

AIA South Carolina
2025 Annual Business Meeting
May 2, 2025
Columbia, SC

Members Present:

Edward S. Bauknight, Assoc. AIA; Eugene Bell, AIA; Brad Benjamin, AIA; Mary Beth Branham, AIA;
Josh Bucher, AIA; Terry Buchmann, AIA; Michael Carabello, Assoc. AIA; Don Chapman, AIA;
Andy Clark, AIA; Juan Contreras, Assoc. AIA; Rachel DeBaker, AIA; Rayshad Dorsey, Assoc. AIA;
Kris Feldmann, AIA; Jane Frederick, FAIA; Michael Frederick, AIA; Jonathan Garvin, AIA; Scott Garvin, AIA; Barbara
Haller, AIA; John Hansen, AIA; Randall Holmes, AIA; Jim Hubbard, AIA; Jamison Hupp, AIA; Spencer Hutchinson,
AIA; Patrick Kestner, AIA; Catherine Knight, AIA; Tyler Laprise, AIA; Ryan Lewis, AIA; Ali McClure, AIA; Laura
Middleton, AIA; Heather Mitchell, AIA; Benjie Morillo, AIA; Megan Newbold, AIA;
Craig Park, Assoc. AIA; Doug Quackenbush, AIA; Tripp Riley, AIA; Kendall Roberts, AIA;
Robyn Rogers, AIA; Wayne Rogers, FAIA; Andrew Rogerson, AIA; Dan Scheaffer, AIA; Todd Sease, AIA; Heather
Stallworth, AIA; Tom Savory, FAIA; Jerome Simiyon, AIA; Geordan Terry, AIA;
Margaretta Terry, AIA; Michael Urueta, Assoc. AIA; Benjamin Ward, AIA; Christina Wise, Assoc. AIA

Allied Members Present:

John Brandon, ADC Engineering; Zach Bechtel, Trident Construction; Darren Getty, Pella Windows + Doors;
Andrew Medbery, Peterson Aluminum Corporation; Melvin Williams, Terracon

Staff Present: Adrienne Montare, FAIA; Stephanie Ward

Guests Present: Ted Riley and Hobart Trotter with Riley Pope & Laney

- Hupp welcomed everyone to the meeting and a quorum was established.
- Knight asked for a motion to approve the 2024 annual meeting minutes. The motion was seconded. The minutes were approved.
- Recognitions
 - Hupp recognized all 2025 sponsors.
 - Past Presidents of the Chapter were recognized.
 - The Executive Committee and Board of Directors were recognized.
 - Section Leadership was recognized.
 - National and Regional Representatives were recognized.
 - AIASC Staff was recognized.

President's Remarks – Jamison Hupp, AIA

- Hupp gave a summary of the agenda for the business meeting and highlighted some of the Chapter's achievements this year including inaugural exhibitions at the Center for Architecture.
- President's Report:
 - Hupp acknowledged the devastating impact of Hurricane Helene in Western North Carolina and the SC Upstate last fall.
 - After discussion at the board level of the schedule challenges of holding a fall annual meeting, the AIASC Board decided to move the Annual Meeting to the spring starting in 2025.
 - The 2026 Annual Meeting will be in Charleston in April/May as a multi-day event with tours.
 - The 2027 Annual Meeting is tentatively planned to be in Spartanburg.
 - Hupp introduced Stephanie Ward, the chapter's new Director of Development & Strategic Partnerships, to members who missed the 2024 Annual Meeting in October, and reviewed the AIASC staff restructuring plan that will include a third new position: Director of Member Services & Programming.

Secretary/Treasurer's Report – Catherine Knight, AIA

- Knight updated the membership on current account balances and current revenue and expenses of the Chapter. She also reviewed account balances of the SCArchIPAC, SC Architectural Foundation, and Center for Architecture construction loan balances.

