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Dear AIA Kentucky Members:

I wish to express heartfelt thanks to all the membership for your support during 2018. As we close the year, we are pleased to report 645 active members representing an all time high. We welcome our new members with special recognition to those that achieved licensure during the year. I'm pleased to report that the adopted Strategic Plan continues to advance our shared initiatives and that our financials continue to be strong.

2018 brought change as two in our ranks announced their retirements. T. Rexford (Rex) Cecil, AIA and Janet Pike, Hon. AIA served our membership for many years with distinction and they will be missed. We wish Janet and Rex all the best as they begin to enjoy the fruits of retirement.

In recognition of his many years of service, Rex received the C. Julian Oberwarth Gold Medal at the Annual Meeting. Notably, he was joined by previous Oberwarth winners on this special evening. In early 2019, AIA Kentucky will host a retirement party to honor Janet for her years of friendship and service to our organization. Please plan to attend this event with details to follow.

Beginning January 1, 2019, Kelly Ives, AIA will assume the Executive Director position. Kelly has assisted Janet with member outreach for several years. She has led membership and allied membership recruitment, emerging professionals and CEU programs to name a few. Through Janet's mentorship, Kelly is well groomed, and AIA Kentucky will continue to benefit from strong management.

Challenges remain for our organization as tax reform advances. While there are benefits to our state, we must work to protect our collective interest in Frankfort. Mr. Greg Brotzge reports on legislative initiatives and we encourage our membership to participate and to support advocacy through contributions to KSA PAC.

I wish to extend many thanks to the Executive Committee for their support and guidance on the issues at hand. Please join me in welcoming President-elect Mark Powell, AIA as he assumes this most rewarding leadership position. Mark will excel, and I look forward to assisting him in the days to come.

Lastly, I hope you will join us on December 11, 2018 for our holiday gathering at Holly Hill Inn. This annual event has proven to be a great way to launch the holidays by greeting old friends, new friends and celebrating the season and the wonderful year that we have enjoyed.

All the Best,

John Robertson, AIA