

President's Message February 2021

Greetings. Spring is approaching and with spring, comes one of the more important events of the AIA Michigan calendar, Legislative Day. When reviewing the Strategic plan last year and assigning priorities to the efforts of the state board, advocacy at the state level was identified as one of the most important services that are provided. Most of that activity revolves around the work of the Government Affairs Committee (GAC), but Legislative Day affords the opportunity for all of us to become active participants in the lobbying process. Even if there isn't active legislation directly affecting our profession, which there sometimes isn't, touching base with a legislator has true meaning when there is.

Speaking of advocacy agendas, or legislation that is needed, Jan Culbertson, AIA and Eric Biller, AIA the GAC co-chairs, recently requested and agenda for items that the Board feels are of importance to monitor and perhaps push legislation to the forefront. They pointed toward a document that another state had developed, which can be found at this link: [Sample GAC agenda](#). Rather than having the AIA Michigan Board develop an agenda or list of issues that are important to the Board, I have asked each of the chapter and section boards to develop that list for items that their members feel are important to stress and support. This is a statement that we hope will represent issues of importance to all our members. With this newsletter update, I would pass that request along to all of you, our members to pass along issues that you feel are important to you and the rest of membership. You can pass along those requests to your local chapter or section boards, or directly back to AIA Michigan for consideration and discussion.

This request goes right back to the beginning of this update, Legislative Day. There were numerous times before assuming a leadership role in this organization when I felt that there weren't items of interest to push on to legislators, and that attending was not important. With a Legislative Agenda to follow and post a stance on what the AIA believes in, perhaps we can direct attention to those items of importance and take a more active role in lobbying for those items of importance to the profession in Michigan. We look forward to your thoughts, however they are injected into the conversation.

Regards.



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