College of Fellows – Tom Savory, FAIA, AIA College of Fellows Regional Representative Wayne Rogers, FAIA, AIASC Fellows Committee Chair

- Savory gave an update on the AIA College of Fellows including:
 - The AIA Latrobe Prize, a biennial award to support a two-year program of research leading to significant advances in the architecture profession. This year the prize has been increased from \$100,000 to \$150,000 and the research focus is "Health". Savory encouraged all South Carolina healthcare architects to apply. The deadline is June 30.
- Rogers gave an update on the AIASC Fellows Committee including:
 - Recognition of Jim Stevens, FAIA who was elevated to the College of Fellows this year!
 - Announcement of a "Demystifying Fellowship" webinar for AIASC members.
 - The committee will be looking for candidates interested in pursuing Fellowship.
 - Submission reviews will begin in January.

Advocacy Report – John Hansen, AIA

- Ted Riley and Hobart Trotter with Riley, Pope & Laney, and Rep. Don Chapman, AIA, joined Hansen for the update to the membership.
- National
Hansen gave a recap of the 2025 AIA Leadership Summit in February which included Capitol Hill Visits with the SC Congressional Delegation to advocate for AIA's national legislative agenda:
 - Design Freedom for Federal Architecture
 - Ensures local communities have input in design of federal buildings in their state.

- Arbitrary Fee Limitations for Federal Contracts
 - Increases the limit to reflect increased demands on modern A/E services.
 - Architects Support More Housing
 - Reauthorizes and increases funding for housing block grants and low-income housing tax credits.
 - Architects Support Community Resiliency
 - Continue funding of FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Assistance Program which includes BRIC and Flood Mitigation Assistance.
 - Introduce legislation to enhance and incentivize investments in resilience and disaster mitigation.
 - Tax Incentives for Architects:
 - R&D Tax Credit and R&D Expensing
 - 199A Pass-Through Deduction
 - Low-Income Housing Tax Credit
 - 179D Energy-Efficient Commercial Buildings Deduction
 - Historic Tax Credit
 - Capitol Hill Visits:
 - Sen. Lindsay Graham (R-SC)
 - Sen. Tim Scott (R-SC)
 - Rep. James Clyburn (D-SC06)
 - Rep. Nancy Mace (R-SC01)
 - Rep. Joe Wilson (R-SC02)
 - 18 AIASC members attended the AIA Leadership Summit this year, including representatives from AIA South Carolina, Charleston, Columbia, Grand Strand, Greenville, and Hilton Head Island.
- State
 - AIASC Advocacy Update
 - AIASC participated in the 2025 Design Construction Partnership Annual Legislative Reception in Columbia on January 15 with CAGC, ACEC-SC, ASLA, and several other AEC groups.
 - Hansen reviewed the legislative priorities for 2025:
 - Updating the SC Energy Code
 - Opposing legislation that removes exemptions from the architects practice act.
 - Monitoring bills that weaken the codes adoption process or limit the authority of the Building Codes Council.
 - AIASC Advisory Groups:
 - Affordable Housing Task Force
 - Members: AIASC, ACEC-SC, CAGC, SC Housing, etc.
 - Advise General Assembly on affordable housing strategies
 - Joint Task Force on Building Codes Legislation
 - Members: AIASC, COTEsc, USGBC-SC, and ACEC-SC

- CRAN Advisory Group
 - Members: local CRAN committees and residential architects throughout SC
 - Advise on legislative and practice issues as they pertain to residential practice
- Hansen called on members to actively engage AIASC advocacy efforts by joining one of the Advisory Groups, reaching out to the Committee with questions or concerns, and donating to the chapter's political action committee (SCArchIPAC).
- Lobbyist's Report

Ted Riley and Hobart Trotter reviewed bills introduced this year, the first year of the 2025-2026 two-year legislative session.

