



# AIA Grand Rapids

## AIA Grand Rapids 2016 Executive Committee

|                                                                                                        |              |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| President<br>Dan Tyrer, AIA, LEED AP, EDAC<br>dntyrer@gmail.com                                        | 616.796.0200 |
| Vice-President<br>Thomas Danckaert, AIA, LEED AP<br>danckaertt@progressiveae.com                       | 616.361.2664 |
| Treasurer<br>Neale L. Bauman, AIA, CCS, LEED AP<br>nbauman@thedesignforum.com                          | 616.454.1398 |
| Secretary<br>Andrew Queenan, AIA, NCARB, LEED GA<br>a_queenan@hotmail.com                              | 616.574.0220 |
| Past President<br>Michael Belisle, AIA, NCARB, LEED AP<br>mbelisle@thedesignforum.com                  | 616.454.1398 |
| AIA Michigan Director<br>Tracy Ezell, AIA<br>tracye@oakmi.com                                          | 616.456.1521 |
| Continuing Education Director<br>Gary Gerber, AIA<br>gerber_arch@comcast.net                           | 616.363.6805 |
| Membership Services Director<br>Matthew Gerard, AIA<br>matt@visbeen.com                                | 616.285.9901 |
| Public Relations Director<br>Lindsay Anes, PA<br>lindsaya@oakmi.com                                    | 616.456.1521 |
| Sponsorship Director<br>Kate Betts, M.S.<br>kbetts@rockfordconstruction.com                            | 616.285.6933 |
| Professional Affiliates Director<br>Mark Rysberg<br>mrysberg@hilgerhammond.com                         | 616.458.3600 |
| Associate Director<br>Jamie Benvenuto, Assoc. AIA<br>benvenutoj@progressiveae.com                      | 616.361.2664 |
| Emerging Professionals Committee Chair<br>Ashley Dunneback, Assoc. AIA<br>adunneback@towerpinkster.com | 616.456.9944 |
| Administrative Assistant<br>Deborah Dik<br>deborahdik@yahoo.com                                        | 616.340.6200 |

January 2015

Happy New Year from your AIA Grand Rapids Board! As the new year begins, it is important to reflect on the past year as we look forward to the new year! As I write this and wax nostalgic on the 2015 year, I can't help but think of all the changes that have been discussed during the last year and that are planned to happen yet in 2016.

It's hard to believe that just this past March, upon his return from Grassroots in Washington D.C., that Dan Tyrer shared with us the document highlighting a plan from National to implement an overall realignment of the AIA organization. In order to better deliver services to the membership, this re-focusing of the organization is highlighted by the need to create a new Core Member Services plan, as a statewide group of components, to best deliver benefits to all members more consistently.

Under the new Core Member Services Realignment Plan, the components of the AIA should be focused on member services under seven categories that include Member Communications, Education, Advocacy, Elevating Public Awareness, Governance, Membership, and Finances & General Operations. Each category has several sub-categories that emphasize different forms of membership needs by which the organization shall ultimately work to meet, ranging from offering education and CEU sessions, to advocating for the profession with state and local officials.

As a board, we understood the commitment that this realignment was going to take. We doubled down on our efforts, working with the state and other component leaders throughout the summer, having meetings, conference calls and town hall sessions to share information, develop a point of view and understand the many facets of what a new AIA in the state of Michigan might look like. I can share that as of this writing, Dan has just recently signed our portion of the Memorandum of Understanding along with all the other chapter presidents to be submitted to AIA National within the first week of January.

Many of you might be asking, so how does this impact me and my membership at all levels? The basic goal for realignment, as stated by the AIA National Board is, "Together we agree that the time is now to change the way we think and behave in order to become a more valued, relevant profession. The AIA will focus its priorities to elevate public awareness, advocate for the profession and expand and share knowledge. Bold, visionary leadership is urgently needed to ensure a prosperous future and to inspire architects to create a better world for all people—through architecture." [Adopted by AIA Board of Directors, 2013] Reflecting on this statement, I believe, highlights the commitment of the organization and its leaders to provide greater value and more consistent benefits to all its members.

