

Ferebee Meets With Press At Chapter Headquarters

Chapter Revision Committee Meets With Commissioner Zucotti

1973 Nominating Committee Elected



Scott Ferebee, Jr., FAIA, full face and to his left William L. Slayton, Hon. AIA; Archibald Rogers, FAIA; and George Lewis.

AIA President S. Scott Ferebee's southern accented soft sell approach is a marked contrast with his published statement "We should be marching into this era of environmental awareness with bands playing and flags flying, while others scramble to climb aboard our bandwagon." Ferebee, Executive Vice President William Slayton, and First Vice President, President Elect Archibald Rogers met on Jan. 31st with members of the architectural and construction press. This is the third year in a row NYC/AIA has arranged a press reception for the Institute. It was all very casual. There were cocktails and it wound up with Ferebee outlining programs very generally and answering a few questions.

KK

Jordan L. Gruzen arranged a meeting with the new Planning Commissioner John Zucotti on Feb. 5th to discuss community involvement in planning. Gruzen is chairman of a committee appointed by Tom Galvin to prepare a Chapter statement on this particular point for the Charter Revision Commission.

Mr. Zucotti indicated he may make even stronger recommendations than those made recently on strengthening the role of the Community Planning Boards. The Chapter's position, already made in one paper to the Commission is very much the same as that of the AIA's National Policy Task Force. It finds it mutually beneficial and not contradictory that there simultaneously be greater centralized power given to development agencies and increased involvement by citizens in planning at local levels.

KK

The five-person Nominating Committee was elected by vote of the Chapter membership from an eleven-person slate. Eight names were submitted in nomination for the Committee at the January 5 Chapter meeting. Three additional names were added by the Executive Committee.

Elected were:

Henry N. Cobb
Judith Edelman
Frederick G. Frost
James S. Polshek
William B. Tabler

The Nominating Committee proposes nominations for Chapter officers and directors, and for the following elective committees: Ethics, Fellows, Finance, and Jury for the Medal of Honor and Award of Merit.

Editorial: A Plea For Unity And Effectiveness

The February *Oculus* states that the Chapter sent a telegram to the President condemning both the escalation of the bombing of North Viet Nam and the cutting of money for low and middle income housing. Copies were apparently sent to various congressmen, newspapers and TV stations. Also mentioned is a statement prepared by the Natural Environment Committee in support of the New York City suite to free Federal funds for water pollution control. The statement simultaneously supports the program and condemns the presidential stoppage of funds as "arbitrary and autocratic."

I would like to enter a plea for the divorcement of extraneous issues, however important, from Chapter action to the end that we may unite more effectively on matters of vital and specific consequence to the profession. In my opinion we should concentrate on our main objectives: in the above instances the funding of (1) housing and (2) water pollution controls. Both Viet Nam and the question of executive vs. legislature are diversions.

It is mathematically inevitable that, as the number of issues is increased, the number of members of one mind will decrease. Taking positions on all will tend to promote factions and dissension, and reduce the effectiveness of our organization.

Our problems of unity are great enough in dealing with housing, zoning, regional planning, the Building Department, conservation, and a host of other items, without adding war and governmental organization, and if the trend continues, methadone, abortion, democracy, totalitarianism, taxation, and the like. Furthermore, a Chapter stand on methadone, for example, however meritorious, might well alienate a considerable body of those, both within and without the profession, who might support, for example, our stand on a matter of zoning. Such a reduction in our effectiveness is both undesirable and unnecessary.

The leadership of the Chapter owes its election to the confidence of the membership in their wisdom in professional matters. To extend the scope of their responsibility would necessitate bringing political and other issues into Chapter elections so that the officers might properly represent majority opinion. Surely this is not desired.

Other organizations exist in abundance for the expression of all varieties of opinion on almost everything. Let us relegate to them our individual activities in their fields, and resolve to be both as united and as effective as we may contrive to be on our own professional matters.

WBN

Letter To The Editor: Other Viewpoint Presented

To The Editor:

I am writing you to take issue to the article by KK on the student design symposium in December's *Oculus*.

I can agree that there were a few events and/or circumstances which occurred during the symposium which were not planned. However, I feel it was unfair to give such an accounting without presenting all sides of the picture. The article slaps of bi-partisan interests and does not fairly represent all parties and viewpoints. This type of injustice jeopardizes the efforts and hard work that has gone into this and other programs by the joint education committees of the different disciplines.

