

Hi folks,

How is it possible that we are almost halfway through the year already? I think the fact that time has flown by is a sure sign that things are finally picking up now that the flood gates have opened for all of the backlogged work. As architects, our resiliency and determination has paid off and things are feeling closer to normal (whatever that is). With that said, the YAF and NAC have been busy so let me give you a quick breakdown of what we have been up to.

The American Institute of Architects

First at the National level, what is now considered the position known as Young Architect "Regional" Director, may soon be known as the state director. In other words, if passed, the regions would dissolve, and we would have one director per state going to at least 50 directors for YAF. We won't know the outcome of the proposed governance till the votes are in, but this would make it easier for each state to be represented instead of putting the responsibility of representing multiple states on the shoulders of one person. For Michigan, nothing much should change since the position is already single state. Stay tuned for more later on this.

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Second, the YAF Advocacy Group that I am part of held its first webinar of 2021 on May 21st and it was a great learning experience to say the least. The panelists covered many topics within the 90-minute session about what it means to be a Citizen Architect. If you missed it, don't worry because the article I wrote summarizing the panelists' thoughts will be published in Connections Q2 magazine. And if you haven't checked out the Q1 Climate Action publication, go to this [link](#) to catch up on some great content.

Finally, I just want to give a huge thank you to all of the firms and emerging professionals that took part in the Digital Meet & Greet sessions. Each session was unique in its own way and the feedback I received was very promising for a part 2 of Digital Meet & Greet in the Fall. This event started out with a need followed by an idea. So, if you know of anything that needs to be addressed and you think AIA can take the lead on it, please let myself or anyone at AIA MI know. We are always looking to help.

In closing, I hope everyone is staying happy and healthy. If you are looking to use that pent up vacation time soon, just remember to save some for the 2021 AIA MI Mid-Summer Conference. This year should be even better than the last.

Till next time,
Jonathon

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