 - 2025 Legislative Priority – Updating the SC Energy Code
 - Follow up from last legislative session when S.1171 failed to move out of committee.
 - Sen. Tom Davis (R-Beaufort) continues to support legislation to update the energy code.
 - Strategy this year is to have Sen. Davis offer an amendment to one of the other energy bills introduced this year.
 - Amendment would repeal a section of the Energy Standard Act that freezes the energy code at the 2009 IECC edition and thereby moving it back to the Building Codes Council.
 - Our amendment to S.256 (C-PACE bill) passed out of a Senate LCI Ad Hoc Subcommittee on April 23rd.
 - The amendment language is also supported by the State Energy Office, Carolinas AGC and the ACEC-SC.
 - Bills We're Monitoring:
 - S.4 – Local Government Planning:
 - Allows residential builders to design and construct attached 1 and 2 family dwellings, including townhomes, without an architect.
 - Reintroduction of a bill introduced last session.
 - S.438 – Scope of Practice - Architectural Services:
 - Makes technical clarifications regarding state permanent improvement projects.
 - Repeals provisions that allow state agencies and institutions to hire professional firms for architectural, engineering, planning, and design work before the Joint Bond Review Committee reviews the project and all appropriated funds.
 - H.3213 – Residential Architectural Review Enforcement Suspension:
 - Places a moratorium on architectural review ordinances for commercial buildings until July 1, 2028.
 - H.3215 – Local Government Permit Application Reviews:
 - Requires local jurisdictions, commissions, architectural review boards, etc. review and render a decision on building permits, certificates of occupancy, zoning variances or appeals, or licenses within 45 calendar days or the application is deemed approved.
 - H.3931 - Coastal Tideland and Wetlands Permit Application
 - Sets similar limits to permit review timelines as in H.3215.

- Passed House and referred to Senate Committee on Medical Affairs.
 - H.4266 – Building Codes
 - Requires the Building Codes Council to approve local modifications to the code made by a local jurisdiction that is physical or climatological in nature.
 - The Council must give deference to the findings of the local jurisdiction in its approval of the requested code modification.
 - Other Legislative Updates & 2026 Outlook
 - S.395 - Designer Fair Contracting Act
 - Senate President Thomas Alexander (R-Oconee) is the lead sponsor.
 - Protects Architects and Engineers from indemnification/hold harmless clauses.
 - Have worked with Carolinas AGC on compromise language.
 - Interior Design Legislation
 - AIASC met with member of IIDA Carolinas in January 2024 at their request to discuss legislation they want to file in South Carolina.
 - Bill would allow interior designers to perform services that require an architect or engineer.
 - AIASC monitoring possible introduction of this bill this session.
- SC State House Report

Rep. Don Chapman, AIA was elected to House District 8 – Anderson County in 2022, the first architect in the state legislature in over 100 years. He won re-election in November 2024. He serves on the House Labor, Commerce & Industry Committee (LCI) Business and Commerce Subcommittee – the committee where most of the bills affecting our profession are heard.

 - Design Professionals in the State Legislature
 - Blake Sanders, a landscape architect and the former mayor of West Pelzer, joined Chapman as the second of only two design professionals in the legislature when he was elected to the SC House of Representatives in November.
 - Interior Design Legislation
 - Rep. Chapman was approached by Rep. Carla Schuessler to co-sponsor a bill to allow interior designers to sign and seal architectural projects that require an architect.
 - During a meeting with the bill’s authors, he told them that at a minimum they would have to do their own practice act and establish their own licensing board.
 - He expressed concerns that interior designers do not have the qualifications to perform work that is not exempted in the law.
 - House LCI Committee
 - H3946 – Contractor Licensure Exemptions: would increase the exemption from using a licensed contractor for the construction of an agricultural building from 5,000 to 50,000 square feet.
 - Chapman encouraged members to reach out to him with any legislation they want to see or oppose.

SCArchIPAC & ED Search Report – Laura Middleton, AIA

- SCArchIPAC:
 - Middleton presented the list of candidates the PAC contributed to this election cycle.
 - She made a call for contributions from AIASC members to build up funds in the PAC account for additional campaign contributions, particularly given the chapter’s legislative priorities this session.
 - SCArchIPAC contribution forms were distributed at the tables.
- ED Search:
 - As Immediate Past President, Middleton is chairing the ED Search Committee which is developing a shortlist of candidates to replace retiring AIASC Executive Director, Adrienne Montare, FAIA.
 - The shortlist selection criteria is based on an “attributes survey” that was sent out to chapter and section leadership.

Communications Report – Asheley St. John, AIA

- St. John recognized the contributions of Stephanie Ward, Director of Development & Strategic Partnerships, for her work on the new website and newsletter.
- She highlighted the statewide shared calendar and Firm Profiles, encouraging members to take advantage of both and reminding them that the Firm Profiles are a way for students to research the firms they want to work for.
- Members can contact either St. John or Ward with any questions about posting a calendar event or creating a Firm Profile.
- Jane Frederick, FAIA informed members that the Wall Street Journal is asking for stories about how current economic conditions are affecting architects.

