



AIA Buffalo/WNY

A Chapter of the American Institute of Architects

President

Paul L. Herendeen, AIA, NCARB

Hello Fellow AIA Members,

I would like to introduce myself, our new 2009 Board of Directors, and share with you our goals for 2009. In an attempt to maintain a good communication line with you I hope to send out monthly updates and share with you some of our upcoming events, and general concerns. I've enclosed a contact list of myself and the rest of our board.



Your New President: I'm a graduate of UB School of Architecture, 30 years experience in the Architectural field, with 10 of those years in my own practice. I've been on the AIA Board for about 18 years as a board member, secretary, and vice president, an AIA member for most of my 30 years in the field. The smartest thing I ever did was marry my wife Carol, who took an early retirement from teaching, at least one of us gets a pension. I have one son who I coached in three sports, was his cub scout and boy scout leader for 10 years, and gave him a background in Architecture and construction. He fortunately took my advice to enjoy Architecture, and go into another field. He won a full scholarship to UB taking premed, and has already been accepted to medical school – thank you UB.

2009 Board of Directors: I'm one of 4 officers with 8 directors on our volunteer 12 member Board of intern Architects and licensed Architects. We have a good mix of rookie, seasoned, and veteran Architects from small, medium, and large sized offices. We hold monthly board meetings, have established committees, and help in running monthly programs and public outreach interests. Depending on our role we volunteer anywhere from 5 to 40 hours a month each, and we are in need of any of our membership in helping with are committees and public outreach interests. We do what we can with the time we have, and hope it makes a difference.

Our Goals for 2009: Based upon a visions committee meeting we had last March with current Board members, past presidents, and past Board members we came up with many ideas of which we narrowed them down to some priority goals for our Chapter. Past President Kelly Hayes McAlonie, started those goals in motion last year, and my intentions are to carry on those goals for 2009.

Here are our goals for 2009:

1. **Create a support staff with the AIA Rochester Chapter.** We have entered into an agreement with their full time Executive Director of 18 years to help us with our much needed secretarial needs. Linda Hewitt will be taking telephone messages from our membership and relaying them to our Board members. Registering and verifying our monthly programs for CEU credits. She will also be going back to past CEU credit AIA programs to try and restore our earned missing CEU credits. Maintaining our membership database, emailing monthly programs and announcements to our membership. As an expert in doing these same tasks for the AIA Rochester Chapter Linda is a great resource for our Buffalo/WNY AIA Chapter – thank you Linda! This is the reason you are now receiving email announcements from the Rochester AIA Chapter. We are also establishing a great friendship with the Rochester Chapter, and hope to do a joint meeting with them in April.

2. **A New Website:** Yes we presently have a web site which is not very well maintained, and somewhat embarrassing. Our new web site is under construction and slated to be up and running by April 16, 2009. We are also planning on using an outside consultant to establish and maintain our new web site. Updates of current events and announcements will be a priority of our Board and their assistants to maintain. We hope to have a very professional web site that is very user friendly – but please bare with us on the start up.

3. **Chapter Treasury Updated and a 2009 Budget Established:** Over the past 7- 8 years we have invested wisely and maintained a savings to keep our chapter in the black. Thanks to our membership dues, golf outing, generosity of our affiliate members, and cost conscious Board, we are operating like a well oiled machine. We’ve invested some of these income items to help us in establishing our Chapter goals such as secretarial expenses with the Rochester AIA Chapter, a new professional web site, and public outreach interests.

4. **Public Outreach Interests:** - Architecture + Education Workshop, - Residential Architecture with the March Home and Garden Show, and Guest Speaker, Buffalo Emerging Professionals with our January NCARB course, and meeting events for our future Architects, - UB School of Architecture, January joint venture with UB, a sponsored Bethume Lecture, support to AIAS student chapter, and scholarship programs, - Waterfront Hotel Development position, - Richardson Complex Restoration seat, - Martin House Restoration backing, - new interests.

5. **NYSAIA Buffalo Convention 2010:** We have formed a preparation committee in the planning of the October 2010 Convention here in Buffalo. The 2009 NYSAIA Convention is in Rochester this year, and we in a great position to learn from their chapter in planning our 2010 Convention.

These are our 2009 goals that we hope to accomplish this year. We have only so much time as volunteers, so I feel that these are reasonable goals for one year. As Paul O’Donnell takes over as president next year I hope to help him with his goals as well.

Public Outreach – The Waterfront Hotel Design

I would like to bring everyone up to speed on the recent Buffalo News articles and TV coverage of our Chapter's position on the Waterfront Hotel issue. We were approached by the Buffalo Common Council if we would like to comment on the recent building planning developments that were proposed on the waterfront next to Shanghai Red's restaurant. In conjunction with our local AIA Board of Directors we drafted a letter, which I signed to Councilman Michael Kearnes. In this letter we stated that we were disturbed with the admitted "flawed" RFP that the Buffalo Urban Renewal Agency approved. As Architects we were further disturbed in the chosen "Suburban Style" hotel development that we felt it to be inappropriate and counterproductive to the development of our city's urban waterfront.

Unaware that our letter would be so well accepted by the Buffalo Common Council, we found our local AIA/WNY AIA Chapter appear in a front page article in the Buffalo News on 1/08/09. We were then invited to speak in front of the Buffalo Common Council on 1/14/09 with TV coverage of my requested discussion and interview from channel 4 News. On 1/15/09 we found ourselves in another article on the front page of section B of The Buffalo News. – wow what a week! I used to think it was a great pleasure when I received coverage of a ground breaking ceremony from the Clarence Bee. The entire AIA Board was very pleasantly surprised with the impact we made to our community in this public coverage.

It shows how the public perceives and respects our architectural opinions as an organized group of professional Architects. I received a number of positive emails and comments from our AIA members and concerned people. I'll share a few of these emails with you: "Front page – wow", "I'm glad to see the AIA has some balls," "I felt proud to be an AIA member," "I didn't know you were an Architect,"..... I hope this will be an encouragement for our Chapter to continue our efforts with other Public Outreach interests. If you like to help us please contact us.

In conclusion, the 2009 year is off to a good start for our Chapter. I hope you'll join us in our first monthly program at the UB School of Architecture on Thursday, January 22, '09, or in our other coming monthly programs.

With regards,

Paul L. Herendeen, AIA, NCARB
President '09 – AIA Buffalo/WNY

