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Hi folks

Please allow me to introduce myself. My name is Jonathon Jackson and I am your new Michigan YARD. I am taking over for Matt Guinta so I know I have some big shoes to fill. I look forward to the opportunity of representing our great state and all of the AIA chapters in it.

In January's article, Chris Stefani wrote a great synopsis on what the NAC focused on at the Annual meeting in Austin Texas. For my first article, I would like to touch on what the YAF covered as well. After introductions and presentations of what all these acronyms stand for and what they're responsible for, we broke out into focus groups. I chose the Advocacy Focus Group where our vision this year will be to provide a voice for issues facing young architects, with an emphasis on civic engagement and family leave. At this time, we are collecting data and stories from credible sources and hope to put together our findings and bring an awareness to the profession for these important topics. Ultimately this information will be published in the Connection Publication so be sure to stay tuned to find out when it will be released. With that said, if anyone knows of an architect who has been licensed for 10 years or less and is or has been elected / appointed to a position in a public office, please reach out to me because I'd love to interview them if possible.

The remainder of our time was spent aligning our efforts with NAC and COF to discuss items such as ArchiPAC, AIA's new Strategic Plan, and reflecting on what was accomplished last year and how we can improve upon it. It was overwhelming at first, but I could quickly tell that we are in for an exciting year in 2020.

In closing, I look forward to being your conduit of information and resources between Michigan's local AIA chapters and the National YAF committee. Thank you all for this opportunity.

Jonathon Jackson, AIA, CDT