prompted a number of resolutions to be filed at various AIA national conventions over the years including, one dealing with membership pilot programs, reforming the IDP process in conjunction with NCARB and, encouraging development of a national energy policy.

The states generally gather for an evening during Grassroots to meet with, or discuss candidates either supported or coming from the combined group. Since the group carries 47% +/- of the membership votes it remains very important that we maintain our seats at the table.

Quick update on Senate Bill 465 Lien Law Bill, this will allow Architects and Engineers to file liens against a property for unpaid professional fees without the requirement of construction of that project. As stated last month SB 465 has already passed unanimously in the Senate. Our Government Affairs Committee testified to the Finance Services Committee on September 5th. BOMA was present to speak against. Their issue was over actual and potential tenants engaging with design

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professionals where projects could potentially not be completed and paid for, the building owners would find themselves with a lien on their property. We have tried to assuage those fears and have offered to work out the language with BOMA but they have not been interested to do so at this time. We have recently shared with members of the committee that we have tried to work the issues out with BOMA.

Update; recent news received from Rep. Farrington's office. The Financial Services Committee plans to post for a meeting next Wednesday, September 26th at 10:30 AM. They plan to vote on substitute language supplied by BOMA. Expect the bill to be voted to the floor. The new language has not been seen by our Government Affairs Committee yet. Once received it will be shared to membership for your call to action.

Yours in AIA,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan J. La Pan".

Dan J. La Pan, AIA, LEED