

## President's Message:

Summer rain shower greetings. As it rains while I write this, I am reminded that interruptions never happen at a time that is convenient. Change never waits until you have time to deal with it, and sometimes you find things in your path that you might wish were not there but they must be dealt with.. Right now AIA MI has several such events in the works that you should know about.

### BEAUBIEN HOUSE SALE / RELOCATION OF OUR OFFICES:

Construction often takes longer than expected and the move to the Mid Town space has been pushed back to September now. The buyer of Beaubien house is allowing us to close later than originally agreed upon, saving us the cost of renting an interim space.

### BY-LAW CHANGES:

On July 16th AIAMI has called a special meeting at the offices of The Christman Company in Lansing at 5:30 pm to change our AIAMI By-laws to allow for absentee voting. Please take time to attend, we have some big decisions in October, and want every member to be able to have a voice in the changes about to take place. Note, we must have 2/3 of the board present along with 1% of our membership (or 17 non-board members) for this meeting to meet our By-laws and allow us to allow for absentee voting in the future.

[www.aiami.com/realignment](http://www.aiami.com/realignment)

The AIA MI board has taken on the challenge National has put in front of us called realignment. We are being asked to provide "Minimum Core Requirements" to every member. Everyone has the opportunity to read what has been done to date on the web site above, and we encourage you to talk to your State Board Director, as well as your Chapter Board, who have been considering these changes and should be able to give you more background. There is an AIAMI task force charged with looking at this from the state's perspective and communicating with each of the current chapters to monitor the thoughts and directions at the local level as well. The AIAMI Board, in coordination with the chapters, is looking to have a plan to put before the membership in October. This is a work in progress and has changed substantially from the original ideas based on the input from our members. We have the outlines but there are still many details to be considered and resolved.

We are exploring two plans at this time. The first plan is Michigan as a component (we would call it a chapter) and ten sections. A section acts mostly like a chapter, but does not have to meet the Minimum Core Requirements. The second plan is similar to the first but we would have one or two chapters (Detroit as an example) and the rest be sections. Any component (chapter) needs to meet the Minimum Core Requirements. Existing chapters that wish to remain as such will be required to put together a business plan to provide and fund the minimum services.

The Minimum Core Requirements are available to everyone on the web page above. Contact your State Director if you want to ask why we have to take on this task, and how we got to where we are. You're welcome to also contact Cathy at AIA MI or myself by phone or e mail if you have questions that are still unanswered.

I invite you to take part in these important decisions that will reshape AIA Michigan and how AIAMI provides services in the future. Even if it's not convenient, or your top priority, it is the task at hand and all of us must work together to shape the future of our professional organization.

Regards,

**Jeff Ferweda, AIA**  
AIA Michigan President