(continued on next page)



# AIA Grand Rapids

## Upcoming Events

### January

- 19 designThink - Rockford Construction
- 19 Building Codes 102, AIA Detroit at LTU
- 21 Pleotint Factory Tour
- 26 A.R.E. Study Session
- 29 AIA GR Lunch & Learn

### February

- 11 A.R.E. Study Session
- 18 designThink - GMB AE
- 23 A.R.E. Study Session
- 23-25 Grassroots Leadership Conference (Detroit)
- 26 AIA GR Lunch & Learn
- 26 Mary Free Bed YMCA Tour
- TBD Construction (AIA Mid MI)

### March

- 10 A.R.E. Study Session
- 15 designThink - Integrated Architecture
- 22 A.R.E. Study Session
- 25 AIA GR Lunch & Learn
- TBD AIA GR Bowling Night
- xx Jack Miller Tour

### April

- 14 A.R.E. Study Session
- 21 designThink - CWD
- 26 A.R.E. Study Session
- 29 AIA GR Lunch & Learn
- TBD Design Week Building Tours

### May

- 19-21 AIA National Convention (Philadelphia)
- 27 AIA GR Lunch & Learn

**Stay tuned to the website and future newsletters for the most up to date event listings.**

The realignment plan offered two paths for our local component as either a Section of the State, or a Chapter as we are today. The main difference between the two paths is that as a Section of the State, we would not have to provide any of the core member services on our own, but could rely entirely on the state. However, it also meant that we could no longer maintain our own financial accounts, or control our own investments, thus losing control over our membership dues. If we stay a Chapter, we would be required to provide all our own services and meet the requirements for accreditation with National. In working through the realignment plan with leaders from AIA Michigan and conducting our own assessment, it became clear to us as a board that the best approach for AIA Grand Rapids was to remain a Chapter which allows us to control our own finances and offer our own programs as we do today. There are many more requirements, needs and changes required by the new core member services plan. If you are interested in knowing more, please feel free to contact the board leadership for more information and clarification.

As we now look forward to 2016, the board is excited about continuing to work towards satisfying the new Core Member Service requirements. This will lead to changes in how we communicate to our members, what our website looks like and the programs that we offer. The new Core Member Services requirements will also provide and enable more involvement by our members to create the best local experience we all desire. As someone who has thought in the past, "Why should I get involved?", I can share that you get out of your membership what you put into it. As you might be reflecting on what 2016 might hold for you, I would highly encourage each and every one of you to consider getting involved in our chapter. If you look at our "Board of Directors" page at [www.aiagr.org](http://www.aiagr.org), you will find many positions that will be opening up in May where you can get involved. If that does not seem like a good fit for you, but you have ideas about how to improve our chapter, please share them with a member of the board or, better yet, volunteer to start a new committee or get involved. We are always looking for ways to get more of our members involved in any capacity. Again, we all wish you a very Happy New Year!

-Thom Danckaert, Vice President

---

## Top Architecture Stories of 2015 from NCARB

2015 was a busy year for the architectural community. Below we share links (in blue) to the top architectural stories according to NCARB:

### [New Path to Licensure](#)

This year, NCARB unveiled its plan for closer collaboration with a number of Universities in an effort to streamline the path to licensure. The schools will work to merge the three components of licensure: education, internship, and examination.

### [Closing the Gender Gap](#)

In July, NCARB released it's 2015 version of NCARB by the numbers report. This showed an 13% increase in the number of aspiring architects that were women who completed the IDP. See the report for more information on IDP and ARE completion rates.



---

## Top Architecture Stories of 2015 from NCARB (continued)

### Internship Overhaul

The IDP program was overhauled in 2015 to reduce the 17 core areas down to six, and reduce total number of hours by one third. There was also rigorous debate regarding the use of the word “intern” to describe aspiring architects. While there is not a replacement yet, the goal is to still reserve the title “architect” for those who are licensed, while acknowledging the important work that many who are not licensed but working towards that goal accomplish in our offices everyday.

