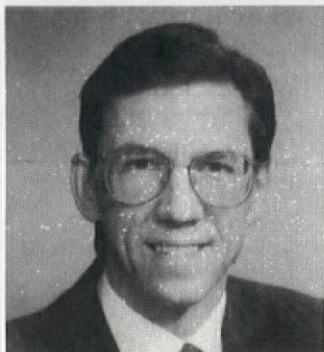


IMPORTANT! *Special Bulletin about dues restructuring!*

Special Bulletin
August 1996
Vol. 20 Issue 5

AIA Michigan

A Society of
The American Institute of Architects



By Thomas R. Mathison, AIA
President, AIA Michigan

Dear AIA Michigan member:

We are sending you this special edition of the AIA Michigan newsletter to tell you about an important proposal regarding the restructuring of member dues. In the pages which follow, you will find information about the proposal, as well as how it will impact you and AIA Michigan.

The proposal itself is simple:

1. Eliminate all supplemental dues for AIA Michigan members.
2. Establish a new, single dues rate for AIA Michigan members at \$245.00 per member.
3. Provide an incentive for first-time members by offering two years membership for the price of one year.
4. Double the dues for professional affiliate members. Associate dues and emeritus member dues remain unchanged.

How did we get here? As you know, AIA National is eliminating supplemental dues for AIA members in 1997. A primary motive for doing this was to redirect those dues back to the states and chapters, to be used locally, where they do the most good. To accomplish this in Michigan requires a vote by our members. Therefore, on June 20, the AIA Michigan board voted unanimously to take this proposal to our members to restructure our own dues by eliminating all supplemental dues and establishing a new single dues rate.

Our last dues adjustment was in 1987, with plans to adjust dues again in 1994. However, because of the \$100 per member special assessment for government affairs and public awareness initiatives, this was not required. Those programs were highly successful, and they raised the standard for our role in government affairs and public awareness.

The funds from the special assessment were fully spent last year, and as we attempt to sustain our efforts in these areas, as well as expand continuing education opportunities, we must make an adjustment now to meet the challenges before us. In addition to government affairs, public awareness and continuing education, we face increasing maintenance costs and debt reduction for Beaubien House, as well as the need to build a modest reserve for emergencies. With the elimination of AIA National supplemental dues, we have an opportunity to meet these challenges without an increase in the total dues paid for each member.

The new structure will simplify the whole dues system and will establish a firmer foundation for AIA Michigan to move into the future, pursuing new, better ways to enhance opportunities for architects in Michigan. I hope we can count on your support.

Questions? Call me anytime at 616/456-9944 or fax to me at 616/456-5936.

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The New Dues Structure Proposal

The proposal has four parts:

- A. Eliminate all supplemental dues for AIA Michigan members.
- B. Establish a new, single dues rate for AIA Michigan members at \$245. Each member is an equal stakeholder.
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Comparison to the current rate structure for AIA members:

	<u>Current</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
AIA National Dues	\$173	\$173
AIA National Supplemental Dues	79	0
AIA Michigan Dues	156	245
AIA Michigan Supplemental Dues	<u>25</u>	<u>0</u>
TOTAL DUES	\$433	\$418

Background

The AIA National Board voted to eliminate supplemental dues for AIA members in 1997. The primary motive in doing this was to redirect these dues dollars back to the states and chapters where the dues are used most effectively.

To accomplish this redirection of dues in Michigan requires a vote of our membership. A two-thirds vote of those cast is needed for passage. Ballots will be mailed to the membership in September. The deadline for returning the ballots is Oct. 4, 1996.

The last adjustment in dues was in 1987. At that time, it was designed to be adjusted again in 1994. That was the time of the Special Assessment of \$100 per member to fund important legislative and public awareness initiatives. These programs were highly successful, and they raised the standard for AIA Michigan's role in government affairs and public awareness.

Today, AIA Michigan faces challenges in the following areas:

- Sustained efforts in government affairs
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This proposed dues adjustment will redirect resources back to Michigan to help sustain the momentum in government affairs and public awareness, as well as to take care of some financial realities we must face.

How many dollars are we talking about?

Currently, about \$112,000 is paid to AIA National for supplemental dues each year by AIA Michigan members. Under this proposal, about \$74,000 would be redirected back to Michigan.

To take care of the challenges mentioned above, we face about a \$90,000 per year shortfall at AIA Michigan in 1997 (the budget for 1996 is about \$523,000). The proposed redirection will go a long way toward meeting those challenges, though it will not take care of the full amount. AIA Michigan will still need to continue to streamline its activities, keep its staff lean, and increase revenue through member recruitment and enhanced programming.