I recently received a letter from Mrs. Ada Esser, moderator of the symposium, who strongly felt the students were made the scapegoats by misrepresentations and inaccuracies in the reportage of this article. To quote Mrs. Esser, who recently transcribed the tapes of the symposium, she said, "As I read the (*Oculus*) squib, the symposium has been (represented as) an example of non-communication and non-information, while the actual transcript turns out to contain clear statements of viewpoints, substantial information, and many positions on synthesis."

She continues, "much information was withheld by KK, which brings to mind one of Goethe's observations: 'The artist may be well advised to keep his work to himself till it is completed, because no man can readily help him or advise him with it . . . but the scientist is wiser not to withhold a single finding or a single conjecture from publicity.' Because of the absence of good will during the symposium, information did not have much of a chance of being processed. However, most of the content of each individual statement is clear, and when read contain much valuable information." In fact the students and professionals, who did attend the two discussion groups, felt they had garnered new insights and knowledge.

It is my hope in writing to you that this letter be printed in the next *Oculus* to help clear the air around this situation and help to present the other viewpoints surrounding the student design symposium.

William D. Sattan, AID
Chairman of Education
January 22, 1973

Executive Committee Acts On Resolutions Committee Recommendations

In preparation for the National AIA Convention May 7-10 in San Francisco, the Executive Committee met recently to review the recommendations submitted by the Resolutions Committee. The approved Resolutions, listed below, were forwarded to the National Resolutions Committee, who will, in turn, send the Chapter a "collection" of all Resolutions to be discussed at the Convention. Early in April, the NYC/AIA will hold a pre-Convention meeting to discuss the edited Resolutions.

Status of Women in the Architectural Profession

Although the AIA has made efforts and taken some effective action to correct racial discrimination, it has not yet responded adequately to the struggle for women's rights in the architectural profession. It is urgent that attention now be given to women as a minority group in architecture and that recognition be given to such problems as underrepresentation, un-equal employment opportunities, un-equal pay, and discrimination by omission.

Political Contributions

In 1971, the NYC/AIA submitted a Resolution which said, in part, "An architect as an individual may take political contributions of money or service provided he maintains a full statement of the value, nature, purpose and receiver of such contributions and discloses such information to his local chapter and upon request to the Judicial Board of the AIA." Unfortunately, there is little evidence that this Resolution has received serious study in the ensuing two years. Therefore, it was RESOLVED, That a special task force be assigned to study, with adequate staff support, the problems raised by political contributions, and RESOLVED, That said task force report its recommendations to the 1974 Convention.

Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972

The urgently needed rehabilitation of our waterways, and the building of sewage treatment facilities has been virtually eliminated by Pres. Nixon's disallowance of \$6 billion of a total \$18 billion appropriated and passed by Congress. RESOLVED, That the Board be directed to take all appropriate steps to support the action taken by New York City in its suit against the Federal Environment Protection Agency to free the appropriation of \$5 billion for the fiscal year of 1973 for use by the cities.

Housing Funding Moratorium

RESOLVED, That the Board bring all its resources to bear on the Federal Government in order to lift the moratorium on the use of monies appropriated by Congress for the authorized housing, Model Cities, Urban Renewal, and water and sewer program, at least until such time as new and better programs to solve these potentially destructive problems are in force.

Energy Conservation

Because of increased awareness of the energy crisis, and inasmuch as buildings, the result of the architects' work consume 1/3 of all energy used in our country in their construction, operation and maintenance, this Resolution recommends a permanent AIA committee, assistance to AIA components, work with inter-professional groups, push for appropriate legislation, and cessation of awards to buildings wasteful of energy.

Full text of all Resolutions are at headquarters.

AMT

York Avenue Sequal

The York Avenue "affair," that long 2000 foot promenade with access only at the ends granted to the City by the developing institutions in exchange for the air-rights over the East River Drive between 62nd and 71st Streets, has been reported out in favor by the City Planning Commission. The Chapter had urged its rejection citing the lack of adequate public access to eight blocks of waterfront.

The Commission's opinion does quote the need and feasibility of 68th Street access, as recommended by the Chapter, but it is not conditional.

The matter is scheduled to go before the Board of Estimate March 8. The Chapter will appear and reiterate its opposition.

NFJ

Committee Budgets Set at \$11,225

The Executive Committee has approved committee disbursements at \$11,225 for the 1972-73 budget. The decision came late this year due to the heavy pressure the Chapter has been under to hold down expenses. The approved amount represents a reduction in excess of 50% of last year's original 1971-72 budget.