Equity & SCNOMA Report – Catherine Pucci Knight, AIA

- Equity Committee:
 - Knight gave an update on the Equity Committee Book Club and Common Grounds Discussion Series for all design professionals.
 - Upcoming events will be posted in the newsletter.
- SCNOMA:
 - 2024 was the inaugural year for the new SCNOMA chapter with the *Say It Loud* and *No Place to Play* exhibitions and the first *Project Pipeline* architecture camp last summer at Clemson University.
 - Knight encouraged members to volunteer for this year’s *Project Pipeline*.

Resilience Report – Josh Bucher, AIA

- Bucher gave a recap of the Resilience by Design Conference at the Clemson Architecture Center in Charleston on April 9.
 - Presentations included:

- When Resilience and Sustainability Are Not Enough: A Quick Guide to Regenerative Design Practice
- Living with Water: Key Strategies and Priority Resilience Projects in Charleston
- Belonging by Design: How Resilience Thinking Shapes Place and Practice
- Designing for Resilience: A Case Study of Flood Adaptive School Design in Western North Carolina
- Resilience (by Designers)
- This year's RxD conference was the largest yet with 65 attendees.
- The committee exceeded their sponsorship goal for the year.
- Plans are for the conference to be an annual event and the committee is exploring opportunities for virtual sessions next year.
- The conference offers 6.0 HSW continuing education units.
- Looking Ahead:
 - A committee retreat was held in November, mapping out our 5-year plan and working to organize the committee to better align with AIA's focus areas – Advocacy, Knowledge, and Community.
 - Upcoming SAP Training (Date TBD)
 - Presenting "Resilience by Design: Applying Resilience Strategies in Practice" as part of AIA Greenville's Emerging Tech series in May
 - Committee is preparing a Resilience focused talk/chat session for Aspire in September
 - Quarterly State Disaster Coordinator Network Calls with AIA National
 - Attending SCEMD 2025 Day of Recovery on May 21st
- Bucher thanked members of the Resilience Committee and encouraged members interested in resilient design and planning to join the committee.

Aspire Conference Update – Ryan Lewis, AIA, SC Aspire Regional Co-Chair

- Lewis gave an update on plans for Aspire '25 to be held on September 14-16 in Asheville, NC.
 - Keynotes: Linda Alvarado, Jasmine Crowe-Houston, and Walter Hood.
 - The AIASC EP/YAF Committee is hosting a *Practice Simulation Lab* interactive workshop similar to the one held at the AIASC Annual Meeting in October.
 - The AIASC Resilience Committee is hosting *Architects – Be Resilient, Be Ready* led by Ben Ward, AIA.
 - Aspire Track Themes 2025:
 - Excellence in Firm Organization
 - Leading Transformative Design
 - Activating Communities
 - Shaping Tomorrow's Sustainability
 - Early Career Acceleration
 - There will be a 20% discount for firms that register six or more attendees, along with firm's logo on signage and guidebook, and event coordination assistance.
- AIASC will need to name a replacement for Lewis as the SC Aspire Regional Co-Chair. Ideally, the new ARC would shadow Lewis in 2025 and begin their service right after this year's conference.

