



President's Message

August 27, 2022

We are not quite there yet but that proverbial sense of autumn is in the air. Renewed academic challenges, end of year projections and yes, of course, our Michigan traditions of football, cider mills, and puff-ball mums. May these seasons of change never become routine. And may we never take for granted the opportunities that such passages afford. While the remainder of 2022 is robust with AIA MI activity, we have an eye toward 2023 as we gear up for our AIA MI Annual Meeting and Leadership Conference in October. There are many more activities before that, but the Leadership event is unique in its focus to bring together members, staff and boards for candid dialogue about the year ahead.

In preparation for that meeting the AIA Michigan Board of Directors (BOD) has evaluated and is recommending proposed bylaw changes. There are two types and processes for bylaw upgrades.

The first are mandatory changes to remain aligned with Institute structure and nomenclature. They do not require membership vote but do require Board approval. This year's changes will align our naming of our state representative to the Strategic Council, versus the previous reference to Regional Director. We simply must align to operate within the current Institute structure.

The second group of changes must be voted upon by membership. Please know that during our August board meeting the AIA MI BOD endorsed these changes after candid dialogue during the July Leadership Call and the August board meeting. You will be receiving formal communication from AIA MI for formal notice and voting, but here is a preview of one proposed change. The essence of the change is to move the mandated frequency of AIA MI board meetings (in a calendar year) from bylaws to procedures.

Digging deeper into the slide of volunteerism we heard repeatedly that board members are taxed by 12-18 mandatory state and local board meetings each year. Especially with recent challenges of pandemic related school schedules, daycare challenges and a robust workload, that is a heavy load when added to the mandatory committee involvement as well. To encourage and engage more constituents in AIA Michigan leadership we took a hard look at topics that need strategic, fiscal, and operational discussion at board meetings, versus those that focus on programs, trainings, and committee activities. Revising our bylaws will enable us to separate and address fiduciary matters of the Strategic Council Representative, the AIA MI Board of Directors, and AIA MI committee members and constituents. While we cannot mandate change to local chapters' bylaws or procedures, we do encourage ongoing dialogue among leaders and constituents to continually challenge the effectiveness of our organization.

In the coming weeks you will see proposed bylaw changes from AIA Michigan. Those changes will enable reorganization of meetings and communication with specific purpose so they are more robust and effective.



- i. Cadence
 - i. Leadership Calls
 - ii. ExCom Mtg - Next Steps; What Needs to Advance to the Board?
 - iii. AIA MI Board Meetings - Administrative, Strategic, Visionary, Fiscal Viability
- ii. Fiscal Year Board Meetings for AIA MI
 - i. March
 - ii. August
 - iii. October (Annual Meeting)
 - iv. December Transition - Dedicated, more robust orientation prior to meeting
- iii. Leadership, Committee, and Strategic Council Reports (potentially superseded by national calls)
 - i. February Consider restoring this to a Leadership Meeting. Minimally, dedicate this to a committee strategy meeting.
 - ii. May
 - iii. July (Nominations, Mid-year checkpoint)
 - iv. September
 - v. November

The cadence above is what we propose to increase communication on a regular basis (Leadership Calls) while unbundling the dual roles of Strategic Council Member and AIA MI BOD so that both of those entities can focus on their primary fiduciary role. Please feel free to reach out to any of us on the board for more information and know that, even if this approach requires some tweaks in the future, having the flexibility to adjust is much easier when structured in Procedures versus Bylaws.

We appreciate your consideration in effecting this change.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cindy".

Cindy Pozolo, FAIA