



ASLA 2009-2011 CHAPTER LEADERSHIP

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Chapter Presidents' Council Mid Year Meeting

April 28-May 1, 2010

President-Elect's Report

Greetings IMASLA members and newsletter readers. With the conclusion of the annual mid-year CPC meeting in Washington D.C., I felt it was important to report back to our members the topics and highlights of this year's activities. But, first off, for those members who I've not had the opportunity to meet yet, I'd like to quickly introduce myself. My name is Neil Kiner and I'll be serving the Idaho/Montana chapter as your president elect for this 2009-2011 leadership term. My wife Sharli and I live in Billings with our two children, Haven and Greyson, and I work at CTA Architects Engineers.

This year's mid-year CPC meeting was again held in Washington D.C. during the last week of April. As it was my first CPC meeting, I was privileged with attending the first timers' early orientation breakfasts and meeting many other chapter's presidents and president elects for the first time. The first thing I took away is how well organized national ASLA has become. The society has great leadership in place and has made great strides in the past few years.

The 50 by 2010 campaign, initiated in 2000, has been focusing on passing practice acts in all 50 states by 2010. Being 2010, this initiative is winding down but not before enjoying tremendous success. All 50 states now have laws regulating landscape architects, with all but three states enacting practice acts.

This year's CPC meeting was combined with the annual advocacy day. This year's legislative priorities were to encourage senate companion bills and more house sponsors of H.R. 3734 Urban Revitalization and Livable Communities Act and H.R. 4202 Green Infrastructure for Clean Water Act of 2009. As the Montana delegate, I was honored with sitting down and discussing these bills with the office of Representative Denny Rehberg, and the offices of Senators Max Baucus and Jon Tester. Each of the office staff members I met with were interested and respectful of the message ASLA was representing. We had candid conversations and talked at length about the responsibility landscape architects have in sustainable land uses and practices and the role we play in today's pressing environmental issues. Overall, the 2010 Advocacy Day met and exceeded ASLA's goals of finding sponsors and moving these landmark legislative bills forward.

The CPC meeting focused on staying vigilant and active in our local chapters. It was encouraged to update our chapter's strategic plan, focusing on 2-3 year goals. The reality of today's economic situation was evident by discussions on maintaining a balanced annual budget and reaching individuals who have decided to drop membership. While things are tough at the present time, there is still a great deal of optimism for the practice of landscape architects. We are perfectly suited for a great deal of environmental stewardship work as we transition into a more sustainable society.

An evening reception was held at the ASLA headquarters, where the great design and implementation of their green roof was on display. Now moving into the second full year, the vegetation is starting to mature and look really beautiful. While at the reception, I was introduced to Bradford McKee, the new editor of Landscape Architecture Magazine. It will be exciting to experience the new direction and style this editor will bring to the magazine. Brad is a captivating and honest writer with a great deal of experience covering controversial items in today's design world.

The candidates for President Elect for national ASLA introduced themselves to the CPC made themselves available for a question/answer session in which we asked their vision for ASLA and landscape architecture. I encourage each member to find out more about these candidates and participate in the upcoming voting this summer.

With that, I'll wrap this column up. Please contact me if you would like to discuss any issues you would like to see addressed through our local chapter.

PS. The time has come to begin planning for the 2011 Rendezvous, which will be held in south-central Montana. Calling all volunteers... ;)

***The Idaho-Montana Chapter
American Society of Landscape Architects
www.imasla.org***