

## President's Message

April 2022

Hello Colleagues -- Quarterly updates are hardly the stuff of best-sellers but I do have a few important items to share in this month's newsletter.

Probably the most urgent message is our request that you act on a legislative matter recently flagged in Monday Minutes. Many of us discussed this bill during Legislative Day meetings and are surprised at how quickly it was voted out of committee. The history of school regulations is unique and complex. This new legislation appears to muddy it further. **Act now to urge your Michigan Representative to vote NO on HB 5538 (Design-Build for Schools).** This legislation violates Article 20 and allows a 'design-builder' to offer design professional services if the design-build firm employs a licensed architect or engineer. Under HB 5538, the architect/engineer is employed by the design-builder and thus is supervised by and responsible to them as an employee or by a contract. Unfortunately, the duties to the design-builder and the owner can come into conflict. Verbiage of the bill can be found at this [link](#).

Related to this and other regulatory matters, please reach out to us to be invited to our next Government Affairs Committee (GAC) call. We will orient you to our AIA MI advocacy process and demystify this business of legislation. We ultimately intend to add new members to GAC and this would be a great way for you to ease into it.

Next, I'm pleased to advise that, through excellent teamwork by ExCom and our Executive Director, Cathy Mosley, along with lucky timing and the support of our landlord, AIA Michigan executed a sublease for our space at 4219 Woodward Avenue in Detroit. We are cautiously optimistic that the arrangement can be extended but, for now, we have secured a one-year commitment from the sublessor. We will continue to seek permanent relief for the remaining two years of our lease since each year's savings returns about \$40,000 to our coffers. To fulfill our fiduciary responsibility, AIA Michigan Board of Directors (BOD) is allocating 50% of the sublease income to rebuilding our reserves. We intend to use the remainder to ease cash flow and support programs and services. Please reach out to your AIA Michigan Director or an ExCom member to share suggestions regarding initiatives that need a boost. Thank you to our AIA MI staff for packing up and facilitating the move so quickly! Members, please look for an upcoming address change on the website and in Monday Minutes.

Regarding another 2022 goal, improved communication, sincere thanks to the chapters and sections that have shared calendars and reports with the BOD. There is a LOT going on throughout the State but we do notice a few gaps in areas with fewer members. Let's strategize how all sections and chapters can best engage them. For those of you feeling disconnected, what do you need from AIA Michigan? I look forward to discussing better linkage during an upcoming President's call in May.



To keep this from reading like the long version of the Monday Minutes, I'll keep the next few updates brief. The 2022 AIA Michigan – LARA Health Facilities Planning conference was a success with in-person attendance at Grand Traverse Resort. Generous sponsors and great programs helped us reestablish the framework of integrating regulatory, operational, and design requirements for public and private health systems. It was great to see so many of you without a Zoom frame around your face! Mark your calendars for the 2023 conference in Grand Rapids.

We are gaining momentum for Honor Awards, MidSummer Conference, and a half day Education Seminar, along with unique programs in every chapter. AIA Michigan members excel in many diverse markets and services. We are working to support your needs as resources allow. Please check out the upcoming PSMJ seminar to orient or refresh your staff to Project Management Boot Camp. Our profession is seeing unparalleled competition in educating, hiring, and retaining talented architects representative of our communities. Good, sound business training is essential to their success and ours, and we received great feedback about the Boot Camp when it was offered a few years ago.

While we celebrate the successes and embrace the opportunities of the months ahead, your AIA Michigan Board recognizes that we still have a lot of work to do. During these trying times of local and worldly events we strive to lead by example with empathy and professionalism. It continues to be an honor to do so in 2022.

Thank you for your time,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cindy".

Cindy Pozolo, FAIA