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Hello Everyone,

I hope this past Memorial Day weekend has provided a healthy and fun respite from all the hard work we've been doing during this pandemic. Looking forward AIA Michigan has much to offer its members. September and October are now looking like a panacea (I've never used that word in a written sentence before) of opportunities for reconnecting with everyone we have been missing for the last two to three months. Consider marking your calendars for the following events.

AIA Michigan has moved its honor awards from June to September 18, to be held at the Masonic Temple in Detroit. The Michigan Historic Preservation Network has also moved their annual conference to be held in Kalamazoo from September 20-23. The annual Design Retreat is still considered a go on September 11-12, as is the annual leadership conference in Holland October 15-16.

AIA Michigan's next planned in person event is the wonderful Mid Summer Conference held on Mackinac Island at the historic Grand Hotel on August 6-8. The hotel is scheduled to open on June 28. We have learned the hotel is taking extensive measures to protect its staff and guests to make this summer's experience exceptional, relaxing, and safe. The Mid- Summer Conference Committee has put together a very interesting slate of educational programs. This year's chair, Alex Ivanikiw AIA has shared, "our education program is aligned to provide insights into new trends such as prefabrication, computational design, Lean practices, and the security of our technology systems. We will also discuss the economic impacts of the virus, as well as what changes we anticipate to the design and construction of our projects." The conference will also include the high profile Michigan Central Station renovation currently under construction in Detroit. New to this year conference will be the statewide webinar broadcast of the Economic Forecast session featuring AIA National's chief economist Kermit Baker Hon. AIA and AGC's lead economist Ken Simonson AGC. There is much to enjoy at this conference. The opportunity to spend time with family, friends, and colleagues. We will continue our traditional events by hosting cocktail receptions on the porch, bocci ball tournament, golf, MAF Auction, and Afterglo event on Saturday! The committee is resurrecting Dueling Pianos on Friday night with a Roaring '20s speakeasy theme and will include the Great Turtle Chapter Award Ceremony. The committee will continue to refine our conference plans to insure a safe and healthy environment. We look forward to seeing all of you on the porch on August!

Finally, I wanted to thank everyone at AIA Michigan, AIA Detroit and our members who have been serving on the AIA Michigan Covid 19 task force committee. The committee lead by AIA Michigan Vice President, Bob Hoida has provided the membership statewide with valuable resources and organized two well attended townhall meetings addressing immediate concerns related to our practices, firms and jobsites. Thank you to all who shared information, survey examples and results, your input has been invaluable in creating safe protocols for all our firms. The committee plans on providing timely information as our situation continues to evolve.

I hope you can find time to enjoy our gradual return to a more familiar life especially with better weather giving us some leverage to get out more frequently. Stay healthy and stay safe! well!

Norman Hamann Jr. AIA