### Building for Boomers

Peter Ellis, a Principal at Cannon Design, predicts that the aging Boomer generation will help shape what our cities become and redefine past elderly lifestyles in their later years. The Boomer generation will promote active, sustainable lifestyles for years and generations to come.

Those were some of the highlights from the profession and the field for 2015. Sound off on our facebook page and share your thoughts on what 2016 will bring!

-Andrew Queenan, Secretary

---

## New Members

This year we welcomed a number of new members to our local chapter. If you got licensed in 2015, please send us a note and we will include you in our next newsletter.

Lamont Edwards, Assoc. AIA  
Michael Jen, AIA  
Nicolas Wallis, Assoc. AIA  
Jason Potter, Assoc. AIA  
Brian Kwekel, AIA  
Craig Hunsinger, Assoc. AIA  
Gregory Koenig, AIA  
Matthew Cebula, Assoc. AIA

We welcome all of you and look forward to meeting you at future events!

---

## A.R.E. Study Group

AIA Grand Rapids is sponsoring an A.R.E. study group locally. If you are interested in learning more, contact Ashley Dunneback for more information. The chapter also has study materials available and are looking at purchasing more for future releases of the tests.

Since it is the start of a new year, we challenge you to make A.R.E. one of your top priorities on your Resolution list this year!

## Member Communications

As part of the realignment process, the board is actively looking at other forms of communication with its membership. As we begin the new year, we thought it would be important to remind everyone how they can reach out to us and stay up to date on the latest.

### Chapter Website:

[www.aiagr.org](http://www.aiagr.org)

Here you will find the latest event notifications, newsletters, and job postings.

### Chapter Contact:

[deborahdik@yahoo.com](mailto:deborahdik@yahoo.com)

Deborah Dik, our administrative assistant will then direct the email to the appropriate board member. Membership questions can be directed to her as well.

### Chapter Facebook:

[www.facebook.com/aiaGrandrapids](http://www.facebook.com/aiaGrandrapids)

This is our main social media platform. Many board members share articles from other sites like NCARB and AIA National relevant to the profession as well as fun articles and blogs like Bob Borson's [Life of an Architect](#). If you have not checked out that blog, what are you waiting for?

### Chapter LinkedIn

For those of you not on facebook, you can follow us on LinkedIn. This is fairly new to our chapter so any feedback is appreciated!

### Monthly Newsletters

Finally, as part of realignment, our goal is to have a monthly newsletter with a message from a board member, as well as other pertinent updates. Many of these will also be shared as individual news items on the website.

As always, if you have feedback, please share!



## Call for Volunteers

### Basketball Tournament

The Academy of Design and Construction is hosting a 3 on 3 basketball tournament March 12 at Innovation Central High School. Registration is at 8:30am and Tip of is at 9:00am. All proceeds benefit ADC by creating scholarships. If interested in participating, please contact Lindsay Anes.

### Associated Builders and Contractors

ABC is looking for Judges for it's Excellence in Construction Awards Program. If interested, please contact Jen Schottke from ABC.

### Traveling Awards Board Exhibit

The AIA Grand Rapids Board is looking for volunteers with assistance in the set up and relocation throughout the year of our Honor Awards Boards. We have created a committee to identify locations throughout our membership where we could set up the Honor Awards displays for a month at a time for the public to see. We are asking for volunteers to help set up and take down. Ideas for locations are welcome as well as public areas like libraries that you may visit often would be great so members can keep an eye on the boards. Please Contact Neale Bauman or Tracy Ezell if interested in volunteering to spread the word to the public about the awesome architecture we are collectively creating in West Michigan

---

### Kerkstra Precast Tour

On November 13, members toured Kerkstra Precast's Manufacturing Facility in Grandville, Mi. An enjoyable learning experience was had by all despite the bitter cold when we stepped outside. We Thank Kerkstra for their hospitality and sharing a little bit about the process of construction. Watch out for an invite to the Pleotint Factory Tour this month. Thanks to Jamie Benvenuto for coordinating these events!





# AIA Grand Rapids

Thanks to our  
Generous Sponsors!



# Belden

[www.beldenbrickandsupply.com](http://www.beldenbrickandsupply.com)

