

Trustee's Report

An old Chinese blessing: "*May you live interesting times.*"

The days since the 11th of September have changed our world. If the times aren't interesting enough, then certainly the challenge associated with the times should be enough to hold our attention and help us re-shape our purpose.

The cancellation of the national meeting in Montreal has forced a creative and necessary response as a means to allow for the yearly transition of power in the ASLA to take place as well as for on-going governance procedures. Normally, the new president, vice-presidents and trustees take office with the closing gavel. The outgoing leaders are given the opportunity to say good-bye and to receive our thanks and recognition. Not so this year.

Late in September, a motion to suspend the rules was passed by the Board of Trustees (BOT) to allow for the installation of the new officers in Washington D.C. It also allowed staff and the new BOT the flexibility to set about the task of completing the unfinished business scheduled to be addressed in Montreal. This has resulted in quite a bit of e-mail communication related to process, procedure and product.

This week, there were three motions related to adoption of minutes, consent agenda items and policy revisions to be acted on. All were to be completed by e-mail. Since this was business to be completed by the previous Board, I deferred to the judgment of Don in casting these votes on behalf of the chapter. I will continue to do so when appropriate. These are the first steps that will take us to the mid-year meeting next April and back to normal operations.

There are a number of challenges we face. First, the financial impact of a cancelled national meeting is significant. We have insurance coverage. However, the extent of resulting compensation remains to be seen. This affects policy on refunds for registration fees and other costs. This affects the overall operating budget, too. The extent of the pain also remains to be seen. This should be resolved sometime after the first of the year.

Second, we have to consider a meaningful way to install the new class of fellows, announce the 2001 ASLA Award Winners and to thank the outgoing leadership. Plans are underway to induct the fellows, announce the Award Winners and celebrate the accomplishments of the outgoing leadership at the mid-year meeting in April.

After the election in August, I had no idea that the transition would take the form that it has. Based on the countless e-mails I've received, the Board appears to be pragmatic, insightful, creative and very vocal. They also appear to work very hard. As a chapter, we owe an enormous debt of gratitude to Don for his years of service, his hard work and his contribution to the successful management of the society on his watch.

I am thankful for the your trust and confidence and especially those Big Sky votes. There's no sky like the Big Sky. I also look forward to the challenges associated with representing you all. As events unfold and develop throughout the fall and early winter I will try to keep the Ex Com and section leaders updated via e-mail.

Jonathan Mueller