

TRUSTEE'S REPORT

It has been a busy year and a half since I was privileged to start as your trustee. The Society has emerged from some difficult times as a result of both steady and sturdy leadership at the national level. I continue to be amazed at how much Nancy Somerville (and all the staff members) are involved in and how they project such a positive and productive image of the Society and the profession.

When I was a kid, my father gave me some instruction on how to ride a horse. I remember him saying, "Sometimes you get to direct the horse. Sometimes the horse just takes you along and allows you to participate. You have to develop a trust." If any of you have doubts about what the organization at a national level is all about or is accomplishing on our behalf, I'd be happy to forward all of my program summaries for posting on the website. It will amaze you as to the reach of our programs, initiatives & collaborations. As Past President, Len Hopper has said, "At this time, you cannot afford not to be a member of the ASLA!" I would have to agree based on all the ongoing activity in our areas of professional interest. The leadership process allows for participation and provisions of direction. It also requires that bit of trust as well, because matters arise that require a rapid response and tend to take us all along. We are well served and lucky to have a team in place that can respond on our behalf.

A number of the major issues that the BOT and the Ex Com have confronted in the last year include:

1. Severe financial impacts associated with a cancelled annual meeting in Montreal.
2. A dwindling reserves account.
3. A change in investment strategy for our reserves.
4. A dues increase.
5. Governance and new Chapter Formation.
6. Confirmation of ASLA/ CLARB model law language.
7. A host of policy revisions.
8. Continued Development of Strategic Objectives and Priorities.
9. Softness in the multiple revenue streams that help fund programs for the Society.
10. Ongoing support for state licensing efforts.
11. An aggressive marketing campaign by the AIA.

A few high points include:

1. That million dollar insurance check to cover our losses related to Montreal.
2. A very successful annual meeting in San Jose including a sold out Expo.
3. Successful Congressional Lobby Days in both 2002 and 2003.
4. A SNAP award for journalistic excellence awarded to LAM.

In terms of my own activities on the BOT, I have been appointed to the Policy Committee, the Medals Committee and the Professional Practice Institute.

The Policy Committee has just finished up work on a new Security Design Policy and is currently involved with the drafting of a policy related to "invasives".

The Professional Practice Institute meets by phone every month and reviews many new products, services & software that are emerging for use in the marketplace. There are also discussions related to federal, state and sometimes local regulations and their impact on practice. This has been an interesting group to interact with.

The Medals Committee has not met.

I also have asked President-Elect Jacobson for an appointment to the Financial Committee and there is some indication that this will happen. This is an interest of mine and there are interesting times for the finances of the Society.

On a personal note, I have enjoyed the opportunity to work with both David and Jim at a national level and look forward to the coming year. If any of you have questions or require information about current BOT activities get to me at jon@hatchmueller.com. I will do my best to respond.

Jon Mueller