The amount budgeted was allocated in the following manner:

Awards \$ 600

Environmental Planning Commission

Historic Buildings \$ 50
Parks & Recreation \$ 350
Urban Planning \$ 0
Zoning \$ 0

Public Affairs Commission

Exhibits \$ 0
Natural Environment \$ 300
Political Affairs \$ 0
Public Relations \$ 0
Public Service Fund \$ 50

Building/Site Design Commission

Building Code \$ 100
Building Technology \$ 350
Hospital & Health \$ 500
Housing \$ 300
Residential Design \$ 0
School/College Architecture \$ 0

Professional Affairs Commission

Building Industry Coord. \$ 350
Computers in Arch. \$ 250
Fees & Contracts \$ 0
Office Practice \$ 650
Prof. Liability Ins. \$ 0
Financing of Const. \$ 0

Internal Affairs Commission

Bylaws \$ 0
Membership \$ 625
Oculus \$3,950
Graphics \$ 0
Meetings \$ 300

Architectural Education Commission

Architectural Schools \$ 0
Continuing Education \$ 100
Environmental Education \$ 850
Equal Opportunities \$ 0
Student Affairs \$1,500
Technical Education \$ 50

Total \$11,225

Budget requests are formulated by the Committee Chairman and forwarded to their respective Commission head, (a Chapter Director and Executive Committee member) in September. The committee budgets are determined by the Executive Committee as the budget takes shape in concert with other disbursements and projected receipts.

The current 1973 budget is set at \$186,560, somewhat less than the auditor's report for 1971-72.

JAK

Use Of RUDAT For South Richmond Tabled

The use of an AIA's Regional/Urban Design Assistance Team to aid in the passage of the South Richmond Development Corporation Bill has been deferred at the suggestion of Senator John Marchi. The bill is before the Senate now and a publicized RUDAT charrette could have little effect on its passage. Marchi is hopeful of Senate passage at this writing. As yet there is no sponsor in the Assembly.

Concrete System Buildings Seminar: Saturday, March 31

A seminar on the structural aspects of multi-storey concrete systems buildings will be held on Saturday, March 31 from 9 A.M. to 5 P.M. at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York at 33 West 42nd Street, New York City.

The seminar is organized under the auspices of the Department of Civil Engineering, The City College of New York and the Committee on Engineering Education, Metropolitan Section, ASCE.

Presentations will be made by: David M. Pellish, Architect, New York State Urban Development Corp.; Horst Berger, Partner, Geiger & Berger Associates; Dr. Istvan S. Varga, Associate-in-Charge, Weidlinger Associates; Shelley W. Shelley, Principal, Shelley Systems, Inc.; Sepp Firnkas, President, Sepp Firnkas Engineering, Inc., and OMNIFORM Syst., Inc.; and Dr. Felix Y. Yokel, Center for Building Technology, National Bureau of Standards.

The program is aimed at structural engineers and architects who are engaged or have interest in the design and construction of multi-storey industrialized concrete buildings.

The cost for attending the Seminar, including the luncheon, is \$20 for ASCE members and \$25 for non-members, advance registration is required by mail. Registration with name, address and a check made out to "CCNY/ASCE Seminar" should be sent to Dr. Robert T. Ratay, Department of Civil Engineering, City College of New York, New York, N.Y. 10031, (Tel. 621-2228) not later than March 20th.

**Commissioner Sylvia Deutsch
To Be Guest Speaker At
WAA Tea And Reception
March 15**



Commissioner Sylvia Deutsch

Mrs. Thomas F. Galvin, WAA President and Mrs. David Paul Helpern, WAA Membership Chairman have announced that the President's Reception and Membership Tea will be held on Thursday, March 15 in the first floor Gallery of Pratt Institute, 46 Park Avenue from 3:30 to 5:30.

Featured speaker at the event will be Commissioner Sylvia Deutsch of the New York City Planning Commission. She will speak on the challenges which have confronted her as the sole woman on the City Planning Commission.

The Reception and Tea is open to all WAA members, their husbands and WAA potential members. Both tea and sherry will be served.

Reservations may be made by writing Mrs. Helpern at 511 East 80th Street, New York, New York 10021.

**Energy Conservation Exhibit
Opens April 2**

Many of us have a fundamental and at times overriding optimism with respect to the amount of energy available for our use. We feel, no matter what we do, there will always be enough energy. Someone will come along with a new energy source or a new way of harnessing the abundant energy supplies such as ocean waves, hurricanes, and sun's radiation, and therefore, we may proceed as we wish.