Institute Update – Benjamin Ward, AIA, State Strategic Council Representative

- Ward briefed the membership on the upcoming AIA’25 Conference on Architecture & Design.
 - Registration is now open.
 - The AIA Annual Business Meeting will be on June 4.
 - A Townhall with Q&A will be on May 16 at 3:00PM with info on any proposed bylaws amendments and resolutions and candidates for national leadership positions.
 - Information on the candidates is also available on the AIA website.
 - There are two resolutions for consideration:
 - AI Policy Position
 - Governance Amendments to the Bylaws
 - There are several Strategic Council member engagement opportunities at AIA’25.
- The Strategic Council has five Study Groups:
 - Climate Responsive Design & Leadership – Ward serves on this working group, which publishes a monthly newsletter
 - AIA of The Future
 - Digital Architecture
 - Resilient Practice Models
 - 10-Year Valuation & Future Blueprint
- AIA has officially launched a search for its next EVP/CEO. Members were encouraged to reach out to 2024 AIA President Kimberly Dowdell, AIA with questions or comments about the search.
- Calendar of upcoming AIA events:
 - June 4-7 AIA Conference in Architecture & Design Boston, MA
 - July 16-17 Architects in Action Virtual
 - Nov. 3-5 Women’s Leadership Summit Atlanta, GA
 - Dec. 3-5 AIA Governance Week Washington, DC
- Strategic Council Survey: Ward encouraged members to send him their response to the question “What do you perceive to be the most pressing professional or industry ‘pain points’ that you are experiencing as a firm or an individual architect related to practice?” and to look out for an upcoming AIA Call for Volunteers to apply for an At-Large Representative position on the Council.
- AIASC Past President Brad Benjamin, AIA gave a short presentation of his candidate’s platform for the 2026-2027 AIA Treasurer position.

SC Architectural Foundation Update – Craig Park, Assoc. AIA, Chair

- Park recognized the 2025 SCAF Board of Trustees and gave an update on the Foundation’s goals & activities.
- SCAF’s Mission and Vision
 - Mission:
 - To advance public awareness of the power of architecture, planning, and design;

- To promote a broader appreciation of the influence of architecture in shaping our cities; and,
 - To enhance quality and equity in our communities throughout South Carolina.
- Vision: Through education, public engagement, collaboration, and philanthropy, the SC Architecture Foundation will:
 - Conduct and support programs to educate children, adults, community, and government leadership about Architecture, Planning, and Design;
 - Increase public awareness of the importance of high-quality design and development and encourage public dialogue and advocacy;
 - Establish partnerships with like-minded organizations to leverage resources; and,
 - Contribute resources that support our visions and goals.
- SCAF's Impact – Our efforts focus on influencing and enhancing quality and equity in our communities by advocacy and education for:
 - Architectural Heritage
 - Rural Communities
 - Quality of Life
 - Affordable Housing
 - Resiliency & Sustainability
 - Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
 - K12 Student Engagement
- Parks reviewed the work of the board's three standing committees:
 - Programming Goals:
 - Programs: minimum 6x/year at the Center for Architecture
 - Schedule: develop 12-18 months program calendar
 - Audience: public/practice/media outreach
 - Partnership Opportunities: SC arts community program co-sponsors
 - Sponsorship Opportunities: SC AEC industry partner sponsors
 - Programing Activities:
 - First Thursday Lecture Series: arch. history/arch. development/design portfolio
 - Heritage By Design: SCAF website blog/future podcast
 - SC Architecture Passport: 1200+ NRHP projects/create digital app
 - CDCC Program Partnering: streaming monthly lunchtime lectures
 - Quarterly Design Exhibitions: AIASC Awards/arch. History/Clemson SoA
 - Marketing/PR Goals:
 - Outreach Strategies: email + media/PR contacts; social media outreach; expand content developers/contributors; awareness/fundraising event planning

- Outreach Schedule: develop annual program & social media calendar
- Target Audience: general public/media; practice partners; industry partners
- Marketing/PR Activities:
 - Outreach Tactics:
 - Email + media/PR list development
 - Updated website w/Heritage By Design blog
 - Created LinkedIn business page (Please “Follow”)
 - Engaged SMPS Palmetto leadership for marketing support
 - Planning Charleston AEC industry social event
 - Supporting programming with social media outreach
- Finance Activities:
 - 2025/2026 Capital Campaign:
 - Consultant input on outreach to prior donors
 - “Donate to SCAF” button on website
 - Board outreach at social events
 - Partnership & program sponsorships
 - Grant programs
 - Outreach Schedule:
 - 12-month calendar
 - Regular outreach tied to programming
- SCAF Bylaws Update:
 - Subcommittee & Legal Review/Recommendations
 - Roles (no. and titles)
 - Term limits and overlap
 - Election schedule
 - Implementation:
 - End of 2025

Clemson University Update – Tom Savory, FAIA (for Jim Stevens, FAIA, Director of the School of Architecture)

- Savory shared a list of Clemson SoA accomplishments since August 2024, including:
 - The “Harvey Gantt and the Integration of Clemson University” digital collection has been established. The archives feature photographs and documents detailing the desegregation process, including efforts to block Gantt’s admission to Clemson’s School of Architecture in 1963.

