

Past President's New Year's Message

To the Members of AIA Wyoming

I want to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very Happy New Year. 2018 came and went so fast, it was difficult to even catch one's breath. The architects practicing in Wyoming have been blessed with an abundance of work this past year and our communities and clients have benefitted by our enthusiasm, our expertise and our participation.

AIA Wyoming is already off to a great start in 2019 with two continuing education conferences being planned, the first, a springtime conference in Cheyenne from April 4-6 followed by an anniversary celebration for our Western Mountain Region on September 19-21, hosted by AIA Wyoming and to be convened in Jackson this fall. I encourage everyone to place these can't miss meeting dates on their calendars.

2018 proved to be a year in transition for many practitioners. The demand for architects has never been greater. And with the demand also comes responsibility. Responsibility to our clients, to our offices, to our communities, to our families and to our legacy. It is so vitally important that we continue to lead in many conversations, not only leading our design and consultant teams, but leading the way in securing our future by staying in touch with legislative initiatives and regulatory activities, leading community discussions and leading in principle, in ethics and in morality. Architects have always been able to lead design teams and consultants by putting our best foot forward. Now is the time for our best and brightest to step forward and consider leading our profession by getting involved and learning to balance work, profession and life. The balance can be so gratifying. The opportunity to serve has never been greater and there are so many ways to get involved.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my tenure as AIA Wyoming President. Representing AIA Wyoming in local, regional and national activities has been a privilege. I have taken full advantage of these responsibilities and the opportunities to meet with many of our local, regional and national architectural leaders, with state representatives congressional delegations and in a variety of settings. Wyoming has a respected place in the profession. It will be my sincere desire to have our representation and reputation continue to flourish. I know that Clint Taylor is prepared to serve us and serve us well. He will assume the leadership role of AIA Wyoming President in 2019. He deserves our enthusiastic support.

There are so many individuals that have influenced my two tenures as President of AIA Wyoming. The list is long but at the very top is my 25 year relationship with Bruce Hawtin, my close friend and confidant. Bruce continues to support and inspire AIA Wyoming architects like no architect I have ever met. Second, I think that AIA Wyoming needs to celebrate the leadership behind the scenes. Our Executive Director, Susan Menghini manages to keep the board informed, motivated and on our toes. If we are successful it is because of Susan's dedication. Please take the opportunity to thank our board members, our committee chairs and the members who take the time to serve on the boards and committees every month. For those who have attended our continuing education conferences, each one seems to be better than the last. Thank you to those who have take time to coordinate these events.

We were informed at last year's meeting with the State Board of Architects and Landscape Architects in Jackson that over a third of AIA Wyoming member Architects are of retirement age. This doesn't mean that 1/3 of our architects are retiring but it does mean that when circumstances dictate, we will have many substantial shoes to fill. I am hoping that a few of the very talented younger architects will consider directing some of their energies to our profession and not just our practice.

As a younger architect, I first served as AIA Wyoming President in 2001 through 2003, a three year commitment. I did so as the behest of making up for lost time. I moved back to Wyoming and located our family to Sheridan in 1996, moving from the California coast where my active membership with AIA Orange County took an extended holiday. I was a non-participant. I had originally joined AIA Colorado West but never stepped up to serve nor to contribute. I regret that as a young architect I didn't see the value of the profession, feeling that only the practice was sacred. Now that I have served as President for a second time and a second generation of architects, my new role will be defined as "Past Present" for the next two years. I can only promise that I will continue to support our organization and to encourage leadership until my tenure as an architect comes to a close. I am so very proud to be a professional architect and so gratified that I have been able to serve and represent the architects of AIA Wyoming twice in my lifetime.

Dan Stalker, AIA
AIA Wyoming Past President 2019-2020