The new resources will also increase member equity in AIA Michigan, as we pay down the debt on our mortgage for Beaubien House. Our goal is to pay off the debt in five years. The funds used now for debt reduction can then be used for other programs after that time.

How far into the future will this new dues structure take us? Will you be back in a couple of years looking for more?

As mentioned above, this redirection of resources won't cover all the challenges, but it will allow us to manage the ones currently before us now, as well as those we can identify for the foreseeable future. Of course, it's hard to guarantee the future, but this proposal will establish a firm foundation for AIA Michigan into the next century.

Why can't we just cut items from the current budget to cover the costs for other, more important things?

That's a process that has been going for several years, particularly as government affairs has been our predominant financial focus. Each year the budgeting process includes a zero-based budgeting analysis of services, programs, staffing and costs, testing whether they meet the purpose and mission of AIA Michigan. For the last several years, our budget is organized programmatically, that is, each program and activity identifies an appropriate proportion of staff time and internal cost. In this way, we can see the true cost of everything we do as an organization.

The board of directors wrestles with the budget each year, and it has stretched the basically static dues dollars to continue to provide resources and services to our diverse membership. To this, we have been trying to sustain a heightened level of activity in government affairs and public awareness programs, which members

across the state consistently urge. Also, the development and coordination of more and more continuing education programs, as well as the increasing maintenance costs of Beaubien House adds to the strain.

What am I going to get for my dues that I am not now getting?

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Listed in this newsletter are programs and services provided by AIA Michigan today. AIA Michigan has never been more active or comprehensive in the programs and services it provides. And the list of services continues to grow. The ability to create new, relevant programs and services is limited only by our ideas, our willingness to get active, and the resources to implement them.

As in all organizations, increased value usually relates to increased involvement by individual members. AIA Michigan can only be as strong as the commitment of its individual members. One thing is certain: there is no one else speaking for architects except AIA Michigan. Were it not for AIA, the professional landscape in Michigan would look quite different today.

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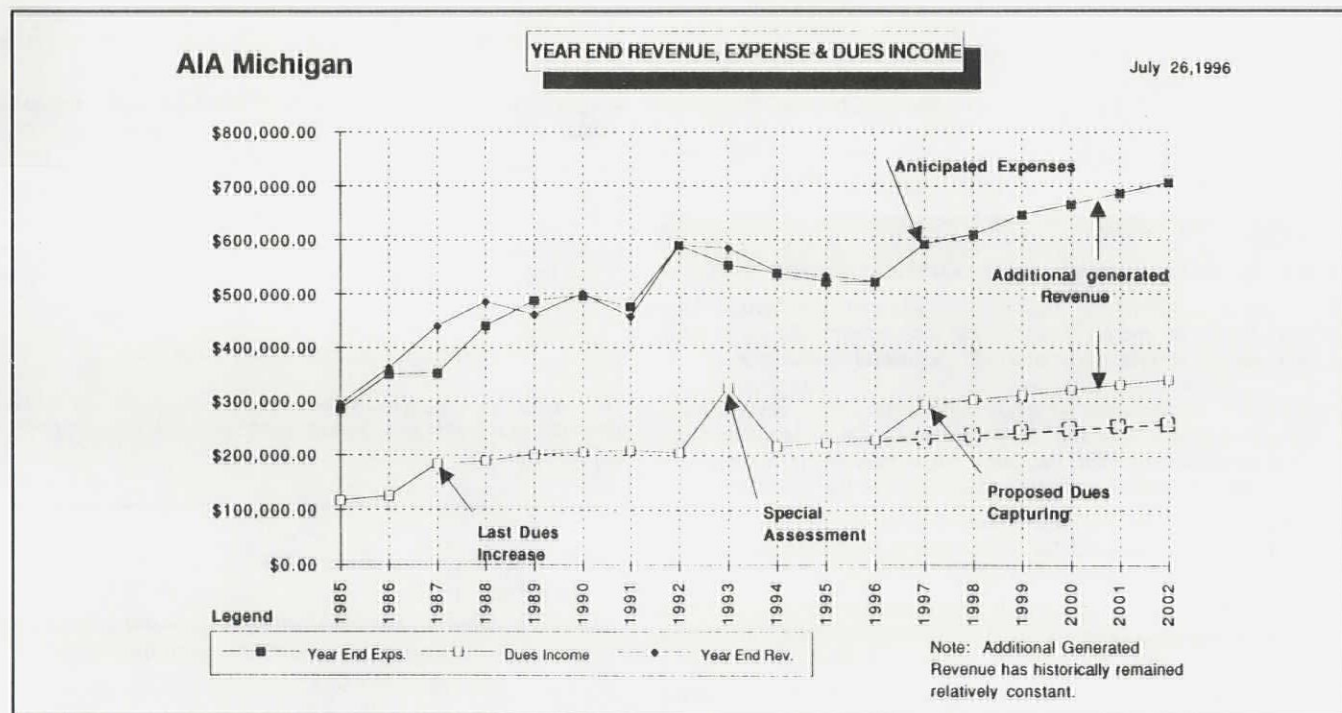
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Bottom line, we believe it is better to strive for simplicity in the dues rate than to establish a new set of rate categories that only substitutes one set of complications for another. After two years of debate, the consensus is that every AIA member has an equal stake in AIA Michigan, and that the programs benefit all members.