- Cameron Sunkel, a graduating Master of Architecture student will graduate on May 9, as Clemson University's first IPAL graduate. He is the 42nd person in the country to graduate with such distinction.
- *Rural Witnesses: Retracing and Reimagining Rural Architecture*, an exhibition created in partnership with Partners of Place, is now on view at the 701 Center for Contemporary Art in Columbia until June 15. The exhibition explores the transformation of rural spaces through architecture, culture and community.
- Three Master of Architecture students were named among Metropolis Magazine's Future100, placing them among the top 100 architecture and design graduates in the country.
- The Center for Health Facilities Design and Testing (CHFDT) received a Touchstone Award in the Silver Category from the Center for Health Design (CHD) for their research and evaluation work with Indiana University Health (IU Health).
- Jim Stevens was elevated to the AIA College of Fellows.
- New lecture series honoring the legacy of Ray Huff was launched at the Clemson Design Center Charleston.
- The Creative Inquiries course, Design Justice, led by Shan Sutherland and Clarissa Mendez received the #SCulp Award from the South Carolina chapter of the American Institute of Architects 2024 Storytellers + Creators Art Challenge.
- The Master of Resilient Urban Design program partnered with The Marsh Appreciation and Restoration Society for Happiness project, a grassroots and community-based nonprofit located in Charleston, to develop designs for an urban ecological corridor that creates community spaces and recreation and restores and reconnects Charleston's remaining salt marsh ecosystems, specifically focused on Halsey's Creek.
- Monica Gripko, Ph.D. in Design and the Built Environment student, was awarded The Wilbur H. (Tib) Tusler, Jr. Health Design Research Prize by the Foundation for Health Environments Research.
- Ana Sandoval, a graduate research assistant for the Center for Health Facilities, Design and Testing, was named the 2024/2025 Tuttle Fellow by the American Institute of Architects Academy of Architecture for Health.
- Rayshad Dorsey, a Clemson University alumnus and current lecturer, was named among the 2024-2025 recipients of the Faculty Fellowship to Advance Equity in Architecture.
- Twenty-seven Master of Architecture students have won awards from the Society of American Registered Architects in 2024 and 2025.
- For the eighth year in a row, Clemson Master of Architecture (M.Arch) students were named among the winners of the American Institute of Architects, Committee on the Environment's (AIA COTE) design competition.
- Tom Schurch and graduate landscape architecture students designed the Sterling Memorial Grove in partnership with the Sterling Land Trust. The project broke ground on April 12.
- The MCRP program hosted and managed the South Carolina American Planning Association (SCAPA) Fall Conference in Spartanburg.

Clemson Architectural Foundation Report – Todd Sease, AIA, CAF Vice President & Terry Buchmann, AIA, CAF Secretary (for Sam Herin, AIA, CAF President)

- Sease and Buchmann gave an update on the Clemson Architectural Foundation, including:

- Charles E. Daniel Center for Building Research and Urban Studies (“the Villa”) in Genoa, Italy: CAF owns and operates the Villa which serves as a home and studio to architecture and landscape architecture students every semester.
- Endowments: estimated payout in FY 2025 of \$140,000
- Annual Giving: FY 2025 grants of \$90,000
- There will be an AIASC/CAF Reception at the AIA’25 Conference in Boston on June 6. All AIASC members attending the conference this year are invited to attend the reception.

Presidential Citations – Jamison Hupp, AIA

- Hupp awarded the following Presidential Citations:
 - Tracey Waltz, Hon. AIASC for thirty-two years of dedication to our Chapter, for supporting our profession, practices, and projects, and commitment to our members, volunteer leadership, and partners throughout the State and South Atlantic Region.
 - Adrienne Montare, FAIA for exceptional dedication to the Chapter, demonstrating exemplary leadership for our members, serving as a stalwart advocate, fostering community, and a resonant voice of knowledge.

Adjournment

Respectfully Submitted,

Catherine Knight, AIA
2025 Secretary/Treasurer