

As we start a New Year, it is a time where we almost always think about transitions: reflect on the last year, plan for the new year, set goals and aspirations, and establish “resolutions” related to perceived opportunities for “raising our bar”, whether it be individual or collective. This January is no exception, and in fact offers us an especially significant time for both reflecting while pressing forward.

As we start 2019, I would like to first acknowledge all the hard work and able leadership provided by our outgoing president of 2018, **John Robertson, AIA**. His soft-spoken clarity, combined with thoughtful insights, provided us with both able leadership and comradeship. I also greatly appreciate the service modeling and friendship of John’s predecessors **Randall Vaughn AIA, Jeff Stivers AIA**, and **Charles Cash AIA** – they have individually and collectively contributed to our successes of the past several years. During this period, our membership finally broke the “600-member ceiling” and then continued to grow to 625 and then 649. We have increased our engagement with students and emerging professionals, who truly define our future.

Even more significantly, as we move forward into 2019, our executive director of 30 years, **Janet Pike, Hon AIA**, is taking a well-deserved retirement. The few words that I can share here could never fully express our gratitude and pride for Janet’s contributions and service to AIA at local, state, regional, and national levels. Her tireless dedication, friendship, professionalism, and mentorship to successive generations of leadership within AIA will be both long remembered and appreciated. I speak on behalf of all of AIA KY in wishing Janet well, and looking forward to continuing our friendship. We encourage everyone possible to attend and enjoy time with Janet at the January 10 open-house celebrating our 30-year partnership and this special time in Janet’s life!

Related to this, please join me in welcoming **Kelly Ives, AIA** into the role of Executive Director for AIA KY. She has been working with us now for several years and is extremely well prepared to serve and excel moving forward. Janet will also be providing limiting consulting and support during this transitional period to further ensure a smooth transition. We can thank them both for significant contributions to our past success, as well as charting a course into a bright future!

I am excited that we had a fun and creative fall planning session with local and state leadership in November where we began our work on strategic goals and key initiatives for 2019. During 2019 this will include focus on:

- Addressing AIA KY Accreditation renewal with national
- Aligning and recommitting to our existing strategic plan and its realization
- Career-arc mentoring and young professional engagement
- Advocacy
- Public outreach and engagement opportunities

I truly believe that AIA provides the best professional community of practice out there. Our organization exists by the grace of, and for the benefit of, our membership, and by extension our profession and society in general. As architects we bring passion and creativity to everything we touch – we need to always be consciously aware of this and engage wherever possible!