AIA Michigan stands behind you with a wide range of programs to support you in your practice and career. As an AIA member, you benefit from services that keep you informed, protect your interests and your practice, increase appreciation of your role as an architect among the public and clients, and give you the tools you need to heighten your efficiency and effectiveness.



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As the collective voice of the architectural profession in the state, AIA Michigan makes sure your concerns and interests are heard by key decision makers in Lansing as well as in the areas where you work and live. You and your firm profit from AIA Michigan's diligent monitoring of all regulatory matters affecting the profession.

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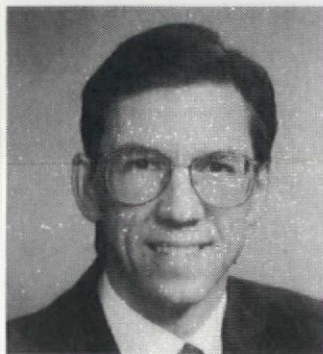
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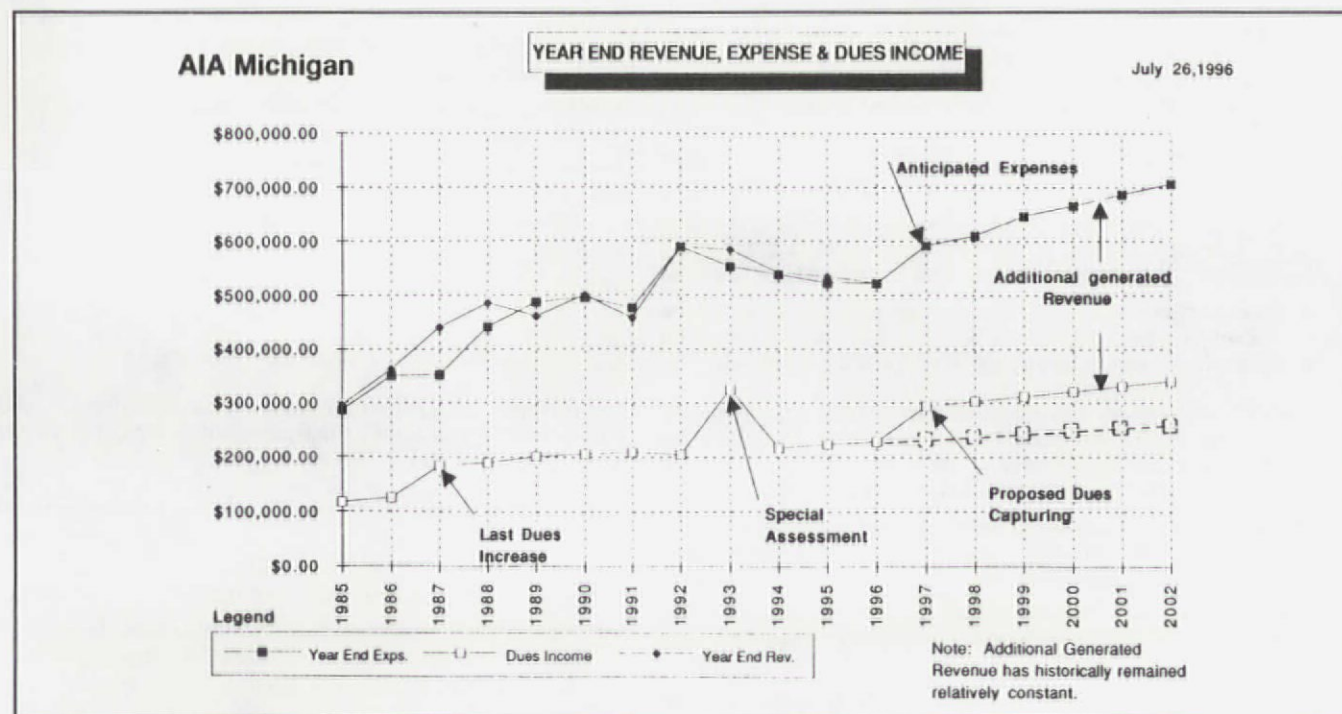
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