



Wow, the last 12 months have gone quickly! I hope everyone has had a good year all-around, and I would like to offer best wishes to all for a peaceful and joyful holiday season. Relax as much as possible and take pleasure in your family, friends, and peers. As we finish out our calendar, it is a time where we all tend to reflect on the year and anticipate the holiday season.

I would like to acknowledge all the hard work and able leadership of our current board and executive committee. I am excited to see Ed Krebs, Daniel Ware, and Rob Deal stepping forward and bringing continued insight, energy and leadership to our organization. Please join me in appreciating and supporting the effort they have already invested, and will continue to invest, on multiple fronts.

Also, while I have had the honor to know and work with Janet Pike over many years, I have had the distinct pleasure to serve as President during Kelly Ives, AIA's first year as our Executive Director. Kelly has continued the tradition of excellence, dependability, and pro-active counsel that were the hallmarks of Janet's tenure, and brings new perspective, and ideas that will serve us well moving into the future. We are truly "in good hands".

Reaching the end of the year fills me with a both a mixture of "already? where did the time go?", and a sense of accomplishment for our successes in 2019. A few items of note:

- Legislative engagement and advocacy – we have an absolutely incredible committee and lobbyists who have enabled us to positively impact legislative issues that affect architectural practice in our state. We all owe them a big thanks, and continued support! (and more individual "grassroots engagement" in our local arenas)
- Re-aligning and refreshing our existing strategic plan – we have established strategic focus groups to identify opportunities, tactics and tools to support our member service goals.
- Membership levels continue to steadily grow across all our components – we are at a new all-time record of 662 state-wide! (and let's look at this as a "good start" – and increase our engagement and support of students, interns and emerging professionals!)
- Strong strategic council representation regionally, with both Jeff Stivers and Randall Vaughn representing from our Ohio Valley Region.
- Completion of AIA KY Accreditation renewal with national

We also just completed our annual fall planning session with local and state leadership where we began our work on strategic goals and initiatives for 2020. Look for more information to come as we move into the new year!

As I stated in January, 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. Thank you, for allowing me to, in a small way, be of service and contribution.

As architects we bring passion, thoughtfulness, and creativity to everything we touch – we need to always be consciously aware of this and engage wherever possible!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William M. Deal". The signature is fluid and cursive, with "William" and "Deal" being more distinct and "M." being a smaller initial.