The Natural Environment Committee's Energy Conservation Exhibit, scheduled to open April 2 at the Owens-Corning Exhibit Center, 717 Fifth Avenue, is designed to put to rest this overly optimistic notion and bring into focus the alarming scarcity of our available fossil fuels.

Designed by Arnold Saks, Inc., and coordinated by David Dambowic, the exhibit will stress the architect's role in energy conservation. It will explore what he can do in the areas of site selection and orientation, design execution, choice of materials and insulation, and selection of an energy source.

An area will be devoted to the considerable inefficiency of electrical energy.

Some of the exhibit will examine new ways of harnessing energy and the consequential environmental ramifications.

Various symposia will be conducted concurrently with the exhibit and the public is invited to participate. Details of the symposia may be obtained from the Natural Environment Committee, Chairman, Gerard Van Baarsel.

The exhibit, having been expressly designed for travel, will do so upon closing.

The Chapter and the variety of contributors have underwritten the cost of the exhibit budgeted at \$30,090. The largest potential contributor is the General Service Administration: \$10,000, which would come through the Institute. This sum is contingent upon the Chapter signing a contract, which, among other things, would involve turning the exhibit over to the GSA which would make arrangements for it to be shown in other localities. It is anticipated that the Executive Committee will recommend that the contract be signed, but a letter to the Institute would go with it for countersignature asking that the Institute do everything in its power to insure that the exhibit not be altered in any way after it was turned over to the GSA, and that the Institute guide GSA as to when and in what cities the exhibit will be shown.

NFJ

**WAA President
Mrs. Thomas F. Galvin
To Washington For Workshop**

Mrs. Thomas F. Galvin, WAA President recently attended the AIA Grass Roots Conference Workshop for component presidents in Washington D.C. Mrs. Galvin accompanied her husband, NYCAIA President, and participated in the Seminar with representatives of chapters throughout the Eastern Seaboard. She reported to the Board of the WAA on the results of the meeting.

Executive Committee Actions

February 7, 1973

- Members present signed a petition supporting the nomination of Darrel Rippeteau to be a vice president of the Institute. Mr. Rippeteau is in his 3rd year as New York regional director on the Institute Board.
- Approved 5 resolutions to be submitted to the Institute's resolutions committee for consideration at the AIA Convention in May (see article this issue).
- Approved a statement which was presented February 8 to the Board of Estimate in support of the South Street Seaport. The particular issue was a proposal that the City spend \$8 million to hold certain properties in the Seaport area, including Schermerhorn Row.
- Approved changing the name of the School & College Architecture Committee to Educational Facilities Committee.
- Heard a statement which was presented by the Zoning Committee to the Planning Commission on January 31 in support of the proposed Park Improvement District involving upper 5th Avenue and Park Avenue but with recommendations for some major changes.
- Heard a report on the status of the exhibition "The Architect and the Energy Crisis" scheduled for April at the Corning Glass Building (see article this issue).

Welcome To New Members

The NYC/AIA welcomes the following members:

Corporate

Medhat Abdel-Salam
Augusto Camacho
Gail Hipp Cooke
Miroslav Fenc
Ralph J. Gillis
James Charles Hoyt

Professional Associate

Reginald D. Hough

Associate

Helen V. Armstrong
Suzana I. Stere
Chao-Kang Chang

Candidates For Membership

Information received by the Secretary of NYC/AIA regarding the qualifications of candidates for membership will be considered confidential.

Corporate

Wing Kwai Chan
Peter A. Giarrantano
Carl Robert Meinhardt
Louis Poupon
Gregory Blanchard Putnam
Michael Robert Zensky

New Members To Be Assigned To Committees

In order to get new members involved in Chapter activities immediately the Executive Committee has initiated a new procedure. When a prospective member receives an application form, he or she will also be given a list of committees and asked to make a first, second and third choice. When the application is approved the new member will be assigned to a committee for one year by the Secretary and informed of this assignment in a letter of welcome.

When possible assignments shall be on the basis of preference but otherwise on an arbitrary proportioned basis. There will be no public whippings for non attendance, but each person shall be urged to participate as an indication of interest. After one year selection will be on the usual preferential basis.

KK

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Executive Committee
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Samuel M. Brody, FAIA, Vice President
Kurt Karmin, Secretary
James B. Baker, Treasurer
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